

World Wetlands Day National Activity Australia



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WETLANDCARE NATIONAL ART COMPETITION 2009

The exhibition of the winning works from the second WetlandCare National Art Competition was held on 2 February 2009 to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

The art competition was the only National event to be held in Australia to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009 and its theme reflected the Ramsar theme for 2009:

Upstream-Downstream: wetlands connect us all

This theme encouraged entrants to think about wetlands in the context of the whole catchment, not just their local area.

Over 300 entries were received and the most popular categories were Open Photography and Open Art, followed closely by Children's Art Junior (ages 4-11) and Senior (ages 12-17).

A main aim of the competition was to promote awareness of wetlands across Australia, as well as the World Wetlands Day theme. This proved to be a success, as evidenced by the number and quality of entries received and the broad national and regional interest in the competition.

Many entrants and members of the public were surprised to learn, through the art competition, about the great diversity of wetlands in Australia.

In addition to Art and Photography categories for children and adolescents, 2009 saw the introduction of a Primary School Prize into the WetlandCare National Art Competition. The addition of this category encouraged more young people to explore wetlands and Parents and Teachers of younger entrants commented that participating in the competition provided a valuable learning experience for their children and students;

facilitating both reflection on the theme and discussions about wetlands. A focus on, and visits to, local wetlands resulted.

An award ceremony and exhibition of the winning works was held at the Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre in Brisbane, QLD, Australia. This event proved to be a great success with representatives from the major sponsoring organisations attending to present awards. At least one winner from each category was able to attend to receive their award, some travelling from inter-state to be there on the day. Renowned wildlife photographer Steve Parish also attended, and gave an inspiring talk on the possibilities and positives outcomes of combining art and conservation.

The winning works from the WetlandCare National Art Competition 2009 can be viewed in an online gallery at www.wetlandcare.com.au - just click on the links to the Art Competition.

The second annual WetlandCare National Art Competition built on the success of the 2008 competition and WetlandCare Australia plans to continue to host this exciting annual event in 2010. The 2010 competition will be launched later in 2009, so keep an eye on our website and keep engaging with your local wetlands.



Barbara Sing
Fishing for Barra
1st Prize
NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change Open Photography