



***The Waterhole* Springs to Life at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory**

A beautiful exhibition *The Waterhole* showcasing the inspiring and imaginative work of renowned award-winning children's author and illustrator Graeme Base opens this Friday at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

Mr Base said the exhibition features original artworks and friezes from his latest picture book *The Waterhole*.

"*The Waterhole* covers each continent across the globe, telling the story of a diminishing waterhole and how this affects the animals which depend on it," Mr Base said.

This clever and interactive work not only teaches children about the important role water plays in the survival of the world's ecosystems, but also helps them learn to identify the different animals found on each continent, with many species hidden in the main illustrations for kids to find.

MAGNT acting Director Barry Russell said this theatrically designed exhibition provides visitors with a life-size, 3-dimensional experience of Base's exquisitely illustrated book.

"Taxidermy mounts from MAGNT's own collection and a beautifully designed interactive drawing centre with a giant colouring pencil and timber table are also featured," Dr Russell said.

"The author's original worksheets will be on display, along with the explanation of how he created the book."

OzLink Entertainment Director Jacqueline Taylor OAM said the exhibition is wonderfully rich in colour and details.

"It takes the book's message of drought and diminishing water supply to another exciting visual dimension," Ms Taylor said.

"It captures Base's unique style, engaging the viewer in the discovery of the many layers of this story inspired by the precious and delicate balance of water and the animal kingdom."



Northern Territory Government

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

The Waterhole is an ingenious mix of part counting book, puzzle book, story book and art book. It has been published in Australia, the United States, Canada, Italy, France, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

The exhibition will be on display at MAGNT from June 17, 2006 to January 14, 2007 and entry is free.

The Waterhole exhibition is presented by OzLink Entertainment in partnership with the Melbourne Museum and in association with MAGNT. *The Waterhole* is published by Penguin Books.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Hilary Tagell on 8999 8219

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