



## **Archies Bald Portrait Prize**

### ***Celebrating the hairless head***

#### **All exhibition proceeds to Cancer Research**

One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85 is one in eight for women, one in 721 for men.<sup>1</sup>

Deb Rielly, was one of them.

The popular Wonthaggi paramedic, triathlete, tireless volunteer and charity fundraiser, Bass Coast Shire Citizen of the Year 2019 and mother of 19-year-old twin sons, lost her battle with cancer after a 15-year fight just six months ago. During that 15 years she lost her hair through chemotherapy treatment and faced taunts as she refused to wear a wig or a scarf. She became the inspiration for a unique art exhibition which celebrates the hairless head.

The inaugural exhibition was a great success with paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures all being represented. So great a success that a book is to be published and released in December this year. The judge, internationally renowned artist, Dr Tony Hanning said of the exhibition, "The quality of the work was outstanding. Some of it was extremely clever, demonstrating exceptional painting and drawing skills while some of it was more deliberated and worked but in both cases excellence was the final outcome."

Next year will follow a similar theme to this year's with a special preview of artworks at the Wonthaggi Town Hall in conjunction with the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea on May 20<sup>th</sup>. "Deb's incredible courage has inspired us to come together as a community in Gippsland to raise funds to make cancer a disease of the past," said one of the organisers, Liane Arno.

We invite you to join us for our book launch on December 8, 2019 from 4 to 6pm at ArtSpace Gallery, 1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi. You will see a diverse range of images from the haunting to the quirky and read the often quite moving stories that inspired the artists. We would then appreciate it if you can help publicise our 2020 Archies Bald Portrait Prize with exhibition proceeds to the Cancer Council.

For further information phone Liane Arno on 0408 055 767, visit [www.archiesbaldprize.com](http://www.archiesbaldprize.com) or email Liane at [archiesbaldprize@gmail.com](mailto:archiesbaldprize@gmail.com)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cancer.org.au/about-cancer>