



# Years 9-10 Category Runner-Up

LILY AYRE – SCOTCH OAKBURN COLLEGE

## The Grove of Giants

Majestic giants live and grow throughout the myths of time.  
Reaching for the sun,  
Stretching their branches one hundred metres high.  
These guardians of climate absorb the carbon dioxide,  
Breathing through their leaves,  
To fuel the wood and the store carbon within the aging rings.  
Regal Eucalyptus Regnans serve as homes for thousands of species,  
Black cockatoos, masked owls, the endangered swift parrot.  
Groves of magnificent giants,  
Unique and internationally recognised.  
Silent witnesses to many centuries of native forest growth,  
Alongside the palawa and the thylacine.

Destructive discussions made in board rooms,  
No thought or regard for the ecological heritage and value.  
Grand groves are seen only as coupes to be exploited.  
The Ancients cut at their knees in a single afternoon,  
With fires burning the remains and causing devastation.  
Carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere,  
Like one million cars driving each year.

For what?  
It doesn't make sense.  
Why are we destroying these trees?  
Not for any important justifiable purpose,  
But for single use paper and tissues,  
Once rich, now worthless.  
Magnificent giants transformed to woodchips and ash.  
Thousands of species homes - lost,  
Catastrophic greenhouse gas effects.

Stop disrespecting the trees,  
There is no reason for such monstrous destruction.  
Timber can be sourced through sustainable practise,  
Plantations are a better solution.  
Stop destroying the homes of animals.  
Gentle giants don't deserve to be hurt.  
Stop the logging,  
Contributing to climate change.

Save the Grove of Giants.