QUEENSLAND MUSEUM
PRESENTS

World Science Festival Brisbane

The Hatchery Crusaders' 2020 FINALISTS

In 2020 World Science Festival Brisbane asked teachers and students to explore key questions around the conservation of sea turtles. Then in groups students produced an installation or a piece of artwork using plastics collected from local waterways, aiming to raise awareness about marine pollution.

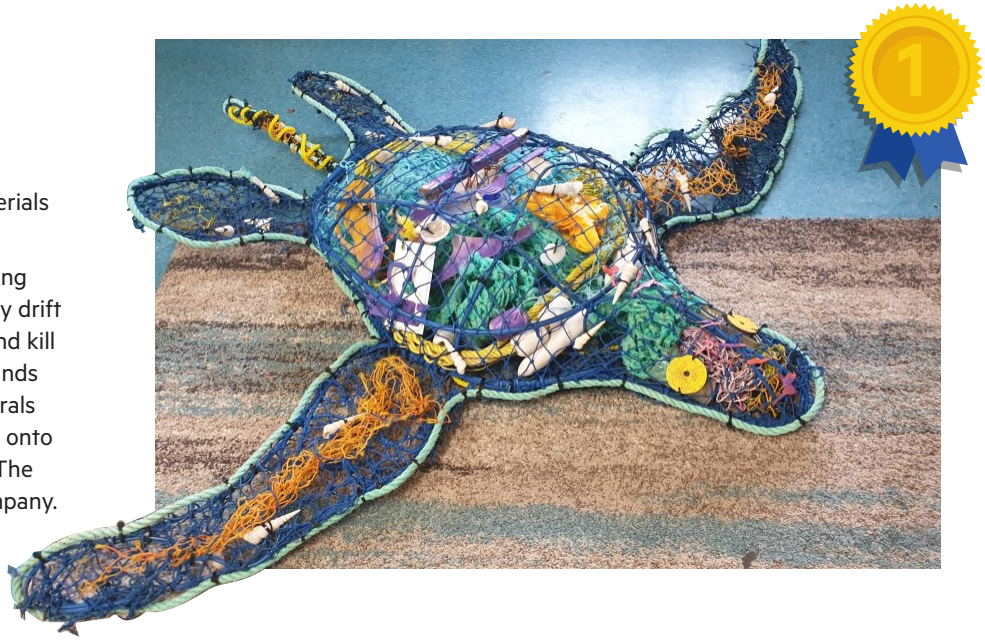
Judges chose 5 finalist pieces from 40 entries, and of those finalists we are delighted to announce the winner and highly commended entrants.

WINNER:
Pormpuraaw State School

Olive Ridley Ghost Net Sculpture

This sculpture is made from recycled materials and ghost net.

Ghost Net is our term for commercial fishing nets illegally abandoned into the sea. They drift with the currents and continue to catch and kill fish, sea turtles, whales and many other kinds of sea life. They often sink, smothering corals and seabeds. Some of these nets wash up onto our beaches where rangers collect them. The cables are scrap from the local power company. Downed lines caused by cyclone Nora in 2018 are also used. The turtle is stuffed with litter found on our beaches.



2nd Place:
Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

The Uncomforter

This thought provoking patchwork blanket (comforter) is covered in found rubbish. It is designed to make a visual impact, start a conversation, make people feel just that bit uncomfortable so that they are driven to action. We hope to bring the viewers' attention to the uncomfortable reality of the blanket of rubbish that is currently smothering our ocean in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This semester year three students have been working hard cleaning up our beaches in the effort to save our environment and protect precious animals. Some Saint Patrick's students took part in a ReefClean beach clean up day where we collected scientific data and among other things helped collect and properly dispose of 837 cigarette butts off one local beach in one day. The students are all super excited about the lifesaving impact we are having on our beautiful ocean creatures.

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Equal 3rd Place:

Homeschool Zane Slaman

Our Plastic Footprint

Leave nothing but footprints…

We are often reminded about this at national parks and beaches; however, will our plastic footprint outlast us? Our plastic footprint measures how much plastic our lifestyle contributes to the worldwide trash pile. According to scientists, plastics can take up to 500 years to break down. Annually, over 100,000 marine creatures die from plastic entanglement or ingesting microplastics. Our small daily changes can have a big impact on hundreds of marine creatures. By reducing our plastic footprint, we simultaneously reduce our carbon footprint.

Aiming for cleaner oceans will help sustain future generations.

Charters Towers School of Distance Education

The Great Plastic Reef

Our artwork represents how the plastic that finds its way into our ocean is accumulating and becoming part of the marine ecosystem. The food chain depicted here begins and ends with plastic. As the smaller fish consume plastic, and other creatures consume them, plastic can work its way up the food chain ultimately becoming an apex predator… it can kill even the biggest creatures in the sea.

Caboulture Montessori School

A Smack of Jellyfish

The installation is comprised of found beach rubbish, single use items and other found objects. A total of 15 students aged between 9 years old and 12 years old made this installation from the Caboolture Montessori School, 3C Otters class. Several weeks ago our class went and saw an art exhibition called “A Haute Mess” by Marina DeBris that was a comment on plastic pollution found on beaches. Our class was so inspired by this exhibition that we did a small beach clean on Bribie Island and used these found materials to create a smack of jellyfish.

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