



WetlandCare Australia's

Opening Exhibition of Winning Works

WetlandCare Australia National
Art and Photography Competition 2010



Above: Lucy Pulvers

Dream of the Murray Cod

3rd Prize, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Open Art

WetlandCare Australia

Our vision: *Wetland wellbeing for all communities*

Our mission: *Supporting the community to protect and restore Australian wetlands since 1991*

Celebrating Our Wetlands

Our unique wetlands hold our history as well as our future. Each one supports an amazing array of species that function together in perfect balance. These precious natural wonders are critically important to our wellbeing, provide us with food and jobs and allow us to enjoy a special part of nature in action. They deserve to be celebrated!

World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Ramsar Convention in Iran on 2 February 1971.

Every year WetlandCare Australia celebrates World Wetlands Day through a National Wetlands Art and Photography Competition, encouraging the community to engage with wetlands through artistic expression. Our celebrations don't stop there though. Throughout the year we attend festivals, hold public events, run school programs and bring wetlands and the amazing life that they hold to the community.

WetlandCare Australia celebrated World Wetlands Day 2010 with the opening exhibition and award ceremony for the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition 2010 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra on Monday February 1 2010.

The following pages contain pictures from that exciting event.

The theme of the competition was *Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change*, which reflected the international theme for World Wetlands Day.

WetlandCare Australia's efforts are helping to build resilience in our landscapes to combat climate change through promoting the sustainable use of, and conserving and restoring wetlands – our precious carbon sinks.

For more information on the activities of WetlandCare Australia, including the Art and Photography competition, go to our website www.wetlandcare.com.au or call 02 6681 6169



The Event

The opening exhibition and award ceremony for the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition 2010 was held at the amazing CSIRO Discovery Centre at Black Mountain, Canberra (left) on the evening of Monday February 1 2010.

At least one entrant from each category was able to attend to receive their prize in person. Some came from as far a field as South Australia and Queensland to collect their prizes.

The following pages show pictures from the exhibition opening and award ceremony, and the entrants and VIPs who attended.

The winning works were on display for 11 days, and viewed by school groups, tourist groups, families and other visitors to the Discovery Centre. In the period that the exhibition was on show, the Discovery Centre had over 800 visitors. The exhibition was located near the café, which drew many additional visitors in to view the artworks. School groups also took time out to view the exhibition.



WetlandCare Australia would like to extend their thanks to all the entrants of the competition, and to the sponsoring organisations without whose generous support this competition would not be possible. The Exhibition Sponsor CSIRO Discovery as allowed WetlandCare Australia to host a successful event in a wonderful venue to support World Wetlands Day.

Exhibition Space

The artworks were on display in the Industry Link Room, which provided excellent space to hang the exhibition. Entry to the exhibition was free, so all visitors to the CSIRO Discovery Centre could spend time viewing the works at no cost.

After the opening exhibition and award ceremony, the winning works were on display at CSIRO Discovery. They then began the first of many regional exhibitions at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. The works will continue to move around to regional exhibitions throughout NSW, hosted by the sponsoring organisations. The location of these exhibitions will be posted on the WetlandCare Australia website.

The regional exhibitions play an important role in displaying the winning art and photography to a wider audience, and help spread the wetland message.

The winning works can also be seen in the on-line gallery on the WetlandCare Australia homepage. The gallery is an accessible way for the works to be viewed by everyone with an interest in wetlands and World Wetlands Day. The gallery is available at www.wetlandcare.com.au





Anissa Lawrence, Board Member of WetlandCare Australia, gave the welcoming address. Anissa spoke about the importance of wetlands to all Australians, and how this growing art and photography competition is helping to increase awareness and educate children and adults about wetlands and their vital role in our lives and for our environment. Anissa also spoke about World Wetlands Day, and the role of the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition in celebrating this important international day. The art competition is currently the only event in Australia to celebrate World Wetlands Day on a national scale.

Top: Anissa Lawrence

Bottom: Tom Gavel, Chairman of Central West Catchment Management Authority, was one of many representatives from the sponsoring organisations. Here he is pictured with winners and VIPs attending the event



Murray-Darling Basin Authority Children's Art Junior

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority Children's Art Junior category was open to entrants from 4 to 11 years of age. Like the other art categories in the competition, the entries were to be works on paper up to A3 in size. Margot Hislop, Science Education Officer from the Engagement, Secretariat and Communications division in the Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced the winners in the category, and presented prizes to the winners who were able to attend. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority also sponsored the Children's Art Junior category in 2009, and their continued support is very valuable to the competition.

Below Left: Tianna Moore, age 10, 1st Prize winner, Children's Art Junior with Margot Hislop. Tianna travelled from Sydney to accept her prize.

Below Right: Tyson Brindley, age 5, 2nd Prize winner, Children's Art Junior with Margot Hislop

Bottom Left: Tianna Moore with her artwork *Our Frog, Our Wetlands*





Children's Art Junior continued

Above Left: Harper Liauw, age 7, Merit Award winner, with her prize certificate and artwork *End of Everything*.

Above Right: Tyson Brindley age 5 with his artwork *Wetland Vision*.

