

Posters-Scientific Wall Charts – Junior and Intermediate

Section coordinator: Diana Veremciukas, Cheltenham Secondary College

The Judging Day on Saturday the 14th of August ran smoothly thanks to the enthusiasm and professionalism of the forty volunteer judges, whose make-up included secondary and primary teachers, and Melbourne University trainee teachers.

A big thank you to Methodist Ladies' College for the use of their facilities and to the staff who helped set up the rooms on the preceding Friday evening. The number of entries received was down on last year, perhaps due to increased student sporting commitments or illness.

One hundred and fifteen Junior entries were received. Of the entries received 13 won Major bursaries, 32 won Minor bursaries and 31 received Merit certificates.

Only eight Intermediate entries were received. Of the entries received, two won Major bursaries, two won Minor bursaries and one received a Merit certificate. We encourage more year 9 and 10+ students to enter next year.

Favourite topics for entrants were: 'Impact of invaders on Australian biodiversity' at 61%. Posters included data on the following introduced species – European Wasps, Carp, Rabbits, Horses, Mosquito fish, Buffaloes, Camels, Cane Toad, Paterson Curse weed, Cats, Foxes, European Green Shore crab and Feral Locusts. Next, 'Biodiversity in my backyard' at 21%. Students not only carried out surveys of their own backyards, but also other areas, for example: Gardiner's Creek and local parks, and represented their findings in their posters.

'Bacteria and Australian biodiversity' at 13%, included data on different strains of bacteria (some introduced) and their effects on native plant and animal biodiversity. Lastly, 'Links between species – more than just food' at 5% only. This produced some interesting posters on Symbiotic and Evolutionary links between species.

Congratulations to all who entered the Posters section this year. We are already looking forward to 2011 and discovering what students with commitment, enthusiasm and support from teachers and parents can do with next year's theme which is related to Chemistry.