

ArtsNational Molonglo Plains Young Arts Program 2024.

ArtsNational Molonglo Plains had great pleasure in supporting the Young Arts Program this year. Our committee spent considerable time selecting a program that was community based and ensured that our grant supported individual local Molonglo Plains students who were dedicated to reaching their full potential in music. We believe that the arts enrich everyone's lives and this year we were very aware of enriching the lives of children through music.

In 2023 we supported many students who attended Marie-Cecile's School of Music in Jerrabomberra from the Queanbeyan and surrounding NSW area. Our grant supported a wonderful end of year concert at the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre. This year, 2024, the School of Music moved to the Belconnen Arts Centre in Canberra however we were determined to help young children in the Queanbeyan region where so many of the Molonglo plains members reside. We asked the director and tutor of the School of Music if she could guide us in selecting two worthy students of music who would benefit from our grant. To our pleasure she suggested that Ruby Holden (16 years old) and Laila Osborne (10 years old) to be the recipients of our 2024 Grant. Each student was quite overcome and so very gracious when accepting their \$500 each to help assist their tuition.



Ruby singing with her guitar at our July Lecture.



Lindy Ross (our president) with Marie-Cecile presenting Ruby and Laila's Young Arts Award.



Ruby presented a short singing performance at our July lecture. Our Molonglo Plains members greatly admired her confidence and poise whilst singing. It was inspirational to see the support of Ruby's mother and father who helped set up the music technology.

Ruby has attended many local musical events as well as a prestigious program in Tamworth earlier this year.



Laila, aged 10 years, performed a Taylor Swift song to our members at the October lecture. It was moving to see this young performer with both self-assurance and a beautiful young voice. Her father played the accompanying guitar and both parents were indeed caring and supportive. Our members were uplifted by Laila's performance.

The Molonglo Plains Arts National member's contribution, by supporting our regular monthly raffles, enabled us to financially help Ruby and Laila. It was our desire to have an ongoing connection with Marie-Cecile's School of Music and it was a pleasure to meet the students and to be part of the advancement in their career in music.

Jan Whyte (Molonglo Plains Arts National Young Arts Program coordinator 2024).