

Fourth annual Shorebirds Competition for primary students in Australia goes live

The annual Shorebirds Competition for primary students is being offered nationally again in 2021 with a new theme that features shorebirds in their wetland habitats. This Competition aims to educate young citizens and their families about shorebirds and raise community awareness of the birds and their important habitats across Australia.

The Shorebirds Competition is an annual poster competition started in 2018 and initially focused on Botany Bay, in Sydney. The following year it was expanded to include schools in Greater Sydney and Melbourne. In 2020 the competition was offered nationally for the first time, with students from 85 postcodes across Australia and over 100 classes participating.

Students in 2021 can participate with their class or enter as individuals. They are invited to create an ecotourism poster for a local wetland or coastal area (or one in their State or Territory) that provides a habitat for shorebirds. Their poster must include an accurate depiction of a migratory or resident shorebird in the natural environment as well as a message in under 30 words. Students are being asked to show *why* the area and its shorebirds are worthy of our protection.

ANSTO is one of Australia's premiere scientific research organisations committed to environmental research and community education. To help teachers incorporate the activity into their lessons, ANSTO provides free comprehensive lesson plans linked to the Australian Curriculum for science and geography/sustainability. For individual participants, background information on shorebirds and wetlands is also provided.

There are great prizes to the value of more than \$4000 for winning schools and students. The competition closes on Friday, 6 August 2021. Winners will be announced on World Shorebirds Day, Monday, 6 September 2021.

It is with pleasure that the AWSG endorse this effort to improve awareness of shorebirds and their habitats. Enquiries can be directed to competition@ansto.gov.au

For more details:

<https://www.ansto.gov.au/education/secondary/competitions/shorebirds-competition-2021>

Detail from a winning entry, Shorebirds Competition 2020.

