

November 2015

Patterns, texture and colour makes for award winning 'Sunset'

Eight year-old Himani loves expressing herself through art and enjoys painting landscapes which are peaceful to look at.

In her painting, she captures the serenity of an afternoon sunset using a large range of bright and dark colours, and interesting patterns and textures.

Himani who attends Maroubra Junction Public School in New South Wales, was presented with an ASG Literary Award on 28 November 2015, in 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 is the only major sponsor of the prep-grade 4 category in the art awards, encouraging creativity from a very young age.

ASG Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis said he was impressed by Himani's painting which leaves the audience with an appreciation and respect for the environment and natural surroundings.

"I congratulate Himani 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."

Himani's mum, Pam said her daughter gets the most joy from being creative and is thankful for the support she has around her.

"Himani has learnt a lot of artistic skills and ideas from her art teacher, Miss Lilly at her local library. Her Uncle Bill also has a graphic art background and gives Hamini great ideas, support and guidance. She also loves going with him to art galleries where she can admire and learn about artistic work and participate in artistic activities."

She's really excited and honoured to be winning her first art award, added Pam.

"Himani hopes to someday have a career that is art related. She's never received an art award before but when she was in kindergarten, she had a painting of a tiger which was selected to represent her school at the NSW Art Express competition. Her painting proudly hangs in the Westmead Children's hospital, so hopefully it can bring some colour and some sick children feel positive."

Other ASG award recipients were:

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

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

Literary Award (poetry): Benjamin Cullen, Westleigh, NSW

Indigenous Art Award: Shianne Kynuna, Queensland.

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 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.