

Posters-Scientific Wallcharts – Junior and Intermediate Divisions

Section Coordinator: Diana Veremciukas

The judging Day on Saturday the 5th of August succeeded due to the tireless efforts of 54 volunteer judges made up of primary, secondary and trainee teachers who worked from 8.00am to 1.00pm non-stop.

A big thank you to Methodist Ladies' College for the use of their facilities and to the ground staff who helped set up the rooms and provided lift keys on the preceding Friday evening. Also thank you to the staff/parents that provided morning tea in the waiting area on Saturday and the MLC senior students who were on the Registration desk, and to the security guard who provided trolleys so that 450+ posters could be ferried down to cars using the lift. Also thank you to Ms Judith Sise for her extra help in sorting posters and loading up the cars.

Another thank you goes to the parents and entrants who stood patiently in long queues waiting to register and to those parents who waited downstairs uncomplaining for over an hour for their children to be judged. A reminder to parents that judging times are 8.30am to 10.30am for primary students and 10.00am to 12.30pm for secondary students. Due to the congestion, it would be helpful if only one parent accompanied their child to the venue.

The number of Junior entries received were one hundred and sixty, up on last year's total. Of the entries submitted 20 won Major bursaries, 36 won Minor bursaries, 47 entries received a Distinction certificate and 41 received a Merit certificate.

Thirty-three Intermediate entries were received, up on last year's total. Of the entries submitted 5 won Major bursaries, 10 won Minor bursaries, 8 entries received Distinction certificates and 10 received a Merit certificate.

The favourite topic for entrants was "Farming for the Future" at 28%. Next popular was "Building healthy and productive Cities" at 26%, closely followed by "Vegetarian- the way to go?" at 25%. Least favourite was "Conserve or exploit" at 21%.

Some interesting projects covered by "Farming for the Future" topic involved: Bee farming, Aeroponics, Hydroponics, Vertical farming, Aquaponics, Algae farms, Drones, Robots and farmbots, Farming on Mars, Genetically modified crops and Urban farming.

Posters based on "Building healthy and productive cities" included ideas on: Thorium power, Recycling, Air quality control, Reducing pollution, Renewable energy and Fuel, Reducing Carbon emission, Perpetual energy, Jenius project, Flash distillation, Reverse Osmosis, LED's, Smart lighting and Future transport.

Some interesting projects covered by "Conserve or exploit?" and "Vegetarian – the way to go?" topics involved: Global warming, Rising sea levels, Climate change, Water conservation, Coal versus Coral, Bushland versus Population growth, Ocean pollution by human waste, Mining, Deforestation, Nuclear fusion, Dark matter and energy, Food wastage, Animal welfare, Animal testing, More carrots, less carbon, Aquatic biomes, Vegetarian trophic levels, Antibiotic resistance and Cloning dead species.

Students are reminded that diagrams must be hand or computer drawn - do not glue photos, cut-out pictures or samples of matter like water, soil or plants to posters. Diagrams should be referred to in your written information on the poster. Some students are still not fully laminating their posters when they have attachments, which leads to damage to the poster on cartage/storage. Remember when accessing the internet to include site dates and times in the bibliography.

Congratulations to all students who entered. Judges thought that most posters were of a high standard as indicated by the number of Major and Minor bursaries, and Distinction and Merit Certificates awarded. We are already keen to see the research displayed in posters for next year's topics.