

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS EVENT

WetlandCare Australia Photography Prize 2015

February 7, celebrating World Wetlands Day 2015

Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina NSW

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Below: Christine Chester *Fishing With Style (detail)*

3rd Prize Murray-Darling Basin Authority Helping Wetlands Flourish category



Exhibition and Awards Event

This year marked eight years of the WetlandCare Australia Photography Prize, previously known as the National Art and Photography Competition. To celebrate this milestone, WetlandCare Australia partnered with Ballina Shire Council to host the awards event and exhibition of winning and selected works at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery in Ballina NSW, where the inaugural exhibition took place to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2008.

The awards event was held on Saturday February 7, and winners from the Northern Rivers region and interstate made the trip to receive their prizes and see their works on show. It was an exciting day of art and photography and a great chance for many of the people - entrants, sponsors and wetland enthusiasts - who make the Prize a success to meet and share their passion for wetlands.

Don Arnold, Regional Manager for North East NSW represented the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and presented the prizes in their sponsored categories of Wetland Flora and Changing Landscapes. The local Member for Parliament, the Hon. Don Page announced the winners and presented prizes in the Murray-Darling Basin Authorities' sponsored category of Helping Wetlands Flourish. The Board and local staff of WetlandCare Australia attended the event, it was an excellent opportunity for regional stakeholders to network and share ideas and information on wetland management and resources.

Selected winning work from all years of the competition and prize were on show alongside the 2015 prize winners, and there was a large community mural set up in the gallery for everyone who visited the exhibition to contribute to. WetlandCare Australia planned to host a series of Wetland Walks on February 21, however these had to be cancelled due to heavy rains.

The gallery selected two other artists to show alongside the WetlandCare Australia exhibition, Narani Henson and Mirra Winnie Gaze, whose art practices explore environmental and cultural themes around wetlands and waterways. These artists held workshops in February to accompany their exhibitions, and the overall outcome was a very positive and engaging month of wetland and environmental celebrations in Ballina.

Below: David O'Sullivan, Chairman of WetlandCare Australia, addresses the event with the 2015 prize winning photographs behind him.



Prize Winners and Exhibition

View the online gallery of the winning works on our website.

To vote for your favourite in the Peoples Choice Prize, Like it on our Facebook page.

www.wetlandcare.com.au

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Above: Don Arnold (right) Regional Manager North East, NSW OEH and Nellie Gay, 2nd Prize winner in Wetland Flora. Nellie's photograph *Nesting Striated Pardalote* is on the bottom right in the background.

Below left: Ben Blanche, 1st Prize winner in the Wetland Flora category accepting his prize. Ben's photograph *Angophora Over Noosa River* can be seen on the top far right in the background.

Below right: Deborah Pearse, 1st Prize winner in the Helping Wetland Flourish category with her photograph *Survival*, which can be seen at the top right in the background.





Don Page MP announces the winners in the Helping Wetlands Flourish category, which can be seen in the background.



Gallery visitors contributing to the community wetland mural. The mural is on display during the exhibition, and everyone was invited to add their favourite wetland critter or plant to build a healthy wetland.



WetlandCare Australia staff and the prize winners.



The exhibition is displayed over 2 rooms of the gallery, including the large main space (above) from February 5 to March 1 2015 at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery in Ballina NSW.

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