



Media Release

Tuesday 19th July

Western Stories: The opportunity of a lifetime

Western Chances, together with Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and Village Roadshow have given 10 young people from the Western Suburbs the opportunity of a lifetime.

The young people, chosen from schools in the Western Suburbs, have made a short film of their lives in their own style and language.

Western Chances is a scholarship program for young people in the Western Suburbs, founded by Mrs Terry Bracks.

“We jumped at the chance to be involved with ACMI as a way of allowing some of our young people to learn new skills, Mrs Bracks said.

“While it’s not part of our regular scholarship program we saw the benefit for the rest of the community in seeing and listening to young people tell us about their lives in their own way”, Mrs Bracks said.

The experience has given the 10 young people new skills in visual storytelling, scriptwriting and digital media. This project has allowed them to use new software to create, edit and produce their stories.

This dynamic “hands-on” learning process between the young people, their teachers and ACMI was designed to be highly motivating.

ACMI’s project coordinator, Helen Simondson said that , “While I think the process was sometimes confronting for the young film makers, it has produced a wonderful mix of stories ranging from hard hitting

emotional portraits of family life through to kids doing what they love and telling the world about it”.

“This project puts their lives into a narrative, and this is what makes it interesting. They have also been able broaden their horizons by taking part and developing their skills in multimedia”, she said.

The project involved three teachers from Bayside Secondary College, Copperfield College and Sunshine Secondary College.

“Importantly, the teachers involved have gained new teaching skills in the use of media and communication which they can take back to their classrooms”, said Bayside College Principal and Western Chances Board Member, Ms Rosie Salvaris.

When opportunities and the right partners emerge, Western Chances will keep expanding on their scholarship program to help young people gain practical skills.

In this instance it worked together with ACMI and Village Roadshow to propel young people forward to create opportunities and avenues they may never have had.

The students gave up three weekends learning creative techniques including storyboarding and animation. They then spent part of their school holidays producing stories and making their short films.

All footage used in these films are personal photos and objects from their lives. They used their own ideas and experiences to portray a part of their life they wanted to share with others.

Mrs Bracks will be presenting participants with certificates of achievement tonight at ACMI where all student films will be shown.

To find our more information about Western Chances visit the website at www.westernchances.org.au or call 8345 1850

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