

# PORTFOLIO

## WILDLIFE ART SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA'S (WASA) WILD AWARDS 2018

From swans to shoebills, from Australia to Africa they came; from scratchboards and oils, from watercolour and drawings; four blue wrens, three kangaroos, two lazy cheetah and a flowered hippo standing proud. These and many more creatures were shown at the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia's (WASA) Wild Awards 2018 exhibition held at Burrinja Galleries in Upwey, VIC.

The venue was impressive, the local viewers and general public adored the exhibition and complementary events and artworks with red dots

made many people happy. The Wild Awards exhibition is held biennially to celebrate the best of wildlife art in Australia and is open to members of WASA.

WASA and Burrinja, Dandenong, Ranges Cultural Centre curator J D Mittmann organised two events during the exhibition, being an artist's talk by two of WASA's well-travelled and highly respected members, Stephen Powell and Janet Matthews, and an evening interactive event for young people utilising some of the artworks with live performers and pizzazz. We will feature more art from this exhibition in a future edition.

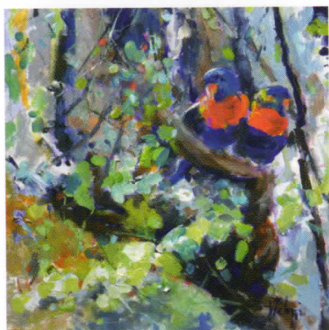
[www.wildlifeartsociety.com](http://www.wildlifeartsociety.com)



### GOLD 1ST PRIZE

**Shoebill, a Ugandan Icon, PATRICK HEDGES, scratchboard (Patrick won WASA's Wild Awards 2010 when he introduced scratchboard to Australia)**

Judges Comments: This work presents as an outstanding example of the use of the medium as well as a creative expression of the bird. It transcends a mere bird portrait; the vulnerable Shoebill's direct gaze confronting the viewer on an emotional level, demanding attention. The bold coloured bands on the right of the board (representing the flag of Uganda) was a daring move by the artist and creates an exciting interest and contrast to the delicate handling of the subject itself. The tonal work of the bird and background is subtly handled. Overall the work is compositionally sound and rewarding to look at.



### JUDGES' COMMENDATION AWARD

**Two Bright Spots, VELDA PALAZZI, acrylic on canvas**

Judges Comments: I love the freshness and life in this work, the play of colours and broad brush strokes which sing on the canvas. This artist is not afraid to be bold with the medium, exploring and expressing her subjects.



**SILVER 2ND PRIZE**

**Avocet Nest - Circle Brush Stroke, DARREN GILBERTS, ink on illustration board**

Judges Comments: Wildlife artists can be daring and bold, not afraid to encompass a non-traditional approach to the genre. This work succeeds wonderfully in that aim. The bold ink brush stroke swirls around, representing an enfolding nest that cradles the eggs protectively. The eggs are finely drawn, exquisitely delicate and detailed contrasting with the bold brush strokes of the nest. I find this an exciting composition that is beautifully considered and well executed.



**BRONZE 3RD PRIZE**

**Blue and Yellow Macaw, EVAN NEOKLI, graphite on paper**

Judges Comments: The artist's handling of the graphite medium is superb, allowing the texture of the paper to enhance the strokes. Every line has a purpose and nothing is overstated. It is fine handling of the tonal range of a difficult, colourful subject - to get all those blues and yellows to translate well and 'read' into greyscale is a real achievement. This is a wonderful drawing that I returned to admire and study many times.