



Syd Stirling

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

9 February 2006

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION OPENS

Employment, Education and Training Minister, Syd Stirling, opened another outstanding Year 12 student art exhibition in Darwin today.

The 12th annual Exit Art Exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT contains ceramics, photography, sculpture and multimedia works by more than 40 of 2005's year 12 Visual Arts Students.

"I never fail to be impressed by the standard of works each year - they are a tribute to both the young artists and their teachers," he said.

"The quality and diversity of the exhibits demonstrates a creative flair that has been nurtured within visual arts departments in the senior secondary schools across the Territory."

Mr Stirling said government remained committed to celebrating excellence in all areas of education and he was particularly impressed with *Rust Never Sleeps* by former Darwin High student Jedidiah Dupe, which he chose for the annual Minister's Choice Award.

"Making the selection from such an array of artistic excellence was no easy task, but Jedidiah's work and it will take pride of place in my office over the coming year," he said.

Three students who attained a score of 20 out of 20 in both the practical and theory elements of their visual art subject in 2005 were presented with Woodside Energy Excellence Awards by the Minister.

The recipients were Nhi Nguyen from Centralian Senior Secondary College (Visual Arts Studies), Lauren Crawley from Darwin High School (Art Practical) and Nathan Lewis from Darwin High School (Art Practical).

A further seven students received Woodside Energy Merit Awards for achieving perfect scores in the practical section of their visual arts subjects

They were Lauren Graham, Darwin High School (Design Practical), Jessica Lopes from Centralian Senior Secondary College, Josephine Smiley from Kormilda College and Casuarina Senior College students Kelly Agnew, Scott de la Rosa, Verity Watson, Shaan Thomason, (all Visual Arts Studies).

The People's Choice award, which encourages community involvement, is being held again. Visitors are encouraged to nominate their favourite piece of artwork with the winner receiving a \$100 cheque.

The exhibition is free and open to the public from 10 February to 7 May.

Contact: Craig Rowston 8901 4010 or 0401 119 777 or DEET Media Manager Patrick Nelson 8901 4918