

**MEDIA STATEMENT
ARTISTIC STANDARD CONTINUES TO IMPRESS**

Anita Piccioni and Kyle Hams of Seton Catholic College once again came out winners along with other high achieving young artists in the annual KIC Design for Industry and The Nufarm Youth Encouragement art awards at a launch ceremony held at the Gary Holland Community Centre, Rockingham on Monday 15th March.

Anita and Kyle were also joined in the winning line up by fellow student from Seton, Ericca Fernandez, making something of a coup for the school.

Seton Catholic College is a relatively new contender in the fourteen-year industry/community partnership, yet has scored top on the honour board for two consecutive years much to the delight of Principal Egmont Melton.

Mayor of Kwinana Councillor Carol Adams was this year's keynote speaker. In her speech she praised the outstanding talent of the youth of the Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham region. "Local Government has come to appreciate how vital it is to support the development of youth through the arts." Ms Adams said.

Mayor Adams' delight was warmly expressed as she viewed over 85 exhibits which had been nominated from a field of close to 1500 entries in the arts event, from a range of 11 schools, all members of the Kwinana Industries Education Partnership (KIEP).

"It is fitting that each local government has built major pathways towards providing infrastructure towards sustainability in the areas of arts and culture over recent years, and this is adding value to the development of young people" Ms Adams said.

The Kwinana Industries Council and Nufarm Australia Ltd have sponsored and nurtured the annual event for fourteen years. A year-long application of student work culminates in an annual exhibition that has grown from strength and interest, and represents the cream of the region's young high school talent.

The exhibition also represents successful and progressive interaction between industry, schools, cultural groups and community members, working harmoniously to achieve recognition and celebration of youth and a highly valued cultural partnership.

Mr. Chris Lee of Nufarm and Chris Oughton, Director of the Kwinana Industries Council also paid tribute to the partnership which is adding cultural value, engagement and recognition of young people in society. Both the KIC and Nufarm expressed pride in being able to play a role in bringing about such positive outcomes and a very pleasing exhibition that's worthy of any gallery in Western Australia.

Mr Lee said "I enjoy the sense of community achieved through such cooperation, which is basically about pulling together to make things happen."

Mr Oughton said "It is becoming widely recognised that engaging children in cultural activities at an early age leads to healthy communities – these are positive places for

people to live in, to grow up in, to recreate in, and to work in. Sound cultural foundations are essential to establishment of basic values such as self esteem in young people that ultimately nurture aspirations to achieve their highest potential. The KIC is proud of this cultural tradition that has now firmly established.”

“This year’s exhibition has again uncovered some wonderful young designers who are clearly enthusiastic, passionate and committed to their chosen endeavours.

What originally seemed like a very small competition designed to bring industry and education closer together, has indeed become a traditional flag-ship project under the *Kwinana Industries Education Partnership..*”

Project Manager, Mrs Lynne Woolfenden said that throughout the history of the arts partnership program, engagement is estimated to be with some 19,000 people. This estimate does not take into account the number of yearly exhibition visitors. The traffic through the gallery during the first week of the exhibition had been phenomenal.

Twenty-two awards were delivered overall. Cai Hill of Tranby College received the top award for his expertly designed furniture piece, hall table, in the KIC Design for Industry category. Kyle Hams of Seton College won the top award in the Nufarm category.

Winners in other categories were, KIC Photography Award, Stephanie Paolino (Seton Catholic College), Water Corporation People’s Choice Award, Shannon Parker (Tranby College), Rockingham Council for the Arts, President’s Choice, Sharnee Reid (Safety Bay High School). Judge’s Choice went to Anita Piccioni of Seton College. Full results for all categories can be viewed on the Kwinana Industries Council Website on www.kic.org.au.

The Exhibition will continue showing daily at the Gary Holland Community Centre, Kent Street Rockingham, 9-4pm until 29 March.