

MEDIA RELEASE

September 2009

WA's best photographers snap up prizes

Stormy seas, playful sea lions and scenes from rural life were among more than 1300 entries received for the 24th Perth National Photographic Exhibition.

Dianella photographer Andrew Davoll won the trophy for most successful exhibitor as well as the most successful exhibiting photographer from WA.

The winner of the youth section APS Bronze Herbert Medallion was Wanneroo Senior High School student Tahlia Jurkovic with her captivating photo entitled Ouch!

Committee member George Woodward, one of three judges of the youth section, said Tahlia's outstanding work was a unanimous choice that featured very good composition.

He said young people were always very innovative and not as bound by convention, leading to impressive entries this year.

"They take photographs of things we would probably not take photos of or from a different view point."

Queensland photographer Robyn Mitchell won the Australian Photographic Society Plaque for best slide and first place in nature slides.

Tony Hopkins of Gooseberry Hill won the Australian Photographic Society Plaque for best print for his mesmerising creative/altered reality entry Time Continuum.

Stephen Gordon of Nedlands won first place in open colour prints with the haunting Quindalup Dawn while Duncraig resident Mark Greenland's Rare Blossom was first placed in mono prints.

A close encounter with playful sea lions earned Adrian Baddeley of Nedlands first place in nature prints.

Wagin's Glenys Ball's won first place in Australian rural life prints for depicting a dog rounding up sheep in Dusty Dog at Work.

This year's competition attracted 1385 entries from every State and Territory in Australia, with the vast majority (65 per cent) coming from WA.

Competition director Maureen Ivimey said there had been a record number of entries this year compared to recent years and the standard continued to improve.

She said the judges were particularly impressed with entries in the new category of created/altered reality that includes anything that is not literal photography and allowed photographers to use modern technology.

"This is really exciting and we are finding it has opened up this area of creative graphic art photography," she said.

The Perth National Photographic Exhibition is one of the last competitions to still include a slide category, with entries on a loop display during the Show. The majority of entrants also now use digital photography rather than chemical processing.

It is conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society of WA, with each entry judged by a panel of three highly-qualified judges

A selection of entries from across competition categories including nature prints, rural Australia prints, creative and altered reality, mono and youth prints will be on display in the Art and Photography Pavilion every day of the 2009 Smoke Free Perth Royal Show.

During the Show, the public are invited to vote for their favourite. The Peoples' Choice winners from 2006 to 2008 will be on display and this year's winner will receive \$500.

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The Smoke Free Perth Royal Show is presented by The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia



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