

Kingfisher catches eye

By Shelby Gurney

Queensland Art Awards has unearthed an impressive span of creatives in Queensland, with Cooee Bay artist Michelle Turner achieving a finalist spot for the Annie Tan Memorial Watercolour Award with her artwork 'The Kingfishers Catch'.

Accountant by day and Artist by night, Michelle Turner is relatively new to the art world.

This is the first competition she has entered since starting her art journey two years ago.

"I'm only a beginner so I was really surprised and I didn't really expect to get anywhere, when I saw the finalist title I was shocked," she said.

"I have always loved art and did it through high school, but then once I finished year 12 and just sort of went on to life and became an accountant and became a mother.

"My daughter Hedi and I saw a small art workshop run by Delaney Cheal on the weekend, so we went along and I absolutely loved it, and it's just kicked off since then."

Michelle's first major purchase around 30 years ago when she started earning wages was a limited edition Norman Lindsay.

"That cost rather a few weeks pay back then, however, I have admired it every day since and love it just as much today as I did at the time of purchase," she said.

"If my house was burning, my art collection is the only thing I would worry about trying to save, everything else is replaceable."

Living on the ocean in Cooee Bay she is inspired daily by the everchanging ocean and active birdlife the artist paints fluid watercolour creations from what she sees.

"On occasion I have been lucky enough to see a fish being plucked from the ocean, lucky for me and the bird that is, not lucky for said fish," she said.

Michelle believes finding the perfect reference photos to paint from is one of the most



Cooee Bay Artist Michelle Turner.

Pictures: SUPPLIED



'The Kingfishers Catch' achieved a finalist spot for the Annie Tan Memorial Watercolour Award.

challenging parts of being an artist.

Her vibrant watercolour piece uses a photo reference from Amsterdam photographer Lex West, who regularly and kindly supplies her with bird photos.

"The Kingfisher is just so beautiful, it's my favourite bird to paint," she said.

In the future Michelle hopes to enter more

art competitions and continue to create her bird-filled watercolour paintings.

Flying Arts Allience's signature event, The Queensland Regional Art Awards (QRAAs), had a \$140,000 prize pool this year.

The \$100,000 increase from last year makes QRAA one of the largest art prizes in Australia.

First-round judge artist, curator, and director of the Rockhampton Museum of Art Jona-

than McBurnie said the 350 entries received showcase pieces that best represent the diversity in artistic talent in regional Queensland.

For those looking to see the continuation of Michelle's art journey visit her social media at:

- Facebook: Michelle Turner - Feather and Scale Fine Art
- Instagram: featherandscalefineart



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Gold and Platinum Award-winning singer, Karen Knowles. Picture: SUPPLIED

It's Christmas with Karen

It's almost Christmas time and who better to celebrate the festive season at the Pilbeam Theatre's December Morning Melodies than Gold and Platinum Award-winning singer, Karen Knowles.

Join Karen for a wonderful selection of her hits, standards, new music and your favourite Christmas songs on Monday 4 December at 11am.

Through song, Karen will spread peace, joy, unity and connection, taking audiences into the true Spirit of Christmas.

Starting her performance career on Young Talent Time, Karen quickly moved into recording and became the highest-selling Australian female recording artist for two consecutive years.

She has performed as lead singer with The Seekers, starred as female lead in the stage musical Big River, and recently released her 7th studio album Solid Ground and 8th studio album Sanctuary.

Communities and Heritage Councillor Drew Wickerson said council's Morning Melodies concert series at the Pilbeam Theatre is a popular event for many local seniors, with each year's Christmas show being much anticipated.

"Morning Melodies is a great way for seniors to connect over a free morning tea supplied by Brumby's followed by some great entertainment," Cr Wickerson said.

"I am sure audiences will love Christmas with Karen Knowles. She is very well known for his carols and Christmas repertoire and continues to be a very popular and much in demand performer."

Karen's best-known hits include Why Won't You Explain, You are the Reason, By Request, La Vie en Rose, Amazing Grace, I am Australian and Moonglow.

Don't miss Morning Melodies, Christmas with Karen Knowles at the Pilbeam Theatre on Monday 4 December at 11am.

Tickets are now on sale from the Pilbeam Theatre Box Office, phone 4927 4111 and www.seeitlive.com.au.

A free morning tea, supplied by Brumby's Gracemere, Allenstown, Parkhurst, will be available from 10am.

Morning Melodies is presented by Rockhampton Regional Council.