



Tide turns for kids' play space

EMMA HOPE

A CONCRETE courtyard with artwork depicting cowry shells at Kingston Primary School has been voted Tasmania's best public space for 2011.

The work, designed by Peter Battaglione from Watermark Design, was sandblasted into the concrete surface of a courtyard as part of the school's recent redevelopment. It also won a national commendation in the Public Artworks category of the Public Domain Awards, hosted by industry association Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia.

Mr Battaglione said he had designed the piece with that site in mind.

"Because it is in the coastal suburb of Kingston the water theme informed the artwork," he said. "It shows the ripples of the sand dunes and cowry shells exposed by the low tide.

"As it was commissioned for a children's area we wanted it to engage their imagination."

The artwork was described by the awards jury as a "refreshing and innovative demonstration of how creative thinking can drive the transformation of an existing everyday space into a place of real local value and meaning".

Kingston Primary School acting principal Jennie Gouldthorpe said students made great use of the area.

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WATER THEME: Enjoying their new playground are, from left, Nathan Briggs, Keely Dobson and Ella Murray. Picture: NIKKI DAVIS-JONES

Island roo cull starts

Elephant Pass back in business



HELEN KEMPTON

TASMANIA'S Parks and Wildlife Service would look at a range of non-shooting options to control wallaby and kangaroo numbers on Maria Island, and if one proves viable the rifles will be put away.

The annual cull of macropods on the East Coast island began this week and will continue until Sunday.

It is conducted each year to stop the growing population of forester kangaroos, bennetts wallabies and Tasmanian pademelons from becoming sick and dying in summer because of overgrazing, and to stop the island's vegetation being decimated.

Authorities reject vasectomy option

The service has 650 macropods in its sights during this year's cull. The island is closed to the public during the shoot.

The shoot has been criticised by some animal welfare advocates as a "cheap and quick" population control option.

And this week a Wildlife Victoria rescuer claimed macropods were left to die slowly from stomach wounds in 2006 and that this practice continued.

But Parks and Wildlife regional manager for southern Tasmania Ashley Rushton said trained shooters were employed and the cull was backed up by veterinary checks to ensure animals did not suffer.

Mr Rushton said other options such as fencing, the total removal of macropods from the island, sterilisation and the introduction of predators had been examined in the past.

"If a viable plan for the

control of a free-range macropod population on a large island was presented, it would be considered," he said.

"But that does not change the here and now. We have to do something now."

Wildlife Victoria rescuer Sue Anderson was one of a number of volunteers who last year offered their services through the Australian Society for Kangaroos, to perform a mass vasectomy operation on the island's male macropod population.

The offer was not taken up.

Mr Rushton said surgical sterilisation had been researched but it was not a practical option for a large free-range population.

A MAJOR North-East road has been opened after extreme weather forced its closure nearly four months ago.

Elephant Pass reopened to traffic yesterday after repairs to flood damage finished ahead of schedule, said Infrastructure Minister David O'Byrne.

While now reopened to heavy vehicles, a section of the Tasman Highway at Weldborough Pass is still reduced to one lane until permanent repairs after a major landslip. Tenders have been called for the repairs, which are expected to start in September and be finished by the end of the year.



WIN TICKETS TO SEE COLD CHISEL LIVE

Iconic Aussie rock band, Cold Chisel, have announced their biggest tour in nearly 30 years and to celebrate the Sunday Tasmanian is giving 20 lucky readers the chance to win tickets.

The prize includes two tickets to Cold Chisel's, Light The Nitro Tour, for their Hobart show on Tuesday November 22 at the Derwent Entertainment Centre.

Seeing is believing - so don't miss your chance to experience the legendary Cold Chisel live.

See the Sunday Tasmanian for your entry form

