

Want to enter a ISO 2020 writing competition with cash prizes and ease the iso-boredom a bit?



THE 2020 IRIS LEWIS AWARD A WRITING COMPETITION IN BEACONSFIELD!

Beaconsfield Resident's and local business' Lockdown 2.0 Writing Competition

Categories:

- Years 2-4 (Prize \$25) and presented certificate
- Years 5-7 (Prize \$50) and presented certificate
- Years 8-10 (Prize \$75) and presented certificate
- Open Category : (Prize \$50) and presented certificate, for entry considered as "Outstanding and in need or recognition"

Thoughts on Isolation 2.0

Here we are second time around in Victoria Stage 3 lockdown... but it feels different from the last time doesn't it?

How have you coped the second time around?

What did you change this time that improved your lockdown experience?

What positives have you noticed that this isolation time has had on you personally, and within your household?

Competition details:

Entries to be emailed by Friday September 11th to

secretary@beaconsfield.org.au

Or posted to : P.O.Box P.O. Box 217, Beaconsfield 3807

It could be a narrative piece, poetic prose, persuasive debate or a recount. The writing style is up to you and you can include a picture...

Entries only accepted from Beaconsfield community members (i.e. family members that live or work in Beaconsfield) and must include the full name, 2020 grade level and parent contact details of the entrant, to be eligible.

What are we looking for?

Consider the above prompt questions and the attached articles.

We want to know about your experiences as a young person in isolation; what you have learnt, what you now understand about people and what you are hopeful for when you think about the future.

Each category will be judged age appropriately. The judges are less concerned with grammatical correctness and more looking for insight and growth during this "unprecedented time" :)

Please Note: THE JUDGES DECISION ON ALL MATTERS IS FINAL

"We hope that restrictions will be eased by term 4 so that Cr Brett Owen can present the Iris Lewis Award certificates (with appropriate social distancing) and the local press can take a photo to publish, along with an article in the Beaconsfield Banner"

-Graeme Taylor President B.P.A

Photo Captions:

Right: The first Iris Lewis Award recipient, Naomi Harris, and the original 1997 winning entry.

Above Right: Article on the local Beaconsfield author that the award is named after, Joan Armitage.

Beaconsfield Banner - Feb. 03 / March 03

JOAN ARMITAGE ENCOURAGES YOUNG WRITERS

by Sarah McDonald

Iris Lewis is the pseudonym (pen name) of Joan Armitage (wife of the early printer of the Beacy Banner) who produced numerous articles over the past years. Having lived in Beaconsfield for nearly 40 years, she and her husband, George, have made a valuable contribution to community.

When they first moved to the town, some 37 years ago, Beaconsfield was no more than open paddocks, a small post office and butcher, general store, grocers, a plant shop and newsagent. There weren't any take-away shops and the Baptist Church was actually the Yellow Rose of Texas café.

Joan has been an actress, editor, teacher, musician, callisthenics instructor, artist, author, podiatrist and mother in her 86 years. A struggling family, they lived through World War 2 - bombing of Britain (a landmine dropped into their backyard in

Birmingham) and they travelled to Australia with their two sons in 1955 on the Strathnaver. 1965 saw Joan's greatest loss (her son Antony died in a tragic road accident, aged 17) and her greatest achievement (finding her sister after 48 years). Having been orphaned at the age of one and living in orphanages and foster care for the early part of her life, Joan had never really known her family. Joan recalls the harder times with fondness 'As long as you've got love, that's everything'. For their first years in Beaconsfield Joan and George lived off the meagre income of her paintings, which she sold at the local hotel each month. Joan now paints for enjoyment; her Vernon Road home adorned with paintings and tapestries of English cottages. Although Joan has lived in Australia for over half her life, England will always be her true home. 'My heart will ever be there.'

Since buying their 2 acre block in 1966, Joan has grown to love the native wildlife; often sitting on her porch and watching the wallabies and echidnas, feeding over 20 species of native bird life or telling stories of the blue tongue lizard that lives in her backyard.

Joan and her husband found the quiet town of Beaconsfield to be fairly isolated so they started a friendship club. Now Joan claims she has many friends, but can no longer stop and chat in the local grocery store. Joan suffers from a bone disease and has been physically inactive for 12 years. She can walk to the kitchen and on a good day can walk to the letterbox to collect her mail. She has found ways to keep busy with writing to pen pals the world over, knitting for charities, publishing two of her own books, and painting.

After having her first poem published in the Birmingham mail, aged 10, Joan loves to encourage young writers and gives the Iris Lewis award each year. Still being young at heart herself, Joan believes 'It's not how old you are, it's how old you feel.'

Joan has had many highlights in her life; passing with honours in Podiatry at 42, having her own art exhibition, singing with John Farnham, seeing her husband's business 'Lithocraft' flourish, meeting relatives she never knew existed, raising her own family and bringing happiness to those around her.



Joan and George Armitage on their Golden Wedding

IRIS LEWIS AWARD.

At the last public meeting of the Progress Association on Tuesday 29th April, the newly founded Iris Lewis Award was presented.

This award has been generously donated by Mrs. Joan Armitage of Vernon Road, Mount Misery. It is an encouragement award for young people who write in the Banner Newsletter.

Joan herself is a keen writer and because of certain health problems she is restricted to

home. The Banner has been very much valued by Joan as a means to communicate with everything that is going on in the town.

This time, Naomi Harris was the proud recipient of the award. Naomi has for many editions been submitting her poetry for 'Poets Corner'. It is a delight for many to read and involves a younger member of our society.

Congratulations Naomi and keep up the good work.



POETS CORNER

Naomi Harris



*Deep within the forest I see
A movement from behind the tree
And in a glance the shadow hurries
Quickly between the trees it scurries
Hiding in the grassy fields
Looking for some tasty meals
A twig breaks, the fox runs
From the men with their guns
Over the rocks and down to the river
The shadow retreats with a graceful slither
Safe for now in his rut
With nothing but an empty gut.*