

About

Castaways Sculpture Awards is the City of Rockingham's signature arts event, celebrating environmental awareness through showcasing artworks created from repurposed materials. Both primary and secondary schools within the Rockingham district are invited to submit their designs into the Castaways Schools Exhibition.

Benefits

- Encourages creativity and innovation as students use their imagination to create artworks from recycled materials.
- Promotes environmental awareness and the importance of sustainability through art.
- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills as students navigate the artwork requirements and construction, with the assistance of their teachers.
- Builds confidence and self-esteem in students as they problem-solve and brainstorm, taking pride in their publicly exhibited artwork.
- Allows young people to participate in a regionally-recognised arts program alongside emerging and professional Western Australian artists, giving a strong sense of local and artistic community.

How to Enter

Entries open on Thursday 26 February 2026 and will close at 4pm Thursday 23 April 2026. The entry form is available online at rockingham.wa.gov.au/castaways. Please read the Terms and Conditions carefully.

The entry form will require detailed information of the sculpture, including:

- Artwork title
- Medium or materials used
- Height, width and depth (cm) and approximate weight (kg)
- Detailed description of artwork concept (max 650 characters)
- Image of artwork design or concept
- Method of artwork construction (max 650 characters, not words)
- Description of how artwork will be installed (max 3,000 characters, not words)
- Artist statement (to be printed in the Castaways catalogue, max 200 characters)
- Copy of school's public liability insurance
- Details of vehicle delivering the artwork (registration, driver name and mobile number)

***Please note that the max character count includes spaces, individual letters and punctuation. It is not a word count.**

Selection Criteria

A panel will select artworks to be exhibited based on the following selection criteria:

- Students' level of participation in the concept and design of the artwork.
- Thoughtful and creative use of recycled and repurposed components.
- Clear and detailed concept design.
- Succinct description of work.
- Succinct construction and installation information, including how the work is secured.

- Overall strength of vision and concept.
- Consideration of public safety and interaction.

Awards and Judging Criteria

- Three awards for schools:
 - **\$500 Primary School Award:** Awarded to the primary school that demonstrates overall excellence in sculpture through the use of recycled materials in an innovative way.
 - **\$500 Secondary School Award:** Awarded to the secondary school that demonstrates overall excellence in sculpture through the use of recycled materials in an innovative way.
 - **\$250 People's Choice Award - Schools Exhibition:** Presented to the school whose work receives the most votes from members of the public.
- Judges will consider:
 - Idea or concept, how it has been refined and developed, and creativity.
 - Responsive use of material and how well the construction is fabricated.
 - Hidden or less obvious symbols creating a sense of wonder or discovery.
 - Scale and position of artwork and how the public views the work.
 - Artist statement about the work.
 - Materials, techniques and processes used to create artwork.
 - Impact and engagement with the public.
 - Whether it is tactile and the use of textures, contrasts and colour.

Teacher Support

In 2026, two Castaways Schools Facilitators will be available to:

- Provide technical guidance as required.
- Act as a single point of contact for teachers.
- Assist in seeking an Artist in Residence at the school's expense.

Need assistance while preparing for your entry submission?

Whether its questions about the application process or guidance on your artwork, don't hesitate to contact the Schools Facilitators. Their contact details can be found at the end of document.

Design Process – Tips from the Schools Facilitators

Brainstorming and Inspiration

- Inspiration for the artwork may come from materials, the site or environment, humour or a pun, or deeper meaning to create thought and conversation.
- Look through the previous years' school artworks for inspiration. The 2025 Castaways catalogue can be found at rockingham.wa.gov.au/castaways or you can look up #Castaways2025 for photos on social media.
- School artworks will be displayed behind short fencing, about 1m away from artworks. This means the audience will not be able to stand right next to the artwork or touch it. When planning your artwork, please consider the following:
 - Are important details large and clear enough to be seen?
 - Does scale, colour or layout need to be adjusted?

