



Toby and Oliver Armstrong pose with their Moreton Bay Youth Art Awards prizes and Oliver's winning artwork.

Creativity a strong point for brothers

Clear Mountain siblings have won their respective categories of the Moreton Bay Youth Art Awards – and not for the first time.

Oliver Armstrong, a student at Genesis Christian College at Bray Park, won first prize in the Moreton Bay Youth Art Awards for the fourth time.

He collected the top award for two-dimensional artworks by senior high school students with his piece *Blood, Sweat and Tears*.

“There are different judges every year and to hear the judge’s comments and realise they understand the meaning behind my artwork is always exciting,” he said.

Oliver said *Blood, Sweat and Tears*, which “transitions from cow hooves and fur into a leather jacket”, explores the “theme of identity” and was created as part of a school art project.

Oliver’s younger brother Toby won first prize for two-dimensional for students in years 4 to 6 with his artwork *A Digital Life*.

The Eatons Hill State School student’s sculpture is made from soldering wire and burnt pieces of wood.

“I get my ideas from my surroundings and sometimes from the news on TV,” Toby said of his artistic inspiration.

This is the third year Toby has won his

category in the awards, open to primary and secondary school students who live in or attend school in Moreton Bay Region.

The siblings’ mother Nikki Armstrong says she “encouraged the boys to create art from a young age”.

Oliver said he and Toby sometimes critique each other’s work and brainstorm ideas together.

Other local winners of the art awards categories – and \$200 prize money – were Albany Creek State High School students Ebony Lee Hedges (3D art, grades 7-10), Paige Childs (2D art, grades 7-10), and Sam Johnson (2D art, grades 11-12).

Bray Park State High School and Bribie Island State School won the collaborative art prizes in the Moreton Bay Youth Art Awards, with \$1000 to go towards supporting art programs at both schools.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Deputy Mayor Mike Charlton said this year’s art competition attracted more than 300 entries from more than 50 schools.

“It’s great to see so many colourful, thought-provoking and creative pieces being produced by students in our region,” Cr Charlton said.

“Every year the high standard of work presented by these young artists continues to impress.”