



MEDIA RELEASE

Winners of the NT Threatened Species Art Competition

The winners in this year's NT Threatened Species Art and Photography Competition have been announced at the Darwin Entertainment Centre as part of National Threatened Species Day activities.

Threatened Species Network NT coordinator Jarrad Holmes said the Best Overall Adult Artwork prize of \$500 was awarded to Darwin artist Marnie Jay Sharp by Member for Port Darwin, Mrs Kerry Sacilotto, for her painting of a Masked Owl named '*Have you seen my Friends*'.

"Howard Springs Primary School first grade class also won over the judges with their series of posters and song 'Look, listen, feel', to win Best Overall School," Mr Holmes said.

"The school receives a prize of digital photographic equipment to the value of \$500.

"The series of four posters illustrate ways people can reduce their impacts on the environment and threatened species by making simple changes to our everyday lives such as recycling, being energy efficient, and buying food products that are chemical and pesticide free."

Mr Holmes said the competition was a real community event that aimed to raise awareness of NT's threatened plants and animals on National Threatened Species Day.

"The theme is 'threatened species, their habitats and their threats in the NT,'" he said.

"In the NT, nearly 200 species are on the NT Government's Threatened Species list, with most of these species being on the list due to changed fire regimes, weeds, feral animals, grazing and land clearing.

"The competition is held as part of National Threatened Species Day each year on September 7th, the day the last Tasmanian tiger died in captivity at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

"It was a difficult decision for the judges with more than 300 entries from across the NT, nearly double last year's entries.

"Of these only 30 are adult entries, with the rest created by schoolchildren coming from 13 different schools _ three from central Australia the other 10 from Darwin and rural region.

"The works ranging from a butterfly collage made from leaves, ceramic animals, papier-mache, drawings and paintings and were judged on originality, educational value, relevance to theme, and aesthetically pleasing aspects."

Mr Holmes said although there were a huge variety of endangered species the most common species entered was the Gouldian Finch.

“The Gouldian finch is a beautiful bird that is representative of many of our other declining bird species due to changed fire patterns,” he said.

“If we can manage the country to look after Gouldian Finches, lots of other plants and animals will also be looked after at the same time.”

Other categories winners include:

Best Photograph - adult Rosalie Breen, from Alice Springs, for her photo of *Acacia pickardii*. (*birds nest wattle*) and youth Bethany Fry (from Litchfield Christian School) – Cycad,

Best Sketch/Drawing - adult Alison Worsnop - Mala and youth Katie Mehan (Litchfield Christian School) – Gouldian Finch,

Best Painting – adult Alison Worsnop – Fire and youth Bernadette Harela (Sanderson High) – Phascogale,

Best Other Medium - adult Kathy Carter – Gove Crow Butterfly and youth Joseph Williams (Sanderson) – Long tailed dunnart,

Most Cheerful Work – adult Stacey Evans (Sanderson high) - Going, going, going, and youth Mitchell Smith (Living waters Primary Alice Springs) – The Greater Bilby.

Winners of each adult first prize category receive \$250.

Entries will remain on display at the Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery on the 8-9th September 2006 (12- 8pm).

A selection of winning and central Australian entries will then be on display in the Alice Springs Library from the 15-30th September.

People can vote for their favourite piece in the People’s Choice Award worth \$500 until 8pm, Saturday, September 8.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Jarrad Holmes on 8941 7554 or 0402286401

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