



28 October 2016

Scotch College student wins Roland Leach Poetry Prize Competition

A young talented Dalkeith writer has taken out the “Overall Winner” title at the City of Nedlands Library’s sixth Roland Leach Poetry Prize Awards on Thursday 27 October.

Year nine student, Lewis Orr, not only took home the title of the Overall Winner for his entry “The Woodsman’s Son”, he also took out first place in Category C (for years 8, 9 and 10), in the competition.

Lewis has been an avid poetry writer for a number of years and has entered into several competitions. He won his first competition, The Pilot Poetry Competition, in 2012.

“This is the second time I have entered into the Roland Leach Poetry Competition and I am thrilled to have been awarded the overall winner this year. For a local competition the standard of entries is high and it’s a privilege to have been involved.

“My poem is inspired by a number of existing works including Irish poet Seamus Heaney’s ‘Death of a Naturalist’ which I drew on a few themes from his work,” said Lewis.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said: “The Roland Leach Poetry Competition provides an opportunity for young people to express themselves and show their creative writing talents. It is encouraging to see many young people from our local area and from schools across the state get involved in the competition.

Congratulations to Lewis for winning the overall winner and hope that he continues with his writing in the future.”

Local Western Suburbs Poet and Patron of the Roland Leach Poetry competition, Roland Leach said: “Because of its brevity poetry must be reliant on subtlety and nuance, offering us human experience in a form that is more succinct than other genres. This itself is worth pursuing and with over one thousand poems entered in the poetry competition it is wonderful to see that poetry is still alive in schools.”

This is the City’s sixth year of the competition. The Nedlands Library received a record number of 1,116 entries from young talented writers from 95 schools across the state. The poems were judged for the sixth year in a row by professional writer and poet Shane McCauley.

The Roland Leach Poetry Prize is a biennial competition that has been run by the City of Nedlands Library Service since 2005. It aims to promote poetry in the

community and to recognise and reward outstanding, original works of poetry written by young people in Western Australia.

The competition is open to school aged children and teenagers from Year 3 - 12, and is divided into 4 categories based on age group. The most entries this year were in Category A which includes years 3, 4 and 5 students with a total of 427 entries. This was followed by Category B which includes years 6 and 7 students with 313 entries.

Prizes were also awarded to the school with the most number of entries under the section 'The Most Enthusiastic School' and to the school with the most number of winning entries under the section 'The Most Poetic School.'

The winners of the 2016 Roland Leach Poetry Competition:

Category A

1st	Priya Aravinth	Methodist Ladies College
2nd	Raquel van Merwyk	Methodist Ladies College
3rd	Niamh Fraser	Methodist Ladies College
HC	Margot Reid	Perth Waldorf School

Category B

1st	Hannah Tsang	Applecross Senior High School
2nd	Nitya Tewari	Melville Senior High School
3rd	Sharna Lyell	Churchlands Senior High School
HC	Anna Cox	Applecross Senior High School

Category C

1st	Lewis Orr	Scotch College
2nd	Mellissa Barber	Ballajura Community College
3rd	Mina Wallis	Melville Senior High School
HC	Philippa Newman	Iona Presentation College

Category D

1st	Celeste Kalnenas	St Hildas Anglican School for Girls
2nd	Christy Tan	Applecross Senior High School
3rd	Ella Fox-Martens	Perth Modern School
HC	Emily Bradley	Presbyterian Ladies College

Overall winner

1st	Lewis Orr	Scotch College
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Most Enthusiastic School – East Manjimup Primary School with 113 entries

Most Poetic School – Methodist Ladies College with 3 winning entries

Bio of Roland Leach:

Roland Leach is our local Western Suburbs poet. He's the Head of English at Presbyterian Ladies' College in Peppermint Grove. Roland is the founder and editor



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of Brillig, a literary journal of poetry and prose for teenagers which existed between 1995 and 2000. He is the proprietor of Sunline Press.

For more information please contact the City on 9273 3500 or council@nedlands.wa.gov.au.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500