

Glass work a cut above

Thong with a difference wins award

By **LISA CALAUTTI**

WOODLANDS artist Anne Sorensen has won the West Coast Picture Framers Best Local Artist section in the City of Stirling Art Award and Exhibition for her glass sculpture titled, *Scar borellas Thong*.

Sorensen made the winning shoe with the theme of this year's ninth annual award, *Life's a Beach*, in mind.

The panel of judges, which included artists and arts professionals, described Sorensen's piece as "beautiful, fun and superbly crafted".

Making the thong of fused glass and kiln firings was a departure from Sorensen's typical pastime of leadlighting.

She recently began working with warm glass, which she described as a "new adventure".

Sorensen said the thong, made to actual size, took many processes to create.

"I did not know how to do it," she said. "It was a learning process.

"And a lengthy process with so many firings."

Sorensen's fascination with leadlighting began 17 years ago and she turned that passion into a

business, selling her creations at her Mt Hawthorn shop, Goanna Stained Glass.

Watching her sister-in-law many years ago building a leadlight piece sparked her interest.

"That changed everything, I thought it was fantastic and I never wanted to do anything else," she said.

There were close to 250 entries in this year's awards.

Other winners included George Hayward, who received the Acquisitive First Prize for his oil on canvas work, *High and Dry*.

Hayward's piece will now be part of the city's art collection.

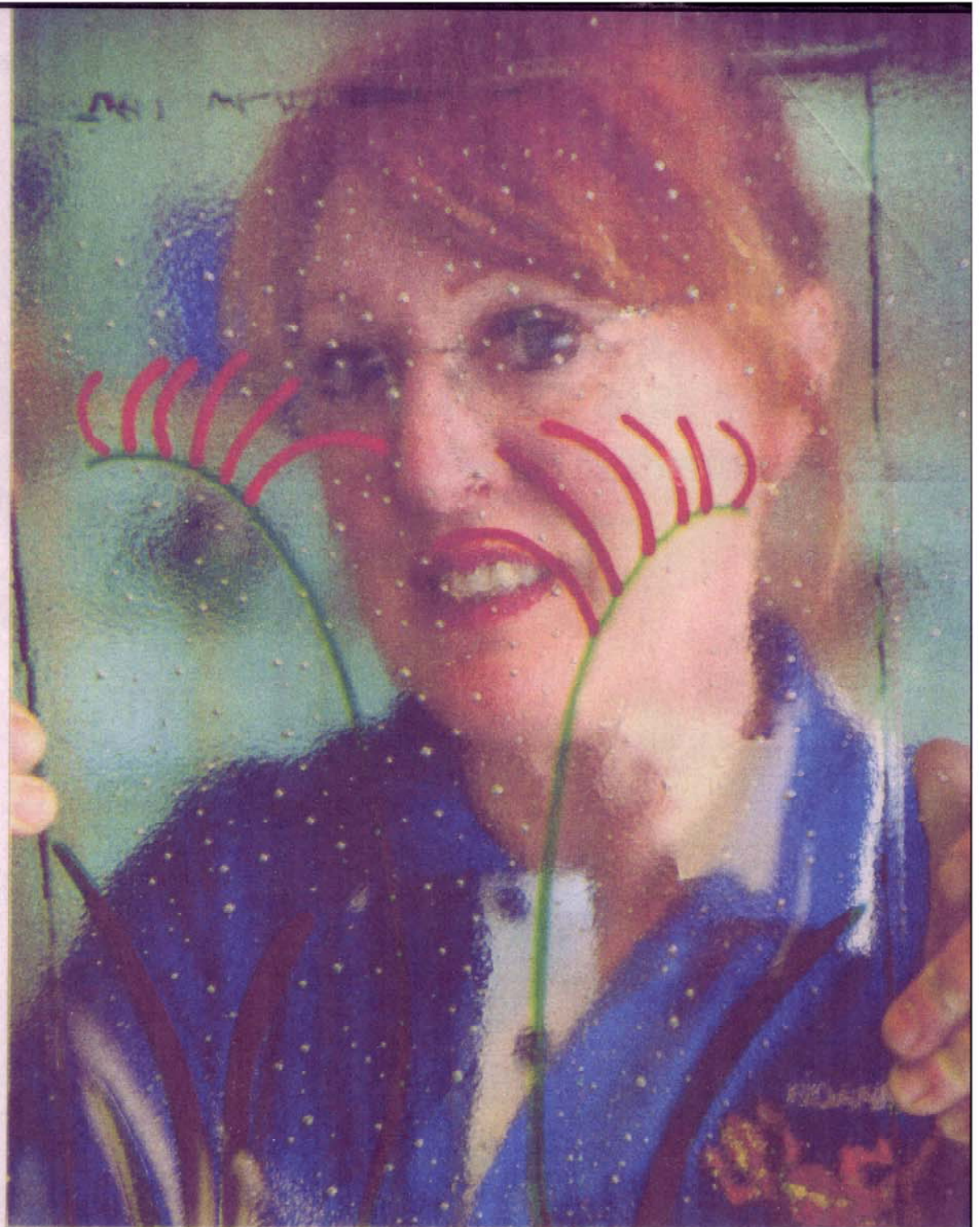
The Highly Commended Prize was awarded to Carmen McFaul for her piece, *This is the Life*.

The 3D Sculpture Prize was awarded to Ian Young for his bronze sculpture, *Dunes*.

The Inaugural Best Stirling Image was awarded to Alaric Hayes for his work, *Sandcastles - Scarborough Beach*.

Susanne Hamlin-Sullivan won the Best Oil/ Acrylic category for her triptych, *Mettams Reef by Night*.

Other winners included Anne Muller, Richard Bristow, Dawn McIntyre, Max Plumley and Ashleigh Whyte.



Glass artist Anne Sorensen with one of her works. Picture: Andrew Ritchie