

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 17 September 2018

Ron Rathbone Winners 2018

The winner of this year's Ron Rathbone Local History prize is Leonie Bell for *Botany Wool*, a work that examines the rise and downfall of the Botany wool industry.

The judges thought the work was fascinating, amazingly researched and very original. It will be a great addition to our local history knowledge and collection.

The Botany Wool industry was often maligned and is almost forgotten today, but it was an industry that was essential not just to the development of Botany but to Australia's history and economy.

Highly Commended awards went to:

Dr Garry Darby, a prolific, popular and highly-respected local historian for his story on Mick Moylan's Pub.

Dr Darby's work is full of wonderful photographs, many of them published in his work for the first time. He was able to spend time interviewing Rea Moylan Hewitt, the daughter of Mick and Mavis Moylan. Mrs Hewitt shared a wealth of information, photographs and stories with Garry Darby that greatly enrich his book.

The judges believe Mick Moylan's Pub will be one of the most popular entries in the history of the prize.

Sheila Ngoc Pham, a Wolli Creek resident whose entry *Wolli Creek: A community under construction* examines how a real sense of community can still develop in a suburb of apartment blocks

It provides an insightful example of a resident's view of living in a planned, high-density urban suburb.

Natasha Small, from Botany Public School, won the Junior Local History Prize, Primary School Category, for her work on local soldier Clifford Small.

Houda Hamadi, from St George High School, won the Junior Local History Prize High School Category for her work on the impact of the War on the Bayside Community.

All the entries will be on display in the Local Studies section of Rockdale Library from Monday 17 September.

For more information:

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