

# The Understorey



Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2014



## Ned larger than life in the Porongurup

Winner - Children's Choice Award

by Darrel Radcliffe

Hand carved Jarrah

## Art in the Park 2014

### *REFLECTION* by Judy O'Neill

All that glitters is not always pure gold,  
But 1000 Kendenup ants on a nest.  
The octopus with attitude was very bold  
While 'Setting Free' passed the judges' test.

The Plant Potter's rabbits invaded the heap,  
While famous 'Ned' steadfastly stood,  
Pretty blue birds their distance did keep,  
From the bull, elves and 'Demon' of wood.

To, 'Running out of Time', we all could relate,  
'Spring into Action', there's a message too,  
Water free gardens, 'Trace' and an old farm gate,  
Left the 'Scout Master' with not much to do.

Fascinating patterns appeared on the ground,  
Some created by our Artist-in-Residence,  
While almost daily Christine was around  
Adding to a theme that was so intense.

Volunteers at the desk were given a mission,  
Two votes were needed from each visitor,  
**"To what?" patrons asked "it's a tough decision!"**  
But the rules did not allow for more.

'Art in the Dark'! Now that needs explaining,  
Art looks so changed in the torchlight.  
Rabbits with Easter Eggs! Well who's complaining,  
And 'Scout Master' with 'Mandy'. Is that right?

The Park was alive with climbers of Castle Rock,  
Others found food and craft at the hall,  
Wine lovers had choice they could not knock,  
And the shop had hospitality for all.

The committee is already planning for 2015,  
But, at this time, won't let the volunteers know.  
They deserve to relax, and have time to self preen,  
And know they were part of a '*jolly good show*'.

## From the Chairman's Desk

This issue of *The Understorey* brings to you stories from the **2014 Art in the Park** event as well as some of the history of this well established experience on the autumn calendar.

Linda Morrison, one of the first convenors, looks back at its inception and its growth. The 2014 Art in the Park was successful and we look forward to next year. Planning for the 2015 Art in the Park is underway and, as always, we are looking for people that may be interested in assisting in the planning and stewardship of this important event. We are pleased to confirm Sandy Chambers, well-known Western Australian artist and sculptor, will be the 2015 Art in the Park Artist in Residence. Sandy resides in Boyup Brook where his murals, hologram statues and sand sculptures have earned pride of place in and around the town.

This Spring the Friends of the Porongurup Range in conjunction with the Porongurup Promotion Association have advertised in the **Hidden Treasures Bloom Festival 2014**. This will allow us to showcase Twin Creeks Community Conservation Reserve and the beautiful orchid display Twin Creeks provides each year as well as the unique flora of the National Park and its surrounds. The Bloom Festival runs from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> October so we hope to see many visitors in the area during this time.

**Twin Creeks self-walk trails:** Copies of the four walk trails will be available at Twin Creeks as well as the Porongurup Shop. **In addition, we hope to have our new visitor's information board and shelter up and ready to use by mid-September.**

A special date on the Bloom Festival calendar is the Friends of the Porongurup Range **Landmark Plaque Presentation** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm. The plaque describes the peaks of the Stirling Ranges as seen from a lookout on Porongurup Scenic Drive. Jointly funded by the Friends of the Range and one of our dedicated members Stephen Jennings, the plaque commemorates the life of **Stephen's brother** and his love for the high peaks. Invitations will be sent out in September.

The Friends of the Porongurup Range **AGM** will be held Friday, September 19th at 6.45pm at the Porongurup Shop. We are pleased Keith Bradby, coordinator of the internationally recognized restoration project Gondwana Link, will join us as guest speaker. Keith will talk about the significant contribution made by the Friends within the Link and ways we can help in the future. A fish and chip meal is available at 6pm for those who wish to join us before the AGM. Bookings for the meal essential. Please ring the shop 9853 1110. We look forward to seeing you.

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### Calendar of events

'Calendar'

[www.porongurup.org.au](http://www.porongurup.org.au)

### Save the date

**19th September 2014**

AGM & Guest Speaker

**4th October 2014**

Landmark Plaque  
Presentation

**21st November 2014**

Karribank Forum

Friends of the Porongurup Range

P O Box 514

Mt Barker WA 6324

## **From the Chairman's Desk** contd

We will elect a new executive committee at the AGM and I urge members to consider nominating for a place on the Committee. We have several important portfolios that require extra hands and minds. There will be many new, challenging, and worthwhile projects that need to be supported and managed in the next 12 months. As the saying goes many hands make light work, so please think about the role you might be able to play in the organisation.

