Meet the Judges

2024 Exhibition

Matt Harland

Mr Matt Harland is a stakeholder Liaison for Origin Energy's Upstream Operator for Australia Pacific LNG.

Matt enjoys creating and bringing old scrap steel or timber to life in his own sculptures and enjoys challenging himself to repurpose items. A Roma local, Matt lives on a 360 acre block with wife Louise and children Olivia, Millie and Mac. Matt and family enjoy all the region has to offer and are passionate about supporting the community. Matt completed his Cert III and Cert IV in Agriculture at Dalby before returning to Roma and has been an active member of the Origin/APLNG family for almost 15 years.

Natasha Edwards

Natasha , Co-Founder, Artistic Director, and Curator of the SWELL Sculpture Festival, has led an impressive 22-year journey of expanding both permanent and temporary public art.Under her visionary leadership and business acumen, SWELL has evolved into a cultural cornerstone, significantly enhancing the city's arts and tourist economy.

Natasha's unwavering commitment to fostering creativity has empowered artists from diverse backgrounds and played a pivotal role in nurturing sustainable careers and promoting inclusion.Her vision for exhibitions and programs reflecting human diversity is inspiring both artists and audiences, leaving a profound impact on her community and beyond.

Natasha Edwards continued....

Natasha is a highly regarded contributor to the art world, recognised with prestigious awards, including the City of Gold Coast 2013 Australia Day Cultural Achievement Award, the International Women's Day Leadership Award for Innovation, and the 2022 Gold Coast Bulletin Women of the Year Stars of Tourism Award. Her enduring achievements speak to her transformative influence in the art and cultural sphere.

Kay Paton

Kay is fortunate enough to say she is a country woman having grown up on a family cattle station and worked on properties all her life. Her love for sculpting and bronze work was fostered when she was an exchange student in America. Her host Mum was very arty and they visited many museums and art galleries in her time with the family. When she came back to Australia, she was helped a great deal by her brother Ian with the casting process and over the years had much needed help setting up her own casting foundry. After working on the property for many years, her husband and she moved back to their little property in 2015. Since then she has been busy with many life size projects which she enjoys.

To date some of her larger commissions include:
Life size of drover Snow Burgess at the Nebo Museum, 1/3 life size of Santa Gertrudis bull in the garden at the Stockmans Hall of Fame, Life size bust of Graeme Acton at Paradise Lagoons, Life size Coal Miner for the Memorial Garden in Moranbah, Life size Canecutter for Dame Melba House, Marion and presently working on three life size men for the Maltese Corner, Mackay.

Kay Paton continued...

Over the years she has created over 700 trophies including the Beef Australia stockmen for the last three events. As time goes on, costs are now my biggest limiting factor for continuing with producing trophies. It's a sad reality of business on today's environment. In years to come I hope to be able to be in the position to create many of the pieces that I have stored away in my mind. Back to my horses and cattle!

Grant Hall

Grant brings a rich and diverse background to the judging panel of the Sculptures Out Back competition. His tenure with Origin Energy, spanning 15 years in the Roma, Chinchilla and Wandoan areas, has provided inspiration.

Working as an operations technician and supervisor in the gas industry, Grant has gained a deep understanding of industrial processes and materials, which he incorporates into his sculptures. Grant currently balances his professional role in the gas industry with his passion for art. His off-shift time is dedicated to developing new pieces, often combining metal and timber in innovative ways. His creations showcase a fusion of his technical background and his artistic vision, resulting in works that are both intricate and robust.

As a judge for the Sculptures Out Back competition, Grant Hall brings a unique perspective that bridges the gap between engineering and art. His ability to see beauty in the mundane and transform it into extraordinary sculptures will be invaluable in assessing the works of participants. Grant's experience and artistic sensibility will ensure a thoughtful and comprehensive evaluation of each submission, celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and the transformative power of art.

Grant Hall continued...

Grant's journey from a farm in Northern NSW to the Royal Australian Air Force, and then to a career in the gas industry, reflects a life dedicated to both technical mastery and artistic exploration. Grant's sculptures are a testament to the possibilities that arise when engineering expertise meets creative imagination.

As a judge, he is poised to inspire and elevate the Sculptures Out Back competition with his distinctive insights and appreciation for innovative art.

The Sculptures Out Back Committee wish to thank our 2024 Judges for their time, expertise and detailed eye.