Below Left: Julian Lynch's grandmother accepts his Merit Award

Below Right: Nathlene Ng accepted prizes on behalf of Lydia Spencer, age 7, 3rd Prize winner, and Grace Mulqueeny, age 9, Merit Award. Neither girl could attend the ceremony themselves.





Central West Catchment Management Authority Children's Art Senior

The Central West Catchment Management Authority Children's Art Senior category was open to entrants from 12 to 17 years of age. Like the other art categories in the competition, the entries were to be works on paper up to A3 in size. Tom Gavel, Chairman of the Central West Catchment Management Authority, attended to announce the winners in the Children's Art Senior Category and present the awards. Jen Shearing, Catchment Officer, also attended. The Central West Catchment Management Authority has sponsored the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography competition since its inception in 2008, and were also sponsors of the Children's Art Senior in 2009.

Above: Tom Gavel, recommits the Central West Catchment Management Authority to a fourth year of support for the art competition.

Below Left: Cailey Finnegan, age 12, 2nd Prize winner, with her winning artwork *After the Rain* and her category sponsor Tom Gavel

Below Right: Harriett Farlow, age 14, 3rd Prize winner, also accepts her prize from Tom Gavel





Above: Raine Moloney accepts Oliver Lilford's 1st Prize in Children's Art Senior. Raine delivered a speech from Oliver, and also accepted Isabella Jones's Merit Award. Both children had just begun their first days at high school in Ballina NSW and could not attend the ceremony

The winners attending were not only thrilled with their prizes, but proud to see their works framed and on display.

Below Left: Cailey Finnegan and Jen Shearing, of Central West Catchment Management Authority, with Cailey's artwork and prize certificate.

Below Right: Harriett Farlow, with her artwork *Working Together* and prize certificate





Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Open Art

Ian Robinson, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and First Assistant Secretary of the Water Governance Division, attended to announce the winners in the Open Art Category and present prizes.

The Department sponsored the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition in its first year (2008)

Above: Ian Robinson shares his vision for increased awareness among Australians for the importance of water and wetlands, and comments on the role of the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition in spreading this awareness.

Below: Ian Robinson presents Anna Jackowiak-Hoare, 1st prize winner, with her prizes and certificate



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Top: Ian Robinson and Anna Jackowiak-Hoare with her winning artwork *Seeds of Change* and prize certificate. Anna travelled from northern NSW to receive her prize.

Right: Ian Robinson and Alison Crook, WetlandCare Australia Board Member

Below: Jeanette Muirhead, Wetlands Programs and Projects Officer, Dept. of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts was one of the sponsor judges of the Art categories in the competition. She is here with Anna Jackowiak-Hoare, discussing the techniques used in Anna's winning artwork, which is pictured behind them.





NSW Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Water Open Photography

Joe Woodward, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation for NSW Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) attended to announce the winners in the Open Photography category and present prizes. DECCW have sponsored the Open Photography category since the competition began in 2008. Above: Joe Woodward speaks of DECCW's continuing support for the competition, pledging sponsorship for 2011. This will be the 4th year DECCW have sponsored the Open Photography category.

Below Left: Ford Kristo, 2nd Prize winner with Joe Woodward

Below Right: Kathy Riddell, Merit Award winner with Joe Woodward





Above: Kathy Riddell with her Merit Award winning work *Thirsting Land*, prize certificate and prize. Kathy travelled from South Australia to receive her prize.

Bottom: Ford Kristo with his 2nd Prize winning work and prize certificate. Ford made the trip from south-east NSW to accept his prize.





WetlandCare Australia Children's Photography

Dr. Deb Nias, Board Member of WetlandCare Australia, announced the winners and presented prizes in the Children's Photography Category.

Above: Deb Nias and Aiden Webb, aged 12, winner of the 1st and 3rd Prizes in Children's Photography

Below: Deb Nias presents Jessica Bracey, aged 17, with her Merit Award





Above: Aiden Webb with his 1st Prize winning photograph *Frog on a Log* and certificate. Aiden also collected 3rd Prize in the Children's Photography category, and can be seen below with his winning work *Marsh "Tern"-ing*





WetlandCare Australia Merit Awards

With over 200 fabulous entries in the Open Photography Category, WetlandCare Australia created a Merit Award to honour those exceptional works that were not awarded a prize during the judging.

Above: Dr Deb Nias, Board Member of WetlandCare Australia, presents Andrew Millner with his Merit Award. Andrew traveled from Queensland to accept his prize in person.

Below: Andrew Millner with his award winning photograph *Dance of the Jabiru* and prize.



Mixing and Mingling



Above Left: Nicci Carter, General Manager of WetlandCare Australia, congratulates Tyson Brindley on his 2nd place award

Above Right: Nicci Carter with Julian Lynch's family and his prize winning artwork

Below, Clockwise from Left: Janelle Saffin, Federal Member for Page supports the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition; opening night crowd; Nicci Carter enjoys the exhibition with Tianna Moore's Mum and Art Teacher; Mick Pattison (WetlandCare Australia) discussed wetland issues in the central west of NSW with Tom Gavel (Chairman, Central West CMA)



**The WetlandCare Australia
National Art and Photography Competition 2010
would not be possible without
the generous support of our sponsors**



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**

