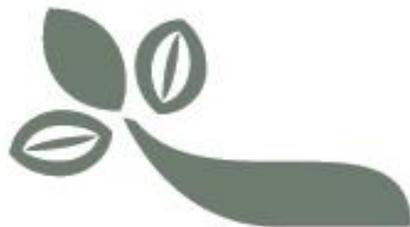


WILD FLOWERS  
AUSTRALIA

**WildFlowers Australia National  
Student Floristry Competition Winners 2020**

Place	Name	College	Photo	Design summary
1st	Toni JOHNSON	South Metropolitan TAFE Murdoch, WA		'Blaze of renewal'. Dedicated to the 33 people who died fighting the fires and to the tens of thousands of volunteers, emergency services and ADF personnel who fought the blazes. The charcoaled wandoo slab supporting the arrangement and the overlaying charred branch are a nod to the fires. From these charred remains, native flowers bloom after fire has triggered seeds to germinate and the chemicals in the ash stimulate growth. The vibrant colour palette of banksia, strawflowers, pincushions, billy buttons and wattle is seemingly ablaze – reflecting the fires that preceded them but more importantly evoking energy, stimulation, happiness, joy, warmth, comfort, excitement and enthusiasm – a real mood lifter. The kangaroo paws are reaching for the sky, denoting hope for the future.
2nd	Clair REYNOLDS	TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus		Inspired by the way the Australian bush springs back to life after fire. The burnt devastation is quickly transformed by the vivid green and red of the new leaves sprouting. The arrangement is radial and asymmetric in style to show the plants and flowers bursting forth unchecked after the fire, highlighting that recovery is not symmetrical or orderly. Flowers used include those that are stimulated by fire or which can regenerate, such as flannel flowers and waratah. Design notes outstanding for their detail and research.

3rd	Catherine NEILSON	Canberra Institute of Technology, ACT		<p>“To see a World in a Grain of Sand/ and a Heaven in a Wildflower” . Conveys the healing power of nature – especially the important role nature (represented here by wildflowers) can play in mental health recovery when responding to loss and traumatic events, especially the deaths of 3 USA firefighters near Canberra.</p> <p>The design aims to encourage the viewer to pause and contemplate the beauty to be found in the detail of everyday things –like the extraordinary range of colours, textures, patterns and scents of the wildflowers. Secondly the piece is designed to serve a more subtle memorial function, aiming to evoke the mood and imagery of a peaceful resting place (a ‘field of flowers’); a tacit gesture of comfort and support for those most closely impacted by the tragedy. Excellent design notes and symbolism, for example pink was selected as the primary colour of the design because it is the colour of the fire retardant foam, it is one of the first colours to emerge in vegetation regrowth following a bushfire (initial epicormic recovery growth) and the colour pink is widely used in therapeutic healing and mental healthcare settings due to its psychologically calming effect on patients.</p>
Highly commended	Letizia GRAZI	TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus		<p>‘Creation coming from a single seed’.</p> <p>As an international student here in Australia, I found the bush fires were something absolutely new and unexpected, because I had never experienced anything similar.</p> <p>After the worst was over, I went for a bush walk and saw how the forest completely had changed its “face”, black was everywhere. But when I started looking closely I suddenly realised that new life was already growing back! Little tiny bright green leaves appearing from the ground, from the burnt branches, from the black tree trunks.</p> <p>The whole scenario was absolutely breathtaking and full of life and hope. So I decided to place my design inside a dry piece of bark, with the green and white of flowers and foliage are ‘growing’ out of it, just like it was happening in the forest. The nature was trying to remind me of where we all come from: a tiny single seed.</p>



