

18 November 2019

10 years of Art from the Heart for Reconciliation

Today Reconciliation NSW launched the 10th Annual Schools Reconciliation Challenge (SRC) exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning addressed the audience and presented awards to more than 70 student finalists. This year's theme ***Speaking and Listening from the Heart*** struck a chord with students, teachers and families from schools all around NSW and the ACT. Art and writing entries came from Bathurst to Moruya, from the Blue Mountains to the Northern beaches.

In 2019 over 1500 students have explored the theme ***Speaking and Listening from the Heart***. Students tapped into the need for First Nations Peoples voices to be heard and to understand that ***Speaking and Listening from the Heart*** offers everyone the ability to connect with Country, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and with their own feelings about identity and being an Australian.

Many artworks invoked the spirit of Uluru and demonstrated student's knowledge of reconciliation and the true history in Australia. The Freedom Rides, The Tent Embassy, Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill walk off were all explored as stories spoken from the heart.

The Museum's Head of Indigenous Engagement & Strategy Marcus Hughes said "The Powerhouse has worked with Reconciliation NSW for the past four 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."

Co-Chair Professor Lindon Coombes stated that "the reconciliation in education resources, activities and lesson plans delivered by the Schools Reconciliation Challenge are an important program, offering schools Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives which enhance and develop the NSW and Australian curriculum in direct and tangible ways. Schools who engage with the SRC benefit greatly from their experience and participation".

The Schools Reconciliation Challenge exhibition is at the Powerhouse Museum until Sunday 24 November. The exhibition then travels to the ACT and throughout NSW sponsored by the National Trust and Lendlease.

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