



Wetland**Care** Australia's

Opening Exhibition of Winning Works

WetlandCare Australia National  
Art and Photography Competition 2011

February 1 2011



*Spiderwebs and paperbark swamp*

Ian Brown, 1st Prize, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Open Photography

**WetlandCare Australia**

Our vision: *Leading Australia into a changing future with dynamic solutions for healthy and valued wetlands*

Our mission: *Working with communities to protect, promote and restore wetlands since 1991*

Wetlands: your water, our passion

# 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 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 2011 with the opening exhibition and award ceremony for the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition 2011 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra on Tuesday February 1 2011.

The following pages contain pictures from that exciting event.

The theme of the competition was *Forested Wetlands; their importance and wise use*, which reflected the international theme for World Wetlands Day of *Wetlands and Forests*.

WetlandCare Australia is the leading Australian not-for-profit wetland conservation organisation, and has for over 20 years been dedicated to supporting every Australian to protect, promote and restore our precious wetlands.

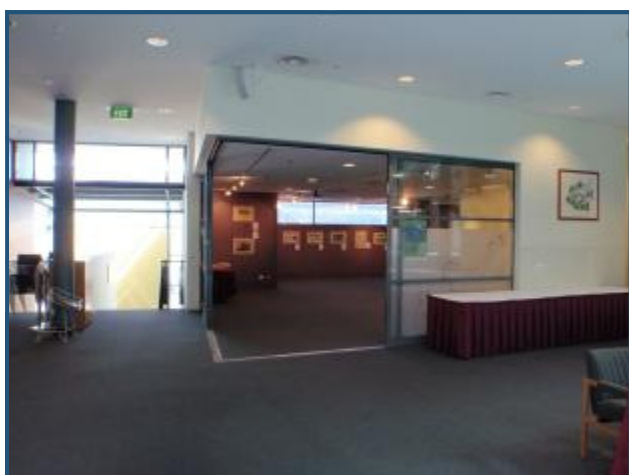
For more information on the activities of WetlandCare Australia, including the Art and Photography competition, visit our website [www.wetlandcare.com.au](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au) or call 02 6681 6169





Above: CSIRO Discovery Centre entrance foyer, facing outside

Below: The Industry Links Room, where the exhibition was on display



## The Event

The opening exhibition and award ceremony for the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition 2011 was held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre at Black Mountain, Canberra (left) on the evening of Tuesday February 1 2011.

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 Queensland to collect their prizes.

The following pages show pictures from the exhibition opening and award ceremony.

The winning works were on display for 10 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 in many additional visitors to view the artworks.

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 has enabled WetlandCare Australia to host a successful event in a wonderful venue to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

## Exhibition Space

The artworks were installed 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 the CSIRO Discovery for 10 days. They then moved on to the first of many regional exhibitions in Inverell, in northern New South Wales. The works will continue to move around to regional exhibitions throughout New South Wales, hosted by the sponsoring organisations. The location of these exhibitions will be posted on the WetlandCare Australia website and Facebook page.

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](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au)



## Exhibition Opening and Awards Ceremony

Ben Copeman, CEO of WetlandCare Australia, gave the welcoming address. He 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. Mr. Copeman 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.

Mr. Copeman also thanked the sponsors and supporters of the competition for their involvement, presenting them with certificates of thanks. He also thanked all the entrants for contributing their accomplished works to the competition.

Below Left: Ben Copeman opens the exhibition

Below right: Ben Copeman presents a certificate of thanks to Mr. Chris Norman, CEO of the Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority, one of the sponsors of the competition

Bottom Right: Ms. Jen Shearing, Catchment Officer from the Central West Catchment Management Authority who have sponsored the competition since it began in 2008, accepts her certificate of thanks from Mr. Copeman



## Murray-Darling Basin Authority Children's Art Junior

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority Children's Art Junior category is 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. Ms. Christine Ellis, Director of External Communications at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced the winners in the category, and presented prizes to those winners who were able to attend.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority sponsored the Children's Art Junior category in 2009 and 2010.

Ms. Ellis spoke about the wetlands of the Murray-Darling Basin area, which number over 30,000, and are host to hundreds of rare and endangered species, as well as supporting agriculture and many towns and cities.



