



Report to General Manager

Attachments:
'Do you Ever' by Adam Zreika, Winner 12 years

SUBJECT: 2019 Nan Manefield Young Writers' Award

AUTHOR: Yasmin Greenhalgh, Children's and Youth Librarian

ENDORSED BY: Martin Ellis, Director Community and Library Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Wednesday 15 May 2019 saw the presentation night of the Nan Manefield Young Writers' Award at Stanton Library. This is the 30th year that the award has been run by North Sydney Council, and the 5th in honour of Nan Manefield.

Over 15 schools were represented and prizes totalling more than \$4,000 were presented to the winners at the awards evening, attended by the Mayor, Jilly Gibson.

The 2019 major prize winners for the five age groups were:

11 years: Cecilia Lung for *A Colour Deeper Than We'll Ever Be*

12 years: Adam Zreika for *Do You Ever*

13 years: Yolanda Pu for *Glass Bottles of Imagination*

14-15 years: Emma Walton for *Edge of the Ocean*

16-18 years: Jennifer Hao for *El Paraiso*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Prizes totalled approximately \$4,000, of which \$3,350 was provided from Library budgets. Sponsor vouchers and gift certificates contributed an additional prize value of \$650.

Judging duties were performed gratis. Judges received a token appearance fee for their attendance and contribution at the Awards Night. The total cost of appearance fees was \$1,100 taken from the Library Activities budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- Direction: 4. Our Social Vitality
- Outcome: 4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events
4.3 North Sydney supports lifelong learning

BACKGROUND

The Young Writers' Award was first held in 1990. In 1998 it was named for former Councillor, the late Dr Bill Coppell and in 2015, in honor of Nan Manefield.

The late Nan Manefield was Librarian at North Sydney Boys High School and a lifelong champion of literacy and local history, giving 30 years of service as a citizen member on several of Council's Library and Historical Services Committees.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

DETAIL

Five talented young people were recognised at the 30th Young Writers' Award for their creative poems and short stories.

Young writers from over 15 local schools submitted entries this year and the standard was as high as ever, making picking the winners a tough job for the judges.

The entries were judged by a panel of award winning authors: Ceridwen Dovey, Erin Gough, Will Kostakis, Ursula Dubosarsky and poet Tim Sinclair.

This year the Awards Night was held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 as part of Stanton Library's celebrations for Australian Library and Information Week. In response to feedback from the judges and attendees, this year's event centered on the young writers themselves. We heard the winners read their stories aloud, as well as participate in a panel discussion hosted by author and YWA judge, Ceridwen Dovey. This was a wonderful addition that received many compliments on the night and in the days afterwards with attendees all agreeing that it was marvelous to hear directly from the young people themselves about their poems and stories, their writing processes and inspiration.

'I just signed up for Erin's writing masterclass and would love to say thank you to you and your team for organising the Nan Manefield Young Writers' Award. The evening was spectacular in every way imaginable, and I will never forget it. In particular, I really admire your infectious enthusiasm, and your dedication to promoting literacy amongst young people. Thank you once again!' (Jennifer Hao, Winner 16-18 years)

'I had the pleasure of accompanying my daughter Katie to the awards during the week – what a pleasure, it was a great night. Thank you for your organisation, and please pass our thanks onto all the judges for their hard work. I especially loved the imagination story about the white rabbit, and the panel of writers being interviewed was inspirational!' (Father of Katharine Rose, merit certificate 13 years)

'Just wanted to say thanks for asking me onboard again. It's always such a special night, and the new format and panel was really so good.' (Tim Sinclair, Judge 13 years)

