



# Media Release



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## **BUNDALEER FOREST WEEKEND WINS ARTS AWARD**

**The Belalie Arts Society and ForestrySA have won this year's prestigious Australian Business Arts Foundation (AbaF) Toyota Community Award for South Australia.**

The announcement was made on Friday evening (Sept 7) at South Australia's major arts awards event at the Grainger Studio in Adelaide.

Bundaleer Forest is at Jamestown in South Australia's Mid-North. Every two years the Belalie Arts Society works with ForestrySA to create the Bundaleer Forest Weekend which has now grown to be a major South Australian arts event attracting 5,000 visitors.

In 2005 ForestrySA became a Gold Sponsor of the Bundaleer Weekend.

ForestrySA is not only able to provide a suitable venue for the Bundaleer Forest Weekend but also provides in-kind contributions such as site preparation, signage, forest information, clearing forest debris, slashing grass areas and improving access to the forest walks.

According to Chief Executive of ForestrySA, Mr Brian Farmer, "What initially started as a family weekend in the forest has now developed into a high quality performing arts event."

"The Bundaleer Forest Weekend provides a wonderful opportunity to experience artistic performances in a unique environment."

"Its success has been due to both the hardworking volunteers of the Bundaleer Weekend event team and ForestrySA staff including the former Coordinator for the Mid-North, Mr Chris Brown."

ForestrySA and the Riddoch Art Gallery in Mount Gambier also received "Good Practice Recognition" for the national ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Competition.

The wood sculpture competition began in 2004. Wood sculpture winners have since come from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the A.C.T. Entries have been received from as far as the Northern Territory.

According to Mr Robert Miles, Chairman of the Riddoch Art Gallery “The prize winners bring exciting additions to the collection, broadening the scope of artworks held by the Riddoch Gallery while reflecting contemporary art practice using wood”.

Lucia Pichler, Director of the Riddoch Art Gallery says the partnership with ForestrySA means that the newly acquired wood sculptures can be shared with regional communities throughout Australia.

The Australian Business Arts Foundation (AbaF) was established by the Federal Government to encourage private sector support for the arts. Each year the AbaF invites arts organisations and their business partners to compete for a series of awards at State and National level.

The national AbaF awards will be announced on October 25 in Sydney.

**Ends**

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