



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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YOUNG AUSTRALIANS SHOW HOW WE CAN PROTECT OUR WORLD HERITAGE

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has congratulated the winners of a national storyboard competition on climate change and Great Barrier Reef, run for the first time in Australia by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

In 2008 students from across Australia aged 12-18 were invited by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to submit drawn storyboards depicting an original story about the preservation and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Australia's World Heritage Commissioner Greg Terrill said the competition was a great platform for young Australians to learn about the threats our exceptional World Heritage places face and what can be done to help protect them.

"The storyboard animation focused on the Great Barrier Reef, showing links to the issues of climate change and sustainable behaviours and encouraged tomorrow's decision-makers to explore creative solutions to protect and preserve this national icon.

"This is the first time Australia has participated in this internationally recognised competition and reinforces the government's commitment to making sure our World Heritage properties are more resilient to the impacts of climate change so we can ensure these valuable resources are conserved for the future," Dr Terrill said.

More than 200 storyboard entries were received and after shortlisting and judging in Australia and Paris, UNESCO chose 12 year-old Revathy Menon from Narrabri High School in New South Wales as the winner of the 2008 *UNESCO World Heritage Education Patrimonto Storyboard Competition*.

As the overall winner of the competition, Revathy's storyboard concept will be produced into an animated short film as part of the international cartoon series "*Patrimonto's World Heritage Adventures*". Revathy's name will be credited in the animated DVD, which once completed later this year, will be distributed worldwide by UNESCO and its partners.

UNESCO also chose two runner-up storyboards with students receiving UNESCO medals for their achievements:

- 2nd: Surpreet Sarkaria and Nadine Sabih, 12/13 years, Kingsgrove North High School, New South Wales
3rd: Rebecca Taylor, Eleanor Readford and Ashleigh Callinan, 16 years, Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth, New South Wales

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts also selected an additional three storyboards to receive a special Great Barrier Reef prize pack in recognition of their outstanding achievement in the competition:

- Madison Kalleske and Morgan Goss, 13/14 years, Faith Lutheran Secondary School, South Australia
- Josh Ball, 16 years, Downlands College, Queensland
- Morgan Campbell and Stephanie Andrews, 14 years, Gladstone Park Secondary College, Victoria

The animated DVD is expected to be completed in April 2009.

Winning storyboards and updates on the creation of the animated DVD are available at:
www.environment.gov.au/heritage/storyboardcompetition/index.html

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