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Thursday, 6 March 2008

## **THIRD WOOD SCULPTURE COMPETITION LAUNCHED**

The third ForestrySA Wood Sculpture competition, aimed at promoting the South Australian timber industry, was launched today by Forests Minister, Rory McEwen.

A partnership between ForestrySA and Mount Gambier's Riddoch Art Gallery, the biennial award has grown to become a significant indoor sculpture prize in Australia.

The prizes in the third competition include:

- a \$10,000 *ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Prize*;
- a \$2,000 *City of Mount Gambier Regional Artist Award* (for entries from within a 200km radius of Mount Gambier);
- a \$2,000 *Sustainability Prize* (for entries using Recycled and/or Plantation Timber); and
- a \$500 *Mount Gambier Hoo Hoo Club People's Choice Award*. The winner of this award will be announced at the end of the exhibition on 12 October 2008.

Entries for the competition are now open and will close on 30 June 2008, with the winners being announced on Friday 29 August 2008. Entry forms are available by contacting Riddoch Art Gallery or via the website [www.riddochartgallery.org.au](http://www.riddochartgallery.org.au).

The judge for this year's competition is Dr Dan Wollmering. A senior lecturer in Sculpture at Monash University, Dr Wollmering is widely regarded as one of Australia's most important contemporary sculptors. He was recently one of 12 sculptors from 11 countries and the only sculptor from Australia invited to participate in the [Ninth Guilin Yuzi Paradise International Sculpture Symposium](#) in China.

Previous winners of the ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Prize are Tasmanian based wood artist and furniture maker Kevin Perkins for his work *New Growth* (2006); and Melbourne artist Andrew Wood for the red gum sculpture *Thicket* (2004).

The partnership between ForestrySA and Riddoch Art Gallery was recognised in the 2007 ABAF Awards through receiving Good Practice in Partnership recognition and also at the 2005 Awards as a Finalist in the National Australia Bank Encouragement Award.

**A media launch will take place at Riddoch Art Gallery, 8-10 Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier on Thursday 6 March 2008 at 10am. Please contact Lucia Pichler, Director, Riddoch Art Gallery for images and further information on 0438 239 566.**