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Schools Reconciliation Challenge exhibition launched

Today Reconciliation NSW launched the 2018 Schools Reconciliation Challenge (SRC) exhibition at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' (MAAS) Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Over 1200 students participated in this year's *Our Voices Our Future* theme for the Schools Reconciliation Challenge. Art and writing entries came from Moruya to Tumbl gum, from Coogee to Winmalee and each student imagined a future Australia where reconciliation had been achieved.

The future looks different! One possibility was an Indigenous Prime Minister, others included mainstream appreciation of bush medicine and astronomy, but all students embraced a sense of equity and understanding of the position of Australia's First Peoples. Students want to know more!

MAAS Head of Indigenous Engagement & Strategy Marcus Hughes said "MAAS has worked with Reconciliation NSW for the past three years and in that time has seen the program engage students in positive models of reconciliation that they will take into their adult lives. We look forward to continuing this important work with the SRC."

Through the SRC, Reconciliation NSW provided resources and web-based lessons to support students' understanding and desire for a better future for all Australians. Many schools also connected with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and experts who inspired students with bush medicine, astrology, artistic techniques and cultural explorations.

"It is a privilege to be able to offer this educational and cultural experience to so many NSW school children". Reconciliation NSW Co-Chair Professor Lindon Coombes stated, and the results clearly show that teachers and students are willing and excited to connect to culture and truth telling.

The Schools Reconciliation Challenge exhibition is at the MAAS Powerhouse Museum until Friday 9 November. The exhibition then moves to the ACT for a launch hosted by the National Gallery of Australia, followed by a travelling exhibition throughout NSW sponsored by the National Trust and Lendlease.

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