

Art and soul reap rewards



INSPIRED BY THE STREET: Blake Griffiths with one of his art projects, an aerosol portrait of family members.

Picture: NAOMI JELICOE

AUSTRALIA'S sunburnt country influenced Blake Griffiths to study and excel at his passion - art.

The rural landscape surrounding his home town of Riverton and his close-knit family provided the perfect inspiration for his art studies in Year 12.

The Trinity College student, who received the school's general excellence scholarship, achieved a merit for art and did well in his other subjects to gain a university entrance score of 96.2.

"I have always been interested in art and wanted to do well," he said. "I just always loved creating stuff



KATRINA STOKES

and there are lots of local artists around here, so it was accepted to study art."

Blake, 18, attributes some of his creative success to his Riverton art teacher, Roland Weight, who specialises in oil painting. That medium is now Blake's favourite as well.

"I've learnt everything I know from him," he said.

"It has such a unique texture compared with the other paints. I find it fun to work with."

Blake said the regular co-curricular art lessons, along with a scholarship at the National Gallery of Australia, had helped him achieve his merit.

He was picked, along with a handful of other students, for a two-week intensive scholarship between years 11 and 12.

"That completely created what I did this year," he said. "We met a lot of street artists. That got me

really inspired with stencils and art on the street."

It inspired him to use aerosol art for his major project in Year 12.

"I created a stencil and spray-painted it. It was a portrait of my family," he said.

For his second major art project, Blake was again inspired by his Riverton family.

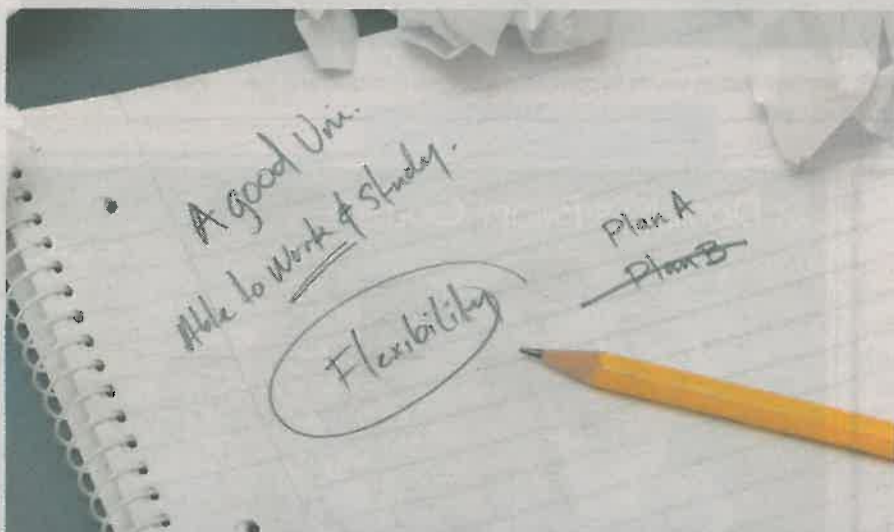
"I did a traditional oil painting of my aunt and uncle," he said.

He is now waiting to hear if he has been accepted at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney, so he can pursue his dream of becoming an artist.

Blake Griffiths

Trinity College

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 - Physical Education
 - English Studies
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