

HISTORY of the REDLAND ART AWARDS

Including the Dr Meredith Foxtton Award for “PEOPLE’S CHOICE”

Compiled by Danielle Bain, Secretary, Redland Yurara Art Society Inc, from previous research by Ethel Bosher, assistance from Sylvia Heterick, and historical records from Redland Yurara Art Society Inc

Dr Meredith Foxtton and her husband Alex established Redlands Clinic in Cleveland in 1955. Dr Foxtton was a staunch supporter of the Yurara Art Group and the “Redland Art Contest” from the very beginning. She left a generous bequest to Redland Yurara Art Society to be used for the Redland Art Awards for as long as possible.

1964 The Redland Art Awards arose from Yurara Art Group’s first small public exhibition held at the Cleveland Sands Hotel. It was called the “**Yurara Art Exhibition**” and the Hotel kindly offered the space to the Group at no charge. Apex and Rotary assisted with funding and 25% of all proceeds went to the Redlands Kindergarten Association. A painting was raffled and there was a small charge for the catalogue. Artists who were not members and who might like to join the Group were invited to submit works. Not all works submitted were in the final selection of 41 works shown. The art show ran for a week.

1965 The Yurara Art Group held their second Annual Art Exhibition at the Sands Hotel. They continued with their own local Annual Art Exhibitions in this way while planning the “Redlands Art Contest”.

During the history of the exhibitions, there was often a limit of 6 entries per artist, a limit of wall space taken up by those entries, and a range of entry fees according to the year, the Sections, and the value of the Awards. The exhibitions usually ran for one week, from an Opening Event on a Friday night or a Saturday, to the following Sunday.

1966 The Yurara Art Group ran the **first “Redlands Art Contest”** in April-May for one week at the Redlands Kindergarten Building. There were 129 works shown from Queensland and New South Wales. Two Junior Sections were introduced. Redland Shire Council sponsored a prize of \$100 for a painting executed within the Shire and other local businesses donated prizes for various other sections.

1967 The **second Redlands Art Contest** in April-May for one week at the Redlands Kindergarten Building. Redland Shire Council again sponsored a prize of \$100 for a painting executed within the Shire. There was a Junior Section and a 21 years and under Section. 116 works were shown plus works from two guest exhibitors.

1968 The **third Redlands Art Contest** for one week in August at the Redlands Kindergarten Building. This year, Class I Prize entries featured Ormiston House. The \$100 prize money was again donated by Redland Shire Council with a right to acquire. There

were Sections for a genre painting, for Yurara Group Members, for 20 years and under, and for 15 years and under. 133 artworks were shown. Works were also shown at David Jones' Art Gallery in the Valley for a week following the Cleveland exhibition.

1969 The **fourth Redlands Art Contest** was at the Redland Shire Council Chambers for the first time. Redland Yurara Art Society still did all the advertising, acceptance of entries, organising judges and speakers etc but Council assisted organising the art show at Chambers.

1970 The **fifth Redlands Art Contest** was again held at the Council Chambers for one week. Council donated \$100 for a local artwork and there was a separate prize of \$200 for a historical artwork. There was a \$50 prize for Yurara Art Group Members in either of those sections. There was a Watercolour Section prize of \$40, a Yurara Art Group prize for an artist 20 years or under, and \$10 prize for artwork by a child under 16 years.

1971 In the **sixth Redlands Art Contest** at Council chambers there were 121 entries in various sections and a non-competitive craft section with 9 entries. Prizes were kindly donated as usual by Council and local businesses and organisations.

1972 and 1973 Yurara Art Group Members continued organising their own exhibitions at the Sands Hotel.

In 1973 the Yurara Art Group presented their 10th Annual Exhibition with a focus on the Fauna Sanctuary near Cleveland which was under the threat of destruction. Members presented works reflecting the natural beauty of the area and its wildlife.

1974 The **seventh Redlands Art Contest** was held at St Paul's Hall, Cross St, Cleveland. There were 156 entries.

Once again the Shire Council reserved the right to purchase the prize-winning entry or any other entry in Class 1 - a painting executed within the Shire and characteristic of the Shire. If a portrait, the subject must be a Redlands resident. Prize \$100.

The Cleveland Newsagency, with a prize of \$100 in Class 2 - any painting, any style or medium, executed in any area, also reserved similar rights for Class 2.

Additional prizes - Watercolour Prize \$40 Redlands Clinic, Yurara Group Prize \$50 for a painting by a Yurara Member in any of the above Classes.

1975 **Eighth Redlands Art Contest** at St Paul's Hall, Cross St, Cleveland. There were 129 works shown.

1977 **Ninth Redlands Art Contest** at St Paul's Hall, Cross St, Cleveland. 95 entries. Yurara organisers acknowledged sponsorship of the Contest by Redland Shire Council, The Redlands Clinic, Councillor Goleby, Cleveland Newsagency, Capalaba Tavern, Redland Bay Hotel and Cleveland Sands Hotel.

