

6 August 2026

Queensland's emerging writers showcase their talent

Queensland school students with a flair for writing were celebrated last night (5 August) as part of the Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) and English Teachers Association of Queensland's (ETAQ) annual Literary Competition.

IEU-QNT Assistant Secretary Nicole Kapernick said over 1300 submissions of poetry, short stories and non-fiction prose were entered into this year's Competition, with all schools providing a high quality of entries for reviewing.

"Now in its 67th year, the Literary Competition remains the oldest continuing writing competition in Queensland and is open to students and staff in both state and non-government schools," Ms Kapernick said.

During last night's presentation evening, held at the Queensland Multicultural Centre, award recipients were presented with certificates and book prizes generously donated by event sponsor Penguin Random House Australia, before first prize recipients read their winning pieces to the audience.

Attendees were also treated to an engaging lecture by guest speaker Sita Walker, a Courier-Mail People's Choice Award winning memoirist, who shared insights and highlights from her career.

Ms Kapernick said the Literary Competition was an excellent opportunity for students to hone their writing skills and creativity.

"Our antecedent union established the competition to encourage literary development and freedom of expression in young people," Ms Kapernick said.

"The Literary Competition reviewers were impressed with the exceptional talent on display this year, with a diverse range of entries submitted from across the state.

"I congratulate those outstanding writers who were awarded prizes and thank all the recipients who entered the 2026 Literary Competition," she said.

See the attached list of 2026 Literary Competition recipients.

Ends

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The Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) represents more than 17,000 teachers, school support staff, principals and early childhood education employees across Queensland and the Northern Territory. www.ieuqnt.org.au

List of Literary Competition first place category recipients for 2026

Open

- Short story: Eamon Webb, Mount Alvernia College, Kedron

Years 11 and 12

- Short story: Lachlan Horton, All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac
- Poem: Kae Cos, Stretton State College, Stretton
- Non-fiction prose: Chanyoung Jeong, Cavendish Road State High School, Holland Park

Years 9 and 10

- Short story: Robin Bhullar, John Paul College, Daisy Hill
- Poem: Sophia Campbell, Indooroopilly State High School, Indooroopilly

Years 7 and 8

- Short story: Harper Clarke, Citipointe Christian College, Carindale
- Poem: Annabelle Frankel, Brisbane South State Secondary College, Dutton Park

Years 5 and 6

- Short story: Alfred Dowd, St Joseph's School, North Ward
- Poem: Carlotta Casseus, The Lakes College, North Lakes