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## MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Fabulous Photo Finalists Announced for the  
Australian Child Photographers of the Year for 2008  
National Public Viewing and Voting for the People's Choice Awards opens  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at Sydney Aquarium and online at [www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com](http://www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com)**

**The Aussie Kids Photo Festival - we can now see the world through children's eyes.**

**SYDNEY, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008:** Today the Aussie Kids Photo Festival announced the 36 fabulous photo finalists in the running to be named the next Australian CHILD & YOUTH Photographers of the Year for 2008. The national public is invited to view and vote for the People's Choice awards. An exhibition at Sydney Aquarium will open on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April and runs until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008, coinciding with the on-line exhibition at [www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com](http://www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com). The Australian public is encouraged to vote for their favourite photo in both age groups.

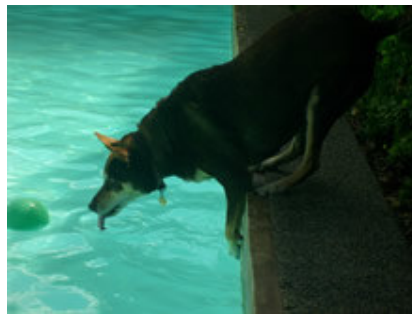
The 36 category finalists include children from all Australian states and territories except for Tasmania and were selected from the over 1500 photo entries received nationally.

The individual finalists for the public to choose from for the Peoples Choice Award are :-

### Category - Animals (Ages 3-7)



1st Place Animals by Chelsea Elder  
age 6 of Blackburn North VIC



2nd Place Animals by Karabella  
Cattanach age 7 of Wagga Wagga  
NSW



3rd Place Animals by Eloise Reddy  
age 6 of Bronte NSW

**\*\* Please CTRL+CLICK images to view high resolution files for media use  
The Aussie Kids Photo Festival - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 – For Immediate Release**

### Category - Animals (Ages 8-12)



1st Place Animals by Summer Cutmore age 8 of Albany Creek QLD

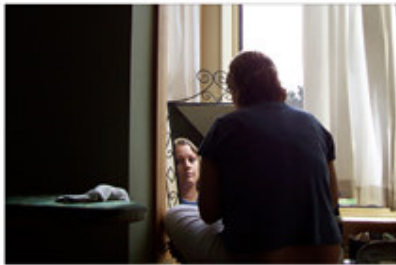


2nd Place Animals by Bryce Lavery-Jacko age 10 of Annandale NSW



3rd Place Animals by Denby Harding age 12 of Bargara QLD

### Category - Friends & Family (Ages 3-7)



1st Place Friends & Family by Jaydon Curry age 5 of Wagga Wagga NSW



2nd Place Friends & Family by Isaac Jaronsinski age 4 QLD

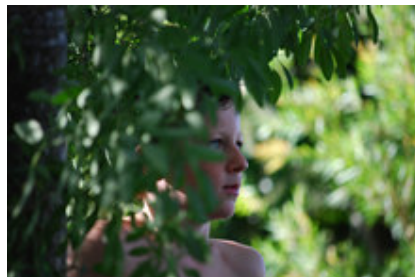


3rd Place Friends & Family by Quinn Hurt age 5 of Wanniasa ACT

### Category - Friends & Family (Ages 8-12)



1st Place Friends & Family by Jake Donovan-Parker age 12 of Ballina NSW



2nd Place Friends & Family by Georgia Sweeny age 10 of McDowall QLD

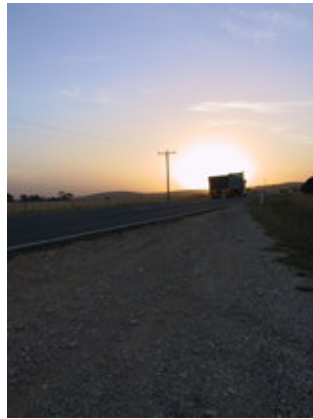


3rd Place Friends & Family by Hayleigh Kopoulosage age 11 of Burwood NSW

## Category - Landscape (Ages 3-7)



1st Place Landscape by Birren Slabb  
age 3 of Fingal Head NSW



2nd Place Landscape by Nikita  
Jarosinski age 6 of Kurunjang VIC



3rd Place Landscape by Chelsea  
Elder age 6 of Blackburn North VIC

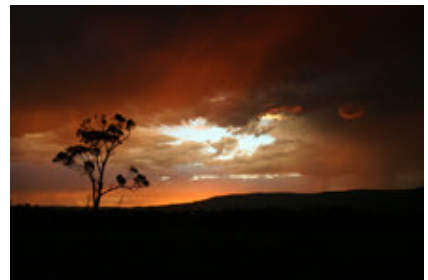
## Category - Landscape (Ages 8-12)



