



Wednesday, 19 August 2009

### **Eureka Science Award winners show off NSW's clever, green status**

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, has congratulated the winners of this year's Australian Museum Eureka Prizes.

The winners were announced by Premier Nathan Rees in a ceremony at the Royal Hall of Industries in Sydney last night.

Ms Tebbutt said it was especially pleasing to note the strong representation of NSW recipients among this year's award winners.

"NSW is acknowledged as Australia's clever, green State, and the number of NSW winners among this year's awards, as well as the strength of their work, confirms our leading role in environment, science and medical research," Ms Tebbutt said.

NSW winners include:

- Macquarie University's Dr Paul Begg received the Eureka Prize for Medical Research for his work on the impact of climate change on allergens.
- University of New South Wales' Professor Brett Neilen's won the Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation for his world-class research into identifying toxins in waterways.
- Professor Justin Gooding of the University of New South Wales won the Eureka Prize for Scientific Research for his pioneering research into biosensors, which are portable devices that have many applications in health and environmental testing.
- Year 1 class at St Therese Primary School in Mascot, Sydney, won the Eureka Prize for Primary Students for their video explaining how the heart works, inspired by their fellow student, who has restrictive cardio myopathy.
- Sydney Morning Herald journalist Marian Wilkinson and an ABC TV crew that ventured to the Arctic to document the potentially devastating impact of climate change on the summer ice melt won the Eureka Journalism Prize.

Ms Tebbutt said the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, celebrating 20 years this year, were among the most coveted science awards in the country.

"Receiving a Eureka Prize is regarded as a pinnacle achievement among the Australian scientific community," Ms Tebbutt said.

Ms Tebbutt said the NSW Government was a strong supporter of environmental, science and medical research.





# Carmel Tebbutt MP

## Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce



“Our State has a tremendous resource in the research sector, with 11 universities and world-leading researchers in a number of sciences,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“Our Government provides a range of funding initiatives designed to support and build our knowledge sector, provide crucial infrastructure and help leverage competitive Commonwealth and international funds.

“The NSW Government recently hosted a University Business Government Forum to foster stronger cross sectoral collaboration in research that addressed priority areas for our State.

“As part of that Forum the Premier announced a \$5 million Energy Challenge prize to reward the best technological breakthrough which transitions NSW to a state which is a national and international leader in clean energy.

“These initiatives, along with the hard work of our State’s knowledge and research sector, are helping to position us as a leader in important environmental, scientific and medical research.”

***For media inquiries contact: Patrick Keneally 0431 743 212***

