MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 7 September 2016

Winners Announced at Awards Ceremony

Budding young poets from all over the nation attended the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards Presentation Ceremony last Friday in Gunnedah, celebrating the crème de la crème of modern poetry and prose.

Over 11,7666 entries from young Australian poets were received this year with competition judges Sophie Mason and Stephen Whiteside set the difficult task of selecting the 2016 winning submission for each of the eight categories.

The winners were announced as:

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER UP
Senior Secondary	Claire Chua *Perth Modern School, Subiaco, WA* *POEM:* "The Concrete Jungle"	Jordan Yee *St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly, QLD* *POEM:* "Anchored"
Junior Secondary	Sarah Jaeger *Sommerville House, South Brisbane, QLD* *POEM:* "Exquisite Evocation"	Amie Doan, *Hornsby Girls High School, Hornsby NSW* *POEM:* " A Reader"
Learning Assistance Secondary	Elvice Ikuo *Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta, NSW* *POEM:* In my Language they call me Ume Ibiegi (Bird of Paradise)"	Telisha Petrick *Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta, NSW* *POEM:* "My Kangaroos"
Upper Primary	Faye Chang *Pymble Ladies College, NSW* *POEM:* "Mountains"	Daisy Millpark *Casula Public School, Casula NSW* *POEM:* "Ann"
Lower Primary	Esha Jabbal *St Stephen's School, Tapping, NSW* *POEM:* "Dingo"	Josephine Fahey Melbourne Grammar School, Grimwade House, Caulfield VIC POEM: "Waiting"
Learning Assistance Primary	Manni Doar *Yarralumla Primary School, Yarralumla, ACT* *POEM:* "Waiting"	Isabella Burns *Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta, NSW* *POEM: "The Great White Shark"*
Secondary School	Applecross Senior High Ardross, WA	
Primary School	Barnier Public School Quakers Hill, NSW	

The presentation ceremony was held at The Civic in Gunnedah and was attended by Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society patrons Margaret White, Mark Vaile and Peter Shergold as well as renowned ABC Journalist and keynote speaker Heather Ewart.

At the conclusion of the presentation ceremony, winners, their families and dignitaries attended the official opening of The Mackellar Centre - the new home base for the awards and gallery for the Jean Isherwood "My Country" Watercolour Collection.

The Mackellar Centre has been a major project of the society and Gunnedah Shire Council with support of funding partner BHP Billiton and many local businesses.

Head to www.dorothea.com.au or contact the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards Head Office on 02 6742 1200 to find out more information.

Photo: Sophie Mason, Upper Primary Winner Faye Chang and Margaret White.

Photo: Stephen Whiteside, Junior Secondary Winner Sarah Jaeger and Professor Peter Shergold.

Photo: Stephen Whiteside, Learning Assistance Winner Elvice Ikuo and Professor Peter Shergold.

Photo: Sophie Mason, Learning Assistance Primary Winner Manni Doar and Margaret White.

Photo: Senior Secondary Winner Claire Chua.

Photo: Lower Primary Winner Esha Jabbal and her proud father Randeep Jabbal.

Photo: Primary School Winner, Barnier Public School representatives Amanda Keane and Sharon Moon and Secondary School Winner Applecross Senior High representative Veronica Lake.
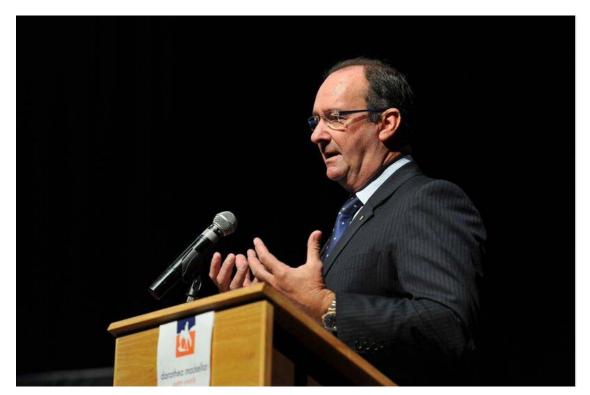
Photo: Ceremony Keynote Speaker Heather Ewart.

Photo: Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society Patron Mark Vaile addresses the audience at the awards ceremony.

Photo: Gunnedah Shire Council Mayor Owen Hasler, Federal Member for Parks Mark Coulton MP, DMMS President Philippa Murray and BHP Billiton Representative Andrew Garratt.

#ENDS

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