**tomorrowgirl**

**What is tomorrowgirl?**

Tomorrowgirl is a short story competition open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school girls in remote Indigenous communities. Stories are to be at least 500 words and based on the theme of “my beautiful tomorrow”. Stories can be fiction or non-fiction. Entry is free and should be submitted via email to tomorrowgirlaustralia@gmail.com, along with some contact and community details. The competition opens 28 January 2013 and closes on 3 May 2013.

**Criteria and judging**

Entries will be judged on impact, originality and inspiration, by:

* Danika Nayna – a young Indigenous radio and print journalist
* Sue Woolfe – an acclaimed author and teacher
* Damian Amamoo – CEO of Indigenous communications company Inception Strategies.

**Prizes**

The winning contestant will receive a writer’s support package, including a laptop computer, vouchers to purchase books and membership to a writer’s association. The winning entry will also be included in a published anthology of selected entries.

**Sharing the stories**

The winning entry may be published in a national girls magazine. An anthology of selected stories will also be produced in partnership with Harper Collins Australia. Copies of the book will be made available to all communities from which entries were received, and to all contestants. The permission of a parent or guardian will be sought before any stories are published.

All entries meeting the competition requirements will also be posted to the web site under the author’s first name and age once permission has been obtained. The web site will enable girls to make contact with each other if they and their parent or guardian have consented to such involvement.

**Confidentiality and child protection issues**

Entrants will be asked to indicate if they wish to remain anonymous through the competition, and whether they have an interest in seeing their entry published if it is successful. They will also be asked to sign off that no real person, living or dead, has been identified in their story and entries will be checked for such material. Contestants will be asked to re-submit if people are identified.

Concerns about neglect or abuse would be referred to appropriate authorities.

**Connecting with support people**

Some remote communities face literacy challenges. Where a girl has an interest in participating, or telling a story, but is limited by ability or language, we are keen to explore the support we may be able to offer. Several community groups and education agencies have expressed interest in supporting girls if they can.

Any principal or classroom teacher can call to discuss alternate approaches.

**Whose idea is this anyway?**

Ros Baxter is a writer, mother and public servant who has worked most of her professional life in and around Indigenous policy.

She has watched good efforts to generate positive changes founder because they were imposed from the outside and did not foster hope and heart in trying to generate commitment and drive action. Specifically she became interested in why some people and places were flourishing, while others were not.

Most recently, Ros worked in government communications, and is fascinated with the power of storytelling to spread hope and lead to positive action. She wanted to harness women’s power to change the world by giving young women an avenue to tell stories, and hear the stories of other young women in similar situations.

Please contact Ros on 0420 933 741 or tomorrowgirlaustralia@gmail.com to discuss the project or offer support.