

Media release

5 January 2023

Grand opening of the Maugean Skate Art Exhibition (SKATEx)

Details:

Grand opening of SKATEx
2:00 pm Saturday 14 January 2023
Strahan Primary School Hall

The inaugural SKATEx Maugean Skate Art Exhibition is being officially opened at 2pm Saturday 14 January at Strahan Primary School.

Artists from across Tasmania were invited to create their own skate-inspired art to help raise the profile of the endangered Maugean Skate and the challenges it faces. This event is being run by Cradle Coast NRM as part of the Maugean Skate Awareness Project, supported through funding from the Australian Government.

Cradle Coast NRM have received 74 entries for SKATEx across a huge diversity of art mediums including paintings on canvas, pastel and pencil drawings, sculptured skates from native timber and recycled steel, skates crafted from felt and vintage woollen blankets as well as skates made from materials found along the coastline such as driftwood, glass and pieces of marine debris. The exhibition also includes delicate jewellery pieces made from silver and polymer clay, and entries from Strahan Primary School students.

An expert panel of art-savvy volunteer judges met today to cast their eyes over the collection and provide their commendations and comments on the diverse artworks.

If you can't get to Strahan next Saturday, you can still enjoy the exhibition by viewing the virtual exhibition online at maugeanskate.au. Everyone can have their say in the 'People's Choice Award' on the CCNRM Facebook page.

Prizes will be awarded for the exceptional entries followed by an afternoon tea.

Please RSVP to attend the opening to admin@cradlecoast.com by Wednesday 11 January 2023.

Project Manager Ben Correy has been blown away by the community support for the exhibition and the standard and diversity of art received.

"The calibre of the artwork is exceptional and it is clear that the Maugean Skate has really captivated the community. These incredible fish have been portrayed in so many clever and diverse ways and the amount of time and effort invested in the art is quite amazing." said Ben.

Maugean Skates are Tasmania's largest endemic fish and also one of the state's most endangered marine species. These ancient Gondwanan relicts live only in the tannin-stained waters of Macquarie Harbour on the West Coast of Tasmania where they have resided for countless generations.

For more information, see maugeanskate.au

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CCA is jointly owned by eight councils of western and north-western tasmania, to help them achieve regional outcomes and maintain strong local government, by working together.



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Photograph:



Judges view the artwork in Burnie before it is taken to Strahan for SKATEX

Media contacts are invited to view the artworks at the Cradle Coast Authority building in Burnie up to Tuesday 10 January. Please contact Ben to arrange a visit.

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