1st Place Landscape by Birren Slabb  
age 3 of Fingal Head NSW



2nd Place Landscape by Cayden  
Purdie age 12 of Brisbane QLD

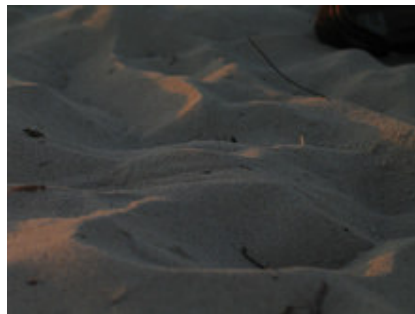


3rd Place Landscape by Nathan  
Alexander Brown age 9 of  
Cambewarra NSW

## Category - My Favourite Photo (Ages 3-7)



1st Place My Favourite by Eloise  
Reddy age 6 of Bronte NSW



2nd Place My Favourite by Ethan  
Simon age 3 of Daw Park SA



3rd Place My Favourite Photo by  
Rose Kudlicki age 5 of North Fitzroy  
VIC

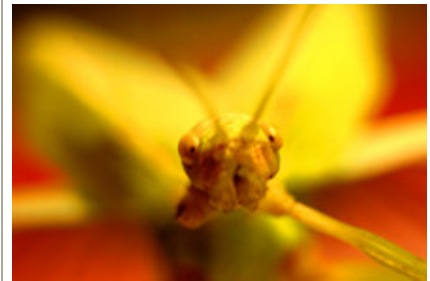
### Category - My Favourite Photo (Ages 8-12)



1st Place My Favourite by Georgia O'Neill age 12 of Casuarina Beach NSW



2nd Place My Favourite by Dean Selem age 8 of Warners Bay NSW



3rd Place My Favourite Photo by Alexander McLarty age 8 of Chatswood NSW

### Category - Play & Action (Ages 3-7)



1st Place Play & Action by Kurt Simon age 5 of Nightcliff NT

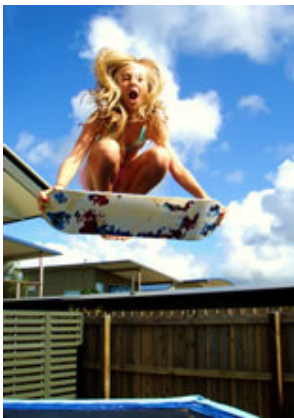


2nd Place Play & Action by Latiesha age 4 of Kingscliff NSW



3rd Place Play & Action by Eloise Reddy age 6 of Bronte NSW

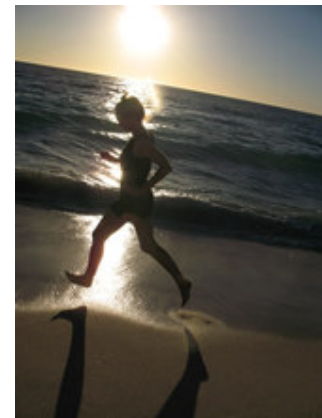
### Category - Play & Action (Ages 8-12)



