

Thursday 20 September 2018

SWAP 2018 WINNERS REVEALED AT EXHIBITION'S OPENING NIGHT

A giant hare made out of noxious weeds and a piece of art depicting a legendary musician with nothing more than buttons were among the winners announced for the City of Ryde's Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP) at the opening night of the SWAP Exhibition on Wednesday.

SWAP is a unique competition in which local artists are asked to produce artworks that are made from repurposed material or that have a sustainable theme. This year's competition attracted more than 200 entries with 79 shortlisted for the exhibition at See Street Gallery in Meadowbank.

Meadowbank TAFE student Penny Simons was awarded first prize in the open category for her work 'Flying Hare', which is a woven hare made completely out of the noxious Willow weed sourced from the NSW Southern Highlands.

Local resident Trinity Myres took out the Youth Environment Prize (for 14 to 17 year olds) for her artwork 'Perish', which uses plastic, aluminium cans and other recycled materials to depict the damage caused by deforestation to the environment.

Ryde student Dane De Braekeleir-Cleal, meanwhile, was awarded the Junior Youth Environment Prize (10 to 13 year olds) for 'Kurt Cobain in 4,438 Buttons' which is an eye-catching piece of work that portrays the iconic musician with reclaimed clothing buttons.

The Functional award – for the design object judged to have best used reclaimed material to form a functional piece – was taken out by Monique Bedwell and her work 'It's Not Just A Cup Of Tea', which is a dress made from more than 500 used tea bags .

The winners were determined by the SWAP panel of judges, which was made up of Dean of UNSW's Faculty of Art and Design Professor Ross Harley, co-founder and CEO of Take 3 Tim Silverwood, and renowned Australian artist Wendy Sharpe.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, congratulated all the award recipients as well as those shortlisted for exhibition.

"Once again, SWAP has highlighted how talented and creative our local artists are, while also helping promote the sustainable living theme within the Ryde community. I would encourage everyone to get down to See Street Gallery over the next two weeks and see firsthand this terrific exhibition," Clr Laxale.

The SWAP Exhibition runs until Thursday 4 October. Attendees can vote for their favourite work in the exhibit with the work receiving the most votes to be awarded the People's Choice Award at the conclusion of the exhibition.

The exhibition is presented by City of Ryde in partnership with TAFE NSW - Sydney Region and Ryde Environmental Education Network. The exhibition is open Tuesday to Saturday between 11am and 4pm.

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