

Title: Creative writing competition winners

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The Timaru District Library and Friends of the Library are pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Ursula Moray Williams Creative Writing Competition.

The overall winner of the Ursula Moray Williams Cup for Children's Creative Writing goes to Bronte Davenport of Craighead Diocesan School, Timaru for her story 'Éclair's fright'. Bronte was also winner of the Year 7-8 category.

The prizewinners are:

Year 1-3

1st William Syder-Mills, Winchester Rural School, for 'Astonishing'
Runner-up: Grace Shaw, home-educated, for 'Treasure Island'
Merit Award: William Burton, Bluestone School, for 'The horse who meets the pig'

Year 4-6

1st Caroline Haugh, Timaru Christian School for 'Mega-Monster Mischief'
Runner-up: Lauren Skinner, St Andrews School, for 'A walk in the park gone wrong!!!'

Year 7-8

1st Bronte Davenport, Craighead Diocesan School, for 'Éclair's fright'
Runner-up: Kimberley Mobbs, Craighead Diocesan School, for 'Writers' block'

To enter, children had to write an original story of no more than 500 words on any topic. Stories were judged on originality, language skills, characterisation and story construction. The judges were impressed by the range of

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imaginative stories entered, and noted the very good use of language displayed by many of the authors. The competition has been generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Background

Noted UK children's author Ursula Moray Williams visited Timaru in 1980 and donated a cup for a creative writing competition for South Canterbury children. Up until the late 1990s the competition was run biennially by the Timaru Children's Book Group. The competition was then passed to the Library, but was not continued as other children's competitions such as the Timaru Herald Short Story Writing Competition, and the Nestle Write Around New Zealand creative writing programme were being offered. After these were discontinued, the Timaru District Library, with the support of the Friends of the Library, resurrected the Ursula Moray Williams competition in 2006 and will continue to run it every second year.

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