

Student rewarded for excellence in arts

By LUCY SWINNEN

HELLYER College student Blake Peiper won the inaugural Helen Denise Jones bursary award on Sunday.

Mr Peiper was recognised for his excellence as a performer and singer and for sharing his talents with the North-West Coast community.

“The award should go to somebody who shows exceptional promise,” an organiser of the Helen Denise Jones award said.

“Just being a brilliant poet wouldn’t crack it; it is for those if they take their art out and show it to the community.”

The Helen Denise Jones Bursary Fund was established 12 months ago to recognise the lifetime’s work and significant contribution made by Ms Jones as a performer, teacher and musician during her years in Burnie.

Mr Peiper received a \$500 bursary and performed for the audience of about 50 people who gathered to celebrate the event.

“I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone on the panel and to all those involved in the North-West performing arts community,” Mr Peiper said.

Mr Peiper said the bursary meant a lot to him as he prepared to embark on his performing arts studies at Federation University in Ballarat.

The award was given out on Ms Jones’ birthday, and the winner was selected from promising art students aged 17-21 who had made



SHOWS PROMISE: Helen Denise Jones bursary winner Blake Peiper with Helen Jones at the bursary recipient presentation. Picture: Jason Hollister.

a significant contribution to the arts community.

Organisers said that as Ms Jones was an appreciator of all forms of art the bursary would be open to musicians, poets, painters

and anyone else in the artistic community.

The bursary was decided upon in Perth Airport, 12 months ago, when members of the Burnie arts community thought about ways

to honour Ms Jones’ contribution to the arts community.

So far \$9700 has been raised by the bursary fund and will be handed out to an aspiring student each year.