



An Australian Government Initiative

national science week 2010

Media Release

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Australia's Best Science Blogger Revealed

Bec Crew, author of the entertaining animal behavioural science blog *Save Your Breath for Running Ponies*, was today named Australia's best science blogger.

Ms Crew, who is based in Sydney and has been blogging for about 10 months on fascinating, left-field animal discoveries, takes out The Big Blog Theory national title for the best blogger contributing to the communication and understanding of science online.

Ms Crew, 26, was chosen as one of 10 national finalists by a panel of four judges. *Running Ponies* then attracted the most online votes of the finalist's blogs.

"I'm so excited and more than a little stunned that my little blog could win this competition. I look up to all of the other finalists as exceptional science communicators and I'm happy just to be considered in the same league as them," Ms Crew said today.

Inspired to write about bizarre animal, insect and dinosaur discoveries, Ms Crew was determined to show the public that it was important to challenge themselves with science and have fun with it.

"It's become a sort of *Running Ponies* mission to get people excited about the fascinating, often left-field discoveries that are being made every day, and to perhaps send a message that science doesn't always have to be about climate change, oil spills and outbreaks," she said.

"It's also about Tyrannosaurus with feathers, vegetarian spiders, and newts using their rib bones as weapons."

Judge Dr Jesse Shore, president of Australian Science Communicators, said *Running Ponies* was a stand-out creative entry that encompassed "quirky animal behavioural science explained well and then told with cheek."

Ms Crew will blog for National Science Week 2010 to be held from 14-22 August where she will tour various events to blog about the activities, the people she meets and what she learns.

The Big Blog Theory was created in the lead up to National Science Week to celebrate Australian bloggers who contribute to the communication and understanding of science online. The competition attracted over 100 nominations and more than 700 online votes for the finalists.

Chemistry PhD candidate and lecturer at the University of South Australia, Corri Baker, was voted Australia's best science microblogger with her Tweetstream @cbsquared_.

Visit www.thebigblogtheory.com.au to check out all of the finalists and their blogs.

Now entering its thirteenth year, National Science Week has cemented itself as Australia's largest festival, with last year's calendar offering more than 1000 events throughout Australia reaching an audience of over a million people.

National Science Week 2010 will run from 14-22 August. For more information visit www.scienceweek.gov.au.

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