

## **Science Photography – All divisions**

### **Section Coordinators: Annette Atkinson, Mary Donaghy and Sonia Hankova**

Topics chosen for entries into the Photography Section covered a wide range of interests and fields of Science. Many included themes from the natural environment. A few entries followed this year's theme of Drones, Droids and Robots, though that was not compulsory in this section.

The number of schools participating in the Photography Section was much the same as in 2015, though the number of entries was 20% less than in 2015. About half the entries received were in the Junior Division; that is, from students in Years 7 and 8.

About 90% of the students followed the required guidelines for presenting their entries as set out in the STS Handbook, available on-line. Many students took advantage of the opportunity to learn and practise photographic skills to capture and manipulate images. This included enlarging images to display the fine detail and colours, and viewing objects magnified by a microscope. Some entrants merged photos to show changes over time, including the movements of insects and chemical changes. Students are becoming more skilful at communicating scientific concepts with their images and they are to be commended for their dedication and hard work.

The section coordinators would like to thank the teachers from schools and students from Melbourne University who judged the entries. This year a group of highly dedicated teachers very generously gave their time to support each other, to judge the entries, to write encouraging comments for the entrants and, after prolonged and considered discussion, to select bursary winners and complete the task efficiently and effectively. Many were judging for the first time and were guided through the process by our regular judges.

We understand and appreciate the time commitment given by school coordinators, teachers and families in guiding and assisting students to complete their entries and ensuring that timelines are met. Thank you to the Science Talent Search coordinators in schools who encouraged their students to enter the competition and attended to the formalities required. Thank you to the teachers, family and friends, who assisted the entrants with suggestions and technical information, supported them in the preparation of their entries and transported them to the judging venue. Thank you to all teachers and families who encourage an interest in science. Thank you to the Principal and staff of Parade College in Preston, for making the college facilities available and assisting in the smooth running of the Judging Day.