

# St Basil's - Anglican Parish of Murdoch-Winthrop Inaugural Sir Walter Murdoch Writing Prize 2016



St Basil's Anglican Parish is pleased to announce the inaugural Sir Walter Murdoch Writing Prize 2016.

Sir Walter Murdoch used the medium of the essay to express a range of opinions, often inciting controversy, but always inviting his audience to engage with the shaping of their country. His commentaries on what he termed "the fallacies of the modern world" still sound fresh after nearly a century, and his thoughts on how Australia might respond to the challenges inherent in widespread violence, war, mass consumption, and mass forced migration feel surprisingly contemporary.

In honour of Sir Walter's dedication to fostering lively and thoughtful public dialogue, the Walter Murdoch Writing Prize invites young people to engage with contemporary issues and make their voices heard in the public space, through writing.

The competition invites entries from all members of the community, within four age categories. Prizes will be awarded to winners in all categories, and commendations will be given for well-regarded entries.

Presentation of prizes and certificates will take place at St Basil's on Saturday July 30th, 2016, within a memorial service for Sir Walter. The ceremonial programme commences at 5pm and includes music by an accomplished local choir and Scottish piper, selected readings, a short address, and presentation of prizes and certificates by the Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University. The evening concludes with sparkling refreshments and time to enjoy the winning entries, which will be on display. All winning and commended entries will also be featured on the parish website.

## FOR ENTRANTS

### ***What the judges will be looking for***

The judges will welcome gentle humour, but entries will be judged mainly for their clarity of thought and expression, and engagement with the subject. Appropriate to each age category, credit will be given for accuracy of information, use of language, creativity and initiative, critical thinking, integration of ideas, and execution.

Participants are encouraged to let culture and religion inform their work: the judges affirm that our differences enrich our conversation.

Where possible, entrants should acknowledge primary and secondary sources, particularly when quotations are used. A list of books, websites, and people consulted should be included with submissions.

Each entry, **accompanied by a completed cover sheet**,\* should be sent *BY EMAIL IF POSSIBLE, IN PDF FORMAT ONLY, TO* [contact@stbasilschurch.org.au](mailto:contact@stbasilschurch.org.au) with the subject heading 'Sir Walter Murdoch Writing Prize'.

**Or:** Hard-copy entries such as posters or creative diary entries *MAY BE POSTED TO:*

Sir Walter Murdoch Writing Prize  
Anglican Parish of Murdoch-Winthrop  
118-130 Somerville Blvd  
MURDOCH WA 6150

Such entries may also be delivered to the parish, by prior arrangement with the Parish Secretary, [contact@stbasilschurch.org.au](mailto:contact@stbasilschurch.org.au) or the Parish Priest, [rosatbasils@outlook.com](mailto:rosatbasils@outlook.com)

**The deadline for receipt of entries is 5 pm on Thursday 16 June 2016.**

Receipt of entries will be acknowledged by email. Entrants will be contacted by July 7 2016, and invited to attend the prize-giving ceremony at St Basil's (Anglican Parish of Murdoch-Winthrop) on Saturday 30 July 2016.

Work submitted becomes the property of the Anglican Parish of Murdoch-Winthrop, who may share it across platforms including their/the Anglican Diocese of Perth website and printed media.

Entries will not be available to be returned.\*\* Entrants may therefore wish to keep their own copy of their work.

The Parish is unable to enter into correspondence about aspects of the competition or the results thereof. Feedback on the essays submitted cannot be guaranteed.

\*Cover sheet available upon request: [contact@stbasilschurch.org.au](mailto:contact@stbasilschurch.org.au)

\*\* Every effort will be made, upon request, to facilitate the return of posters or diary entries that could not be sent as pdf due to their construction.

## **CATEGORIES AND TOPICS**

### **7-9 years old: A3 poster**

Create an A3 poster about Sir Walter Murdoch's life and work. You might include details such as when and where he lived, and some of his special achievements.

### **10-12 years old: one-page diary entry, 300-500 words**

Write a one-page diary entry as Walter Murdoch. You might like to capture his thoughts on a particular issue, or recount a day in his life. Think about what Sir Walter did, where he went, whom he met, and what he might have thought about.

### **13-17 years old: 750-1500 word essay**

Ecological questions are increasingly being defined as issues of social justice. Does this change how we should respond to environmental problems, and if so, how?

### **18-25 years old 1500-2500 word essay**

"That's dialogue for me – the recognition of the serious."\* Thinking about the current state of public discourse, and the broad and fertile ground that lies between totalitarianism and triviality, what is dialogue for you? Reflections may be informed by any discipline, including but not limited to: political, philosophical, theological, anthropological.