

Human Rights Art Award 2003

On Wednesday 10 December, the Darwin Community Legal Service opened the Human Rights Art Award and Exhibition in the Supreme Court foyer.

The exhibition will run until 19 December and there is an opportunity for visitors to vote for their favourite piece in the People's Choice award, which will be announced at the completion of the exhibition.

Jenny Blokland SM was the guest speaker at the exhibition launch and she spoke about the importance of working towards the provision of Human Rights.

Ms Blokland pointed out that while courts pay attention to civil rights and not necessarily human rights, human rights issues that need addressing, like poverty, regularly appear in the background.

Ms Blokland also spoke about recent advancements made in the area of Human Rights, like the removal of laws that discriminated against people on the basis of their sexual orientation. However there is still a long way to go in looking at multifaceted approaches to deal with problems like homelessness.

According to Ms Blokland, Australia has a schizophrenic approach to human rights. As a nation we are happy to sign treaties to promote the concept of human rights, however we are unwilling to implement the principles at home.

Ms Blokland pointed to the recent excision of islands from northern Australia as an example of the lengths Australia will go to in order to preserve its schizophrenic approach to human rights.

This is the ninth year that DCLS has run the Human Rights Art Awards. This year the winners were judged by Don Whyte and Kathy Arbon.

AWARD WINNERS

First Prize (Open Category): Moil Primary School

Significant Achievement Award: Rikki Bochow - A Time To Mourn

Fresh Water Award: Megan Djuramalwuy

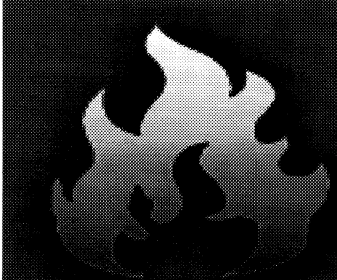


Jenny Blokland SM speaking at the exhibition opening

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Award for Outstanding Women Artist:
Yoshie Mizuno - Mushin I, II, III
Best Art from a Secondary School
Student: Alex Tate - Get Down Off Your
Cross

Best Art from a Pre-school or Primary
School Student: Jessica McNamara -
Path To Freedom. ①



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Our Senior International Associates include Dr John DeHaan (USA) and Mr Michael Gardiner (UK).

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