Left: Christine Ellis presents Vasyi Doudoulis, age 6, with a Merit Award for his work *The Beautiful Lake*

Below: Christine Ellis presents Leticia Shiu, age 7, with a Merit Award for her work *Nature in the Wetlands*







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

Left: Christine Ellis and Vasyl Doudoulis with his Merit Award winning work *The Beautiful Lake*

Below: Vasyl and his winning work



Right: Christine Ellis and Leticia Shiu with her Merit Award winning work *Nature in the Wetlands*

Below: Leticia and her winning work



## Central West Catchment Management Authority Children's Art Senior

The Central West Catchment Management Authority Children's Art Senior category is 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. Ms. Jen Shearing, Catchment Officer from the Central West Catchment Management Authority, attended to announce the winners in the Children's Art Senior Category and present the awards. The Central West Catchment Management Authority has sponsored the WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography competition since its inception in 2008, and were sponsors of the Children's Art Senior in 2009 and 2010.



Left: Ms. Shearing speaks about the Central West Catchment Management Authority's sponsorship of the competition. She also spoke about the condition of the wetlands of the Central West region after the recent rains, including the fact the Macquarie Marshes, a major inland wetland system, was flowing with water for the first time in over 10 years.

Below: Oliver Lilford, age 13, and Jen Shearing. Oliver won 1st prize in the Children's Art Senior Category with his work *Wood you please be wise* which can be seen in the background. Oliver also won a Merit Award in the same category for his work *Sticking it out*. 2011 marks the second year running that Oliver has won first prize in this category, and he is looking forward to entering again next year.





## New South Wales Catchment Management Authorities

### Open Art

Mr. Noel Kesby, General Manager of the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, attended to announce the winners in the Open Art Category and present the prizes in that category. Ten of the thirteen New South Wales Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's) joined together to sponsor the Open Art category. The sponsorship of the competition gave the CMAs a rare opportunity to work together to support and promote this national initiative, and it marks the first Platinum Sponsorship of the competition.

Mr. Kesby spoke about the sponsorship being a wonderful opportunity for the CMA's to show their concern for the thousands of wetlands in New South Wales, communicating their importance for the environment's current and future well being.



Above left: Noel Kesby speaks about the CMAs involvement with the competition



Above right: Noel Kesby and Ann Russell, winner of 1st prize in the Open Art category for her work *Melaluca Spirit*

Right: Noel Kesby with Rodney Usback, who won a Merit Award in the Open Art category for his work *Red-tails spooked in River Gum Graveyard*





Above: Noel Kesby with Ann Russell and her 1st prize winning work *Melaluca Spirit*

Below: Rodney Usback and Noel Kesby with Rodney's Merit Award-winning work *Red-tails spooked in Rivergum graveyard*



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

Mr. Greg Sullivan, 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, and each year have hosted a regional exhibition of all the winning works at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre in northern New South Wales.

Mr. Sullivan related several 'good news' stories about the wetlands of New South Wales, including accounts of species recovery in several areas, most notable a rare snail that has been 'rediscovered' in the Border Rivers - Gwydir region.



Above left: Greg Sullivan



Above right: Ian Brown, winner of the 1st prize in the Open Photography, accepts his award from Greg Sullivan. Nicci Carter, General Manager of WetlandCare Australia in background.



Right: Ian Brown and Greg Sullivan with Ian's 1st prize-winning work *Spiderwebs and Paperbark Swamps*



## WetlandCare Australia Children's Photography

This category is open to any entrant under 17 years of age. Entries were received from children as young as 4 years old, with the winners spanning the ages of 7 to 14. Mr. Ben Copeman, CEO of WetlandCare Australia, announced the winners and presented prizes in this category.



Above: Ben Copeman and Jacob Shultz, who won 1st prize in the Children's Photography with his work *Turmoil*.

Left: Ben Copeman presents Oliver Lilford with his Merit Award for his work *Touching Light*. Oliver won this award in addition to his awards in the art categories.

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### Merit Awards

With many outstanding entries submitted in the Open Photography Category, WetlandCare Australia created a Merit Award to honour eight exceptional works that were not awarded a judges prize. Mr. Ben Copeman, CEO of WetlandCare Australia, presented these awards.



Left: Ben Copeman presents Ian Brown with his WetlandCare Australia Merit Award, which he won for his work *Paperbark at Sunset, Myall Lakes*. Ian won this prize in addition to his 1st prize in the Open Photography category.

Below: Ben Copeman with Reid Water's WetlandCare Australia Merit Award winning work *Venus Landing*. Reid Waters was unable to make it to the award ceremony in person.



#### WetlandCare Australia

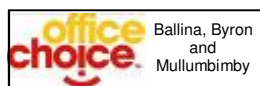
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## Mixing and Mingling





**The WetlandCare Australia  
National Art and Photography Competition 2011  
would not be possible without  
the generous support of our sponsors**



**Exhibition Sponsor 2011**