

Thursday 9 November, 2017

## Arc Infrastructure Wheatbelt Art Prize draws on local inspiration for record breaking year of creativity

**The 2017 Arc Infrastructure Wheatbelt Art Prize has broken all the records with this year's competition attracting the highest number of entries, largest prize on offer and biggest crowd attendance, confirming it as one of the region's premier cultural events.**

More than 160 individual entries were received across nine official categories including, for the first time, photography.

It was the third consecutive Wheatbelt Art Prize that Arc Infrastructure has supported, continuing the company's long association with the bi-annual event that has become a permanent fixture in the region.

As the major sponsor for the event, Arc Infrastructure was honoured to present the grand prize of \$5,000 to the overall winner – an outstanding iron sculpture by Peter Forbes and students titled *Corvus Coronoides the Widow*.

This year's winners included:

- Young Artist Award – *The Colour of Sound* by Cassidy Smith
- Photography Open Theme Category – *Smoke gets in your Eyes* by Lynley Arnott
- Photography Collgar Wind Farm Theme Category – *Powering Ahead* by Kate Caughey
- Iron Man Sculpture – *Corvus Coronoides the Widow* by Peter Forbes & students
- Oil Media Category – *Ruby 1* by De Passey
- Mixed Media/Print Making/2D, 3D Object Art/Textiles/Wearable Art Category – *Fridge Light* by Duncan Trueman
- Water Based Category – *Pink Carpet* by Val Curtis
- Dry Category – *Kitchen Bounty* by Lee Snibson

Arc Infrastructure Services Supervisor, Merredin resident, and fellow artist Jurgens Doman said the calibre of entries was truly outstanding and showed the rich vein of artistic talent within the region.

"The standard across the board this year was exceptional and as with previous years it is always amazing to see the unique colours, themes and aspects of our unique landscape in the Wheatbelt interpreted differently by each artist," Mr Doman said.

Merredin's historic Cummins Theatre provided a stunning backdrop for the artwork and prize announcement which occurred on Friday 3 November with all works exhibited over the following weekend.

Member for Central Wheatbelt Mia Davies MLA said the Prize has grown from strength to strength in recent years.

“Our region’s culture and the arts scene is thriving and the Wheatbelt Art Prize is a fantastic opportunity for showcasing some of our most talented artists’ works. We’ve experienced increasing entry numbers, newly emerging prize categories and great sponsorship support.”

“I also acknowledge the very important sponsorship support received, without which this fantastic event would not go ahead.” Ms Davies said.

-ENDS-

## ABOUT ARC INFRASTRUCTURE

*Arc is pronounced as a word and not an acronym.*

Arc Infrastructure is a leading transport infrastructure manager in Western Australia. We currently operate the State’s 5,500km freight rail network, connecting people, commodities and ports across the State with the rest of Australia and the world.

Spread across regional Western Australia, our team of 430 employees keeps the rail network operating 24/7. We live local, buy local and are committed to contributing to regional communities.

Previously called Brookfield Rail, we changed our name to Arc Infrastructure in July 2017 to reflect the aspirations for our future to expand our involvement in transport infrastructure assets. We’re committed to working with industry, our customers, partners and communities to find new opportunities that will support and strengthen our rail network for the benefit of WA.

For more information about Arc Infrastructure, please visit [www.arcinfra.com](http://www.arcinfra.com).

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