

Cicada Awards films full of facts, figures, fun and fantasy



3 December 2016



Facts and figures mixed with some fun and fantasy flew from the screen at Cleveland District State High School on Friday night as cicadas shrilled and the audience applauded in the packed Performing Arts Centre.

Dugongs, the great sandy islands of Bribie and Stradbroke, and pollution were amongst topics from entrants in the 2016 Cicada Awards, a short film competition that gives youth a voice on environmental issues. Conducted by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch the 2016 Awards attracted increased sponsorship, a larger audience and more entrants identifying issues and offering solutions.

Redland College student Laura Eban took home Wildlife Queensland Bayside's 1st Prize of \$1000 for her endearing film *Mermaids of the Sea* highlighting the importance of the species, the threats they face and what we can 'choose' to do if they are to survive.

The Gem of South East Queensland by Seren Wyatt which featured Moreton Island and attracted Tangalooma Resort staff to Friday night's audience was awarded 2nd Place in Open Category. *Our Civilization's Crisis* in which creator Senlina Mayer used graphics to depict issues and proffer solutions was awarded 3rd Prize. Its information-packed content prompted Cr Paul Bishop MC for the event to suggest working together to refine Senlina's film further.

Photos top-bottom:

- Part of the 150 strong audience at the Cleveland District State High School Performing Arts Centre
- Steve Homewood, Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch President, fellow Judge and 2015 1st Prize Winner Naomi Lewis with the 2016 Winners: 1st Prize Winner Laura Eban; 2nd Place Seren Wyatt; 3rd Place Senlina Mayer
- Cr Paul Bishop MC with Daniel Eban, 2015 1st Prize U12





World renowned marine cinematographer and Stradbroke Island resident David Hannan, founder of [Ocean Ark Alliance](#) once again sponsored the U12 Category. Filming at remote coral reefs, David was unable to be on the Judging Panel or to attend the Premiere Screening but sent his encouragement and congratulations to the entrants.



1st Prize U12 of \$500 was won by Hilder State School students Ethan Page and Ben Narbey for their inspiring depiction of *Leatherback Turtles*. Years 5 & 6 Drama Class from Wellington Point State School urged us to *Listen to what the trees say* and got 2nd Prize for their efforts while 3rd Prize went to Zoe Harwood from Citipointe Christian College for *Animal Economy News*.

Second-time entrants Brighde Walker and Emma Thean from Redland College received a Highly Recommended Award for *The Sandy Issue* which tackled the controversial topic of sand mining cessation on North Stradbroke Island.



Highly Recommended was also received by first time entrants Cleveland District State High students Charlie Eagle and Ruben Grobblear for *The Gone Wild*. Tamborine Mountain State High students Lucy Rowell and Amy Weedon who took out a major prize in the U12 category last year, received a Highly Recommended Award for *Save the Ocean*.

Encore Awards went to Miranda Barrientos, Leilani Henry and Senlina Mayer for *The Koala Crisis*, Sundara Wrightson for *Save the Koalas* and Mia Kolcze for *Which dream for our future*.



Photos top-bottom:

- David Hannan, sponsor of U12 Category
- Ben Narbey and Ethan Page 2016 1st Prize Winners of the U12 category pictured with 2015 1st Prize U12 Winner Daniel Eban and Ocean Crusaders Founder Ian "Thommo" Thomson
- Some of the Year 5 & 6 Drama Class students from Wellington Point State School who were awarded the 2016 2nd Prize
- Cr Paul Bishop MC with Judges Steve Homewood, Naomi Lewis, Di Aylward MBEEC Principal. Absent from photo Jenny Anthony and Peter Wear



The perpetual trophy awarded to a school for Outstanding Contribution to the Cicada Awards, won last year by Melina Walton of Redland College, was this year awarded to Cleveland District State High School's Justine Noble and accepted by Nathan Burley, who has also supported the Cicada Awards over the past few years.

Wildlife Queensland Bayside's wish to have the films viewed far, wide and frequently got a helping hand from Rotary Club of Redland Sunrise who are offering a \$250 Prize to the entrant who receives the most YouTube views of their film over the coming year. [View the 2016 Playlist here.](#)



Attendees were treated to a sausage sizzle by Rotary Club of Cleveland and to a message of support from the 2015 special guest Madi "Shark Girl" Stewart, along with a trailer for her 2016 production of [The Shark Hunters: Mark & Vic.](#)

The Cicada Awards attracted international attention this year with [a message and short film](#) from young French film-maker Guillaume Cornet who made his first film at 12, had to overcome fears that his work wasn't good enough, acknowledged the beauty of Australian landscapes and species and urged entrants to keep making videos "to show people how beautiful is planet Earth".

"Cicada Awards supporters are looking forward to some shrilling times in 2017" said Steve Homewood, President of Wildlife Queensland Bayside Branch. ○

The 2016 Cicada Awards Playlist for viewing/voting for films: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAD9cf2J5xa4JlLmROldm49h5qRivLvL&feature=em-share_playlist_user

Photos top-bottom:

- Debra Henry and Steve Homewood from Wildlife Queensland Bayside with Cleveland State High's Nathan Burley accepting the Perpetual Trophy for Justine Noble
- Janet Butler, Rotary Redland Sunrise President announcing new Prize for the most frequently viewed films on YouTube
- John Simpson, Rotary Club of Redland and colleagues providing a sumptuous sausage sizzle
- Tatjana Trotter 1st Prize Winner 2012-2013 with Daniel Eban 1st Prize U12 2015 and, Sadie Caynes-Henry and Lily Matheson 2014 1st Prize Winners

Photos courtesy of Julie Geldard

