

Honour for young pioneering artist



Caleb Nichols-Mansell was named the Premier's Young Achiever of the Year.

KENJI SATO

A PIONEER who founded Tasmania's first Aboriginal-run online art collective has been declared the Premier's Young Achiever of the Year.

Caleb Nichols-Mansell is a 26-year-old Aboriginal artist and entrepreneur who founded the Blackspace Creative Arts and Cultural Hub.

Blackspace Creative is an online art hub run by Aboriginal artists wanting to showcase and sell their art to the general public.

"Our community is full of creative, wonderful talent, but up until Blackspace Creative was founded there wasn't an avenue for our community to show that talent," Mr Nichols-Mansell said.

"It's Aboriginal-owned and Aboriginal-operated, so it's our voice and our stories



Other winners included Aaron Benham, Gabrielle Andolfatto, Amy Smith and Anna Terry.

and our art and our culture that is being shared with everyone else."

Since launching in September 2021, the collective has gained 22 Aboriginal artists, but Mr Nichols-Mansell is confident that this is just the beginning for Blackspace Creative.

Mr Nichols-Mansell said he was convinced that there was a wealth of local Aboriginal talent waiting to be un-

covered. He said his own artistic talent was simply a continuation of an ancient tradition stretching back into the depths of Tasmanian history.

"We've always been creative people, we've always been storytellers, we've always been artists that have left our mark on country and around country," he said.

"Being an artist is something I always was, it just took

me a while to grow into it and appreciate it."

Other young achievers given the spotlight on Friday included environmental scientist Aaron Benham and community radio star Gabrielle Andolfatto.

Cricketer Amy Smith won the sports award and black truffle farmer Anna Terry won the tourism and hospitality award.

Social worker and advo-

cate Nathan Volf was picked for the leadership award and Affordable Tutoring Tasmania founder Billy Blackett won the small business award.

Autism ambassador and Huonville actor Kiara Adams won the service to the disability sector award and childcare worker Leanne O'Keefe won the transition to work award.

Attorney-General Elise Archer said Tasmania's future was safe in the hands of such promising young people.

"Our young achievers are extraordinary and they are helping to raise awareness about how Tasmania is home to many amazing and talented young people," Ms Archer said.

"The awards also help showcase the many talents of young Tasmanians and it is clear the future of our state is very bright."

Tears will flow on last day on Street

LISA WOOLFORD

IT was December 1984 when a relatively unknown Stefan Dennis first walked on to the sprawling Neighbours set to step into the well-heeled shoes of Paul Robinson.

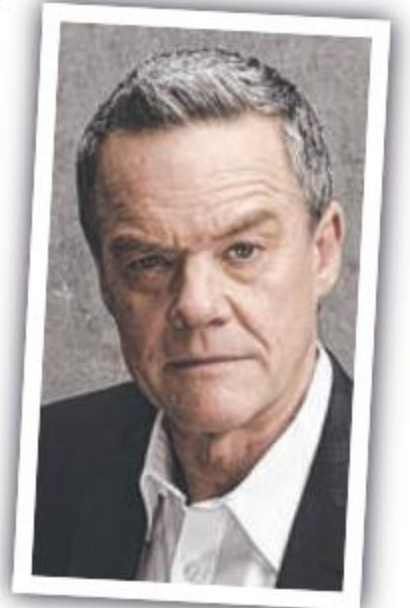
Four decades and almost 9000 episodes on, he's hugely recognisable here and abroad, and preparing to farewell one of Australia's favourite villains as the iconic soap comes to the end of filming on Friday.

The 63-year-old – the only cast member on set for that first day and last day – says he's had no time for emotions yet.

"I'm just coming to work each day and each day is busier than it's been for a long time and very, very long hours," Dennis says.

"We've still got to produce a show till the end of the week. But ... that's going to be quite emotional."

A big sook (his own words), Dennis is tipping that all the tears will flow when "cut" is called



for the last time on Friday.

His character has done it all – being held hostage, losing a leg, thrown in jail, suffering from amnesia and heading to the altar on repeat. He has had six wives and nine weddings, beating Ryan Moloney's Jarrod "Toadie" Rebecchi by two.

There's been a cavalcade of stars announced for the final months of the show including Daniel MacPherson who played Joel Samuels, Melissa Bell who played Paul's younger sister Lucy Robinson, Peter O'Brien, who appeared in the show's first episode as Shane Ramsay and Natalie Basingthwaite, who was Izzy Hoyland, one of Paul's wives.

Ian Smith – Harold Bishop for 21 years – was chuffed to be asked to reprise his role as the fuddy duddy stepdad to Kylie Minogue's Charlene. The now 83-year-old can still remember his first day on set like it was yesterday.

And excitement levels were at fever pitch when it was revealed Minogue and Jason Donovan would be back as Charlene and Paul's younger brother Scott Robinson.

Neighbours, 6.30pm, 10Peach until August 1.

Victorious Depp performs at mate's Beck and call

FARIHA KARIM

ACTOR Johnny Depp has appeared on stage alongside his friend, musician Jeff Beck, at a gig in the UK, his first public appearance since winning his case against Amber Heard.

Depp, 58, performed before hundreds of fans at the Sage venue in Gateshead on Thursday, a day after being awarded \$US10m (\$13.8m) in damages. He had sued his ex-wife for defa-

mation over a newspaper column in which she described herself as a victim of domestic abuse.

Earlier on Thursday, an animal rescue centre in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, released pictures of the actor cuddling an orphaned badger. Folly Wildlife Rescue said: "Johnny has been appearing with our patron Jeff Beck on his UK tour and Jeff's wife Sandra brought him up to visit us and see for himself the work we do."

On stage in Gateshead, Depp

did not mention the trial. Beck, 77, a former member of the Yardbirds, said of the verdict: "What a result. I met this guy five years ago and we've never stopped laughing since. We actually made an album. I don't know how it happened. It will be out in July."

Depp sang John Lennon's song Isolation, Marvin Gaye's What's Going On, The Everly Brothers' Let It Be Me, Little Wing by Jimi Hendrix and Killing Joke's The Death and Resurrection Show.



Johnny Depp at the Sage Gateshead.

MELROSE STAR DIES

BRAD Johnson, the actor who appeared on Melrose Place and in Steven Spielberg's film Always, has died. He was 62.

Johnson died from Covid-19 complications in Fort Worth, Texas.

His talent agent Linda McAlister confirmed the news of his death.

"Brad was a true renaissance man. Although he was taken too early, he lived life to the fullest and taught his children to do the same," his family said.

Johnson earned notoriety as a Calvin Klein model before heading to Hollywood, and he starred in several cigarette ads as a Marlboro Man.