One of the projects I would like to see established is a **Citizen Scientist Program which is fostered by the Conservation Council of WA**. I'm sure there are many Friends with not only science backgrounds but also an interest in science that would like to be part of this exciting project. Right now it needs a champion who will take on the role of getting this project up and running in the Porongurup. A Citizens Science program could support and expand on the work being carried out in the Porongurup by the University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Murdoch University.

We urge members and friends to circle November 21<sup>st</sup> in their diaries. We are hosting another one day **Karribank Forum**. Our speakers will include historian Bill Gammage, adjunct professor, Australian National University and award winning author of *The Biggest Estate on Earth—How Aborigines Made Australia*. Blending philosophy, history, and ecology, Bill describes how the Aboriginal Australians used complex land management systems to care for the country.

As governments reduce the funding available to conservation groups such as ours there is a growing need for us to look for other ways to consolidate and continue the valuable work we have been able to do in the past. The Friends of the Porongurup Range committee can only do that if its members support us by giving of their time and expertise to the various projects we have underway as well as those still to be developed. Please consider joining us on the Executive or on one of the several portfolio sub-committees. **Lorna Long**

### **Call for volunteers**

The Friends are always in need of volunteers for its projects and activities.

Many types of skills are sought and you might have just what we need.

Volunteering may be short term or long term, occasional or frequent.

#### **Volunteer on one of the Friends' committees.**

In some cases you can work from home or in the community.

The type of projects are:

Conservation activities including research and mapping flora and fauna species

The development of Twin Creeks as a field study and learning centre

Art in the Park and Art in the Hall

## Art in the Park – an **Act Belong Commit** Event



Act-Belong-Commit is a comprehensive health promotion campaign that encourages individuals and organisations who provide and promote participation in mentally healthy activities. The campaign is funded by Healthway, Curtin University and the Government of W A Mental Health Commission. The Art in the Park Committee is grateful for their continuing support.

Many thanks to our other sponsors: Bendigo Bank, Shire of Plantagenet, Department of Parks & Wildlife, Porongurup Shop, Lothlien Gallery, Porongurup Promotion Association and the Faulkner Family of Bolganup Homestead. A special note of appreciation to the Barbara Coppin Art Fund which allows for our generous prizes. The committee appreciated the presence of Marie O'Dea of Bendigo Bank, Amber Giblett from **Act Belong Commit**, and Tjeerd Poutsma representing the Barbara Coppin Fund at the awards presentation.

We received many emails and comments from patrons describing their enjoyment in attending the exhibition. Thank you to all the artists who participated in Art in the Park.

### **Artist-in-Residence**

*A site specific work as described by the artist, Elaine Clocherty:*

**After the Downpour** was created in response to the beautiful Porongurup landscape. Not long after I arrived at the Castle Rock site, a red robin was dancing around a particular spot. After going for a walk I found myself back in that same place. Framed by a bed of local reeds and sedges it looked like a natural gathering point for water. I spent several days exploring around the ranges looking for seeds and nuts to use. Given the time of year there was not a great variety which led me to use the abundant marri nut. Often found around us it is usually raked and burned.



The marri nut provided great texture and interest. The main 'pool' of the work was inspired by the lichen, moss, small wildflowers and shapes found on the granite up on top of the ranges. I was able to then extend the work up hill, working around and through the sedges and reeds, exploring the topography of the site and further expressing how water moves in the landscape. The title was provided by a passerby who commented, "it looks like it's all collected there after a downpour".

I would like to thank the Friends of the Porongurup Range for the wonderful opportunity to be Artist-in-Residence. The Park is a place of great beauty and diversity with a very energetic and dedicated group of caretakers. EC

# Art in the Park 2014



**Close ups from the  
Editor's picks for photogenic...**

Left: *The Gathering*  
by Elizabeth Jacobs

Top right: *Prize Bull*  
Lyndsay Horton

Bottom left:  
*Scout Master* by  
Scott Drummond

Middle: *Emu Evolution*  
Sue & Geoff Whitaker

Bottom: *Dragonfly* by  
Harry Hartley

# Art in the Park 2014



Above: **Highly commended** was awarded to Kevin Draper for *Trace* a forged steel work which is part of a series that references air and sky, in particular, wind currents and flight patterns associated with the Southern Coastal Hinterland.

