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### WONDERFUL WATERMELON A WINNER

Methodist Ladies' College Year 5 student Kate Ivey's three-dimensional chair maquette, *Wonderful Watermelon*, was declared a winner in the primary category of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Design Challenge.

Sixty MLC Year 5 students took part in the innovative Art Gallery project to design a functional chair or seat for one adult. The designs were judged on aesthetics, originality, ergonomics, function and practicality, as well as structure.

The project specified that designs be inspired by the natural world and sustainable, potentially incorporating recycled materials. MLC students chose to base their designs on plant forms.

Art teacher Margot Teusner said the project encouraged the students to work to a practical brief, with particular consideration of the judging criteria of 'functionality', while allowing the creative side of their minds the freedom to consider unique designs.

"The project unleashed a wave of creativity and talent among the girls; throughout the design and model creation process, the students learnt new skills using a range of tools and problem-solving skills. The result was the successful creation of three-dimensional designs," Ms Teusner said.

"The year group was at the right development stage to take on the challenging project; they were ready for the step-up in risk and creativity. The project also worked in well with the girls' ongoing work at MLC designing a community garden on campus, and potentially a seat for the garden."

Kate said she was inspired to create a watermelon-themed chair by the afternoon tea she enjoyed following the Art class in which the project was introduced and initially discussed.

"When I saw a watermelon on the kitchen bench at home, I thought that if you cut a large piece out of it, you could fairly comfortably sit in the chunk of watermelon which was left."

Kate said she loves art. "I'm always drawing pictures and thinking about what I want to paint on canvas, and I've recently started sewing lessons. I see art wherever I go," she said.

Ms Teusner said MLC parents and grandparents provided the students with expertise and support, and the resulting chairs were as unique and individual as each student was.

Kate's *Wonderful Watermelon* chair will be displayed in the Art Gallery from Monday 8 June to Sunday 5 July.

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