

THE Advertiser

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ADFAS Pokolbin presents inaugural Visual and Performing Arts scholarships

- Krystal Sellars



ADFAS Pokolbin Young Arts Program sub-committee members Sue Abrahams (left) and Paula Cameron present scholarship winner Bowen Cavanagh and encouragement award winner Jett Mozzell with their awards.

The Pokolbin branch of the Australian Fine Arts and Decorative Society understands the importance of fostering the talents of Cessnock's young artists.

The branch not only brings world-renowned arts lecturers to town – it also raises thousands of dollars a year to support the arts in local schools.

ADFAS Pokolbin presented its inaugural Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship for secondary students at its October lecture.

Mount View High School year 11 student Bowen Cavanagh, a promising photographer, won the \$1000 scholarship.

Bowen said he was surprised and honoured to receive the scholarship.

He will use his prize to buy a new camera and undertake some photography courses.

An encouragement award of \$250 was presented to Cessnock High year 10 student Jett Mozzell, who is a talented drawer and ceramic artist.

Jett was very excited to receive the award, which he will use for materials and equipment.

To be in the running for the scholarship, students had to submit an application form accompanied by their academic record, a teacher's letter of recommendation, a short essay outlining their hopes and aspirations and how the money would benefit their studies, and a video or photographic display of art work or performance.

ADFAS Pokolbin Young Arts Program sub-committee member Sue Abrahams said they were thrilled with the number and quality of entries submitted.

But it was Bowen's talent and enthusiasm that stood out.

"Bowen's application was very strong, he has a passion for photography and the arts," Ms Abrahams said.

"He also acts as a mentor to younger students."

Ms Abrahams said Jett also submitted a great application and displayed passion for arts and drawing, and the committee decided to grant him an encouragement prize.

ADFAS Pokolbin founded its Young Arts Program since 2008, providing funds for arts-based excursions, in-school performances, arts awards and books for local primary schools.

This year's fundraising dinner – held at Hunter's Quarter in September – raised \$11,000 for the program.

- Check out Bowen's photography on Instagram [@peak_ph0t0graphy](#)