

MEDIA RELEASE



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The People Voice Their Choice XSTRATA PERCIVAL PORTRAIT AWARD 2010 -----delivered to you by IAS-----



Townsville's biennial portrait exhibition, *Xstrata Percival Portrait Award 2010*, closed to the public on November 28 and votes have been tallied to reveal the winner of the Costel Vasilescu People's Choice Award. Ann Cape has won for her painting *Welcome Home*.

Congratulations to Ann who will receive \$2000 in cash courtesy of Dr. Nita Vasilescu. The painting proved popular throughout the course of the exhibition. It was Cape's first time entering the award.

In her portrait *Welcome Home*, artist Ann Cape honours her son, and celebrates the strong military community of Townsville. "The portrait is of my son, who spent time in Townsville involved in pre-deployment exercises before proceeding to the Middle East, and he was also involved with other exercises with RAAF Base Townsville."

Cape studied drawing and sculpture in London, before returning to Sydney to study at the National Art School, where she graduated in 1974. Since graduating, Ann has taught in High Schools, TAFE colleges and Community Art Centres, including the Workshop Art Centre and the Royal Art Society.

The public have good taste; exhibition judge and Director of the National Museum of Australia Andrew Sayers gave Cape's work high praise during his floor talk, saying "Realism can be undone by something which doesn't look right. Anatomical faults can let a portrait down if the main idea is not carried through. [But] in *Welcome Home* we see the real character, with uniform and dog; this has more information, shows us a relatable person and is a fully rounded portrait."

The Costel Vasilescu People's Choice Award provided an opportunity for the general public to have their say. A total of 641 votes were cast, and it proved very close, with *Welcome Home* sneaking home by just three votes.

Gallery Director, Frances Thomson, said "The *Xstrata Percival Portrait Award* has a firm place in the Gallery's calendar, attracting national entries and drawing in the people of north Queensland with each entry having a connection to Townsville. The next portrait exhibition in 2012 will offer a \$40,000 first prize, sure to generate increased attention."

Congratulations also to Annandale resident Christelle Kriek, the lucky voter who has won a 12 month membership to Perc Tucker Regional Gallery.

Image: **Ann Cape, *Welcome Home***, 2010, 122 x 91 cm, oil on canvas.

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