

Media Release

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Jewellery apprentice crafts winning design

A TAFE Queensland Brisbane apprentice has won at the prestigious Jewellers Association of Australia Design Awards.

To be recognised with a JAA Jewellery Award, jewellers must express their individuality and craft through the design and manufacture of one-of-a-kind jewellery pieces. This year was no exception, with the awards presenting the first opportunity for apprentices and qualified jewellers to showcase their talents across a number of categories.

Jason Cheetham won his category, the 1st and 2nd Year Apprentice/Student Craftsmanship and Design Award for his multifunctional design piece 'Transformer'.

Jason said the inspiration for his interchangeable design, which consists of a pendant, earrings and five rings that interlock, was movement and play.

"My motivation was to display my technical skills so far, produce something of aesthetic quality they involved play and to have a range of versatility," Jason explained.

"You can enjoy it on your dresser at home, wear it to a special event or just use one element as an everyday piece."

The winners of this year's awards are assigned with the proud honour of showcasing their talent on a global platform at the 2015 Hong Kong International Jewellery Show.

Jason said it's been a wonderful experience and he was shocked to have received the award.

"I came home encouraging my fellow apprentices to give it go and not be daunted by the challenge," he said.

"It's a powerful validation of my effort and design but I couldn't have done it without the help and encouragement of so many people.

"Thank you to Michael Hill Manufacturing, for believing in me and my design, and providing so much support. It will help boost me personally in the professional world."

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