



Media Release



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2008 FORESTRYSA WOOD SCULPTURE COMPETITION - helping trees fulfil dreams

Organisers of the 2008 ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Competition are looking forward to judging a high calibre field of entries this year.

Artists vying for a share of the \$14,500 prize pool delivered their artworks to Mount Gambier's Riddoch Art Gallery last week.

A total of 38 entries were accepted for the third biennial competition, which recognises the timber industry's important contribution to the South East.

Gallery staff will spend many hours assembling the exhibition ahead of its public opening on August 23.

The works will come under the scrutiny of judge Dr Dan Wollmering, who is an artist and senior lecturer in sculpture at Monash University, Melbourne, and widely regarded as one of Australia's most important contemporary sculptors.

The winner of the acquisitive \$10,000 ForestrySA Wood Sculpture will be announced by South Australian Minister for Forests, Mr Rory McEwen MP, at a gala presentation night at the gallery on August 29.

ForestrySA Board Chairman Mr John Ross will present the new \$2000 Sustainability Prize, for entries using recycled and/or plantation timber.

The \$2000 City of Mount Gambier Regional Artist Award, for entries from within 200km of the city, will be presented by Mayor Steve Perryman.

Members of the public will also have the opportunity to vote for the winner of the \$500 Mount Gambier Hoo Hoo Club People's Choice Award, which will be announced at the end of the exhibition on October 12.

Gallery Director Ms Lucia Pichler said she was impressed by the number and quality of entries received for the 2008 competition.

"We have received entries from all over Australia, which is great," she said.

"There has been some quite different types of work received, from both new and returning artists.

"It's interesting to note that many artists live on the smell of an oily rag – maybe \$15,000 a year, so the prize on offer is huge.

“It’s also a high profile prize.”

ForestrySA Chief Executive Mr Brian Farmer said the competition provided a rare opportunity to promote the forest and timber industry through art.

“It allows us to look at timber in an alternative way - it becomes an artistic medium rather than a structural product or commodity.

“The competition also shines a spotlight on the timber industry and the South East community that we support.

“ForestrySA continues to offer the prize and support for the competition, to encourage the artists and the art form.”

Melbourne-based artist Andrew Wood took out the inaugural sculpture prize for redgum sculpture *Thicket* in 2004, while Tasmanian artist and furniture maker Kevin Perkins won the overall prize for his work *New Growth* in 2006.

Photograph: Riddoch Art Gallery Director Ms Lucia Pichler with artist Jon Dixon’s recycled musk wood and paper pulp sculpture *Lucy in the Sky*, which was one of 38 entries accepted for the 2008 ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Competition.

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