Creative Writing – Intermediate Report

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In 2019, a team of eight judges assessed fifty-three Intermediate Creative Writing entries from twenty-three schools. In comparison to 2018, this was a twenty-six percent increase in the number of entries received, which was comparative to the 2017 entry pool. Eight registered entries were not received. The overall standard of Intermediate Creative Writing entries was again consistently high in 2019 and judging has continued to be very competitive. There were four allowed topics. The topic ‘The dark side of the moon’ was the most popular topics, followed closely by ‘Dear moon: we’re staying...’ The ‘Moonbots! They’re here...’ and ‘Living on the moon, one surprise after another’ topics attracted about the same number of entries, which was much fewer than the other two topics.

Three Major Bursaries of $60 and fifteen Minor Bursaries of $50 were awarded, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donors. Ten entries gained the Distinction award. The standard of entries was such that all other entries were awarded a Merit Certificate, with hardly an exception.

Key judging criteria discriminators for the award of a Major Bursary were again the integration of science ideas into writing, the amount of scientific content included in the writing, and originality and creativity. It is always important that students gain a thorough understanding of the section Guidelines page in the STS Handbook prior to commencing their writing project. The additional page on How to cite references and write a bibliography will alert entrants to the requirement to list both the date and time that they access websites. If students have this in mind from the commencement of their entry, then they should be able to fulfil this formatting requirement. Importantly, students can use the Entry guidelines as a self-assessment checklist prior to submitting their entry.

Well done to all the 2019 Year 9 and 10 authors on their creative writing achievement and congratulations to all who achieved Bursary, Distinction and Merit Awards. The judging team from eight schools across Victoria is especially commended for using the online system of receiving entries for judging and entering comments and results. They did a sterling job of evaluating the entries using the judging criteria for Scientific Content and Presentation, and writing feedback comments for each entrant. We are most appreciative of their volunteer time and expertise, and careful judging. Thank you to all the learning area directors and coordinators, and Science teachers across the schools for their valuable support and encouragement of the students. We are also grateful for the involvement of parents and other mentors, which is invaluable.