

Poem : Senior

Winner– Jess Scarsbrook, Yr 12, Burnside High School



A Handful of Hope

Although they are not a conventional bouquet

These too live, breathe

And love

Where the world sees decay

There is only efflorescence

Which is hard to comprehend

Not what you expect

But when life comes to you with

An unconventional bouquet

Nurture it

With all of your heart

For the only difference is

Perception

So many look into your hands

And feel pity

See pain and hopelessness

Feed you their endless negativity

But they are the ones who need be pitied

For their ignorance

Their view of the world whereby

Anything that is not black and white

Is broken

They teach you to see

None of the beauty in the leaves

Sprouting from your strong sure base

Of the understandings blossoming at your fingertips

Because their hearts are skewed

By thorn ridden scars

Etched deep through years of knowing only

Perfectly generic roses

Speaking up is not a prerequisite for respect

Can make life that little bit more

Unsafe

But when you find a like mind, a safer space

And use your voice, hands, heart
To sing a song of self-acceptance

Others like you will see
Unconventional bouquets everywhere

Will flourish

And the world will get

Just a little bit more diverse,

Just a little bit more

Beautiful.