

**SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION:**

Muswellbrook Library coordinator Dion Hockley and Upper Hunter Community Services youth development officer Esther Mines, who is the Upper Hunter representative for RYDON.



# Grant highlights cultural awareness

THE staff at Muswellbrook Library has been successful in its application for the inaugural RYDON Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Arts Grant.

The scholarship is a Regional Youth Development Officers Network (RYDON) initiative started in 2012 that aims to provide an opportunity for young people to better understand and learn about Aboriginal culture through visual arts.

The grant was founded after two Aboriginal artists Tyrell Roadley, from Muswellbrook High School, and Les Elvin painted their impression of the 2012 RYDON conference.

RYDON's Upper Hunter representative Esther Mines said the artwork was auctioned off and purchased by the organisation to produce the grant.

"Muswellbrook Library coordinator Dion Hockley submitted the successful application on behalf of the library," said Ms Mines, who is also the Upper Hunter Community Services youth development officer.

"The library will now run an art workshop to engage both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people aged between 12 and 24 years.

"One of the artworks produced

in the course will then be returned to RYDON to be auctioned off at the 2013 RYDON conference to fund the 2014 Arts Grant.

"The workshop is scheduled to take place at the library on Tuesday, March 26, from 10am until 5pm.

"Attendees will learn about Aboriginal culture from Les Elvin with the theme of the day focusing on 'Where I Live'.

"Invitations have been forwarded to schools in the Upper Hunter."

For more information phone the Muswellbrook Library on 6543 1913.