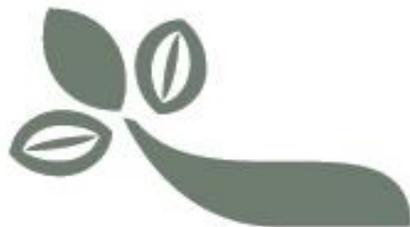
# WILD FLOWERS

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## AUSTRALIA

Highly commended	Cerina TRIGLAVCANIN	South Metropolitan TAFE Murdoch, WA		<p>'Circle of life'. Inspired by the 2020 Australian wildfires and the devastation caused to regional farms, flora and fauna, and rather than just a floral display of wildflowers, this design replicates a bird's nest reflecting new life as well as the mythical bird (the Phoenix) emerging from the ashes stronger and more powerful. Incorporated into the design is a used match (the cause of the fire), feathers of the Australian native Spinifex pigeon (representing death and the rebirth of wildlife) and barbed wire and a metal cog (in reference to the fences and of the destruction of rural properties). Many elements in this design are circular, from the nest, to the flowers, to the diameter of the branches, to the nuts and seeds, all referencing the 'Circle of Life'. Flowers were chosen for their colour, texture and symbolism, for example, the native Coral Vine emerges from between the charred Banksia branches and entwines with the barbed wire symbolising that it intends taking back the land that the wildfire has devastated.</p>
State awards				
Qld	Janelle SCOWN	The Flower School Qld		<p>Recovery is the process of improvement after a difficult period ... recovery is a positive and welcome return to a restored state ... recovery is a return to a normal state of health, mind or strength. This massed symmetrical arrangement nestled into a bowl is suitable for placing on a sideboard as it can be viewed from any angle – top, front and sides. The vivid colour choices to convey new growth, expressing the recovery theme. In particular, the hues are chosen to reflect the unique colouring of the epicormic shoots that initially emerge in burnt bush environments from Australian plants that are well adapted to recover from bushfire. To emphasise the bushfire inspiration, a foundation of pale grey foliage underpins the arrangement to represent the ashen earth that supports seed germination and regrowth.</p>

NSW	Jenny KIM	Pearsons School of Floristry, Sydney NSW		<p>A sideboard arrangement to be presented to the head office of the NSW Rural Fire Service in Sydney Olympic Park, a personal thank you to bring colour into the space for visitors and staff.</p> <p>The NSW floral emblem, the Waratah, regenerates after fire and so symbolises recovery. It is the focus of the arrangement, complimented by other Australian natives, such as the Banksia - another resilient flower that is quick to bloom after a fire but also an important source of nutrients in the wild ecosystem of Australia. Kangaroo Paw represents our unique wildlife and will also create harmony with other foliage and fillers. Beautifully presented design and research notes.</p>
ACT	Kerry FAGAN	Canberra Institute of Technology, ACT		<p>Recovery is depicted through 'The Cycle of Life' in this modern sideboard arrangement. The semi-circular design is based on an asymmetrical balance which represents 'The Cycle of Life' after the unprecedented drought and bushfire crisis which spread across six Australian states and territories between 2019 to 2020. Both Australian native and South African flowers are used to reflect nature's way of taking and giving back life to earth through new growth. A rust coloured, semicircular garden sculpture is used as the base structure reflecting the burnt damage to both the land and the homes.</p> <p>The pave design, achieved with the paper daises, shows growth from the scorched earth, represented by the rust coloured base. Individual flowers and foliage were chosen for their colours and textures, e.g. the green flexi grass accentuates the semi-circular arch of the base, adding line and height, while its rich, deep green colour symbolises growth and harmony, freshness and fertility.</p>



# WILD FLOWERS AUSTRALIA

WA	Denise BURGESS	South Metropolitan TAFE Murdoch, WA		<p>This sideboard arrangement is for Natasha Jones, an ex-employee of Mount Buffalo National Park. After Natasha lost her job through the catastrophic fires in 2020, she became a volunteer making pouches and blankets for the wildlife that had been severely injured or separated from their mothers.</p> <p>The Split Analogous colour scheme and prickly textures from the yellow /orange Pin cushions and Red Waratah represent the flames along with a different form and texture of the Kangaroo paws. In addition these colours evoke emotions - for example the burst of yellow evokes joy, brightness and symbolises new beginnings and happiness. Just as Mount Buffalo will be reinvigorated, there will be a fresh start for Natasha. The hues of red are associated with the danger of the fire but red also evokes strength, power and determination as well as bringing the warmth of desire of love.</p>
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**Competition prizes:**

- First place: \$250 cash; an online voucher valued at \$300 redeemable at Koch & Co.; your profile will be featured in Flowers magazine; one copy of ‘What Cut Flower is That?’
- 2nd place: \$150 cash; an online voucher valued at \$200 redeemable at Koch & Co.; your profile will be featured in Flowers magazine; one copy of ‘What Cut Flower is That?’
- 3rd place: \$50 cash; an online voucher valued at \$100 redeemable at Koch & Co.; your profile will be featured in Flowers magazine; one copy of ‘What Cut Flower is That?’

State winners: one copy of ‘What Cut Flower is That?’

Highly commended entries will receive a special certificate

Each entrant will receive a certificate acknowledging participation in the competition.

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