

SUNRAYSIA DAILY

Bringing People Together

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Youngsters deliver their water message through fine art



• Danielle Pettit and Hayden Murphy had their work selected for exhibition from among more than a thousand entries in the Second National Student Environment Art Competition.

DANIELLE Pettit and Hayden Murphy are just six years old and have already tasted success in a national competition, much to the delight of their families and the Mikkura West Primary School community.

In 2004 Danielle and Hayden were in Mrs Annesmarie Rowe's Prep class and as part of their environmental education they were encouraged to enter the Second National Student Environment Art Competition.

Both youngsters were among 25 finalists from over 2000 entries and their entries will be exhibited at the Australian Museum in Sydney from March 17 to April 20, 2005.

Danielle and Hayden and their parents have been invited to attend an awards ceremony and exhibition launch at the Australian Museum on March 17.

Mikkura West Primary principal Doug Matthews said, "It's fairly remarkable that the two youngest finalists in the competition should come from our school, and we are

all very proud of them.

Mr Matthews explained that environmental education is important for its own intrinsic value, helping children to understand and appreciate the world around them.

It also helps build links with both the local and wider community, and provides opportunities for children to build leadership skills and have their individual talents recognised.

The National Student Environment Art Competition was designed to raise awareness of the value of water.

Some of the questions children were asked to explore in their paintings were "How can we be smarter with water?", "What are the valuable things we should do with water?" and "What would the world look like without enough water?"

The paintings entered by the finalists are on the website www.planetkids.biz