



local arts

An Archibald portrait Done

ASHLAN Farrelly particularly enjoyed drawing Ken Done's eyes, nose and his trademark moustache.

The seven-year-old Tallowood School student had just spent three hours with the artist in his Sydney studio working on the bones of a portrait for next year's prestigious Archibald Prize.

The bold project, which will actually involve 26 school kids, aged between three and 12 years, is being driven by Nambucca artist and teacher Suellen Stubbs as part of her KART (Kids are Raw Talent) program.

Mrs Stubbs said the experience for Ashlan and the three other drawers "will never leave their minds".

"Ken was brilliant with the kids," Mrs Stubbs said.

"He talked to them about how to draw and what to do. He just took charge — they were mesmerised."

Ashlan said Mr Done talked to them about drawing eyes and hair.

"And I really like his paintings," Ashlan said.

Now comes the hard job of pulling it all together. A Ken Done painting, chosen by the young artists, will feature in the background with the well-known face in the foreground along with his tools of trade.

"The kindergarten kids will work on the background and the older kids will flesh out the portrait.

"Paint will really bring the whole idea alive. We have to do something different that will grab the judges, yell out at them! I'll start them on practice canvasses this week — we have until December 5."

KART is a program to teach young children some of the basics of art — how to draw lines, mix colours and understand perspective.