



History springs to life for young winner

SUNSHINE Harvester Primary School pupil Cathy Le has only been living in Sunshine for about a year, but now she knows the history of the area back to front.

Cathy, 11, travelled to Canberra on June 5 with her mother Thuy and brother Steven to visit the Sunshine Harvester exhibit on display as part of an exhibition at the National Museum.

Landmarks: People and Places Across Australia includes items used at the factory between 1906 and 1989. Hugh Victor McKay moved his factory from Ballarat to Braybrook Junction in 1906. By the 1920s it was the largest agricultural implements maker in the southern hemisphere.

Cathy was selected to attend the opening of the exhibition after winning the 'Sunshine People' competition run by Westpac and Sunshine-based non-for profit organisation YouthNow in May.

She said she enjoyed learning more about Sunshine during her visit.

Sunshine through and through: Cathy Le enjoyed learning about the place where she lives.

"The competition was great because I had to interview people who lived in Sunshine and it taught me a lot about the place where I live," she said.

"While I was in Canberra I learned about the Sunshine Harvester factory and it made me feel proud of Sunshine."

Cathy was given a special guided tour of the museum by curator Leah Bartsch. "Leah showed me how the museum puts its exhibitions together and it was a great experience."

Cathy's school principal, Alan Dash, said he was delighted she was able to go on the trip and is hoping to send more pupils to Canberra this year.

"I think it's fantastic one of our children won a multi-school competition and went on to see the grand opening of an exhibition which includes a display on Sunshine.

"We're planning to send 65 grade 5 and 6 students up there for three days in November."

The permanent exhibition can be viewed from 9am-5pm daily.

— Anthony Loncaric