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Young inventors wear waste to win re-use awards

Resourceful young Western Australians have been rewarded for reusing discarded waste and turning it into fashion.

This year's Young Re-Inventors Awards—supported by the State Government through a \$9,000 grant from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account—have gone to the six entries that best met the brief of “wearable waste”.

Co-ordinated by the South East Regional Energy Group, the awards attracted more than 100 entries from school students and the broader community.

Winning entries included a hat weaved from plastic bags, jewellery made from magazines, a dress made from confectionary wrappers and a refashioned wedding dress with a belt featuring ceramic electrical spacers, washers and hinges.

Waste Authority Chairman Marcus Geisler said entrants tapped into the creative thinking needed by the next generation of Western Australians in order to improve the diversion of waste from landfill.

“The Young Re-Inventor Awards challenges young people across the State to create an inventive solution to reuse waste,” he said.

“The entrants have considered the environment by extending the life of a resource.

“Reusing resources keeps them out of the waste stream.”

The winners of the 2016 Young Re-Inventor of the Year Awards are:

Primary School Category—Charlie O'Donnell, Pearsall Primary School, Wanneroo and Mikayla Riach, Armadale Primary School, Armadale.

High School Category—Helana Mathews and Scarlet Walker, Halls Head College, Mandurah and Madelaine Sallie, Rebecca Morrison, Sasha Lewin and Karrina Cain, John Wollaston Anglican Community School, Kelmscott.

Community/Individual Category—Aniela Matkowski of Kiara and Jazmyn Schou of Serpentine.

Winners receive a customised sustainability pack that addresses the specific needs of their school or group.

More information is available at www.switchyourthinking.com/our-projects/young-reinventor-of-the-year/

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