



# Wild HeART

## Student Art Prize

### 2026 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

#### Eligibility

The Wild HeART Student Art Prize is open to school aged children and young people, 18 years and under, enrolled in Prep to Year 12.

The entrant must reside in one of the following Local Government Areas: Sunshine Coast Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Noosa Shire, Gympie Regional Council or Somerset Regional Council.

The artwork must be original and not infringe the copyright, moral rights or other rights of any third party.

Photographs from the internet may be used as reference material for the artwork, but artworks deemed too similar (copies without original interpretation) to another artist's work or photograph will not be accepted.

Use of Artificial Intelligence tools must be disclosed and will be judged as ineligible.

Entries must be submitted by midnight, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

Late or partially completed submissions that do not satisfy the submission requirements or Conditions of Entry may be judged as ineligible.

Maximum one entry per student.

#### How to enter

This Art Prize is free to enter, there is no cost.

To be considered for selection, entrants must comply with all entry instructions.

Entries will only be accepted via the [online entry form](#) for the Wild Heart Student Art Prize 2026. This link is available on the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden [website](#). URL: <https://botanic-garden.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/>

Please note, no hardcopy original artworks are being received or handled in 2026.

#### Artwork specifications

Can be any orientation or size.

Must be two-dimensional.

Any art materials may be used (e.g. paint, pencil, pastels, ink, collage etc.).

Must be 100% the work of the child or young person. Adult involvement may result in the entry being ineligible.

Must be submitted as high resolution scan or photograph, minimum pixel resolution 300ppi. Size of original artwork can vary, however works smaller than A4 (210 × 297 mm) may not be easily enlarged if selected for finalists' exhibition.

Digital art is acceptable, but photography is not.

Must be or include elements of a realistic depiction of native Australian fauna, flora or fungi.

Must be recent work, created in either 2025 or 2026, but not previously entered in Wild HeART Student Art Prize iterations.

The artwork must be accompanied by a Student's Statement. This is an important part of the entry and must be the 'voice' of the child. If selected as a finalist, the Student Statement (in whole or part) will be displayed alongside the artwork. It should state the subject species and where it is found; and explain why you chose it and what you have learnt about it. The selection panel will consider this statement as one of the criteria for selection as a finalist.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Creativity and originality
- Skill in representing realism using chosen art materials and techniques
- Composition and design
- Student's statement (content)

### **Selection of Finalists**

A maximum of 21 finalists will be selected for the finalists' display. This will be across three age categories:

- 8yrs and under,
- 13yrs and under, and
- 18yrs and under.

Selection is by an experienced panel including a knowledgeable wildlife artist and a qualified Visual Arts teacher. The panel's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into. If selected, organisers will correspond with the caregiver only, and via details submitted on the entry form. As per key dates, all finalists will be announced by 27<sup>th</sup> November. Organisers will do their utmost to advise all entrants as to being selected or unsuccessful prior to this date.

### **Prizes**

No cash prizes will be given. Vouchers for entries judged outstanding in each age category will be announced to finalists.

### **Exhibition**

All entrants grant the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council permission to reproduce the artwork for public display at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden between December 2026 – January 2027. Finalists will have their artwork and student

statements incorporated into an outdoor gallery walk to be viewed throughout the summer school holiday period. All artworks must remain on display for the duration of the exhibition.

### Privacy

In public display, entrants will be identified by their first name and age only, unless otherwise notified in writing by the entrant's caregiver.

### Copyright

The student must be the sole author and owner of the copyright for the artwork entered.

The Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council reserve the right to keep all image files of artworks entered in the Wild HeART Student Art Prize for the purpose of documentation and promotion. Winners grant a non-exclusive licence to the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council to reproduce their work in material form, to photograph, publish and/or communicate it to the public for prize-related purposes and anything incidental to such purposes. This licence includes marketing, publicity, educational and publication uses for the gallery, the prize and its exhibition in all media, including (but not limited to) electronic/digital, broadcasting and print media, in perpetuity.

### Interpretation of Rules

In the event of a dispute regarding the interpretation of the rules and conditions, the decision of the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council shall be binding on all parties.

The decision made by the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council to accept a student as eligible to proceed to the next stage of the Student Art Prize is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### DISCLAIMER

- *The Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council accepts no responsibility for inability or failure to submit by the final date.*
- *The Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council will not be responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers, providers, computer equipment, software, traffic congestion on the Internet etc. including (but not limited to) any injury or damage to participants or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in or downloading any materials in this program.*
- *If for any reason the Wild HeART program is unable to run as planned including causes beyond the control of the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council, the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council may at its sole discretion cancel, suspend or modify the program at any time without notice.*
- *The participant agrees to indemnify the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council against any loss or damages caused by a cancellation, suspension, modification or withdrawal of the Wild HeART program.*
- *These terms and conditions may be altered where necessary, and any changes will be notified on the Wild HeART webpage.*

- *Although every effort will be made to ensure Wild HeART correspondence is sent to the contact details submitted on the entry form, the Wild HeART Working Group and Sunshine Coast Council takes no responsibility for lost or misdirected items not received by entrants.*

**Questions or concerns, please contact:**

Environmental Visitor Centres (attn. Wild HeART Student Art Prize)

Email: [evc@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:evc@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Phone: (07) 5494 3023

