



Media release

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EMBARGOED: 6AM FEBRUARY 3, 2018

The Archibald is here

THE Archibald Prize 2017 Touring Exhibition is now on display at the Grafton Regional Gallery until 4pm, March 18. This is a ticketed exhibition. The tickets are season tickets so you can come and enjoy Australia's foremost portraiture prize as many times as you like. Tickets cost \$10 per person, \$5 for Friends of the Gallery and ANZ customers, a gold coin for school students and free for pre-schoolers.

New opening hours will be operating at the gallery. While the Archibald is on display the gallery will be open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Saturday, staying open to 7pm on Friday evenings and be open on Sundays 10am-2pm. Our new café, Entrees, will be open the same hours.

While the Archibald Prize 2017 Touring Exhibition is on display at the gallery a variety of public programs will be presented, including guided tours and Wi-Fi tours and a People's Choice Award.

Every Saturday until and including Saturday, March 17, free guided tours are available. Book through Eventbrite to enjoy a guided tour by one of the gallery's volunteer guides. Cost of the tour is simply your season ticket to the Archibald. Wi-Fi tours are available on your device. The link to the Wi-Fi tours is available on arrival.

While you are at the gallery make sure you vote in the People's Choice Award. Voting is available in the exhibition space. All voters will have a chance to win a \$500 cash prize from ANZ. The winner will be drawn from those who voted for the portrait that receives the most votes while in Grafton. Voting is free.

The Archibald Prize was first awarded in 1921, making it one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious art awards. In establishing the prize, JF Archibald's aim was to foster portraiture as well as support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians. Over the years some of Australia's most prominent artists have entered and the subjects have been equally celebrated in their fields.

Judged by the trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and awarded to the best portrait painting, the Archibald Prize exhibition is a who's who of Australian culture – from politicians to celebrities, sporting heroes to artists.

Now worth \$100,000 the Archibald is awarded to the best portrait preferably of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics, painted by any artist resident in Australasia.

The touring exhibition presents the 43 finalists of this non-acquisitive prize. Over the years of the prize many of the entries have become part of the Art Gallery of New South Wales Collection.

The Archibald Prize 2017 Regional Tour has been to Geelong Gallery, Victoria and the Murray Art Museum Albury, New South Wales on its seven-venue tour. After Grafton it will travel to the Casula Powerhouse in Liverpool, Newcastle Art Gallery, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery and the Glasshouse in Port Macquarie.

The regional tour is an Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition and presented in partnership with ANZ. The host of Archibald Prize 2017 Regional Tour, the Grafton Regional Gallery, is a cultural service of the Clarence Valley Council.



IMAGE: Winner Packing Room Prize 2017, Archibald Prize 2017 finalist Peter Smeeth, *Lisa Wilkinson* AM, © the artist, Photo: AGNSW

Release ends.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.