

A new kind of 'hotel' for Subiaco

In a WA first, the City of Subiaco and the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at The University of Western Australia (UWA) have combined forces to create public art in the form of 'insect hotels' – structures used to provide a nesting site for insects.

The innovative biodiversity project, which is currently in its design phase, aims to investigate, design, build, install and monitor insect hotels in Subiaco as a way to protect, enhance and monitor wildlife, as well as provide inspired public art opportunities.

As part of a first year Visual Arts broadening unit, UWA students from different disciplines were asked to explore and artistically interpret the form of local insects in the design of monuments or sculptures that will inform the future development of the insect hotels.

Local artist and adjunct lecturer at UWA, Stephanie Reisch, said the initiative has excited the imagination of the students, who were required to employ creative problem-solving techniques to build models that were inspired by local biodiversity.

Ms Reisch said: "This was a perfect opportunity for students to learn that with making art comes real responsibility, particularly in the area of public art, which plays such a pivotal role in activating and revitalising the connections between people and their environment."

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson presented awards for outstanding designs at the opening night of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts' Mid Year Exhibition at the Cullity Gallery on Friday 20 June.

Mayor Henderson said she was amazed at the students' ability to adapt the concept of insect habitats into an art form.

"There was such a diverse range of interpretations. Some of the designs were made of wood, some steel and others plastic. I was surprised to find out that many of the students are not even studying art, as they are all so talented."

The overall winner, Timothy Delaney, has also been invited to participate in an internship with the city, to assist with moving the project through its next stages.

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Photo

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson and UWA student Timothy Delaney with his winning design.

Notes to Editor

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes the suburbs of Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities, to more than 19 000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit **www.subiaco.wa.gov.au**