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WETLANDCARE NATIONAL ART COMPETITION 2008

The inaugural WetlandCare National Art Competition 2008 was held to celebrate World Wetlands Day, which occurred on 2 February 2008. The art competition was the only National event to be held in Australia to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2008. As the theme for World Wetlands Day 2008 was **“Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People”** this was the theme for the art competition.

Over 350 entries were received for the WetlandCare National Art Competition 2008. The most popular category was the Open Photography category and the Children’s Art Junior, followed by Open Art and Natural History.

A major aim of the competition was to promote wetlands and the theme of World Wetlands Day 2008, **“Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People”**. This proved to be a success, as evidenced by the entries received, and the broad national and regional interest in the competition from electronic, print, and audio media.

In addition, many entrants and members of the public were surprised to learn, through the art competition, about the great diversity of wetlands in Australia. Parents of child entrants commented that participating in the competition provided a valuable learning experience for their children, a fun school holiday activity, facilitated reflection on the theme and discussions about wetlands. This also resulted in a focus on local wetlands, and many visits to wetlands in the name of Art.

An award ceremony and exhibition of the winning works was held in Ballina, NSW, Australia. This was a big success, with regional dignitaries presenting awards, and prize winners travelling long distances to collect their prizes. The local mayor of Ballina Shire Council, Phillip Silver, and the federal member for Page MP, Janelle Saffin, both attended and presented awards. Aunty Bertha Kapeen from the Aboriginal Bundjalung Nation provided a Welcome to Country.

The winning works from the WetlandCare National Art Exhibition 2008 can be viewed in an online gallery at www.wetlandcare.com.au, just click on the links to the Art Competition.

WetlandCare Australia is currently planning to hold their annual Art Competition to coincide with World Wetlands Day 2009, to continue to raise awareness and interest in wetlands in Australia. All participants are welcome, so visit our website, download the entry form and start appreciating those wetlands.



Graham Morgan
Swans Nesting
1st Prize,
NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
Open Photography

WetlandCare Australia is a not-for-profit company dedicated to achieving healthy wetlands in healthy catchments. Operational since 1991, WetlandCare Australia has a solid track record in managing and delivering a broad range of natural resource management projects that have resulted in improved environments and biodiversity.

Our activities include: Wetland restoration and rehabilitation; Wetland classification, assessment, mapping, monitoring; Wetland protection and conservation; Communications, education, conferences, workshops, seminars; Building partnerships to improve wetlands

For more information, please log onto our website www.wetlandcare.com.au