

2019 Port Stephens Art Prize Results

The Port Stephens Community Arts Centre was radiating with the stunning entries to the 2019 Port Stephens Art Prize which opened on Friday evening 15th of March. One hundred and thirty people attended the Opening eager to hear who the lucky winners of the \$10,000 prize money made up of cash and vouchers generously donated by our sponsors. A truly magnificent accomplishment by all entrants, wonderful that half of our winners are from Port Stephens! A large number of paintings sold on opening night with a steady flow of sales occurring daily. The 2019 Port Stephens Art Prize will be on display until Sunday 24th 2pm, admission is free. Why not visit the Garden Café which will be serving light lunches, coffee and homemade cakes the café is always open Sat & Sun 10 -2:30 pm find us at Cultural Close, off Shoal Bay Road in Nelson Bay. Gallery OPEN to the public 10-4 pm daily

A. Travel - Colour and Wonder Sponsored by Love Oil Collection **\$1500 1st** place awarded to **Ileana Clarke** from Nelson Bay - 15 "Long Open Country." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This is a beautiful timeless painting with a deep, dusty distance and stillness. To me it is a moment, standing still, forgetting the world and sinking into the view."

A. Travel - Colour and Wonder Sponsored by THE LEVEE Art Gallery and Studios – "Two weeks Exhibition space" - **2nd** place awarded to **Kimberly Swan** of Nelson Bay - 70 "New Zealand Tui Bird." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "A sighting of a rare bird."

A. Travel - Colour and Wonder Sponsored by **Highly Commended** awarded to **Judy Nobilo** of Narrabri - 56 "When In Japan." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "Travel reveals ancient histories and dramas."

A. Travel - Colour and Wonder Sponsored by **Commended** awarded to **Peter Smith** of Soldiers Point - 68 "Colours of the Mediterranean." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This painting brought a flood of memories back to me."

B. Australiana - Over Land and Sea Sponsored by Port Stephens Community Arts Centre & Village Grind **\$1000 1st place** awarded to **Jill Cairns** of Port Macquarie - 122 "Spirits Calling." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This artist knows the bush well. She has created an energetic portrayal of the chaotic nature of the Australia bush, its dryness and textures and also the subtle changes in topography. It gives you a sense of being in the landscape."

B. Australiana - Over Land and Sea Sponsored by Blue Water Sailing "2 hour sunset sail for 4 people" **2nd place** awarded to **Julie Simmons** of Castlereagh - 217 "My Local Bushland." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The viewer can feel the grit and dry crackle of sticks underfoot. It is a confident work. The lay of the land recedes convincingly. This artist also knows our bush very well."

B. Australiana - Over Land and Sea Sponsored by **Highly Commended** awarded to **Deborah Barry** of Cessnock - 113 "Home Sweet Home." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This is a scene familial to us all. We all know the colours in this black and white sketch. The artist has observed carefully and has captured the light and textures delicately."

B. Australiana - Over Land and Sea Sponsored by **Commended** awarded to **Denise Dean** of Galston - 136 "Waiting at the Wharf." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This is a well observed boat scene that captures our local area. The detailing is very well done, especially the water."

C. Portraits - The One Who Touched My Heart Sponsored by Nelson Bay Bowling Club **\$1000 1st** place awarded to **Bernice Daher** of Port Macquarie - 315 "John." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The sitter in this portrait is a direct man who studies the viewer looking for inconsistencies. The artist has given him convincing depth and mass. The structure of this portrait is accurately observed."

C. Portraits - The One Who Touched My Heart Sponsored by Voucher - Moonshadow TQC Cruises & The Anchorage Hotel & Spa **2nd** place awarded to **Tricia Reust** of Clontarf- 342 "Soft Smile." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The sitter is relaxed and engaging the viewer in a warm shared friendly experience."

C. Portraits - The One Who Touched My Heart Sponsored by **Highly Commended** awarded to **Sonja Fabian** of Lake Haven - 318 "Jenai." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The dog's eyes have life; the fur has depth and softness."