1978 Tenth Redlands Art Contest 133 entries

Sponsors were Cleveland Newsagent, Daffers Hair Affair, E.C. Dean and Sons, Bob Jaillet Earthmovers, Mellersh Gallery, Redland Bay Hotel, Redland Times and Cleveland Sands Hotel, the Redlands Clinic, The Old Courthouse, and Dr Meredith Foxtton.

1979 - 1980 *Due to the death of founding member and organiser, Clothilde Highton, the Contest was not held.*

1981 Eleventh Redlands Art Contest

Redland Yurara Art Group revived the Redland Art Contest in conjunction with the Official Opening of Cleveland Galleries, 119 Bloomfield Street. There were 223 entries. Council donated \$250 with rights to acquisition and there were seven other prizes awarded in all, including the Clothilde Highton Memorial Award donated by Redland Yurara Art Group.

1982 Twelfth Redlands Art Contest. FIRST exhibition at the Redlands Cultural Centre

Once again Council supported the Contest with a prize, this time of \$300 with first right of acquisition as well as donating the venue for the exhibition. There were six Classes - Redland Shire Council (Redlands subject), Oil and Acrylics, Watercolour Award, Graphics, Sculpture and the Clothilde Highton Memorial Award (best novice painting in the Yurara Group and an Encouragement Award). Forty other sponsors generously supported the Contest with donations, including **Dr Meredith Foxtton**.

1983 Thirteenth Redlands Art Contest held at the Redland Cultural Centre (RCC)

Six Classes for entries again, with subjects much the same as last year and the **Dr Meredith Foxtton Encouragement Award** for best novice painting from Class 6 - Yurara Art Group - no entry fee payable. Other entry fees were \$2 or \$3.

1984 Fourteenth Redlands Art Contest held at the RCC again with the same criteria and six Classes with prizes ranging in value from \$25 to \$300.

1985 Fifteenth Redlands Art Contest held at the RCC, this time with 7 Sections including the Council Prize with first rights of acquisition for the winner or any other painting, and the Dr Meredith Foxtton Encouragement Award for an entry from a Yurara Member who has not won a prize in any other Section, restricted to one entry. Local sponsors were again generous with the "Local News" donating \$300 and a trophy and Carroll Framers donating framing to the value of \$150.

1986 Sixteenth Redlands Art Contest and Exhibition There was a change to the name and it was held again at the RCC with total prize money of \$2000 along the same lines as above, with eight generous sponsors including the Council, Redland Yurara Art Society and Dr Meredith Foxtton.

1990 20th Redland Art Exhibition and Contest From 462 entries, 350 were displayed at the RCC. Beaux Arts & Framing, Slacks Creek and Canson Australia Pty Ltd became sponsors.

1991 21st Redland Art Exhibition and Contest at the RCC 334 entries

There were some changes in the Sections:

- Section 1 was OPEN, sponsored by Redland Yurara Art Society Inc and J Carroll, Carroll's Picture Framing. Award \$500 and Framing Voucher \$200 TOTAL \$700
- 2. WORKS ON PAPER (Inc Watercolour) Redland Clinic & Mellersh Gallery
Award \$300 and Art Materials/Framing Voucher \$250 TOTAL \$550
- 3. REDLAND SIRE COUNCIL ART AWARD - no change Trophy and Award \$350
- 4. SMALL WORKS Sponsor E Petersen, Danish Quality Furniture Award \$200
- 5. REDLAND MUSEUM AWARD/HERITAGE OF THE REDLAND SHIRE Award \$200
Subject depicting an historical evictor object within the Shire
- 6. PAINTING OR DRAWING Any subject, any medium. Open to Yurara Art Society members who have not previously won an award Award \$100

1992 22nd Redland Art Exhibition and Contest at the RCC

Under 300 entries but the standard was such that not many were taken out of the exhibition for the final judging. There were six Sections again with the same awards except the Encouragement Award for which there were two prizes:

Sponsor Drs A&M Foxton - 1st \$100
Sponsor Commonwealth Bank 2nd \$75

And the Redland Museum Award sponsored by N.A.C. & A.E. Dean rose to \$250

1993 23rd Redland Art Contest and Exhibition at the RCC

There were seven Sections this year with some changes in the structure:

The REDLAND SHIRE COUNCIL AWARD & TROPHY was a separate award for the best work by a resident of the Redland Shire selected from Sections 1 - 6 \$350

