

Bulletin Issue No. 111 April 2024

Dear ASPIR member,

The Easter Exhibition was a great success. This is the result of the wonderful contribution in time and effort of our committee, members, friends and families, and of course the financial support of our sponsors.

Special thanks to Jan, Gay, Joe, Sharon, Bill, Karen, Jane, Della, Bruce and Deb & company for the hanging & presentation of the works. Many commented on how well it was done. Thanks too, to Shirley, Margaret and Kerry for the catering, & to Peter & Colin in the bar on Opening night.



ASPIR was fortunate to obtain the services of Mike Kowalski as our judge. Our thanks go to him for his thoughtful and well considered selections. Mike has supplied his comments and these are included with the results that follow.

ASPIR is indebted to our amazing sponsors and commend them to you. Please support these businesses whenever you can.



Karen Morton of Clay & Co. Studio at 4 Shorland Way in Cowes has provided an exhibition for a week at the Studio, with associated costs, to the artist with the Best Body of Work. A very valuable and inspiring award.



The major sponsor for the Exhibition is the Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Branches of the Bendigo Community Bank. With a sponsorship of \$1500 this provides the magnificent Best in Show, plus Highly Commended Awards and Support for the Best Body of Work. San Remo District Financial Services' Board Directors, Joan Matthews, Bronwyn Pratt, Jan Ericksen and Bruce Proctor attended the Exhibition.

The Sustainable Future Award was sponsored by Westernport Water and encourages everyone to consider how they can improve the environment. The Phillip Island RSL is a regular supporter and we can acknowledge that by volunteering for the RSL big days. (Details in email)
Chemmart Cowes, Turn the Page Bookstore, Your Pet in Pastels, and Senior Art Supplies complete the sponsors' list.

Exhibition Easter 2024 Results & Judge Mike Kowalski's Comments

Best in Show Margaret Knight *Doorway into Nature*

Sponsor: Bendigo Community Bank of Cowes, San Remo & Grantville \$1000
presented by Jan Eriksen, Director of San Remo District Financial Services.

Judge's comments: This textile may be something you walk past. It is not loud or provocative. However, it is imbued with soft, tawny natural colors, enhanced by the sparkle of dyed silk stitching. Each panel has its own sensitive story to tell. It is well worth your time to explore this piece. Don't forget to look at the back of it.



Best Body of Work Joy Brentwood

Sponsors: Clay & Co. An Exhibition at Clay & Co presented by Karen Morton
plus Bendigo Community Bank \$200



Joy is pictured with Ian Pascoe and their collaborative work

Sustainable Future Award Leigh Wicking *Organic Form 2*

Sponsor: Westernport Water \$500 presented by Katrina Knight

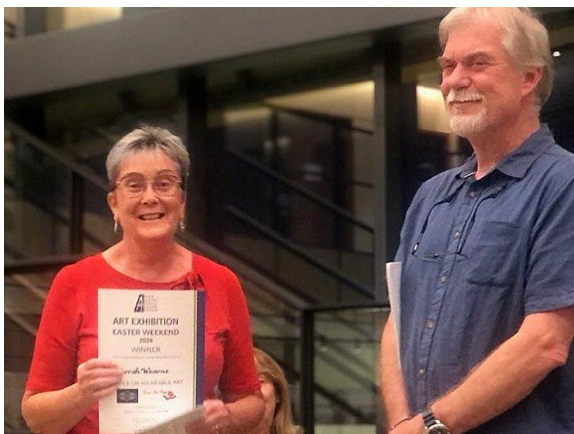
Judge's comments: Simplicity itself. Does this sphere represent our world? I see a drop of water indicating life, comforting forms, but with a slightly scooped surface..... is something missing? Or is this "scoop" indicative of something we must address to complete a whole?



Best Textile &/or Wearable Art Deborah Wearne *Endangered*

Sponsors: Turn the Page Bookshop & Your Pet in Pastels \$400 presented by the Judge

Judge's comments: I am drawn to the natural colors of the yarn, especially the soft green tones. The attention to craftsmanship is exemplary here. Every step is attended to by experienced and practiced hands. I love the wooden pin clasp. My mother would look smashing in this shawl.



Textile &/or Wearable Art Highly Commended Teresa Bennett *Skating on Thin Ice*

Sponsor: Bendigo Community Bank \$100 presented by Joan Matthews

Judge's comments: This work is a great conversation piece. It is whimsical and engaging, colorful and tactile. I feel like touching and moving the vessels, playing a fragile game of tic-tac-toe.



Best Painting Myra Holmes *Submerged*

Sponsor: Phillip Island RSL \$500 presented by the Judge, Mike Kowalski

Judge's comments: This painting is dark but not oppressive. It is rich and dark and reminds me of life in the depths—a swirling, swaying, and intertwining life that reaches out to the viewer.



Painting Highly Commended Jenny Jackson *West Cowes Evening*

Sponsor: Bendigo Community Bank

\$100

Judge's comments: When judging, a work needs to speak to me somehow. Challenge, entice, surprise, or, in this case, remind me of something, a moment, memory, or sensation. Once hooked, I look closer and stand back to take it all in. Here, I see a man and dog on a local beach "embraced" by trees on either side. The birds are oblivious to what is going on. The watercolor technique is sound. The sensitive treatment of the water throws a calming blanket of color over the entire scene.



This work also received **The People's Choice Award** by popular vote

Sponsored by Senior Art Supplies

Jenny Jackson receives a \$250 voucher for art materials.

Best Other Medium Michelle Osabutey *Seascape*

Sponsor: Chemmart Cowes \$400 presented by Judge Mike Kowalski

Judge's comments: Intriguing and thought-provoking, this ceramic is an entirely personal and creatively unique take on the theme of "seascape." It is both natural and unnatural. I was pretty surprised by this piece.



Other Medium Highly Commended Bruce Wearne *Twin Boxes in Jarrah*

Sponsor: Bendigo Community Bank \$100 presented by Joan Matthews

Judge's comments:

The formal presentation caught my eye. The work is mitered, squared, and precise but also natural and warm with tones of honey. The beautiful addition of the screened floral design on the box lids in lovely complementary green and rose colors makes the boxes feel delicate.



Special Mention Mason Baigent *The Drowning*

Judge's Comments: Please take a look at the painting by Mason Baigent, the youngest contributing artist to this show. His painting "The Drowning" is powerful and speaks of someone beyond their years.



Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize Maree Grover

2nd Prize Rae Freyse

3rd Prize Bruce Proctor

