

Lucca's self-portrait in Young Archies

Lucca Harvey's first watercolour is on show at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The Year 11 Christ Church Grammar School art student's self-portrait is a finalist in the national Young Archie portraiture competition.

"My work is called A Splash of Me and it took me about four hours," Lucca (15) said.

"Watercolour is definitely an easier medium than acrylic to get a handle on."

"I decided to work in watercolour because over the summer break I grew tired of using the same medium."

"I wanted to step out of my comfort zone and bring back the excitement of doing something new."

The Young Archies are held in conjunction with the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes exhibition.

They are open to artists between the ages of five and 18. Lucca is a finalist in the 13 to 15 category.

This year the competition attracted more than 2100 entries. Lucca has studied art at CCGS since Year 4.

"It helps me be myself more," he said. "I enjoy creating things."

His favourite artists are Dutch Old Master Rembrandt and contemporary American Stan Miller.

His extra-curricular art teacher, Evette Du at Du FN Art Academy in Claremont, told him about the Young Archies, the winners of which will be announced on August 10.

Lucca said he would go to Sydney to see his painting on show.



Easel does it ... Lucca Harvey did well with his first-ever watercolour. Photo: Billie Fairclough. INSET: Lucca's self-portrait.

Home values down as much as 22%

By KIM CHRISTIAN

The western suburbs are feeling the housing pinch, with the value of some homes dropping more than 20% in the past year.

The value of residential properties in North Fremantle, where there is a large supply of recently finished apartments, has fallen 22% since May last year.

The value of Perth's most expensive homes has fallen almost in line with the overall Perth market decline of 8.3% in the past year, showing many desirable suburbs are being caught in the downturn.

A Corelogic report shows house and unit price falls in Perth have occurred in both the most expensive quarter and the least expensive quarter of the housing market.

The most expensive quarter of Perth housing fell 7.9% and the cheapest quarter has dropped 9.3% over the past 12 months.

"Markets where housing affordability is less challenging, such as Perth, are recording smaller declines across the upper quartile," Corelogic's latest April Housing value report said.

Some individual suburbs have posted steep year-on-year falls, with North Fremantle housing values down 22%, Dalkeith 10%

lower and Mosman Park dropping 8%, Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) figures show.

Nedlands and Swanbourne are down 7%, Shenton Park and Cottesloe dropped 5% and City Beach has lost 4% over the past year.

But Floreat, Wembley Downs, Claremont and West Perth have bucked the trend, rising 4%, 4%, 12% and 14% respectively.

Banks are still cautious about the local market, with West Perth rated the riskiest suburb in the western suburbs to get a loan, according to Digital Finance Analytics.

Corelogic said that in the past five years, Perth home values overall had fallen almost 20%, making it the worst-performing state capital in Australia over the medium term.

Dwelling values in Perth fell 18.1% in the five years and prices were now 18.4% off their peak.

REIWA said it was disappointed that there were few initiatives in the state budget to aid the struggling property sector.

"The woes of the WA property market are now an all-too-familiar tale for West Australians," REIWA president Damian Collins said.

Meanwhile, both federal Labor and the Liberals have promised to introduce a scheme to help first-home buyers enter the housing market with 5% deposits.

Bethesda to have another go

Claremont's Bethesda Hospital is trying again with its expansion plans.

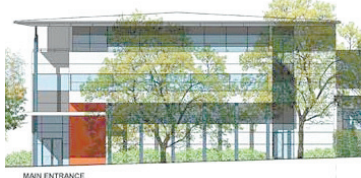
Board chairman Neale Fong said all Claremont residents would get a flyer encouraging them to have their say about the project.

"We're not trying to be Hollywood in Claremont," Dr Fong said.

Last July, 40 hospital neighbours packed Claremont's council chamber to register their protests over the plans (Residents slam Bethesda expansion, POST, July 21).

The council received 177 submissions, most against the proposal.

Dr Fong said Bethesda



Coming to Claremont? ... How new buildings at Bethesda Hospital might look.

wanted to build three storeys in place of the blocks of flats at 2 Victoria Avenue and upgrade its main site.

He said the first goal was to get a scheme amendment so the zoning of the flats could be changed and more hospital beds and consulting rooms

could be built there.

"But it's no use doing a site masterplan until that's achieved, and we've done community engagement," Dr Fong said.

He said Bethesda hoped to have face-to-face talks with all nearby residents.

Traffic and parking were sore points for residents.

But this week Dr Fong there probably would be underground parking in a new building, and staff were parking across the highway in Avion Way.

For more information, and a survey, see bethesda.org.au/community.

The survey is open until June 21.

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