1. CLOTHILDE HIGHTON MEMORIAL AWARD TOTAL \$800
[Yurara \$500, Manly Gallery \$100 (new sponsor), Carroll's Framing \$200]
2. WORKS ON PAPER Any medium TOTAL \$450
Redland Clinic \$300, Mellersh Gallery Art Materials Voucher \$150
3. WATERCOLOUR AWARD Excluding Gouache \$300
Sponsored by The Redland Times & Bayside Bulletin
4. REDLAND MUSEUM AWARD \$250
5. SMALL WORKS AWARD (23 x 12.5cm excluding frame) \$200
6. ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD \$100
7. YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD 12 - 17 yrs Any medium \$100
Sponsor Commonwealth Bank, Cleveland Branch

1994 24th Redland Art Contest & Exhibition at the RCC 352 works shown

It was celebrated by Redland Yurara Art Society as the **30th Anniversary** since the beginning of their exhibitions in **1964**. They had continued with their own members'

exhibitions even though *the Australia-wide Contest had not been held every single year*. There were 8 Sections and some new sponsors noted below.

The Grandview Hotel offered its premises for an exhibition of the winning paintings for a week in October.

1. OPEN PAINTING AWARD	TOTAL \$1000
Redland Yurara Art Society \$450, Redland shire Council \$350, Carroll's Picture Framing \$200 voucher	
2. WORKS ON PAPER AWARD	\$450
3. WATERCOLOUR AWARD	\$300
4. REDLAND MUSEUM AWARD	\$250
5. WORKS IN BLACK & WHITE Any medium	\$250
Manly Gallery \$150, Redland Yurara Art Society \$100	
6. SMALL WORKS AWARD	\$200
7. ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD	\$250
Sponsored by Drs A&M Foxton \$100 , Artistcare \$150 voucher	
8. YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD	\$120
1 st Grandview Hotel \$100 art materials voucher	
2 nd Cleveland Office Supplies \$20 art materials voucher	

1995 25th Art Contest - there were changes of names to both the contest and the venue - the **REDLAND ART AWARDS** were held at the **Redlands Entertainment Centre** and the awards were a featured event at the International Fiesta. Entries came in from South Australia, New South Wales and all over Queensland along with many local artists comprising half of the award winners. There were over 700 entries.

There were 10 Sections:

1. OPEN ACQUISITIVE
2. WORKS ON PAPER
3. SCULPTURE
4. WATERCOLOUR
5. SMALL WORKS
6. HERITAGE - REDLAND MUSEUM
7. EMERGING ARTIST
8. PORTRAIT
9. BLACK & WHITE
10. ENCOURAGEMENT

Major sponsors were Redland Yurara Art Society, Redland Shire Council, Raby Bay Development, Redlands Clinic, Redland Times and Bayside Bulletin, MD Arnold & Associates Surveyors, Carroll's Picture Framing, Jensen Bowers Land Development Consultants and Artistcare Pty Ltd. Secondary sponsors were Drs Alec & Meredith Foxton, Mellersh Gallery, Rick Kaczala Surveyors, Dr Joanna Phillips, Mr N.A.C. Dean, The Grandview Hotel, The Manly Gallery, Danish Quality Furniture Pty Ltd, Cleveland Office Supplies

1996 26th Redland Art Awards held at the Redland Entertainment Centre

437 entries were received with 260 hung. There were 9 Sections:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--|
| 1. OPEN PAINTING | \$1000 | Redland Yurara Art Society & Mellersh Gallery |
| 2. WORKS ON PAPER | \$1000 | Jensen Bowers, Pike Miris McNoulty, Dr Noel Barker, Manly Gallery |
| 3. WATERCOLOUR | \$700 | Carroll's Picture Framing, Grandview Hotel, Dr Joanna Phillips, Redland Yurara Art Society |
| 4. PORTRAITURE | \$500 | Town's End Gallery, Danish Quality Furniture |
| 5. BLACK & WHITE | \$500 | Redland Times & Bayside Bulletin, Hobson Strong Group |
| 6. SMALL WORKS | \$450 | Artistcare, Redland Real Estate, Dr JM Fisher, Cleveland Office Supplies |
| 7. EMERGING ARTIST | \$450 | Drs A&M Foxtton, Redlands Clinic |
| 8. REDLAND MUSEUM | \$400 | Mr & Mrs NAC Dean |
| 9. 1996 FEATURE AWARD | \$1000 | Acquisitive Indigenous Australian Award |

Open to indigenous Australian artists. Any medium. The winning work to be judged with the cooperation of a member of the Aboriginal Community and be acquired by the **Redland Shire Council** for their collection

