

Embargoed until 25 November, 2017

Pursuing passion against adversity earns young poet prestigious ASG award

There's no stopping 12 year old Georgia Ryan in her tracks.

Upholding a tradition for courage in her family, Georgia who has dyslexia and dysgraphia will be presented with an ASG Literary Award for her poem 'Thank you'. The poem honours Anzac Day soldiers and her own great-great uncle and great grandfather who fought in both world wars.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards, which attracted more than 15,000 entries.

Georgia who attends St Agnes Primary School in NSW will fly to Melbourne with her family to graciously accept her accolade on Saturday 25 November, 2017.

"The award represents far more than public recognition. It means that more people will read my poem and think about what our soldiers did for us," Georgia says.

"I've worn my great grandfather's medals every year since kindergarten when I march with my school on Anzac Day. This is an important day in the seaside town of Port Macquarie and that is why I wanted to write something special about it."

Georgia says she drew on her strengths and wants to be an example to other children with learning differences.

"I use poetry and diary entries to explore my feelings and things that are important to me. Having dyslexia also means that it just takes me a bit longer than the other kids in my class. It took me over a month working at home to finish my poem, but I love how good I feel when a poem is just right.

"It also shows other kids with learning differences like dyslexia, that if I can win, then they can too. Learning differences shouldn't stop you from doing anything."

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 Georgia's poem is powerful and her writing shows a deep level of maturity.

"I congratulate Georgia 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 and challenged by their teachers and the wider school communities. This collaboration between teachers, parents and schools is fundamental as discovered in the 2017 [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 – drawing (Prep-grade 4): Claire Ah-Chok

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

ASG Literary Award (Story): Jana Nguyen

ASG Indigenous Art Award: Tyler Sillery-Maxwell

Ends.

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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.