

Hello everyone.

Just a quick report on the 2016 C.J Dennis Poetry Competition and festival.

It has undoubtedly been the most challenging event our Society has ever organised. Nature certainly tested everyone to the limit.

It started with the ferocious storms which ravaged South Australia and then a couple of weeks ago moved into Victoria.

"The Singing Gardens" were not spared, and this photo from Steven Whiteside showed just one of the many trees which toppled and caused great damage.



Other buildings were destroyed, and despite a massive cleanup effort, there were still trees in danger of falling over, so only part on the grounds could be used by accessed by the public and the danger areas were fenced off.

This became theoretical because on the first day of the Festival, Saturday 22nd, the weather was again atrocious with non stop torrential rain and occasional hail. So the whole of Saturday's program was moved inside to the tea rooms.

The weather so bad that, according emails I have received, several people on their way to Toolangi were driven back by fallen trees blocking local roads.

Jan Williams, her family and friends worked miracles, tirelessly provided a welcoming atmosphere, food, and refreshments in the tearooms, and Jan's efforts in particular will never be forgotten.

Despite all the tribulations, from the feedback received so far, the Festival was a great success. Those who braved the weather were rewarded with some fine performances of Australian poetry, with open mikes on Sunday morning providing an hilarious poets' breakfast.

The concert on Saturday afternoon and evening featuring Geoffrey Graham, who performed the complete works of "The Moods of Ginger Mick" was simply a knockout.

The permanent trophy for the recently created "Marian Mayne Award" was unveiled with the first two winners engraved for posterity.

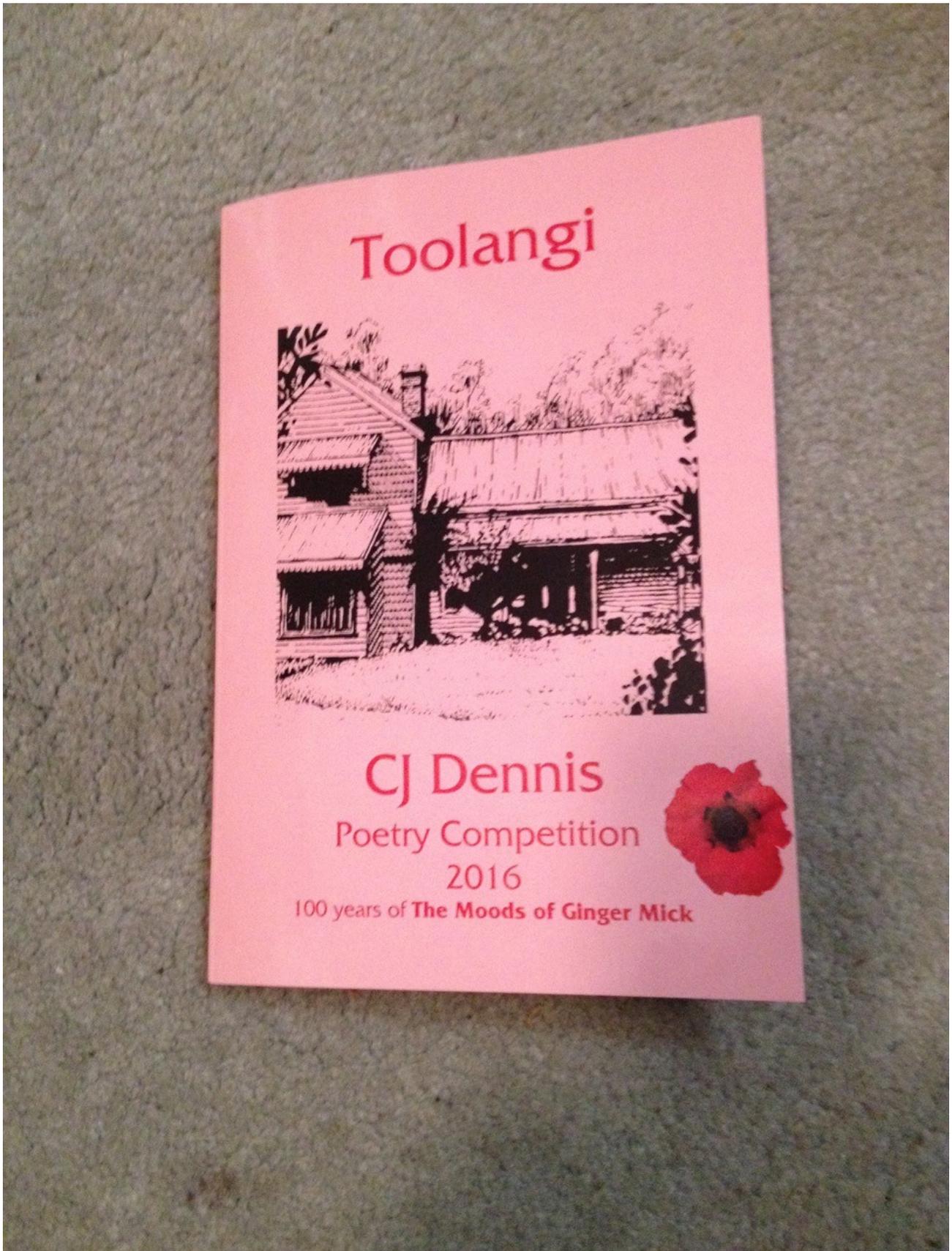




When we get a chance to recover there will be more photos sent out and placed on the website.

The official results of the 2016 C.J. Dennis Poetry Competition are set out below.

All the prizewinning entries are in the 2016 Poetry Book



The book is now available, and is a quality publication thanks to the efforts of Daan Spijer.

To order contact:

Jan Williams,

“The Singing Gardens”

1694 Main Rd

Toolangi Vic 3777

phone 03 5962 9282 or email jansinginggardens@bigpond.com.au

The cost is \$10 plus 2.50 postage and handling.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION RESULTS

OPEN AWARD (The Marian Mayne Award)

1ST Golden Wedding Shelley Hansen

2cnd From Gallipoli with Love Tom Mcllveen

3rd Bobby's return Tom Mcllveen

OPEN THEMED AWARDS (Inspired by Ginger Mick)

1st Dear Rose David Campbell

2cnd Blarst the Flaming War! Shelley Hansen

3rd Thew Ghost of Ginger Mick Stephen Whitseside

ADULTS WRITING FOR CHILDREN (Judged by Adults)

1st Grandmas's Party Graham Watt

2cnd A scarf and a half Jenny Erlanger

3rd The Bin Brigade Jenny Erlanger

The same entries judged by Children

1st Toolangi Pie David Campbell

2cnd My Teddy and I Shelley Hansen

Highly commended-

The Day the Clock stopped by Stephanie M Ward,

My Little Brother by Wendy Seddon

Noses by Peter O'Shaughnessy

POEMS BY STUDENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

1st ` My Grandpa Isabella Wallace

2cnd The Brumby Gabriella Manifold

3rd The Wackergonginee Lily Dracapoulos

POEMS BY STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

1st Classroom Sebastian Brooker

2cnd Flames Always Burn Tiarne Guyatt

3rd The Love of the Sea Tiarne Guyatt

Regards,

Jim Brown

Secretary

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