

Short extract

River of Stories Prize Giving Day speech.

By Barry Young O A M.

Call to Order. Welcome Mayor Cr Kevin Mack, Cr Patricia Gould, Cr Alice Glachan, Greg Alpin M P. Principals and English Teachers, Parents and Students.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Albury Hume I welcome you to the 11th year of the River of Stories Secondary Schools Short story and Poetry competition.

11 years ago our Rotary Club identified a need for a writing competition for our border youth. There was nothing. Our young people were not reading or writing but besotted by computer games and text messages. Approached were the principals of some selected Secondary schools with a competition aimed at 7/8 students. In the first year 5 schools came on Board and we had 78 entries. The following year 8 schools and 200 entries. The competition was extended to include year 9/10 and workshops were also introduced and then a poetry section to now we have 13 schools on board and 500 entries each year. Down a little this year to 465.

This could never have been achieved without the help of the Carina Clement and her dedicated staff from the Albury Library Museum. (Jewel in the Crown) And special is the assistance I

have had from in particular Tracey Piltz who always goes hiding at this time. Thank you Tracey and Carina.

And may I thank those English Departments for your support for without someone at your school driving the competition students would not be able to compete.

Peter Lee the president of the Rotary Club of Albury-Hume will present the prizes to the respective school individual winners and the main school prizes. But before that just a few words of appreciation to our sponsors who make this competition possible and we thank you. **To the Albury City Council for there great support and our partner the Albury Library Museum who are always there for us, and to the Commercial Club who each year demonstrate its support and welfare of our border youth through its generosity and I welcome Ted Landon and Carolyne Coster from the Board of the Commercial Club. Ted and Carolyn - Please convey to your Board our heartfelt appreciation.**

To David Lewis and Judith Doughty the proprietors of Dymocks. Albury for their financial support towards the \$50 vouchers to the individual school winners. Dymocks have been with us for 11 years and then years ago only 5 vouchers now 27. - we thank you.

Thank you also to my Rotary Club Albury Hume for their support particularly the 22 sausage sizzles we hold to raise the prize money