1st Place Play & Action by Georgia O'Neill age 12 of Casuarina Beach NSW



2nd Place Play & Action by Jaymee Purdie age 10 of Brisbane QLD



3rd Place Play & Action by Billy Delaney age 11 of Wembley WA

## Category - Self Portrait (Ages 3-7)



1st Place Self Portrait by Harry Baral  
age 3 of Lindfield NSW

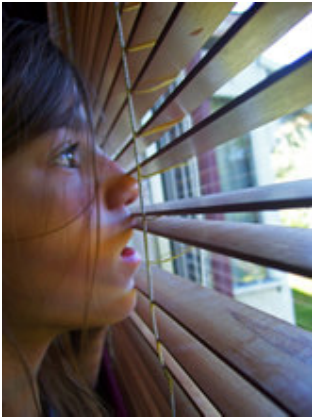


2nd Place Self Portrait by Latiesha  
age 4 of Kingscliff NSW



3rd Place Self Portrait by Rose  
Kudlicki age 5 of North Fitzroy VIC

## Category - Self Portrait (Ages 8-12)



1st Place Self Portrait by Hayleigh  
Kopoulous age 11 of Burwood NSW



2nd Place Self Portrait by Alexander  
McLarty age 8 of Chatswood NSW



3rd Place Self Portrait by Tristan  
Langford age 10 of Buderim QLD

A panel of celebrity judges and award-winning photographers had the difficult task of choosing the 36 finalists from the entries.

The judging panel included: **Fast Ed Halmagyi** – Father & celebrity chef of Better Homes & Garden TV, **Kristie Phelan** - Mother & Creative Director of Nickelodeon Networks, **Jane Evans** - Mother & international award-winning art director and film writer, **Julia Vargiu** – Mother & Festival Co-Founder, **Rex Dupain** – Father & legendary Australian iconic photographer, **Scott Hillier** – Father, Oscar Winning Cinematographer & Festival Co-Founder, **Stuart MacLeod** – National Geographic Producer and **Tara Moss** – Best selling crime writer

**Festival Co-Founder Julia Vargiu** said, "The images we received this year were even more beautiful and breathtaking than we ever expected. The judges found it an honour to select from such obvious talent. One judge said that the Festival will no doubt groom some of Australia's best future photographers. Many of the children who entered again from last year had greatly improved their understanding of a portfolio. Instead of entering six great shots, they specifically crafted a portfolio for the Festival with real style and photographic ability to tell a story. One of the goals of the festival is to get kids off the couch. Many parents loved seeing their young children take their first creative steps in photography."

At a special ceremony on 2 May 2008 at the Reef Theatre in Sydney Aquarium, over 40 awards will be presented. All finalists will receive prizes from SpongeBob SquarePants during his first ever visit to the Sydney Aquarium. The Australian CHILD & YOUTH Photographers of the Year and the People's Choice Awards will be named by Nickelodeon Australia's hosts Kyle & Maude! Winners will also appear on Nickelodeon.

**\*\* Please CTRL+CLICK images to view high resolution files for media use**  
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There are heaps of thrilling prizes to be won from supporters – Fuji digital cameras & photo printing, Microsoft Xbox360s & newly released Zunes, Hasbro games and toys, passes to Sydney Aquarium & Sydney Wildlife World and more.

FUJIFILM Australia Senior Category Manager Matt Dole said, “The Aussie Kids Photo Festival is a very worthwhile event. We’re happy to support plans that introduce kids to the magic of photography.”

## About the Aussie Kids Photo Festival

The Aussie Kids Photo Festival was founded to encourage children to capture the world from their unique point of view and to explore their artistic side. Every child thinks, feels and sees the world in their own unique way and through participation in the Aussie Kids Photo Festival their imaginative expression can now be both preserved and shared for the enjoyment of everyone in the community. This forum will add a new dimension to the observation of life in Australia and provide real insight into understanding the emotions and perspectives of growing children. Our goal is to give your kids the great feeling of achievement that comes from having their talents exhibited to the public - and of course to support them as they scratch their creative itches!

Submission requirements for the Festival were left wide open, to allow as many entries as possible. Children’s photos could be taken in any format, including digital cameras, camera phones, disposable cameras, or any other photo format. Those photos were submitted electronically to the Festival website at [www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com](http://www.aussiekidsphotofestival.com).

## Media Information and Interviews

Contact Julia Vargiu, 0408 860 471, [jvargiu@newbusiness.com.au](mailto:jvargiu@newbusiness.com.au)

All children finalists are available to have pictures taken of them with their cameras. To arrange a photo shoot or for the list of parents to contact in your state please contact Julia.

The complete collection of this year finalists photographers as well as last year’s photographs and winners, in addition to those shown below, are available in **high resolution** for download and publication. Please visit <http://www.ozmedia.com/AKPF08> or simply CTRL+CLICK the images shown above.

**Where possible we would greatly appreciate your efforts to credit the young photographers for their work.**