



## MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RESULTS: 2024 Art in the Porongurup

Fostering community engagement and positive well-being the 22<sup>nd</sup> Art in the Porongurup ran from 29 March to 6 April 2024. Developed to encourage and stimulate established and emerging artists across the Great Southern, the event complemented the Porongurup Craft Group's annual Art Bazaar within the hall.

Located in the natural bushland surrounds of the Porongurup Hall this outdoor event provided over 1,700 intrastate, interstate, and international visitors with the chance to view and buy one off sculptures and art pieces as well as casting their vote to help determine the People's Choice award winner. The event focus remained to motivate creative minds and create a fun, safe and enjoyable environment for all ages. As demonstrated by the positive feedback, this event is popular with both adults and children alike.

- Wonderful, got them all thinking and talking (family with kids)
- I like the use of the environment in pieces and the reuse of materials.
- Lots of hard work here!
- Nice set up, clear pathways, clean and tidy.
- So good to see all the youth entries, well done.
- Very, very good.
- Incredible.

With a prize pool of \$7,500 the Porongurup Community Association are delighted to announce this year Art in the Porongurup winners, with judge's critique as follows:

#### Judges' comments from Bevan Honey and Anne Grotian

It was fabulous to see so many visitors looking at and engaging with the artworks when we judged the award on Easter Sunday – this in itself reflects the community spirit that drives and nurtures creativity in all its guises. Overall, the artists demonstrated an enthusiasm to have a go, to be inventive with materials, to be resourceful, and to be part of a community that shows a sense of care and responsibility for their environment.

**Overall winner: #50 "Gifted by the Wind" by Annette Nykiel and Dianne Strahan from Narrogin.** This work is beautifully situated in the environment, framed between the trees and gently activated by the wind. The kite forms sensitively employ natural materials and dying techniques that accord with the surrounding tree canopies. Their surfaces are embellished with embroidered and stitching that subtly references our human activities and impacts on the land. *Receiving \$2,500.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up: #3 "Thank you" by Jane Forward from Porongurup.** This incredibly detailed, intricate and bold construction is a tender reflection on the destruction of fire and the devastation it causes but it also provides glimpses of determined regrowth. It reflects the commitment of the community to care for this landscape and the dedication of fires to protect it. *Receiving \$1,500.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up: #35 "Painted Sticks" by John Greeuw from Mount Barker.** The form of this work references the natural environment – trees, flames, and blackened trunks – however the inventive use of high chroma paint provides a curious and intriguing contrast when placed amongst the palette of the surrounding environment. *Receiving \$750.*

**Youth Winner: #22 “Fowl Life” by Lilli Barndon from Denmark.** This delightful work shows an inventive use of materials. The care and attention to details are impressive and shows the artist has an attentive way of looking at the subject matter. The sombreness to the work is reflected in the choice to position the artwork on bricks and perched amongst discarded concrete blocks. *Receiving \$1,000.*

**Youth Runner Up: #41 “Dragaurus the Dragon” by Hunter Roberts-Johnston from Kenendup.** This work is wonderfully ambitious. It shows a great commitment to construction techniques, using recycled materials to make a joyous, colourful and adventurous creature. The work is cleverly contained in an ‘electric’ fence, referencing the rural landscape in which it was made. *Receiving \$250.*

**Highly Commended: #8 “Perfection is overrated, imperfection is underrated” by Gregg Triggs from Porongurup.** Technically this work is ambitious - it is a significant achievement to make a work out of one piece of wood. The polished finish of the owl and snake contrasts beautifully with the rough and untouched edge of the base. *Receiving \$100 Maleeya’s Hillside Bamboo Nursery voucher.*

**Highly Commended: #38 “Fisho” by Colin Hobbs from Carnamah.** This unassuming, small work quietly balances both natural and synthetic found materials that references a trophy fish. It speaks to how we treat the environment, what we take, and what we leave behind. *Receiving \$100 Strike Me Pink voucher.*

**Highly Commended: #20 “Futuristic animals due to climate change” by Donna Stain from Mount Barker.** These delightful creatures, made from recycled materials, cleverly and imaginatively transition and morph - from a cow to a unicorn to an elephant to a flying pig - to tell an apocalyptic tale of climate change with a sense of humour. *Receiving \$100 Dukes Vineyard voucher.*

**People’s Choice: #43 “Tough Climb” by Kelly Barker from Mount Barker**

*Receiving \$1000.*

**People’s Choice Runner Up: #47 “Kanga + Roo” by Kevin Judd from Porongurup**

*Receiving \$500.*

We wish to acknowledge and thank our community sponsors, without whom this event would not happen:

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