

NEWS

JERRAMUNGUP'S 'OLD MAN EMU' MAKES IT TO THE SHOW!

Sylvia Leighton

Not even the wet and windy conditions were going to stop Charlotte Powis from the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group getting a life-sized papier mâché emu into the Albany Show last October! This large creation by school children from Jerramungup and Ongerup was part of the *Land for Wildlife's* papier mâché competition. After a journey in the back of a ute with its head covered in a bucket and a big tarpaulin over its large body, the emu joined 50 other entries (none quite as big) to be judged on accuracy of size, proportion and colour.

The entries were all of a very high standard and ranged from the emu to a house spider, including local animals like the grey kangaroo, Gilberts potoroo, brush tailed possum, tiger snake, dugite,

turtle, racehorse goanna, butterfly, spotted thigh frog, numbat, splendid blue wren, scorpion, bobtail lizard, cockatoo and many other fabulous creations. They were all displayed in a bush setting in the 'Mountains to Coast' marquee and drew much attention from the crowd.

It is really inspiring to see all the effort the kids and teachers put into making their papier mâché animals. It is actually far more time consuming than most people imagine and takes a lot of patience to end up with a final result that looks the right size and shape as the real animal out in our local bush. We wished we could have awarded every entry a prize because they were all so fabulous!

Eleven prizes were awarded and 'Old Man Emu' won a special prize for being the 'Best Community Group Creation'.



'Old Man Emu' guarding his eggs at the Albany Agricultural Show. Photo: S. Leighton