



STUNNING PHOTOS CAPTURE LOCAL NATURAL WONDER

A spectacular display of photos taken of the Gwydir wetlands in flood is in Ashford and Warialda in March and April as part of a travelling roadshow around the north-west.

The exhibition, titled “Waterbirds return as the Gwydir floods” is a collection of stunning photographs that capture the large-scale waterbird breeding event that occurred in the Gwydir wetlands, west of Moree, during the 2011-12 flood.

Curator and photographer Daryl Albertson, a Senior Wetlands Conservation Officer with the Office of Environment and Heritage said that the travelling photo exhibition was an excellent way of showing people the beauty of the Gwydir wetlands.

“We are so lucky to have such a healthy wetland right on our doorstep, and whilst the Gwydir Wetlands suffered through the drought, these photos show just how quickly it can come back to life when the floods arrive. It’s a real boom and bust cycle.

“When the floods arrive at the wetlands the whole place comes alive; wetland plants flower and seed, frogs and fish start breeding and the scene is set for this amazing burst of resources that provides the ideal nesting and breeding conditions for thousands of waterbirds.

“Sometimes the floodwater doesn’t last long enough to carry the waterbird chicks through to fledgling stage, so that’s when we can step in and deliver some of our environmental water to prolong the wet conditions. This enables the chicks to feed up and get to the stage where they’re strong enough to fly.

“The timing, delivery and monitoring of the environmental water releases are done in close consultation with wetland landholders, water managers and the local Environmental Water Advisory Group, so it’s a real team effort to get this next generation of young waterbirds ‘off the ground’ so to speak.

“The images captured in the exhibition feature the amazing images of photographers Paul Bayne and Joshua Smith, with a couple of my own as well,” Mr Albertson said.

The exhibition is travelling around north-western NSW for most of this year and schools and the general public are invited to attend when it comes to town.

The exhibition is currently on show at the Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council before it moves onto the Warialda Ceramic Break Sculpture park in early April.

For a taste of the extraordinary photos in the exhibition check the flickr site:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48646673@N07/sets/72157641443712195/>

Media Enquiries: Jacki Roberts 6841 0946

24hour Media Line 02 9995 5347
<http://twitter.com/OEHmedia>
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Report pollution and environmental incidents
Phone Environment Line on 131 555 (NSW only)
TTY - 133 677
Email info@environment.nsw.gov.au