Below: People's Choice Award 2nd Prize *Roboctopus* by Dave Taylor as well as **Highly commended** award. 'Steam Punk' inspired robot octopus. Dave: "I wanted to bring together the organic element of the wood and industrial mechanical feel of the metal into a robot organism hybrid with a bit of a 007 Ashton Martin vibe."

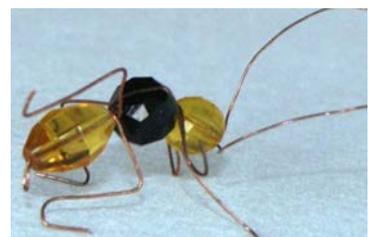


Top right: *Escargatoire* one of several ceramic snails from Janine Taylor's exhibit.

Top below: A confident, relaxed rabbit in *Around the Warren*: one of many in a display of whimsical rabbits created by the Plantagenet Potters.

Below: Peoples Choice Award 1st Prize - '*Ants Nest*'. Jan Smith, Lisa Chambers, Gaye Robinson & Jacinta Whiting created a mound of ants each individually made from recycled copper, wire, beads, styrofoam, bark, sticks and sand. In addition to Peoples Choice 1st Prize, '*Ants Nest*' was awarded **Highly commended** by the judges.

Below: close up of a single ant.



# Art in the Hall Bazaar 2014



The Porongurup Hall was transformed by the efforts of volunteers who organised attractive displays with the use of colour, lighting, and order to convey a warm welcome. Visitors raved about the choice of art as well as the food and teas provided by the Porongurup Community Association caterers. The caterers have earned a reputation for delicious home made cooking and baking whilst raising funds for local events as well as for the maintenance of the Porongurup Hall.

The Bazaar has proved to be a good outlet for the impressive array of arts and crafts created by talented artists and crafts persons throughout the community.



## Art in the Park - 2014 - Youth Section

Think left and think right and think low and think high.  
Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try. Dr Seuss

The importance of engaging our youth in the conservation of the Porongurup and its environs is an abiding principle of The Friends of the Porongurup Range. Providing youth with meaningful outdoor experiences is key to the development of their awareness of natural beauty. We hope, through Art in the Park, they will be encouraged to value nature, engage with it and become involved.

The Youth Section was expanded in 2014 and we will continue to encourage youth of all ages to participate as well as contribute art work in the future. Many thanks to the art teachers, parents, and mentors of the energetic youth who help to make the Art in the Park Youth Section a success.



**Life by the**  
Faulkner—Pearce  
Children (No. 61)  
Close up section  
of installation

*'I loved making the blue wrens and it was such a surprise when I found out we had won the first prize in the People's Choice Youth Award'. (ed: Blue Birds Branch— No.50)*



*'We used clay to make the body, we painted them with glaze paints.'*

*'I loved making them. They were awesome.'*

*'I really enjoyed making the birds.'*

It is fantastic to have the opportunity to put student work in an exhibition like Art in the Park, a great learning experience for students that increases their understanding and valuing of the Visual Arts. Warm regards, Rachel Mordy Great Southern Grammar Albany, Western Australia

## Art in the Park - 2014 - Youth Section

*Running out of time* a winner!



It's rarely the case that running out of time is a good thing. Two young artists looked at the concept in a creative way and caught the attention of the People who voted the exhibit their Choice for 2nd Prize in the Youth Section. Congratulations to Amber Thomas and Lochie Matheson for taking the time to submit work to which we can all relate!  
*Sheet metal, clocks and watches.*

Thank you to all the artists in the Youth Section including the following:

*Liam Kitson, Lucy Cantwell,*  
*Amber Williams, Daniel Williams,*  
*Jacob Williams, Nathan Williams*  
**Quinn Thomas, Brandi Ball,**  
**EVI BALL, Tamzyn Ball**