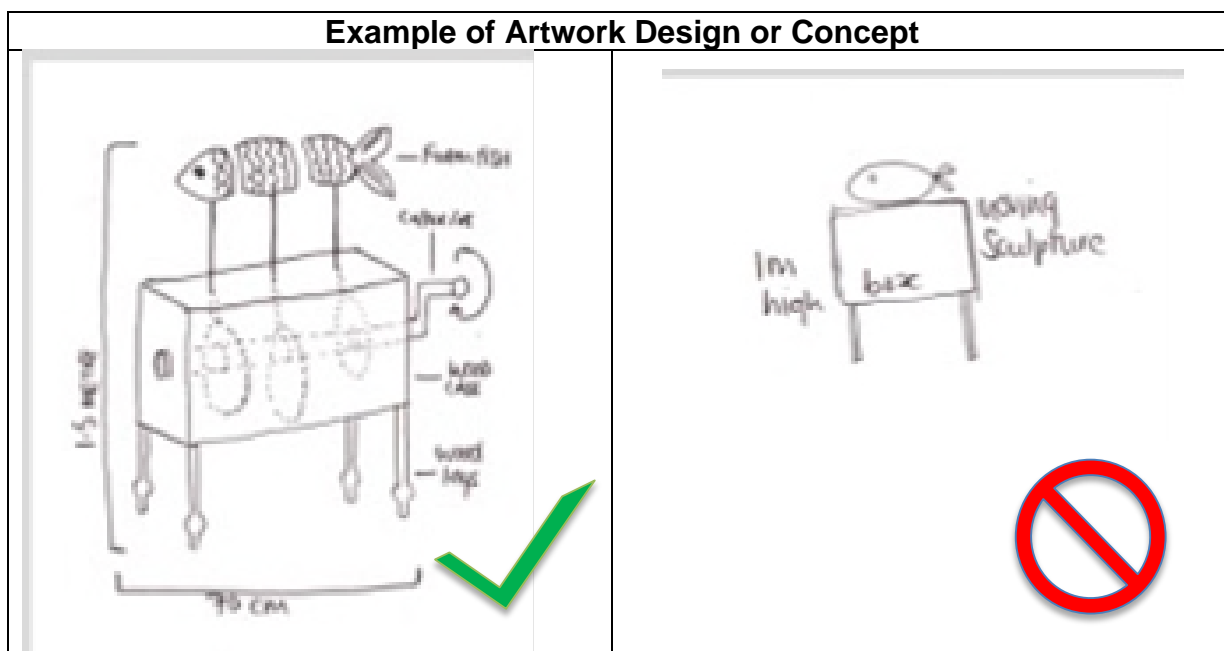
- Are there textures or small details that may be lost from a distance?
 - Can placement of key features help guide the viewer's eye?
- Consider how the sculpture fits into the coastal environment and use the location as a reference.
 - Does the artwork use outdoor elements, e.g. sun reflecting colours and light through the work, wind producing sound, or does it connect to the earth or grass?
- Does the artwork have a message for the audience to stop and think about?
 - Does it promote an environmental message?
 - Is the artwork commenting on a social issue or community concern?
 - Is there a theme of hope, resilience, or connection you want the audience to feel?

Design or Concept Sketch

Be clear and detailed in the artwork sketch and written descriptions

- Include in your design:
 - How elements of the sculpture are secured. Screwed, tied, glued?
 - How sharp elements will be addressed, e.g. turning the sharp edges of chicken wire inwards.
 - Correct size of artwork (max. 1m x 1m at base and 2m in height).
- For safety purposes, don't include:
 - Sharp elements at eye height for children or adults.
 - Loose elements such as sand or litter.
 - Hanging elements longer than 2cm.
 - Works over 1m x 1m square in size and 2m height will not be accepted.
 - Tip: Works at low height are likely to be walked on by visitors, causing daily damage which will need to be repaired by the teacher.
- Sometimes in the conceptual stage of an artwork, ideas and materials may change. The details of these changes must be forwarded to the Curator and Schools Facilitators for review.

