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“What Stories Will You Dream?” Reconciliation NSW announces the 2023 Schools Reconciliation Challenge for schools in NSW and ACT!

The 14th annual Schools Reconciliation Challenge (SRC) theme has been released by Reconciliation NSW.

What Stories Will You Dream?

Each year, the SRC engages schools from across NSW and the ACT in reconciliation, through a theme inspired art and writing competition. Students draw on inspiration from the annual theme to create art and writing pieces that reflect First Nations histories and perspectives and the concept of reconciliation; the finalist artworks are then turned into a travelling exhibition.

The 2023 theme inspires students and educators to reflect on the stories that came before us, the stories upon which this land was built, and to consider how each of us will contribute to the stories still unwritten. The questions to ponder whilst exploring the theme are *What story will you dream for reconciliation? How will you contribute to making it a reality?*

Schools are now encouraged to register for this year’s challenge via the SRC website and begin exploring the lesson resources and activities centered on the 2023 theme. Last year the SRC engaged over 13,000 educators and students in reconciliation and First Nations perspectives, exploring the theme *From River to Sea: Our Island Home*. There were finalists from 22 primary and high schools selected to be part of the 2022 SRC exhibition. Finalists had the opportunity to attend the Australian Museum for the launch, which will be displayed later this year in Sydney visiting International Towers and NSW Parliament House, before travelling to venues in regional NSW.

At the 2022 exhibition launch the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, NSW Minister for Education, thanked Reconciliation NSW for continuing to provide students with this unique opportunity. *“For students across NSW and the ACT to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and to have the opportunity, by being a part of the challenge, to reflect on what reconciliation means to them.”* Said Minister Mitchell.

Reconciliation NSW Co-Chair, Annie Tennant also highlighted the importance of the challenge in teaching students about First Nations perspectives. *“It has provided students across NSW and the ACT with the opportunity to discover and celebrate the ancient knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the importance of reconciliation.”*

The 2023 challenge is open to young people in Years 3-10 (or of equivalent age), Indigenous and non-Indigenous. The challenge will be open until September, giving educators time to prepare their students to enter artworks that reflect stories, dreaming and reconciliation.

Reconciliation NSW

For more information about the SRC, go to <https://www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au/>.

Available for further comment:

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