

Monday 23 November 2020

Winners announced for My Brother Jack Awards

Winners of the 2020 *My Brother Jack Awards* were announced at a special virtual ceremony on Sunday 22 November.

The ceremony looked a little different this year — held online for the first time in the *Award's* 25-year history.

More than 600 entries were received across eight short story and poetry categories — an incredible response. Glen Eira Mayor Margaret Esakoff was heartened to see how the *Awards* have been embraced by the Glen Eira community during such a challenging time.

“Times like these can often provoke immense creativity and we have certainly seen that this year,” she said.

“This competition is for everyone, with writers ranging in age from six to 90 years young.

“The *My Brother Jack Awards* have always provided a place for people to express themselves, exercise those creative imaginations and help process the world around them. This is perhaps more important now than ever.”

Subjects and themes explored ranged from the realities of lockdown life, to bullying, mental health, loss, love and loneliness. But there was also a lot of humour — the story of a grumpy old man who accidentally turns his house into a park, or Hector the cat who grows tired of having his family around all the time during lockdown.

Our littlest writers in particular tackled some challenging themes this year— the realities of home-schooling, never-ending Zoom calls and the sadness they felt missing their friends.

You can read all the winning and highly commended entries, alongside the judges’ reports, at library.gleneira.vic.gov.au/mbj

Congratulations to everyone who entered and to the following winners, place-getters and highly commended entries.

Primary Short Story

Judge: Eliza Henry-Jones

First Prize: Isabella Schneider — *The Camping Horror Day*

Highly Commended: Archie Austin — *The Old Man: A Short Story*

Highly Commended: Natalie Grant — *Flight*

Highly Commended: Evelyn Ellett — *The Connection Bridge*

Junior Secondary Short Story

Judge: Annette Trevitt

First Prize: Imogen Gibson — *The Quiet Kid*

Highly Commended: Abbie McLeish — *When ‘It’ Came to Stay*

Highly Commended: Nathan Loyer — *Three Little Pigs and the Homeless Wolf*

Senior Secondary Short Story

Judge: Annette Trevitt



First Prize: Sarah Hatigan — *Don't be a Doormat*
Highly Commended: Caleb Gering — *Main Road*

Open Short Story

Judge: Angela Meyer

First Prize: Deborah Rechter — *Pivot*
Second Prize: Greg Tantala — *Into the Inbox*
Third Prize: Clyde Woods — *Dawn's Story*
Highly Commended: Dylan Murphy — *Tightrope*
Highly Commended: Natasha Abrahams — *Static*
Highly Commended: Rosie Martin — *Hector's Monday*

Primary Poetry

Judge: Ozlem Baro

First Prize: Annabelle Fahey — *A Different Holiday*
Highly Commended: Zach Verginis — *Nothing*
Highly Commended: Srishti Suresh — *Mother Nature Tickling My Senses*
Highly Commended: Olivia Meszaros — *Bushfires*

Junior Secondary Poetry

Judge: Alicia Sometimes

First Prize: Ruby Arnheim — *A Thing of Beauty*
Highly Commended: Maggie Roberts — *Words*
Highly Commended: Jolene Zheng — *And Then ...*

Senior Secondary Poetry

Judge: Alicia Sometimes

First Prize: Stephanie Kondopoulos — *Greece*
Highly Commended: Caleb Gering — *Evolution*

Open Poetry

Judge: Alicia Sometimes

First Prize: Gayelene Carbis — *Ribbons*
Second Prize: Andrew Harris — *Fish and Chips in Port Vila*
Third Prize: Gabriella Munoz — *Flowers*
Highly Commended: Sandy Lanteri — *Double Take*
Highly Commended: Michael Rickards — *I Hear Laughter*

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