

Student artwork beautifies Armadale

Students at Neerigen Brook Primary School have made their mark in the community by helping to decorate NBN Fibre Distribution Hub (FDH) cabinets in the area.

The boxes are being installed around the community as part of the rollout of the NBN, with boxes closest to the school to be covered with artwork created by the students.

The first one to be decorated was designed by Year 6 student Tyler.

Tyler said his work was inspired by the local environment.

“I wanted to draw something Australian; that has snakes, grasstrees rivers and flowers as part of the dot painting,” he said.

“I’m proud of doing something everyone can see. I’m going to show my friends and family.”

The initiative was a collaboration between YouthCARE chaplain Joy Magsaysay, City of Armadale, NBN contractor Downer EDI Engineering and local artist Renae Whyte.

Principal Jane Wescott said Joy’s local connections as a member of the Armadale Youth Council played a major part in getting the school involved with the project.

“One of the thing things that Joy has been working on since joining Neerigen Brook Primary School, is building partnerships and building connections to the community,” she said.

“The artwork really developed that sense of pride - to have artwork displayed that children have helped design, removes ‘the fence in the school’ and really builds a strong partnership.

“Even when some of those children move on from Year 6 to high school, they’ve still got that “I remember doing that when I was in primary school; and that’s my contribution to the local area”.”

Joy said she was really proud of what the students had achieved.

“It makes me teary to see the wonderful work the kids have done,” she said.

“To see the kids start a project and see it through to the end, where it is displayed for all to see is just wonderful.”

A team from Downer EDI Engineering, visited the school to talk about the NBN, how it’s installed, how it works and the benefits it will bring to the school, their families and their local community.

As part of the information session the students participated in an art class with local artist Renae Whyte.

Both the teachers and students enjoyed the information session run by Downer construction manager Steve Dymond.

“It’s a great initiative to involve and engage the community in Armadale as well as demonstrating the benefits the NBN will bring,” Steve said.

“The students were really interested in learning about the NBN as they hear about it on TV and on the radio, and they are so excited to see their artwork featured on the cabinets which they’ll pass every day on their way to school.”

City of Armadale councillor Guenter Best said the artwork was a brilliant idea and the City was delighted to be able to support local art.

“We hope to be able to collaborate with the community more projects like this in the future,” he said.

Photo: (Back) YouthCARE chaplain Joy Magsaysay, Cr Guenter Best, Barry Plumridge (COA), Steve Dymond (Downer), deputy principal Lesley Barrett. (Front) Upper primary students Whitney, Amelia, Tyler, Ella, Jasmine, Mahalia and Emily.

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