

November 2016

Connection to culture inspires 'Peace & Freedom' and wins art award

Not too long ago Kaysanna Elap didn't even like painting or drawing and didn't think she was equipped with the patience or precision needed for it.

But she's proven herself wrong, thanks to her parents, and now painting excites her.

"When my dad and step mum presented me with my first art book and art box, I was determined to keep trying and practising. I got better each day and started enjoying dot painting."

The 14 year old who attends Bunbury Secondary College in Western Australia is the recipient of the ASG Indigenous Art Award for her artwork 'Peace & Freedom,' which takes inspiration from her Aboriginal culture and heritage.

"The dots and water represent the inland river from my mum's side, and the turtle is a dreaming animal which represents the saltwater culture from my dad's side."

Kaysanna was presented with her award on 26 November 2016, at an award ceremony held in Melbourne.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards, which attracted more than 33,000 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 said he was impressed by Kaysanna's artistic interpretation and linkage to culture.

"I congratulate Kaysanna and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG's core mission is about supporting lifelong education and aspirations which is why we are proud of our long-standing partnership with the CNN and this initiative which fosters young talent and encourages creativity.

These awards are also successful because of the support from parents. We know from our research¹ that parents want their children to succeed and this aspiration is the most significant factor in determining their long-term success. When children know how their parents value their education and the high aspirations they have, this encourages them to want to do better and achieve results. So it's really encouraging to see parents being involved and supporting their children's educational interests."

CCN Executive Director Rob Leonard says the awards continue to go from strength to strength.

"Each year the calibre of submissions gets even more exceptional and it makes the judging process so much more difficult. Each of the award recipients are definitely budding authors and artists who have exciting future ahead of them. Their imagination is just incredible and some of their stories still bring a tear to my eye."

Other ASG award recipients were:

¹ [ASG Parents Report Card 2016](#)

ASG Art Award-drawing (Prep-grade 4): Jazmine Earl, Hackham, SA
ASG Art Award-painting (Prep-grade 4): Rohan Ganta, Berwic, VIC
ASG Literary Award (Short story): Adrian Garro, South Morang, VIC
ASG Literary Award (Poetry): Jordan Varghese, Casula, NSW

Ends.

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Editors 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 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.