

Embargoed until 25 November, 2017

Facing change of places, people and feelings wins ASG Indigenous Art Award

Year 11 student Tyler Sillery-Maxwell has a talent of bringing his life experience to life—literally.

With a love for drawing and stop-motion animation to express his emotions, passions and loyalty, he created an intricate mosaic of two separate identities, drawn in lead pencil and biro ink, titled *Change*.

“The artwork represents me, and the changes in place, people and feelings towards me that have occurred throughout my life.”

Describing it as a self-portrait, illustrating a clear distinction of environments—the country on the right, to the city on the left, Tyler’s interpretative artwork was selected as the winning entry of the ASG Indigenous Art Award.

“I spent most of my younger years in Kununurra, a small country town eight hours from Darwin, building long-lasting friendships, and discovering myself as an artist in among the bright colours, warm feelings and amazing scenery of the surrounding landscape.”

Tyler now lives a short walk from the beach in Geraldton, which is conveyed through the wave over the left shoulder.

Tyler adds, “The fine line dividing the face shows a difference in self from a young boy to a young adult. The right side represents the freedom I had as a child. On the left, the face is actually a mask.

“The individual colours seen in the left background depict how different people have influenced me, while the buildings illustrate possible futures.”

Tyler who attends Geraldton Senior College will fly to Melbourne with his family to graciously accept his accolade on Saturday 25 November, 2017.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers’ Awards, which attracted more than 2000 entries.

The awards are an initiative of the Children’s Charity Network (CCN), an organisation that helps build confidence and self-esteem in children. ASG has been supporting CCN since 2003.

ASG Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says Tyler’s artwork is imaginative and thought provoking, and allows viewers to go on a personal journey.

“I congratulate Tyler and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG is passionate about helping children and young students embrace their talent and creativity to achieve their goals and aspire to even greater things in the future.

“It’s also really encouraging to hear comments from these students that they’re being supported, encouraged and challenged by their teachers and school principals. This collaboration between teachers, parents and schools is fundamental as revealed in the latest [ASG Parents Report Card](#) to ensure the continuation of learning and development in both the school and home environments.”

Other ASG award recipients were:

ASG Art Award – painting (Prep-grade 4): Janavika Hingorani

ASG Art Award – drawing (Prep-grade 4): Claire Ah-Chok

ASG Literary Award (Poetry): Georgia Ryan

ASG Literary Award (Story): Jana Nguyen

Ends.

Media contact:

To arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis or please contact:

Nicole Gundi

Media and Communications Adviser

(03) 9276 7520 / 0448 167 578

asgcommunications@asg.com.au

Editor's notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 540,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.8 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.