



**Media release**

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## **School students 'puzzled' by art**

Local artists and school students from across Townsville are joining forces to make a giant jigsaw puzzle, as part of an 'Art in Schools' program.

Artists Kath Cornwell, Madeleine Challender, Alison McDonald and Leah McManus are helping more than 350 students from 10 primary schools to produce artwork that reflects their view of what is special about their part of the local urban environment.

Once complete, the 'Urban Nature Ecotourism Puzzle Map' will measure approximately 4 metres x 6 metres and will be displayed at the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery from October 30.

Complementary artworks will also be shown at the International Ecotourism Conference at the Southbank Convention Centre from October 30 to November 3.

Acting Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Lifestyle and Community Development Committee, Jack Wilson, said the project provides an innovative outlet for young students to express their thoughts about their local environment.

“As a former art teacher, it's great to see children have the chance to articulate their feelings in such a creative way,” Cr Wilson said.

“It gives them a rare opportunity to learn directly from some of our local artists, as well as gain a greater understanding and sense of ownership of their local surrounds.”

Schools taking part in the project include South Townsville, Belgian Gardens, Currajong, Garbutt, Hermit Park, Annandale State School, Annandale Christian School, Oonoonba, Aitkenvale and Cranbrook.

The project is funded by the Townsville City Council through the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery and Environmental Management Services and is part of the 'Urban Nature – Youth Ecotourism Forum' which will coincide with the International Ecotourism Conference.

**Media Information:** EMS Media Liaison Sara Lando 0406 959 132