

## 2015 Hands On Bursary recipient, Phoebe Short



### **What did winning the Hands-On Bursary and the recognition of the Artspace Mackay Foundation mean to you?**

To be recognised in the art community and to be honoured with such a prestigious regional arts award provided a major foundation in boosting my creative confidence. Not only did the Mackay Arts Community give me the support to pursue my career aspirations in working in the creative industry, they also believed in my creative ideas and works, which many artists strive for.

### **What did you spend the Bursary on?**

I was able to purchase all the creative software needed for my university studies. As well as this, much of the money was put towards my end of year displays and final graduate exhibition through the form of purchasing materials and equipment needed as well as printing and framing my works.

### **How has your career progressed since winning the Bursary and what are your plans, goals and aspirations for the future?**

After winning the Bursary and going on to study Creative Media in Townsville, I gained the skills and knowledge in creating art in both a visual arts and digital aspect. Originally being interested in painting, I have now merged my skills to become a creative photographer and all rounder with a range of skills in film, media design and traditional visual art methods.

During my studies, I gained so much knowledge in learning from a range of creative industries through internships, volunteering and work experience. One key aspect of my studies was learning how to curate and organise the entirety of exhibitions. This included creating the work, installing/demounting, advertising and promoting as well as creating events to fundraise. I enjoyed this so much that I began work experience at two local galleries assisting in various indoor and outdoor exhibitions and events around the Townsville region. After graduating, I knew this was the industry I wanted to pursue.

I have been extremely fortunate to gain a career opportunity in Mackay as an Exhibition Assistant at Mackay Artspace. This has allowed me to be exposed to a diverse range of artistic works whilst continuing to learn and develop my skills in the gallery space, networking with artists and growing my own artistic practises. I hope to one day be able to organise a major interactive public art exhibition of my own.

### **If you had one piece of advice for young art students considering an application for the Hands-On Bursary, what would it be?**

Believe in your creative skills, be confident and just apply. Not only is it an opportunity to gain support in your future studies, it's a momentous chance to gather all your work together and create a portfolio that can be used for future university and/or career interviews as well as a personal archive. See it as an opportunity to network and really get an insight and understanding of what you want to achieve through your artistic skills. Where do you see your current creative skills and future studies taking you?

Through my studies I gained so much knowledge in learning from a range of creative industries through internships, volunteering and work experience. It not only taught me to be flexible and adaptable to the changing art industry, it also expanded my knowledge of other creative career opportunities in

workplaces that you wouldn't expect. My main piece of advice would be to network and ask questions – volunteer, join a creative club, participate in a workshop or local art exhibition, ask your teacher, visit a creative industry or creative area of your workplace and ask people for feedback on your work. There are so many creative people out there that are willing to support, give you advice and collaborate with you, you just find them. You never know, they may just lead you to your dream career or an opportunity of a lifetime.