

Creative Arts Station, 119 Settlement Road, Cowes

## Bulletin No. 125

The Annual ASPIR Easter Exhibition at Berninneit was a great success with hundreds of people, both local and visitors alike, coming to enjoy the beautiful works on display. The works had all been created by ASPIR members and represented endeavours by people of all ages working across many different mediums and styles.

Textile and Wearable Art is a feature of the ASPIR Exhibition at Easter, with many beautiful garments to be seen. Bass Coast Shire displayed the Mural that was created by the Textile Art Group and gifted to the community.



This year individual members of Ibis Writers, the ASPIR Writers' Group, displayed their published works for sale. Authors Christine Grayden, Ian Robinson, Melissa Gijbsers and Lorrie Read presented works including children's books, autobiography, and romantic fiction.

The ASPIR Awards presentation held on Thursday evening at Berninneit was exciting with Life Member Josephine Allen as our delightful M.C. . Josie thanked the Exhibition Director Gay Mosby, and those who put it all together – the 'Hanging Party', the hard working ASPIR committee, and Shirley, Barb and Margaret, the team that prepared the catering.



A big thankyou went out to staff at Berninneit for their assistance. This year Bass Coast Shire has supplied and installed lighting which technicians attached to the ASPIR stands. Having the works properly lit has certainly added to the calibre of the Exhibition.

Special mention was made of the Awards Sponsors that make this such a successful event. Details of sponsors are with each award. Please support these local businesses and organisations.

The Easter Raffle, a basket from local growers, makers & suppliers.

Thanks to Neal Gibson, our official photographer for the evening.



Before giving you all the results from the Exhibition here are just a few reminders for What's On.

## **Full Day Tutorial with artist Ben Winspear, Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm**

Some places available. This class is suitable for all artists, from beginners to those with lots of experience. A great refresher course.

Ben's passion is passing on his knowledge to those who attend his classes and workshops. He seeks to ground students solidly in the traditions of observational drawing and painting with an informed use of quality materials.



**Bookings essential:** SMS or phone Shirley 0410 584 025

**Fee: \$40 per person** pay ASPIR BSB 633 000 Account 142 291 616

**BYO Lunch, a note book, pen or pencil** (no other materials required)

Tea & Coffee supplied. Phone Shirley for more details.

Ben will return later in the year to conduct full day painting workshops

## **Introduction to Watercolour with Julie Goldspink, 8 weeks, starts April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Course is full, contact Shirley 0410 584 025 to put your name on a waiting list

## **En Plein Air updates for April and May**

Here are the arrangements for the remainder of autumn, before we take a break over winter.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 9:30am - Noon. Phillip Island Cemetery, Coghlan Road.

### **Special autumn event:**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 11am - 2pm. The Gurdies Winery, 215 Gurdies-St Helier Road, The Gurdies.

A special opportunity to capture autumn. Carpooling may be possible.



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am - Noon. The Farm, Churchill Island.

An entry fee is charged to enter the farm. You may like to consider purchasing a yearly Nature Park pass that allows access to all of the Island's nature parks.



Please contact Froney as soon as possible to confirm your interest and so you can be contacted if needed. There may be alternate venues if weather is inclement.

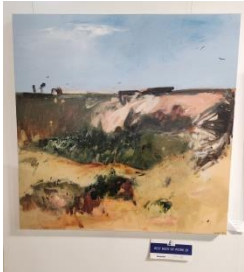
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You may also like to suggest locations for future sessions.

# The ASPIR Easter Exhibition Awards

The first Awards were judged and presented by Kaz Morton from Clay & Co. These were for the **Best Body of Work in 2D and in 3D**. The winners each receive a one week solo exhibition at Clay & Co, Shorland Way in Cowes. The awards have an equivalent value of \$3,050 each. The winners will also receive \$100 from The Bendigo Community Bank to assist with their preparation.

**Winner of the 2D Clay & Co Best Body of Work Exhibition Award is Carolyne Jane.**



Pictured is Carolyne with Kaz Morton of Clay & Co, and one of her four landscape works



**Joint Winners of the 3D Clay & Co Best Body of Works Exhibition Awards  
Gay Mosby & Shandelle Nolan**



Gay is pictured with Kaz Morton.  
Above are three of Gay's ceramic works.  
On the right are two of Shandelle's woven pieces featuring kelp, raffia, shells or wood.



Josie then introduced the judge, Dr Sheridan Palmer, to announce the winners in the various categories.

Dr Sheridan Palmer is an art historian, curator and biographer, an ARC Senior Research Associate in the School of Culture and Communication, and a Research Fellow CoVA, University of Melbourne. Grants include a Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; Harold White Fellowship, National Library of Australia; Arts Victoria Creation Grant; Sidney Myer Arts Grant and Manning Clark–CAL Residential Fellowship. She worked in conservation at the National Gallery of Australia, and at the Ballarat Art Gallery. She curated *The Goddess Grins: Albert Tucker and the Female Image*, Heide MoMA and *The Lake Hindmarsh Project*.