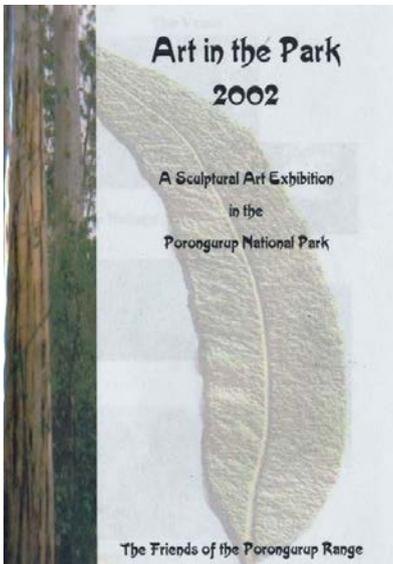
Close ups—Youth Section

Top: *Owls in the Tree*  
by Dawn Grundmann

Second : *Toadstools*  
by Ebony Taylor

Third: *Butterflies of Hope*  
by Anna Fleming

Bottom: *Plastic Garden*  
by Dylan Grundmann



# Art in the Park

**The early years** recollections by Linda Morrison as told to Maggie Shanklin

When I met with Linda Morrison to chat about the early history of Art in the Park the conversation didn't start with *Once upon a time* but Linda's opening remark was close to it: "One day, while I was out in the garden, Ann Burchell came racing up my driveway in an excited state and exclaimed 'What do you think about an art exhibition in the park?'" Linda said she prepared herself for a thorough and detailed presentation. Ann wasn't in the habit of asking a rhetorical question unless she had an answer too. 'We need to raise funds to pay back the loans for the purchase of Twin Creeks, Ann declared with her well-known determination.'

[ed: When Twin Creeks came up for sale, Ann, acutely aware of the property's diversity including an abundance of orchids and bird species, was determined Twin Creeks should be enjoyed and valued by the whole community. The Friends of the Porongurup Range purchased Twin Creeks with funds from the National Reserve System Program as well as loans from members and private donors.]

Linda continued: "Ann laid out a plan to the very last detail: 'An Art in the Park exhibition would work for everyone: the Friends, artists, local businesses and the community.' She had it thought out before hand and I knew she was determined to make it happen. When she was employed by CALM [now the Department of Parks and Wildlife] she developed networks with many people; they trusted Ann to do the right thing because of her regard for the Park and her reputation for getting things done. The idea took hold. We had a lot of support and local businesses helped in many ways.

In 2002, it was exceptional for those of us in the Porongurup community to have access to a home computer. Internet service was poor or non-existent; emails were a luxury. Mobile phone service was patchy; cameras requiring film development were still in common use. The *de rigueur* was the land line for phone calls, meeting with people face to face, and writing letters. Ann, however, did have a computer as well as the knowledge and experience to use it competently. She was able to get things done efficiently.

In the first three years, I assisted Ann to plan and implement the event until I took over the responsibilities as Coordinator. I was an artist, not an administrator. I was pushed to my limits and had to learn quickly how to organise an exhibition.

There was no infrastructure for this type of event in the Park. No fences, no gates, no parking, no toilets. **Scott & Di Drummond paid for the portable toilet until the outdoor toilet block was later built."**



The first exhibition opened on 30 March 2002 and included 20 artists, some with familiar local names: Hilde Ranson, Ian (Duke) Ranson, Anne Luscombe, Jodie deBurgh, Richard Blythe, Melanie McQuillan, Wendy Diletti and, particularly, Christine Baker and Trish Powell, who have supported the art community in so many ways throughout the years.

Linda recalled Richard Cooper's *Careless Thought* which attracted a lot of attention: a tall erect piece of polished jarrah, burnt at the top with a large cigarette butt laying on the ground next to it. Another memorable work was Kevin Draper's *Interpreter's Garden*: two dozen upright metal trees, each with a tag inscribed with the word 'hello' in different languages. In spite of being 'busy-as' leading up to the first exhibition Linda submitted *The Watchers* which won first prize. As is still custom, the award ceremony was held on the Saturday following Easter. The first year the Friends hosted a sausage sizzle with wine donated by Jingalla Wines, steadfast supporters over the years. The Porongurup Promotion Association donated the prize money.

# Art in the Park

## **The early years** *contd*

The 6<sup>th</sup> year (2007) was the most challenging for Linda. The events between February and April 2007 tested Linda in ways she would not have imagined. The February Porongurup bush fire profoundly affected **the community**. Linda described the complications: **"We didn't know if the event would be held since damage to the park and surrounding areas was extensive. Many sections were deemed unsafe. Our property had been affected too but all I could think about at the time was that the exhibition *would* happen and we *had to be prepared.*"**

Art in the Park was planned to open Saturday April 7th. The park was still closed in late March. Nearly 50 artists had created works and were anxious. DEC (now the Department of Parks & Wildlife) granted permission for the event to be held in a restricted section of the Park with only a fortnight left before the opening. Bright orange barrier tape blocked off access to the remainder of the park where stumps were burning underground and trees dropping weakened limbs and branches.

