

2013 Event a Great Success!

The 2013 *Wrapped in St Marys* event started early, with a radio interview with Chris Whisbey on ABC Statewide at 7.12 am, yarnbombing at 8 am, and power poles wrapped by 9 am.

The rest of the first day was full of activity, with a market in the town hall and exhibitions at Gone Rustic, St Marys Childcare and the Community Hall. There was a great 'buzz' as people strolled around admiring the street art and taking advantage of all the activities on offer.

Fifty people attended the awards presentation at 4 pm. Event co-ordinator Rita Summers welcomed everyone and expressed thanks to all the sponsors and participants. Afternoon tea with locally made pizza and cream sponge cakes, as well as hot sausage rolls, party pies and mini spring rolls, warmed and fuelled everyone before votes were taken on the connected textile art display. Janet Drummond, co-ordinator of the St Marys School Association Op Shop, presented certificates and vouchers to the winners (Rita and Ros).

Then GET president Peter Troode spoke briefly before handing over to Vice-President Wendy Fowler, who presented the awards with assistance from Break O'Day mayor, Sarah Schmerl.

The winners for 2013 are:

Group, junior category – St Marys Childcare (certificate + \$150)
Group, adult – St Marys School Association Op Shop (certificate + \$150)
Connected, theme, 2nd – Kelly Farrell (certificate and \$150)
Connect, theme, 1st – Judy Duckett (certificate and \$250)
Open, textile art – Stitchedupmama (certificate and \$300)

Congratulations to all the winners and to all the entrants! The standard was very high, and the judges had a difficult task in deciding on who should receive the awards. An executive decision was made to offer a 2nd prize this year in the theme category because of this dilemma. Rather a nice position to be in!

The second day of the weekend saw the streets full of people and cars as the Cranks and Tinkerers hosted their 7th Annual Car Show. Classic cars and other vehicles filled Faulkner's Green and many of the parking spots in the centre of town. Franks Street also had to be closed to deal with the overflow.

Exhibitions were again well attended, and the eating places did a roaring trade. Many visitors had also stayed overnight, so the accommodation places in the town were well utilised.

This year a People's Choice Award was offered for the first time. Visitors to our 2013 event were invited to vote for their favourite power pole wrap, and did so with enthusiasm. After votes were counted at the end of day 2, the results were extremely close, with only 1 vote between each of the top 3 choices.

We are very pleased to announce that the People's Choice Award went to Kelly Farrell of St Marys. This is in addition to her second prize win, as mentioned above!

We are thrilled with how *Wrapped in St Marys* panned out this year. The town was buzzing, and people just walked around in the winter sun smiling and chatting while enjoying the street art, exhibitions, market, car show and all the wonderful assets our town has on offer.

Many thanks to our sponsors, to all the participating businesses and organisations, the textile artists, and everyone in the community and beyond who supported our event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Rita Summers, Event co-ordinator

Event supported by: Greater Esk Tourism, Break O'Day Council, Aurora, Cranks and Tinkerers Car Show; public liability insurance - Break O'Day Regional Arts, Break O'Day Woodcraft Guild