

## Competition Information - Shorebirds in Botany Bay

Open to Stage 2 and 3 students of local primary schools

### Purpose

The competition aims to raise awareness of the plight of endangered shorebirds in Botany Bay and local habitats that are important for shorebirds and other organisms.

The competition supports the initiative taken by the Sutherland Shire Council in promoting shorebirds along their recently constructed shared pathway in Woolooware Bay, on the southern shore of Botany Bay.

The competition also supports and coincides with an exhibition by 8 local artists at Hazelhurst Arts Centre entitled "*The Overwintering Project: Bound for Botany Bay*", that runs from 8 to 18 September.

### Procedure

To be eligible, entries must include an original artwork (drawing or painting) of a shorebird that is found in Botany Bay. Two interesting facts about the bird must also be provided and a threat identified. The work submitted must be that of the student whose name is provided on the entry.

Use the entry form provided. Artworks can be created on a separate piece of white A4 paper, with entry form glued to the back.

For each class, we request that teachers pre-select and submit up to 3 student entries of their choosing only.

Entries must be mailed to the address provided below by the closing date.

**Deadline for competition: Extended to Friday 26 October 2018**

Mailing address: Shorebirds Competition  
c/o ANSTO Discovery Centre,  
New Illawarra Road,  
LUCAS HEIGHTS NSW 2234

Enquiries: [competition@ansto.gov.au](mailto:competition@ansto.gov.au)

## Prizes - proudly sponsored by ANSTO

<b>1st Prize – Stage 2</b> -\$100 gift card for student -ANSTO Shorebird Science Incursion for class -Science resources for school up the value of \$1000	<b>2nd Prize – Stage 2</b> -\$50 gift card for student - ANSTO Shorebird Science Incursion for class -Science resources for school up the value of \$500
<b>1st Prize – Stage 3</b> -\$100 gift card for student -ANSTO Shorebird Science Incursion for class -Science resources for school up the value of \$1000	<b>2nd Prize – Stage 3</b> -\$50 gift card for student - ANSTO Shorebird Science Incursion for class -Science resources for school up the value of \$500

## Competition terms

- The winning entries will be judged by a panel consisting of local artists and ANSTO staff.
- The winning entries will be announced on the ANSTO website on Tuesday 16 October 2018 and the schools notified by phone.
- ANSTO reserves the right to display the entries on its website and via social media.
- Entry forms will not be returned.
- The decisions made by the judging panel will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Prizes must be redeemed by the last day of school 2018.

## Background Information

Shorebirds (also called “waders”) are a group of birds that wade in shallow water and look for food on coastal mudflats, estuaries and along the edges of inland wetlands. They make up about 10% of Australia’s bird species and are highly vulnerable to human disturbance (e.g. from domestic animals, vehicles, people and coastal development). Shorebirds are comprised of plovers, oystercatchers, lapwings, sandpipers, stints, stilts, snipe, curlews, knots and godwits.

Botany Bay is a vital habitat for shorebirds. Some are local shorebirds (also called resident shorebirds) that live all year in the bay, such as the endangered Pied Oystercatcher and Little Tern. Most shorebirds in Botany Bay are migratory birds that fly 11,000 km, from the northern hemisphere, to “overwinter” on our shores from September to May each year. The route they travel is called the *East Asian-Australasian Flyway*.

Over 30 kinds of migratory shorebirds visit Woollooware Bay and Towra Point Nature Reserve in Botany Bay each year, but many are in serious decline. Four of these shorebirds are listed as endangered and ten are listed as vulnerable. As migratory shorebirds are protected under international agreements, Australia has an obligation to protect shorebird habitats to ensure the long-term survival of these birds.

In April 2018 the Sutherland Shire Council opened a shared pedestrian/cycle pathway along the foreshores of Woollooware Bay. At a cost of \$6.2 million, they constructed features to help protect shorebirds such as an artificial sand island 125m offshore and screens to shield the birds from pedestrian and cyclists at key locations. Information boards were also installed to raise public awareness of shorebirds found in the area.

Names of shorebirds found in Botany Bay include: Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover, Red Knot, Red-necked Stints, Pied Oystercatcher and Little Tern.

## Other dates for general interest:

World Shorebirds Day - 6 September 2018

World Migratory Bird Day - 13 October 2018