

28 July 2010

Draw a threatened species and win

Shoalhaven City Council is looking for primary school students who are keen to win some great prizes for their school and learn about threatened animals and plants.

Council is launching its 2010 Threatened Species Competition for primary school students. All primary schools are encouraged to enter, with students able to enter individually or as a class. Students are encouraged to research a threatened species from the Shoalhaven and present an art work or research poster on the species.

Shoalhaven's Mayor Councillor Paul Green said: "Education can play an important part in our recognition that there are many species in the City that are threatened with extinction.

"What would we do if we can't halt the extinction of the Little Tern or the Eastern Bristlebird or the Spider Orchid," Councillor Green said. "These are all endangered or vulnerable species in our city."

The Green and Golden Bell-frogs in Shoalhaven have had a really good breeding season this year and Council has worked hard to ensure that this species has the best possible chance of survival in the long term by altering some of our maintenance regimes.

National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September each year to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's unique native fauna and flora.

National Threatened Species Day was first held in 1996, to commemorate the death of the last Tasmanian Tiger held in captivity in Hobart. The last Tasmanian Tiger died in 1936. By focusing attention on the plight of many of our threatened animals and plants, Threatened Species Day aims to encourage greater community support and hands on involvement in the prevention of further losses of Australia's unique natural heritage.

Students may enter individually or as a class by drawing (or creating) a project on a threatened species that occurs in the Shoalhaven. Importantly they must demonstrate what their class learnt about the species they picked.

The prizes include:

- Free entry passes to the Nowra Wildlife Park (for a maximum of 30 students) and an animal experience show with an animal keeper while the students are in the Park.
- A "state of the art" bubbler by Shoalhaven Water (installation included at Shoalhaven Water's discretion).
- A compost bin or worm farm.
- Multiple Book vouchers.
- Free entry to the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre and water slide rides.

Last year's winner was Year 5 from Nowra Anglican College. The class created a massive collage of information and pictures about the threatened Spotted-tailed Quoll.

Clr Green said he was impressed and amazed by the creativity and the amount of work that had gone into the collage. Clr Green will present the winning school with prizes on Threatened Species Day.

The entries will decorate the foyer of Council's Administration Centre in Nowra during September. Contact Council staff on [02] 4429 3482 for the information pack and further details.

Entries close on 27 August 2010.

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