



Speech by

**MIKE REYNOLDS**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Hansard 9 November 1999

**NESTLÉ WRITE AROUND AUSTRALIA**

**Mr REYNOLDS** (Townsville—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): Today, two Townsville students, Janelle Evans, a Year 7 pupil who attends the Hermit Park State School, and Year 6 student Brook Christensen of St Joseph's, Mundingburra, are both in Brisbane for the State finals of the Nestlé Write Around Australia creative writing competition. I congratulate both Townsville entrants—two of 20 students who competed for the State prize—on representing the region north of Mackay, west to Charters Towers and south of Cairns. To have reached finalist level is a tremendous achievement and one of which the students themselves, their families and their schools will be very proud. Given that over 3,700 children entered the Queensland competition, it is a brilliant result for Townsville.

I am also doubly pleased because, as a former Hermit Park State School student, it is quite special to me to see one of north Queensland's writing success stories coming from that school. Earlier this year, Janelle's winning zone entry titled the Bees Knees also took out another State highly commended prize in another writing competition. Arthur the Giant was the title of Brook's winning Nestlé nomination.

The Nestlé Write Around Australia national competition, coordinated by the State Library of New South Wales and supported by the State Library of Queensland and local libraries right throughout Australia is the biggest creative writing program for primary school children in the country. In targeting Years 6 and 7 students, the program is designed to encourage children to take part in creative writing and to utilise the resources of our great public libraries.

All winning State and Territory stories will be published in a special Nestlé Write Around Australia collection, which will be distributed to all primary schools and public libraries in Australia. The stories are also to be published on the Internet on [www.writearound.com.au](http://www.writearound.com.au). I commend these two students from Townsville for the great recognition that they will receive today in the State capital.

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