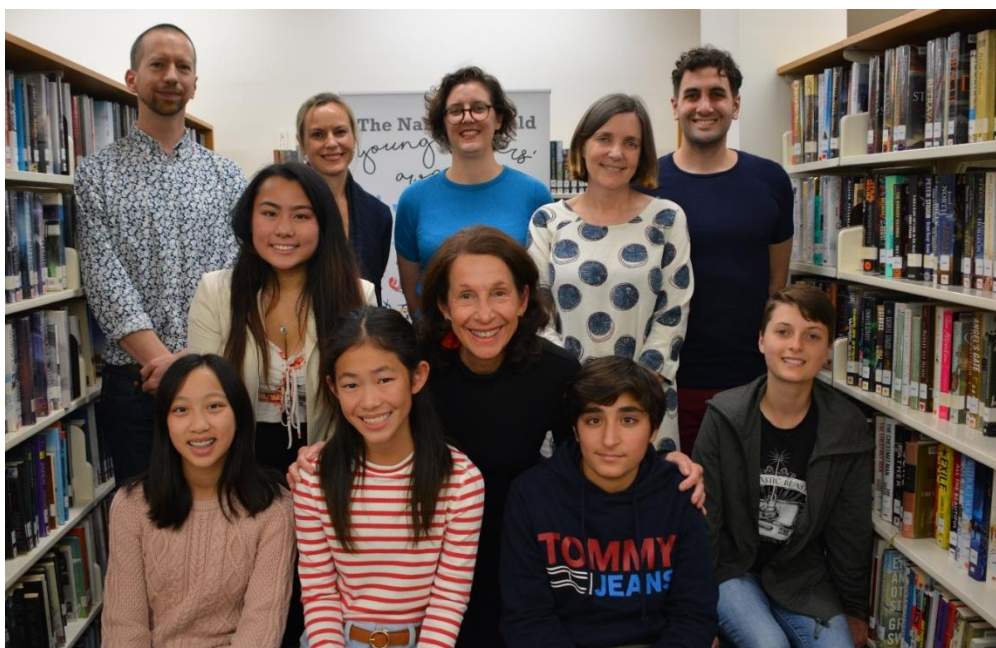
'I just wanted to email to congratulate you and your team on a fantastic night last night. The way the event centered on teens not only made for an engaging ceremony, I am certain it will inspire those teens for a long time.' (Will Kostakis, Judge 14-15 years)

'Just wanted to say again congratulations on a really special night last night - what a feeling in the room! Just brilliant and deeply worthwhile work and thank you for inviting me to be part of it. All warm wishes and sincere admiration.' (Ursula Dubosarsky, Judge 12 years)

Prizes totalled nearly \$4,000 and all place-getters receive an invite to attend a writing masterclass with author and YWA judge Erin Gough.

The Young Writers' Award is sponsored by The Constant Reader Bookshop, Sydney Living Museums, The Ensemble Theatre, Taronga Zoo, and North Sydney Council.

The winners' poems and stories are published on the Council website at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/YWA and along with all other entries, are also on exhibition at Stanton Library for the month following the award.



Prize winners and judges with Mayor Jilly Gibson

Back row L-R: Judges Tim Sinclair, Ceridwen Dovey, Erin Gough, Ursula Dubosarsky & Will Kostakis.

Middle: Jennifer Hao and Jilly Gibson.

Front: Yolanda Pu, Cecilia Lung, Adam Zreika & Emma Walton



11 Years Winner, Cecilia Lung, bravely reads aloud her winning story.



Winners participated in a panel discussion with local author and judge Ceridwen Dovey.



Specially decorated cupcakes were a popular feature of the reception that followed the award presentation.

Do You Ever

Do you ever think about
The lonely sock missing its partner
The stressed computer with open tabs
The thirsty plant crying for water

Do you ever think about
The empty car feeling lethargic
The trolley that gets knocked around daily
The pencil that's almost extinct

Do you ever think about
The waves that bash themselves against cliffs edge
The sleepless clock that ticks away
The trapped tigers feeling powerless

Do you ever think about
The freezing door knobs on a cold night
The suffocating bookshelf stuffed to the max
The deep scars left on the chopping board

Do you ever think about
The still trees with tilted spines
The mother cat who has lost her babies
The responsibility your shoes have trying to get you places

Do you ever think about
The washing machine having a tantrum because it's over worked
The shattered screen feeling pain of a broken bone
The doors that welcome you with open arms to be rejected when you turn your back

Do you ever think about
The drops of water that don't feel valued
The angry vehicles stuck in traffic
The insecure mirror making you unhappy

I CERTAINLY DO!

By Adam Zreika Marist College North Shore