



MEDIA RELEASE



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EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30PM FRIDAY AUGUST 29

ROBERT DELVES WINS \$10,000 FORESTRYSA WOOD SCULPTURE PRIZE

Victorian artist Robert Delves' work *The Damned* has been selected from 38 entries as winner of the 2008 ForestrySA Wood Sculpture Prize.

The competition is the most significant wood sculpture prize in Australia, an initiative of Mount Gambier's Riddoch Art Gallery and has been proudly supported by ForestrySA since 2004.

South Australian Minister for Forests, Mr Rory McEwen MP, presented Mr Delves, from Aspendale, Victoria, with the \$10,000 prize at a gala presentation at the gallery tonight.

In addition, Mount Barker artist Donald Richardson's piece *Mission Village* was awarded the inaugural Sustainability Prize, for entries using recycled and/or plantation timber.

He was presented with the \$2000 prize by ForestrySA Chief Executive Mr Brian Farmer.

Nangwarry's Dagny Strand won the \$2000 City of Mount Gambier Regional Artist Award - for entries from within 200km of Mount Gambier - for her work *Rough Lullaby*.

The award was presented by Mount Gambier Mayor Steve Perryman.

The \$500 Mount Gambier Hoo Hoo Club People's Choice Award winner will be announced on October 10.

Judge, artist and Monash University sculpture lecturer Dr Dan Wollmering said it was an "absolute pleasure" to be invited to judge the competition and thanked all sponsors for their support.

"The variety of the work has been quite surprising and very engaging," he said.

“There’s something about wood that enables you to really feel the work that has been done by the sculptor – you can feel the sanding, the polishing and the work that’s gone into it.”

Riddoch Art Gallery Director Ms Lucia Pichler said she was thrilled to receive such a range of outstanding entries for the competition.

“It’s been exciting to see such a range of sculpture in wood and to see the love and skill that’s gone into it,” she said.

The sculpture competition helps the Riddoch Gallery add to its already sizeable collection of wood sculpture and decorative arts, while promoting the South Australian timber industry.

It also acknowledges ForestrySA’s leading role in the development of a sustainable timber industry in the South East of South Australia’s Green Triangle region.

Wood Sculpture Competition entries will be on display at the Riddoch Art Gallery until October 12.

Ends

Photographs will be made available upon request.

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