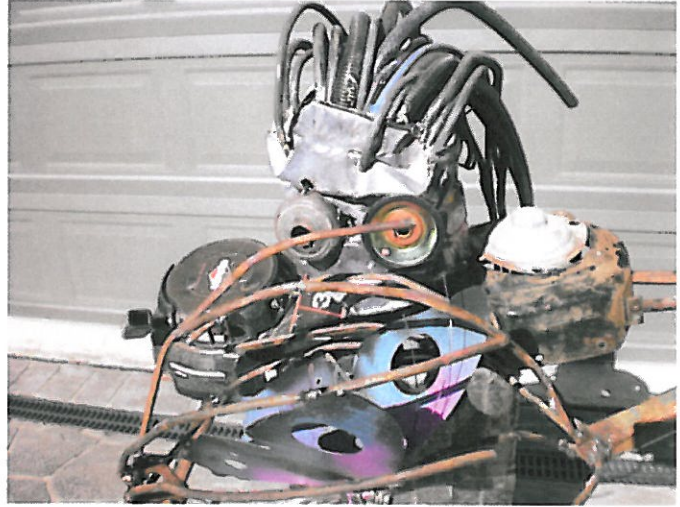


Thank you Laser & Press

My name is Ryan Mills, from Blue Mountains Grammar, and this is a thank you to Laser & Press who helped me with my Higher School Certificate art project. The project was a sculpture called the Butterfly Effect. A figure – Hydrocarbon Man – made from old car pieces holds a butterfly in its hands. The idea is that if, according to chaos theory, a butterfly flapping its wings in the Amazon can create a tsunami in the Pacific, what damage can man, engaged in large-scale mining and use of hydrocarbons, do? The butterfly is pretty and delicate compared with the ugly hydrocarbon man, but the colours on the wings also resemble the colours you get when you mix oil with water.



Laser & Press really went above and beyond to help me create the butterflies from sheet metal. I had only been expecting to hand-cut the butterfly out of metal I provided (an old car bonnet), but instead Laser & Press provided a brilliant piece of sheet metal and put it through a laser-cutting machine – which made the butterflies look much sharper.

The first step involved scanning a copy of a butterfly I had brought in, into the computer. Then it took a while to use another software programme to trace around the butterfly to prepare it for the laser cutter – normally they have a machine that scans it straight into the laser cutter but it was in Ireland for repairs. The next step was to fit the butterflies onto a sheet of metal. This was done in a separate room above the factory floor by a man operating a computer with special software. Laser & Press cut extra butterflies in case I made a mistake – which I did. Then we went down to the factory floor where a sheet of 2mm thick metal was chosen and placed into the laser cutter where a robotics person oversaw the cutting of the metal – lots of sparks and noises – as we watched on.

With the leftover pieces of metal, I made an extra butterfly to thank Tristan Opie and his great team of people for all their help. It made a huge difference to the look of the sculpture.

Thank you Laser & Press