



MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER PRIMARY STUDENTS TO STAR ON THE BIG SCREEN

Aspiring stars of the silver screen from schools across the Hunter have the chance to act in their own short film and win up to \$5,000 for their school as part of Hunter Water's competition *The Water Catchers*.

This year's competition sees primary students submit a script and story board on the theme 'Little Leak, Big Problem'. The best nine submissions are brought to life by a professional film crew, with the students the star actors.

The short films are then up for public vote, with the finalists earning their share of \$10,000 prizemoney for their schools to spend on sustainability projects.

Hunter Water Managing Director Dr Jim Bentley said the competition helped youngsters understand the true value of water and instilled a passion for conservation at an early age.

"Water is something often only thought about when one is thirsty or when a bill arrives in the mail.

"To secure our region's water supply for the future, we need to work together with our communities to use less. This isn't possible unless we help people understand how precious drinking water is.

"By teaching children about their water, where it comes from and how to save it, we're starting what will hopefully become a lifelong passion for water conservation.

"Children will often take their new knowledge home and perhaps teach their parents a thing or two about what they've learned about why it's important to save water."

Dr Bentley said the Water Catchers competition was now in its third year and gave students a rare opportunity to see themselves on the big screen.

"The Water Catchers is all about making water education fun, and we look forward to seeing the many creative ways local primary students tell this year's story about why a little leak can be a big problem.

"For the nine schools chosen to have their stories brought to life by a film crew, they have the added excitement of being able to watch themselves and the other finalists on the big screen at the Tower Cinemas as part of the gala night in June.

"The Water Catchers is a free program and gives students the opportunity not just to star in their own short film, but also to win money for a sustainability project at their school," he said.

Primary students and schools wishing to register and obtain more information about the competition can head to *The Water Catchers* website at thewatercatchers.com.au.

Nick Kaiser | M 0411 485 204 | nick.kaiser@hunterwater.com.au