

Media Release

NSW Reconciliation Council and National Trust announce state-wide tour of students' artworks

11 August 2016

The NSW Reconciliation Council (NSWRC) and the National Trust will join forces to present a state-wide tour of award-winning artworks from this year's [NSW Schools' Reconciliation Challenge](#).

The sixteen artworks – which were selected as the best of more than 700 entries to NSWRC's annual art competition – will be put on display at a series of National Trust venues around NSW. All were created by New South Wales school students in years 5-9, and were inspired by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, cultures and stories.

The artworks will be shown at the National Trust Centre in Sydney from 15 August to 9 September, before travelling to [Cooma Cottage](#) in Yass, where they will feature in local arts festival [Sculpture in the Paddock](#). After that, they will spend six months travelling around the state, from [Saumarez Homestead](#) in Armidale, to [Woodford Academy](#) in the Blue Mountains, to [Dundullimal Homestead](#) in Dubbo.

NSW Reconciliation Council Director Gilly Dempsey said she was delighted that the artworks could be made accessible to residents of regional New South Wales.

"Every year, we receive hundreds of entries to the Schools' Reconciliation Challenge from students living and going to school in regional New South Wales," she said.

"We know that people in these areas are often extremely interested in and passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, cultures and issues, so we're delighted that our partnership with the National Trust will enable us to bring these artworks closer to home for them."

"We hope that they'll provoke some interesting and important discussions about the ongoing importance of reconciliation, on both a local and national level."

CEO of the National Trust, Brian Scarsbrick, said that he understands and appreciates the value of engaging regional communities in reconciliation and acknowledging our nation's shared history.

"The National Trust supports the fostering of positive and strong relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across NSW. Winning artworks from the Schools' Reconciliation Challenge not only portray Australia's history, but importantly they capture the hope for a better, more equal future for all Australians," he said.

"By bringing these artworks to regional communities and to the Aboriginal land on which our properties stand, it is our hope that the National Trust can play a role in facilitating much needed conversations about our shared history and futures."

Ms Dempsey also said there was a special significance to the artworks being shown in the National Trust venues.

"The National Trust venues that the artworks will be displayed in provide us with a wonderful, enduring connection to a bygone era of Australian history. I am extremely pleased that these venues



will now be used to help us all think about Australian history from an Indigenous perspective, and consider what still needs to be done on the road to reconciliation into the future.”

For more information, and to see when the artworks are coming to a venue near you, visit <http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/events-3/>

The [New South Wales Reconciliation Council](http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au) is the peak representative body for reconciliation in NSW. Our vision is to create a reconciled, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Our membership is currently made up of Reconciliation Groups and individuals across NSW – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together to advance reconciliation in their communities.

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The following people are available for further comment:

- Gilly Dempsey, Director, NSW Reconciliation Council
- Brian Scarsbrick, CEO, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Professional photographs of the winning students with their artworks at the NSW Schools' Reconciliation Challenge award ceremony are available for publication upon request.

For further information, interview requests or enquiries, please contact Georgia Behrens at georgia.behrens@nswreconciliation.org.au or on (02) 8095 9600 or 0402 376 306.