



Media Release
Young Australian to make a splash at world's biggest water prize
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Gold Coast girl, Mathuja Bavan will be representing Australia at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden next month.

The 20 year old student was selected from budding young science students across Australia to compete against the world's brightest junior water scientists who have developed practical and innovative projects aimed at solving water related problems.

Mathuja's study was an investigation into whether phosphate runoff from golf courses contributed to eutrophication in adjacent water bodies. When speaking about the project Mathuja said the most enjoyable part of conducting the research was collecting the water samples from each golf course.

"Approaching each golf course was an adventure, as you could never predict how they would react to my request to sample water from their lakes. At one golf course, I met an extremely helpful groundsman who helped me understand the methods used by golf courses to distribute water and fertiliser. However, once, I was also chased away from a golf course lake by a groundsman in a golf cart!

"I think that this is one of the appealing features of water-related and environmentally related studies- a large amount of the study requires field work, increasing your sense of involvement and understanding of the issues being investigated," said Mathuja.

Mathuja, who is currently studying a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Queensland, hopes that her project will contribute to future waterway management and improve the health of local ecosystems.

This will be Mathuja's first overseas competition and she is excited about meeting the other young scientists.

"There will be students from all around the world, and the huge variety in studies and their findings will be overwhelming! I'm even excited about presenting my investigation to the judges, albeit slightly nervous too. I'm grateful for this opportunity from the Australian Water Association and am looking forward to the competition in Stockholm!"

The Australian Stockholm Water Prize (www.awa.asn.au/sjwp) managed by the Australian Water Association is an annual water science competition for senior high school students aged 14 – 19 years old. This outstanding opportunity aims to increase interest in water related issues and research by encouraging students to develop new and innovative approaches to water management. The national prize selects a winner who will then represent Australia in the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden.

Entries for the Australia Stockholm Junior Water Prize are due by 30 November 2011.
For more information visit www.awa.asn.au/sjwp

For further information, images or interview requests please contact:

Amanda White, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277



Notes to Editors

AWA is Australia's leading membership association for water professionals and organisations. Independent and not for profit AWA is the peak body supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices.

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