

A SURREAL ENVIRONMENT



This is the 25th anniversary of the annual exhibition of works by HSC Visual Arts students called Artexpress. Selected works tour throughout NSW Art Galleries showcasing exceptional craft and conceptual skills of this state's best young creative artists. The work of Liam Cameron, from Katoomba High School, was selected from this year's 9000 candidates to be exhibited because of "sophisticated manipulation of digital media". In a series of

seven surreal photos, Liam "produced a powerful piece of art", one of which is shown above. They comment on relationships between technology, our dependency on it and the environment," said his teacher Rose Sarkany. Liam said that his selection "was a bit of a surprise". KHS Press Team

2008 - BIG YEAR FOR SCHOOLS

The School Environment Awards for 2008 were presented to:
Caring for Catchment Award Winner- Wentworth Falls Public School, Runner Up- Blue Mountains Grammar School
Environmental Achievement Award Winner - Katoomba Nth Public School, Runner up - Blackheath Public School
Environmental Education Award Winner – Katoomba Nth Public School, Runner up – Our Lady of the Nativity School
Kitchen Garden Award Winner - Warrimoo Public School
Planning Award Winner – Lapstone Public School, Runner Up – Katoomba Public School
Waste Management Award Winner – Blaxland East Public School, Runner Up – Katoomba High
Sustainable School Award Winner – Ellison Road Public School (photo) Runner Up- Blackheath Public School.

Thanks to David & Robbie for organising the awards, Lapstone Public School for hosting & major sponsors including the Conservation Society without them the awards wouldn't happen
 SEN News



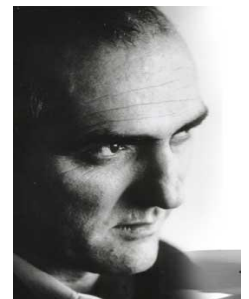
GARBY ARMY

Thank you to all who participated in Clean Up Australia Day 2009 last month - it was a real success. Every year, from Lithgow to Lapstone, thousands of students get stuck in and clean up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish. Katoomba High cleaned up the bush around school including a section of the Prince Henry Cliff Walk. "Most of the rubbish was probably ours anyway. We shouldn't chuck it down in the first place. We need to look at how we can reduce the amount of packaging in our lunches and recycle more" said one volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous. "Simple, easy actions can protect the health of our water resources and help save drinking water supplies. There is not one individual who cannot help to make a difference to the health of the environment" said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman and Founder of Clean Up Australia. Year 10 Garby Army (Steph & Martin pictured)



FOLK BLUES AND GREEN

At the recent Blue Mountains Music Festival we promoted our Drink Tap Water Campaign at a number of the refreshment facilities. It was good to see hundreds of our distinctive yellow labels around. We even did a roaming ambush campaign with people who looked like they were drinking bottled water. Some of the performers did not escape our message. An interesting addition this year was talks or "Conversations", particularly the one with Chris Darwin. Yes he is directly related to Charles (see Feb Strobos). Paul Kelly (photo bmff.org.au) main act at the festival played most of his well known songs. On climate change he had this to say "Some say the climate thing is a big scare campaign (but) even underneath all that it makes sense to live in a less wasteful manner and that's always going to be at odds with governments striving for growth. The more people spend, the more people consume, and that's good for growth. But not for the planet." Jackson



RUBY BLOOMERS



The local "Ruby Bloomers" (photo bmf.org.au) had an Environment message for the music festival with a number of roving characters. Miss Potts sang and wheeled her barrow to spread a pro-gardening message and Miss Carbon Neutral preferred to hang out the washing. We are sure they all appreciated the composting toilets. Alastair

After reading our Feb Strobos, one of our new Year 7 roving reporters checked out the Charles Darwin walk in Wentworth Falls recently. We hope Chloe becomes a regular writer. Fiona

IN CHARLES'S FOOTSTEPS

The Charles Darwin Walk is a great bush walk for those visiting the mountains via public transport. It runs alongside the beautiful Jamison Creek until reaching the top of Wentworth Falls itself. It takes about 2 hours to complete the 4.5 kms and the well built bridges and boardwalks make sure walkers don't get wet (unless they want to). Chloe



BURNING ISSUES

In the Blue Mountains bushland surrounds us and each year this bushland that we call home is under threat to fire. Over the years thousands of hectares of bush has been damaged due to fires and each time the bush has recovered. But how does the bush recover?



Each plant species has its own survival feature which assists in recovery from fires. For example some species of eucalypts have thick bark which protects the epicormic buds. These buds sprout new growth when triggered by loss of foliage on the tree, damage to the tree and the intense heat of the fire. Some species of plants have pods which hold seeds and can only be opened by intense heat

such as the heat from a fire. The pods then crack and the seeds are spread over the ground. The ash from the fire mixes in with the soil making it more fertile helping the seeds grow. The Department Of Sustainability And Environment states that the ongoing changes in bushland after fire will be largely determined by the composition of plant species before the fire and the adaptation mechanisms of these species to fire.

Despite many fires that have passed through the Blue Mountains over the years nature has always been able to fully recover. Scott

WASTE TO ART

Waste to art is a competition and exhibition held to display the works of art created by turning waste products and unwanted items that contribute to landfill into masterpieces of artworks.

Cathy O'Hara (a creator of much wonderful waste to art items) came to Katoomba High School to talk to the year 9/10 visual art students about the waste to art program that is being held in the Blue Mountains this year. Cathy brought many useful pieces and items of rubbish and unwanted equipment in, so that the students themselves could create an artwork of their own using the materials. The 80 minute lesson was very productive and successful, resulting in some very interesting and unusual works of art.

Cathy was helpful and showed the students a slide show of previous works of art that had been entered into the waste to art exhibition and competition. Her creative motive helped the students understand and acknowledge the concept of the situation and helped contribute to many of the fabulous artworks that were made by the students. The interesting mix of artistry and wasteful products create a whole different side to art. The experience of making something with very little value into an art form is something that many should try. You feel good knowing that something that could have been put into a waste land or landfill has been turned into a vase or a toy or an item that is more valued and more useful in an art form than being an unwanted item of rubbish or landfill.



It felt good knowing that you and the planet have benefited from creating an object that helps contribute to a healthier planet earth. Jessica