Example of Artwork Design or Concept



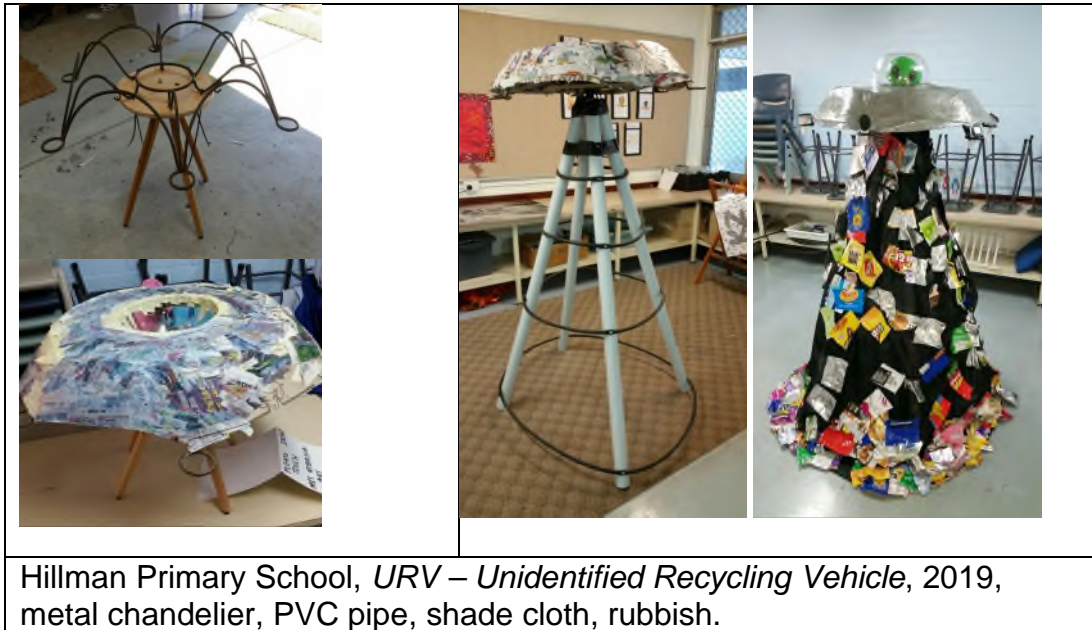
Method of Installation and Construction

- It is important to include in the initial submission the method of installation and construction of the artwork including armatures, fixings and materials.
- Any doubt that the Curator has with the structural integrity of the artwork will be discussed with the teacher. This allows the teacher to make appropriate changes to the design prior to the selection process taking place.

Fabrication of Artwork

Once a concept has been decided upon, think of the engineering and practicalities for making and installing it.

- Footings
 - The Schools Exhibition artworks are installed on the grass area of Churchill Park, consequently the footings of an artwork cannot be dug into the ground.
 - Guy ropes are not allowed as they present tripping hazards.
 - Bases can be pegged down with large tent pegs to increase stability.
- Armatures
 - Armatures need to support the structural integrity of the artwork in wind, rain and interaction by the public.
 - Some stand-alone objects make excellent armatures and materials can be attached to them, for example, an exercise bike.
 - An umbrella stand can work with a pole inserted into the stand. To increase stability, make sure the pole does not wobble and is firmly fixed in the stand, like packing with PVC piping or wooden dowels.
- Materials
 - Materials must be weatherproof and attached securely so they can withstand strong winds.
 - Connecting materials to each other and the armature is very important for ensuring the integrity of the artwork.
 - For larger items, multiple fixing points may be required.
 - Fixings can include: cable ties, pop rivets, wire and metal staples. Avoid using glues as they do not withstand the weather.
 - Some recycled materials which are easy to source and use are: milk bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans (cans cannot have sharp edges and lids must be safe), corflute, plastic bottles and lids.
 - Please note: Logos or branding in whole or in part on your sculpture is not permitted. Please paint over or cover them.
- Weight Distribution
 - Avoid making sculptures top heavy. Keep the heavy items low.



What will be involved for my class and me?

