

November 2015

Connection to culture inspires 'The Dancing Ants' and wins art award

For the last few years, Shianne Kynuna has been disengaged from school, but she's now back on track and winning awards.

"Shianne didn't realise she had any talent" said school principal, Erica Prosser from Holy Spirit College in Queensland.

Unlike most 14 year-olds, Shianne's attention to detail is exceptional and the depth and maturity of her artwork shines through.

'The Dancing Ants' is a traditional painting using dot art and warm earthly colours with a contrasting background to depict the creatures of the land.

Shianne was named as the recipient of the ASG Indigenous Art Award on 28 November 2015, 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.

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 Shianne's artistic interpretation and linkage to culture.

"I congratulate Shianne and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG's core mission is about supporting children's education and by fostering young talent and encouraging creativity, this allows them to express themselves freely through art and literature and perhaps aspire to a career in these disciplines.

"These awards aren't just about the students but how the parents get involved too. We recently launched the 2015 ASG Parents Report Card which looked at parents' perceptions of the state of education in Australia. One of the key findings is that parents' aspirations are the most important driver for their children's educational success. When children know how their parents value their education and the high aspirations they have, this encourages them to want to do better. So a huge congratulations to all the parents who have supported their children in this journey," added Mr Velegrinis.

CCN Executive Director Rob Leonard says the awards showcase incredible talent.

"You only have to read these stories or see the artwork, to understand how much talent we really have in our young people. Their imagination is just incredible and some of their stories still bring a tear to my eye."

School principal, Erica Prosser who accepted the award said Shianne has come a long way.

“There’s been a huge improvement from the start of the year. She’s an absolutely different person now.

“She’s realising her potential through art and for Shianne, it’s also about culture and sharing one of the stories of her extended family.”

Other ASG award recipients were:

Art Award–painting (Prep-grade 4): Himani, Maroubra, NSW

Art Award–drawing (Prep-grade 4): Shanghavi Rathanthas

Literary Award (short story): Monica Rallabhandi, Rossmoyne, WA.

Indigenous Art Award: Shianne Kynuna, QLD.

Ends.

Media contact:

To arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis or Erica Prosser/Shianne Kynuna please contact:

Nicole Gundi

Media and Communications Adviser

(03) 9276 7250 / 0448 167 578

publicrelations@asg.com.au

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 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.