

Young film-maker charts histories

A YOUNG Perthshire film-maker has landed a top honour after putting war veterans in the spotlight.

Blairgowrie resident Jason Douglas (18) was the proud recipient of the heritage award at this year's Young Scot Awards.

As a key part of his fledgling film-making career, Jason volunteered for the 'Their Past Your Future' initiative last year, recording local histories and helping make them more accessible to all.

A ProjectScotland volunteer at Perth YMCA, Jason's assignment was to help record the experiences of soldiers from The Black Watch regiment.

He soon became an invaluable member of the team which interviewed soldiers who had fought in conflicts from WWII to the Falklands, Bosnia and Iraq.

The massive Black Watch project saw Jason's team produce more than 200 oral history films, which will soon be made available via a website to

every school in Scotland.

In total, the proud award-winner was involved in interviewing 30 veterans, which generated 60 hours-worth of video to edit.

"I enjoyed meeting and interviewing the soldiers and the project inspired me to go on and do similar work," said Jason after picking up the prestigious prize.

The annual awards showcase ordinary young people, aged between 12 and 22, who have made a positive contribution to their local or wider communities, and those who have been an inspiration to Scotland and its people.

Winner of the overall prize was footballer Islam Feruz, who moved to Scotland from Tanzania as an asylum seeker and won a contract with Celtic.

The national youth information agency's chief executive officer Louise Macdonald said: "The achievements of the finalists show that Scotland should be proud of its young people and the difference they make."



PRIZE GUY: Jason Douglas with his Young Scot award.