- The creation of one recycled sculpture during Term 2.
- Complete and submit Castaways Sculpture Awards Schools Exhibition Entry Form online on behalf of the school class. Please ensure you have read the Terms and Conditions of entry first.
- Provide a copy of the school's Public Liability Insurance when submitting the Entry Form.
- Facilitate a design process driven by the students.
- Teachers are responsible at all times for the supervision of students during this project.
- Schools will be required to source or collect suitable recycled materials.
- Selected schools will be responsible for the installation of their sculpture on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at Churchill Park, Rockingham and de-installation Monday 2 November 2026, at times advised by the Curator.
- Works must be able to withstand the weather elements including rain, wind and storms, for the duration of the 10-day exhibition.
- School representatives of two teachers and two students will be invited to the Awards Presentation – photo permission forms must be signed (by a parent or guardian of the student) and returned by the RSVP deadline.

Resources

\$100 Reimbursement to School

Each school can apply to be reimbursed \$100 for a representative to attend installation and de-installation. Reimbursements are paid after the Castaways Exhibition and after teachers' feedback forms are submitted to the City – in November. Proof of receipts are not required to receive the reimbursement. Payments will be made to the school, not an individual. The City will be in touch with further details.

Materials

REmida WA is a Perth based company that collects and cleans recyclable materials that can be safely used for art and education settings. REmida offer professional development for teachers and school incursions visit remidawa.com for more information.

Rockingham Beach Cleans has a wide array of salvaged objects from their beach cleaning to donate. Contact rockinghambeachcleans@gmail.com or phone 0400 661 517.

Artist in Residence

Assistance seeking an artist in residence (at the schools' expense) is available for all schools. Contact the Schools Facilitators on the below details for further information.

School Excursions

Schools are encouraged to consider an excursion to the exhibition for participating students. Please contact the City for more information regarding the following.

Bus Reimbursement

The City is offering up to four local primary and secondary schools a reimbursement of \$300 toward bus hire fees.

Guided Tours

A limited number of one-hour guided tours by the Curator or a Castaways Schools Facilitator will also be available for schools. Teachers remain responsible for the safety and wellbeing of students at all times during these excursions.

Castaways Education Activity Sheets

These sheets are available online to facilitate a teacher-led school excursion during the exhibition. Activity sheets have been developed for age groups, 3-7, 8-11 and 12-15 years, informed by Western Australian Curriculum outcomes.

2026 Timeline

Thursday 26 February 2026	Entries open
Thursday 26 February 2026	Information Webinar. Registration is required online.
Thursday 23 April 2026, 4pm	Entries close
By Friday 15 May 2026	Letters of notification are sent by email
Sunday 9 August 2026	High quality photo of accepted artworks (or component of the work) are due for the catalogue to the Curator
Friday 25 September 2026	Final progress update and images of artwork are due to the Curator
Wednesday 21 October 2026	Schools Exhibition artwork installation at Churchill Park
Saturday 24 October 2026	Awards Presentation at the Gary Holland Community Centre
Saturday 24 October 2026 – Sunday 1 November 2026	Castaways Sculpture Awards 2026 Exhibition
Monday 2 November 2026	De-installation

Contact Us

Schools Facilitator – Jacq Chorlton

T: 0406 072 307

E: Jacq@funkydory.com.au

Schools Facilitator – Rachael Lemon

T: 0459 975 145

E: rachael_lemon@outlook.com

Curator – Lyn Di Ciero

T: 0421 376 114

E: art@artistchronicle.com

City of Rockingham

T: 9528 0333

E: customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au

Please use the subject line: Castaways
School Competition – Enquiry – School
Name

For more information, visit rockingham.wa.gov.au/castaways or call 9528 0333.



School of Alternative Learning
Settings, Rockingham, *Rack 'Em Up*,
2025, metal display frame, hard
foam, plastic lids



SMYL Community College – Tesla
Campus, *Bottled Up: When I couldn't
Speak, You Stayed*, 2025, plastic bottle
tops.



Rockingham Beach Primary School, *Peggy the Seabird*, 2025, wire, carpet, fake grass, cans, bottle caps, milk crate, papier mâché.



Safety Bay Primary School, *The 114*, 2025, foam, papier-mâché, plastic bottles, empty threaded CO2 cartridges.