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Over 100 “Animal on Bike” sculptures heading to the Zoo

A very successful event held for the second paddock art sculpture competition of “Animals on Bikes” on Saturday night with over 300 people in attendance to hear the winners of the $10,000 prize money.

44 NEW sculptures and letter boxes have appeared along the 120km Obley rd in the last couple of months, with one entry from Cumnock Public school displaying 26 individual sculptures for the letters of the alphabet.

*“The letter A which depicts an Ant on a bike starts just 4 km out of Molong then every 4km there is another letter B for Butterfly, C for Cockatoo until you approach the Zoo, the final one is Z for Zebra”* said Christine Weston, one of the organizers for the community project.

The new ones plus the 42 sculptures from 2009 competition, now makes 111 masterpieces that can be encountered along the scenic back rd to the Dubbo Zoo.

There was fierce competition this year with much larger and grander scaled sculptures requiring cranes, trucks and tractors to move them into place. While other smaller ones had solar lights and wind powered windmills. One farmer has made an enormous dinosaur out of tractor, truck, ute and car tyres however the piece weighed over 3 tonne and had to be built on-site.

John Fairfax and wife Libby, with Jocellin Janssen from Royal Agricultural Society Foundation, took 6 hours to drive and judge the 44 new sculptures; they were blessed with fine weather on Saturday morning which made viewing the paddock art easier and more accessible to judge each piece.

The winners were announced at 7pm to a very crowded community centre at Cumnock, that flowed out into the side tent and onto the footpath.

Everyone enjoyed viewing the 44 photographic canvases, the school art display and the SheArt shelias from Molong, Cumnock and Yeoval “Animals and Bikes” art exhibition.

Past Rural Achiever and Miss Cumnock showgirl, Rebecca Staines the recipient of the RASF $25,000 grant to improve the community project of “Animals on Bikes” was ecstatic with the results and entries from the surrounding towns.

*“Without this generous assistance from the RASF the 10 show societies and 8 schools would not have participated in the sculpture competition so it has really enhanced the community spirit and will provide great tourism economic benefit for our surrounding rural reliant towns”* said Bec.

The winners are as follows with first winning $1,000 and second winning $200 each;

**Best Farm Animal on a Bike** was presented by Jocellin Janssen (RASF Executive officer)

FIRST “Hot rod Henny” by Andrew and Rhonda Watt

SECOND “The Rabbits”by Laurelle Neville, Les and Elaine Hunter

**Best Zoo Animal on a Bike** presented by Mayor of Dubbo Matthew Dickerson

FIRST ”Emus on the Run” by Stewart ‘Benny’ Caldwell

SECOND “Monotreme on Monocycle” by David and Alison Trowbridge of Platypus Hollow B&B

**Best Local Endangered or Threatened Species on a Bike** presented by Darryl Hodges from Little River Landcare group.

FIRST ”The Powerful Owl” by Robert Armstrong

SECOND “Hungry Perchy” by Cumnock Public School

**Best sculpture made by a Community Group** presented by Liz Davis Central Western Catchment Management Authority

FIRST ”Look No Hands” Fish on a Bike by Yeoval Central School P&C

SECOND “Elvis the Kookaburra” by Parkes Shire Council

**Best Farmer or Farmer's wife sculpture** presented by Cabonne Mayor Bob Dowling

FIRST “Didyouthinkhesawus?” by Dean Butler

SECOND “Long neck Turtle” by Don Bruce

**Best letter/ mailbox Animal on a Bike** presented by Brooke Lees from Rio Tinto

FIRST ”Hells Hogs” by Mannie Bone

SECOND “The Pleasant Pheasant” by Ashley Paul Horry

**Best Sculpture made by a School Group** (each initially received $500 from RASF) presented by Louise van Twist from Newcrest

FIRST “Slippery Penguins” by St Josephs school Molong

SECOND “Rocky , Put that Down!” by Molong Central School

**Best Sculpture made by a Show Society** (each initially received $1,000 from RASF presented by Parkes Mayor Ken Keith

FIRST “Off to the Cumnock Show” by David Weston, Cumnock Show Society

SECOND “Winners are Grinners” by Wellington Show Society

**Most humorous sculpture** presented by Federal member John Cobb

*FIRST “Roadrunner and Coyote” by Andrew McKenzie*

*SECOND “Rosie the Redback” by Mal Williams and Graeme Fleming*

The $200 PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD was very close with “Hotrod Henny” winning by just one vote over “Roadrunner and Coyote”, with the very large dinosaur coming in as third favourite. Dean Butler took 2 years to finish his large tyre-constructed dinosaur, he was asked how he felt afterwards “It was tyresome work. It took me a long time but it was a Good year. I took it to the Maxxis!”

A great night had by all, with each person receiving the NEW wrapping paper with many of the new sculptures on it, plus each of the 44 sculptors receiving a family pass to the Dubbo Taronga Zoo.

The People’s Choice “Hotrod Henny” winner and other winning pictures can be viewed at <http://www.animalsonbikes.com.au/2011-winners.html>

Please request individual photos from Christine on mb 0411 208 240 or info@animalsonbikes.com.au