1997 27th Redland Art Awards held at a new venue - REDLANDS MEMORIAL HALL at the Cleveland Showgrounds. There were over 700 entries, with 345 hung, and there was a long list of sponsors with newcomers being Stradbroke Framing, The Picture Shop, Whitehall Framing, the Enchantry, Stradbroke Flyer & Kinross Gardens. Entry Fee was \$10 per artwork. Sections were:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1. OPEN PAINTING | Limit 1 work | \$1000 |
| 2. WORKS ON PAPER | Limit 1 work | \$1000 |
| 3. INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN ART AWARD | Limit 3 works | \$ 800 |
| 4. SCULPTURE | Limit 3 works | \$ 500 |
| 5. WATERCOLOUR | Limit 2 works | \$ 500 |
| 6. PORTRAITURE | Limit 3 works | \$500 |
| 7. BLACK & WHITE | Limit 3 works | \$500 |
| 8. SMALL WORKS | Limit 3 works | \$400 |
| 9. EMERGING ARTISTS | Limit 3 works | \$400 |
| 10. REDLAND MUSEUM | Limit 3 works | \$400 |

1998 28th Redland Art Awards held at the Redlands Memorial Hall again. The value of prizes was raised, ranging between \$1500 to \$500, with a total prize pool of \$6000.

The eight Sections were Open Painting, Sculpture, Indigenous Australian Art, Drawing, Watercolour, Small Works, Encouragement Award and the Redland Museum Award.

1999 29th Redland Art Awards held at the Memorial Hall. Prize money ranged from \$1500 to \$450. Entry fees were \$15 or \$10 per work depending on the Section.

Maximum size for the Open Painting Section was 2.25 sq m.

The Encouragement Award was open to current students of a recognised Art College or School or past students who have completed their course within one year.

The seven Sections were the same as last year without a Drawing Section.

2000 30th Redland Art Awards celebrated the new millennium in fine style with an Opening Night at the Redland Community Cultural Centre attended by almost 300 people. A Lucky Door Prize and a People's Choice Award were offered.

There were well over 465 entries, with over 350 shown.

The total prize pool was \$8000, organised by Redland Yurara Art Society through their own money-raising efforts and generous sponsors including Council, the Regional Arts Development Fund, Dr Meredith Foxton, a shopping centre, and other local businesses, newspapers, medical centres and hotels.

The seven Sections were Open Painting, Works on Paper, Watercolour, Indigenous Australian Art, Small Works, Encouragement Award - open to art students - and People's Choice Award.

2001 Redland Art Awards held again at the Redland Community Cultural Centre.

The format changed, with only four Sections and a total limit of four entries per artist in Section 1 Open Painting, Section 2 Works on Paper and Section 3 Small Works and two entries in Section 4 Encouragement Award.

The value of the Awards went up to \$2000 for the first two Sections, \$500 for Sections 3 and 4.

2002 Redland Art Awards held in the Cultural Centre.

2003 Redland Art Awards held in the Cultural Centre for the last time.

In 2003-4 discussions with the Shire Council due to some difficulties with funding and reduction in sponsorship from the community resulted in some suggestions to keep the Awards viable:

- The number of paintings exhibited could be reduced
- That would mean that the Council Art Gallery could be used to stage the Awards instead of the larger space of the Cultural Centre
- That would save the cost of hiring the venue and screens, which was becoming prohibitive
- The Awards could take the place of the Redland Yurara Art Society's Annual Exhibition held at the Redland Art Gallery.
- The awards could be held every second year, meaning Yurara's exhibition would be also be held biennially.

2005 The current format for the Awards was finalised. There were to be no separate sections and no specific theme. There were to be fewer prizes but the prizes would have greater value. The Redland Art Gallery retained acquisitive rights. There was to be a Salon Des Refuses exhibition held for Redland Yurara Members' works not chosen as finalists.

2006 The Redland Art Gallery joined Redland Yurara Art Society to present The **Redland Art Awards** at the Redland Art Gallery. 410 entries were received. The exhibition ran for one month instead of one week and was a great success.

The Meredith Foxtton People's Choice Award became part of the prize pool.

A Redland Art Awards Sub-committee was formed by Redland Yurara Art Society to continue the administration of the Award in liaison with the Redland Art Gallery. This arrangement continued until at least 2012, with biennial instead of yearly Redland Art Awards held at the Redland Art Gallery.

2008 By 2008 all Australian States and Territories were represented with 520 entries. The opening night event was by invitation only, and more than 3000 visitors attended the exhibition during its run.

2010 Awards continued biennially.

2012 390 entries from across Australia. By now the prize values are \$10,000, \$4000, \$2,500 and the People's Choice \$500.

2024.....Redland Art Gallery now undertakes all the administration of the Awards. The prizes have gradually risen in value to the current amounts:

- Acquisitive First Prize \$20,000
- Second Prize \$6000
- Third Prize \$3000
- **Meredith Foxtton People's Choice Award** \$1000
- RAMP Member's Choice Award \$500

Finalists in the Redland Art Awards have gone on to be selected as finalists in the Archibald Prize, the Wynn Landscape Prize, the Sulman Prize, and other prestigious awards.