Dr Palmer firstly congratulated ASPIR for the way in which the works were hung. Sheridan noted that the spacious venue with its high ceilings enhanced the overall presentation.

**Best in Show** \$1000, sponsor the Bendigo Community Bank Cowes, presented by John Matthews

**Winner: Carolyne Jane No. 125 Wetlands – Fly High** Acrylic



Judge' notes.  
*Compositionally this painting works on so many levels, Carolyne's brush and mark makings are confident, melodic, rapid & active. Abstract but recognisable. You can feel the birds taking flight on the Wetlands. This is a stunningly good painting.*



On presenting this Award John Matthews shared with the audience that the local Community Banks of Cowes, San Remo, and Grantville, had returned six million dollars to the community since 2023 in grants and sponsorships, with support to many local groups as well as major funds for projects such as the Community Hospital in Cowes.

**Sustainable Future Award**, \$500, sponsor Westernport Water, presented by Katrina Knight.

**Winner : Gay Mosby No. 162 Eroded** Ceramic with Horsehair



Judge's notes.  
*Perforation of mass can occur naturally through wind, rain, ocean or intentionally – for Gay's work in firing clay there is always an element of chance & intention – horsehair like strands of fine seaweed or the trail that sea lice or pippis make in the sand – sea creature pathways. I am reminded of Barbara Hepworth & Henry Moore – the opening up of solid 3D form – the holes creating 4<sup>th</sup> dimension.*



*Gay's work has a primordial form – pre-classical, organic, anthropomorphic – partly human, partly rock formation. Spectacular ceramics.*

**Highly Commended**, \$150, sponsor the Bendigo Community Bank, Cowes

**Samantha Taylor No. 216 Between Two Storms** Acrylic

Judge's Notes.  
*The swirling ribbons of wind being whipped up and entwining like the effect of a tempest, I found this work invigorating as well as tapping into what is becoming more and more prevalent with climate change, the surge of storms and nature alerting us to be alert.*



**Textile &/or Wearable Art** \$400, Sponsors Turn the Page Bookshop & Island Helicopters.

**Winner : Shandelle Nolan No. 170 *Karral (Cape Barren Goose)*** Clay, Raffia & Feathers



Judge's Notes.

*Birds of a feather always ruffle my imagination, but here we have work by an indigenous woman that celebrates not only these large Cape Barron geese but the work also resembles a tribal cloak – it carries the lineage of her cultural heritage where man-made – woman-made ephemera of earth and natural material, grasses and pigments create a powerful pattern and story-line.*

**Highly Commended, \$150,** sponsor Bendigo Community Bank Cowes, presented by John Matthews.

**Della Montgomery-Wicking No. 163 *Brooch Mania*** Textile, Wood & Buttons



Judge's Notes.

*I saw this work as a form of badges as adornment, using recycled and wonderful materials wittily and rhythmically.*



**Painting** \$500, Sponsor Phillip Island RSL Presented by Karen Ellerton



**Winner: Warren Nichols No. 169 *Chasm*** Oil on Canvas

Judge's Notes.

*Warren Nichols's small painting 'Chasm' resonates with quiet solemnity — I was reminded of the crevices that are occurring from climate change where in the Arctic and Antarctic circles the melting ice is revealing wide chasms, but these occur in many places in nature. The deep folds or splits in the earth's surface remain mysterious, but I am also reminded of the more metaphysical elements of that which we cannot know.*

*This is a superb painting of profound and sensitive depth.*

## Painting

**Highly Commended**, \$150, Sponsor Bendigo Community Bank Cowes, presented by Vanessa Verzaci.

**Marian Quigley No 190 Seafarers Bridge** Acrylic on Linen



Judge's Notes.

*Marian Quigley's 'Seafarers Bridge' is an elegant linear portrayal of this well-known bridge. The bridge itself is a metaphor for crossing over water, of distance and for sea farers this is the crux of journeying. Marian's clean lines and quiet aesthetics calls also both an architectural and a meditative approach.*



**Other Medium** \$400, Sponsor Chemmart Cowes

**Winner: Bruce Wearne No. 232 Central Desert Set** Australian Timbers



Judge's Notes.  
*Outstanding craftsmanship with subtle interventions of painting desert river and tributaries into/within the grain.*

(Bruce pictured here with Judge, Dr Sheridan Palmer)



**Highly Commended** \$150, Sponsor Bendigo Community Bank presented by Vanessa Verzaci.

**Jennifer Moyle No. 165 Indigo Hands** Photo on Rag Paper



Judge's Notes.

*This is a picture about happiness – the toothless old woman's smile and her hands revealing a life of fabric dyeing.*



