

Eyre Peninsula Camera Clubs Get Together 2024.

The wonderful exhibition of 36 talented Eyre Peninsula photographers' work, held at Breeze Bistro over the last month, is now over.

The exhibition culminated in the annual Eyre Peninsula Camera Clubs get together, over the weekend of 16-17th March. Whyalla Photography Group hosted the weekend, which was attended by 50 people, including the President and Secretary of the South Australian Photographic Federation, Geraldine and Wayne Hough. The SAPF was a major sponsor of the weekend. Other sponsors included Breeze Bistro, Whyalla Scaffolding, and Eyre Peninsula Trophy and Engraving.

The group chose to call the event "Focus on Whyalla" with resounding success.

Friday evening began at Breeze Bistro, with an address on the planned future of Whyalla and region, by Mayor Phil Stone, who then presented the winners of the photography competition, which had been judged by national judges prior to the event. Over the month of the exhibition, the public was able to vote for a viewer's choice award in each of the sections. It was great to see how many people took the time to vote, and as a thank-you, the Mayor also made a random draw from the voters, for a gift basket. This was won by Sheree Baker of Whyalla, who was happy to come and be congratulated in person. A rowdy dinner followed with lots of catching up with old friends, and more viewing of the photos by participants.

On Saturday our visitors had many activities to participate in, or choices to explore the city at their leisure, like the Whyalla Art Trail, or to check out the camera collection of a local photographer. One party explored Point Lowly and Fitzgerald Bay and learnt about the history of the lighthouse, the old Weeroona Bay holiday camp, the shingle banks and the cuttlefish. Over the course of the weekend, Spencer Gulf Adventures was kept busy with multiple boat tours to see the dolphins, jetty and steelworks. Saturday evening another delicious dinner at the Bistro allowed everyone to recap on the day, and the presentation of the viewers' choice gift baskets. Some photographers then drove up onto Hummock Hill to enjoy the lights of the jetty and steelworks.

Sunday morning saw another party head to Wild Dog Hill, and then meander through the scrub to Koloroo dam. The birdwatchers were happy to explore the wetlands, and were even excited to see the number of species at the "poo ponds". The Elvis museum was also a great hit. After lunch the weekend wound up, allowing those who needed to travel, time to head for home, as we had members from as far as Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Elliston and Port Lincoln.

The visitors were extremely happy and excited to explore and learn about our region. Many did not realise the variety of things to do, in the city and surrounds. Our Adelaide attendees were also very happy to enjoy the friendliness and hospitality of the country Photography Clubs.

Of course we can't forget the photographers who took out the awards for their entries in the five sections of the competition.

In the "Nature" section, first was Fran Solly, and second was Lisa Kurtin, both from Port Lincoln.

In the "Open" section, first was Tania Visic from Port Lincoln, and second was Maggie Roberts Duffy from Whyalla.

In the "People" section, first was Karen Bilney from Whyalla, and second was Liz Davis from the Far West club.

In the "Street" section, first was Annette Kirby, and second was Maggie Roberts Duffy, both from Whyalla.

In the "Scapes" section, Annette Kirby, Whyalla, won both first and second places.

Karen Bilney from Whyalla was awarded the Champion Print with her fabulous image "The Thinker"

From the 411 entries, forty one Merit awards were also given out to excited members, obviously too numerous to name here.

Overall, a fabulous weekend in our fair city was enjoyed by all, and everyone is now looking forward to next year in Streaky Bay.....