

PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL AND DISTRICT

Schools' Awards

PURPOSE:

To award pupils, as are proposed by the participating schools, with book vouchers to a pre-agreed level (determined by the Club's Management Committee from time to time), for general proficiency and literary excellence.

ACTIONS:

At the first meeting of the club a decision was made to make awards for poetry for pupils of the Villa Maria school (the suggestion had come from Sister Emelian, who had taken on the responsibility for typing up the minutes of the club's meetings) based on the judgement of a small sub-committee, aided by Sister Emelian. In 1976 there were 96 entries. The following year there were 105, with the other four local primary schools - Boronia Park Public, Gladesville Public, Hunters Hill Public and Our Lady Queen of Peace – being included. Over the years there were changes made, with the emphasis changing to 'literary excellence', with club members making the judgements on all entries. Shortly after his death, the club decided to call the awards "The Geoff O'Donnell Literary Awards", to honour his time as the first club president, and being a driving force behind the awards.

At a later stage, the responsibility for determining the awards was vested in the schools, with teaching staffs making the decisions. Up to 2015-16 the five schools continued to be included. Since then, however, the participant schools have been reduced, for reasons of interest and finance.

As at 2018-19 the schools remaining were Boronia Park Public and Hunters Hill Public. The Management Committee took a decision to phase out the awards.