The Committee prepared to set up in the park. Linda went into the **rubble of the Morrison's burnt out shed to pull out the markers** which identify each installation. Blue (Peter Morrison) made metal stakes and timber markers in the first year and Linda painted them with a number. While the metal survived the fire, the timber was burnt and some of the **numbers couldn't be read**. Dave Taylor stepped up and replaced them in time for the opening.

Garry Mulder & Lucia Quearry retrieved the Healthway sponsored **display sign from their shed to find it had been burnt**. **"In spite of the fire damage, the lettering was legible"** Linda recalled. A poignant reminder of what the community had recently experienced.

Two days before the opening, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Ann Burchell was found at the rear boundary of her property where she frequently opened the gate for her well-loved kangaroos. She had collapsed and died.

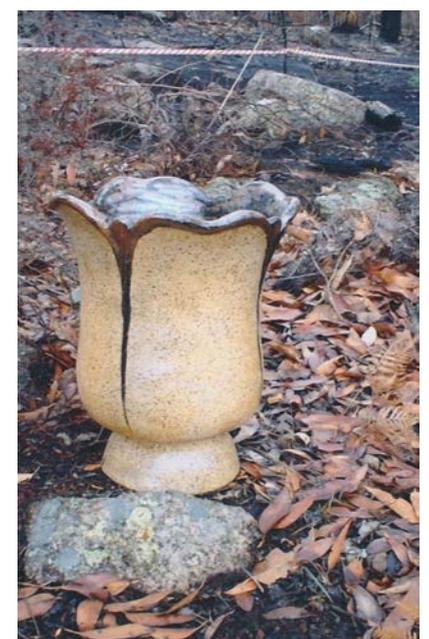
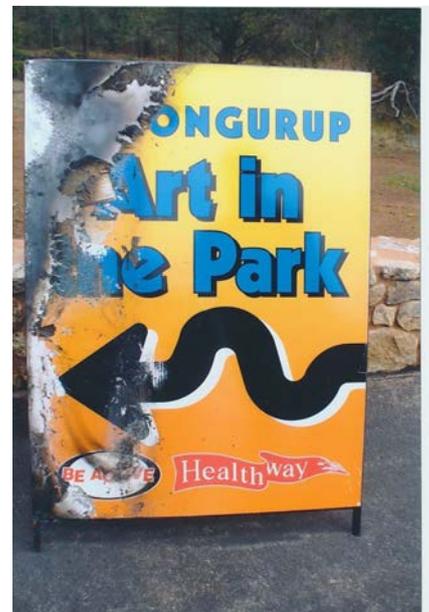
The 2007 exhibition was a success in spite of the challenges. After a some times emotional and memorable year Linda stepped down and Gayle Llewellyn took up the chairmanship for the 2008 and 2009 Art in the Park.



*Ann Burchell's inspiration and tireless efforts along with Linda Morrison's willingness to accept the challenge to serve as Chairman for several years has ensured the success of Art in the Park. It is an anticipated annual event for the benefit of local artists and for all the community. Thank you, Linda, for your contribution towards its success and for sharing poignant memories of its early history.*

Middle right: David Derrin *Ode to the Bush Spirit*, salvaged jarrah & sheoak

Bottom right: Plantagenet Potters *Storage Vessels of the Mountains*



# Art in the Park 2014

Judged award

## *Setting Free*

*Sue Noakes commented on the sculpture and talked about her inspiration for this highly regarded work:*

It started as a purely emotional piece and formed itself.

Upon reflection, I believe this is how I was guided.

The wood, from an old jarrah jetty, represents the forest. The water and clay for the ceramic content, from the earth, represents the land.

Once these items are taken from their natural environment they can be seen with different eyes.

The uprightness of the **sculpture shows man's** growth in time. The tall building can be seen as the layers taken on over time and then shed as one grows.

The final enclosing or billowing sail effect of the steel rods depicts the constraints that bind us. Even something as static as steel (given enough pressure) can be moved. All is mounted on a limestone block, and, as you know limestone filters out the impurities. Thus 'Setting free' is all about letting go and moving forward.



Sue Noakes