

Film competition registrations extended

Budding young Baw Baw Filmmakers now have until 9 February 2015 to win \$1000 first prize.

The BAW BAW RAW! FILM PRIZE has announced that entrants now have until the second week of February to register to take part in the program and share in \$3000 worth of cash prizes.

"So far the response to the launch of the competition has completely smashed my initial expectations, so we have decided to extend registrations until 9 February in an effort to get as many young people involved in the competition as possible," Mr. Marcus Tainsh, BAW BAW RAW! Creator and Manager.

BAW BAW RAW! is a short film competition offering secondary school students and young adults something different to do with friends over the summer break, designed to give local young people a creative and constructive outlet and to foster their sense of leadership and community involvement.

"By offering this opportunity to get out, get active and get creative we aim to significantly contribute to the happiness, confidence and health of our teenagers and young adults through active involvement in community life," Marcus said.

The BAW BAW RAW! FILM PRIZE is open to budding young filmmakers across two categories: Secondary school students who live or attend school within the Shire, or young adults up to the age of 25 who live or attend a tertiary institution within the Shire.

In an effort to make the competition accessible to as many future directors, producers and screenwriters as possible, entrants are encouraged to record on a smartphone and edit the footage on their laptop, home or school computers.

"These days smartphones are everywhere and usually feature HD video recording capabilities, while editing software now comes pre-installed on most computers and is freely downloadable online, so the basic tools of cinematography are at everyone's fingertips," Marcus said.

Entries close on Monday 16 March 2015 and must be no longer than seven minutes and must reference the program's principle sponsor, "Waterford Rise" - it is up to entrants to get creative when fulfilling this requirement.

All entries will be uploaded to YouTube and facebook for viewing and comment from the local community before the formal winners are awarded by the competition judging panel at the Screening Night and Awards Ceremony in April, details of which will be announced in February.



The BAW BAW RAW! FILM PRIZE gives local young people something different to do with friends over summer, plus the chance to share in \$3000 worth of cash prizes.

The competition had already created a buzz around the Shire, with the community getting behind it and local businesses and community groups pitching in financially or helping to spread the word.

"Without the support of our principle sponsor, the Waterford Rise housing estate in Warragul, along with all the builders at the Waterford Rise display village, the program would never have got off the ground," Marcus said.

"We've also had fantastic support from the team at Peninsula Cinemas Warragul who are helping us promote the competition with ads before every film screened at the theatre between now and April," he said.

If you would like to enter the BAW BAW RAW! FILM PRIZE you must visit waterfordrise.com.au/bawbawfilm to register prior to 5pm Monday 9 February 2015. Don't forget to 'like' our facebook community page at facebook.com/bawbawfilm for competition updates, important dates and details on the upcoming awards ceremony, tips on filming, scripting and formatting and a forum for questions, discussions on filming and much more.

For entry criteria and full terms and conditions visit www.waterfordrise.com.au/bawbawfilm

Local solar company passes 1000 installations in Gippsland



Gippsland Solar has passed over 1000 installations since beginning four years ago. The team behind the milestone includes, from left: Barb Mawditt, Justin Walsh, Callum Buckley, Andy McCarthy, Shane Clayton, Caroline Barry, Kyle Blackstock and Peter McCarthy.

In June 2010, a small solar company was started in a shed on a quiet street in Mirboo North, beginning with 10 solar panels and a workforce consisting of a husband and wife.

Fast forward 4 years and the small solar company more widely known as Gippsland Solar, just passed 1,000 installations across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

According to Managing Director Andrew McCarthy, the prospects for the venture always looked positive.

"I have been working in the solar industry since I was 18, and we moved to South Gippsland to raise a family. We started with literally nothing, and took money off the mortgage to buy our first system. We had just had our first child, and naturally we were nervous about starting from scratch. But we had an unshakeable belief in what we wanted to achieve. We knew that there was plenty of opportunity for a local solar business that focused on premium quality products, local installers, and an honest, refreshing approach to solar."

Gippsland Solar is now a much larger solar company, offering on and off grid solar power, solar hot water and now energy efficient Solatube Skylights.

They also have ongoing contracts with local council and Government,

and install dozens of solar systems every year for local builders and architects.

While the company has grown to cater for both residential and business customers, the focus on service and affordable custom designed systems hasn't changed.

"I think the main secret to our success is that we stayed true to the reasons we were successful in the first place. We still follow the same mantra. We identify if solar will work for a customer after analysing their bills, we'll then make sure we design the right system suited specifically for their needs. No packages."

Whilst the business has been boosted by a climate of soaring power bills and an inevitable demand for a solution, the business credits its hard working and highly skilled team, all of whom are Gippsland locals.

"I believe we really lead the industry as far as training goes and the systems we have in place. All of our installers are from Gippsland too, which makes it easier to service our customers both before and after installation."

For more information about Gippsland Solar call 1300 447 765 or go to www.gippslandsolar.com.au



Gippsland Solar offer on and off grid solar power, solar hot water and now energy efficient Solatube skylights.

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