

DRAFT Media Statement

29 November 2016

Ports North Environment Award winners announced

Field studies on local freshwater and estuarine water systems were central to the entries in the Ports North Environmental Awards for 2016.

Six entries from Babinda SHS, Redlynch State College and Cairns SHS took part this year with all projects of an excellent standard.

“It is always a difficult process making the final call on a winner and all entries were indeed a testament to the quality of the students and their educators,” Ports North Chairman Russell Beer said.

This year’s winning presentation was from Katelyn Erwood, a Year 12 Babinda SS student, who will receive a \$1000 bursary for her outstanding research presentation on comparison and analysis of water quality of Babinda Creek and The Babinda Boulders and her well-considered recommendations on long-term environmental effects to the catchment.

Since 1994, Ports North has been supporting the Business Liaison Association in its endeavour to bridge the gap between school leavers and the business community. In 2002, it began sponsoring the environment awards.

The awards are open to all senior science school students in the Far North Queensland region from Tully to Thursday Island. The theme is Protecting Our Environment, and requires students to carry out a field study of an estuarine or fresh water system at their local creek or river under the guidance of their teacher.

The aim of the awards is to:

- foster a greater awareness of issues effecting the local and regional coastal environment;
- promote and encourage careers within the environmental and science industries; and
- give students experience in collecting samples and analysing environmental subject matter.

The 2016 entries examined water quality at sites within Babinda and Freshwater Creeks and made recommendations for local management as well as the broader context of the contribution to the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

“This year’s students must all be congratulated for the considerable work they put into these entries, and for their understanding of water catchment issues,” Mr Beer said. “The students showed a great maturity towards their subject.”

Winning entries were

1st Prize: \$1000 - Katelyn Erwood, Babinda P-12 SS

2nd Prize \$700 - Ruby Birch, Babinda P-12 SS

Encouragement Awards

\$400 - Geomel Kramer, Cairns SHS

\$400 - Fletcher Delcanho, Redlynch State College

The students will receive their awards at the BLA Presentation Evening to be held on the 30th November at the Pullman Reef Casino Hotel.

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