C. Portraits - The One Who Touched My Heart Sponsored by **Commended** awarded to **Jennifer Dimmock** of Heddon Greta - 316 "Milton Morris." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The sitter wearing his red tie is poised in a still moment before he speaks. The painting has both flatness and depth that adds interest. The sitter is tense in some areas and relaxed in others which also adds interest for the viewer."

D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment Sponsored by Port Stephens Council **\$1500 1st** place awarded to **Joy McLeod** of Boat Harbour- 438 "Seascape Boat Harbour." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The artist has captured the craggy rugged rocks of Boat Harbour, the forces compelling the waves, the undertow and wind".

D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment Sponsored by Lion Studios picture framing and gift ware "Framing Voucher" **2nd** place awarded to **Kay McFarlane Smith** of Soldiers Point - 435 "Storm Warning." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This is a competent oil painting. One of the things I love about Port Stephens is the expanse of sky in all its moods."

D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment Sponsored by **Highly Commended** awarded to **Prue Sailer** of Medowie - 460 "Eastern Rosella." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The artist has taken great care in the delicate brush strokes of the feathers. The placement of every line is accurate in direction."

D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment Sponsored by **Commended** awarded to **Robyn Bailey** of Anna Bay - 404 "Time Passage." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This is a technically difficult painting yet the artist has described the depth and distance receding. The colours are clean and fresh and enjoyable. As the viewer looks more carefully, a bird and its reflection is seen in a pool of water."

E. Miniatures - Taste and Sound Sponsored by Nelson Bay Golf Club & PSCAC Monday Painters **\$500 1st** place awarded to **Christine Leaming** of Salamander Bay- 512 "Tomatoes." The Judge's

(Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "The fruit on a tablecloth is small but it has great clarity even from 2 meters distance. The tomatoes and blue cloth are a clean and fresh colour combination which makes the tomatoes like jewels."

E. Miniatures - Taste and Sound Sponsored by Sienna's Pizzeria Bar (meal voucher) & Restaurant & Pigment Lab \$250 voucher **2nd** place awarded to **Dan Riley** of Fingal Bay - 519 "Apple & Knife Arrangement Study." The Judge's (Debra Liel-Brown) comments were: "This miniature of a knife and apple in a sliver of light is very dramatic. It is suggestive of a story - perhaps it is dinner time, perhaps the owner has been called away...."

E. Miniatures - Taste and Sound **Highly Commended** awarded to **Ariane Bell** of Nabiac- 503 "Song King"

E. Miniatures - Taste and Sound **Commended** awarded to **Madeleine Szymanski** of Springwood- 523 "Garden Picnic"

Encouragement Award - C. Portraits - The One Who Touched My Heart Sponsored by Love Oil Collection **\$500 1st** place awarded to **Lloyd Foye** of Fingal Bay- 320 "Lore Reading." The Judge's (Nada Yonge) comments were: "Using a mixture of different mediums, in this beautifully executed and technically proficient work, Lloyd has captured the subtle nature of this lady in this stunning portrait."

Encouragement Award - D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment Sponsored by Imagine Cruises "Family Cruise" **2nd** place awarded to **Barbara Winters** of Shoal Bay - 478 "Winter Morning" Shoal Bay. The Judge's (Nada Yonge) comments were: "Barbara has done an amazing job in capturing the early morning light in this painting. It has a glow that catches the eye, very good use of shape and tone."

Encouragement Award - B. Australiana - Over Land and Sea **Highly Commended** awarded to **Therese Smith** of Corlette - 220 "Box Beach Morning." The Judge's (Nada Yonge) comments were: "A contemporary piece, colourful and clever composition with an understanding of the application of design to the subject."

Encouragement Award - D. Port Stephens Art Prize - Our Natural Environment **Commended** awarded to **Sheila Binstead** of Salamander Bay - 411 "Undersea Garden." The Judge's (Nada Yonge) comments were: "The subtle use of watercolour shows Sheila's ability to make the most of this amazing medium."