

# Short film wins

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



'A FLESHY vehicle for art' is how Aboriginal artist Jenny Fraser describes herself.

Ms Fraser was named the overall

winner in the Gold Coast City Council's Indigenous Art and Design Award for her short film from the *other[wize]* project.

The screen-based project celebrates the lives of her Yugambeh family members who were moved from their traditional homelands in south-east Queensland to work on properties in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The film uses family photographs, audio, and text, including Yugambeh language, to highlight an era of colonial Australia, exploring the prickly issues of dispossession, displacement, 'native' policing and survival.

"Given that, my Aboriginality is of utmost importance in this instance," Ms Fraser said.

"In other works it may not be so apparent, but that's just a marker of the times that we live in."

Ms Fraser said it was a great honour to be acknowledged for her work and especially heartwarming because it was on her country.

"I could feel my old people



The overall winner in the Gold Coast Indigenous Art and Design Award was Jenny Fraser with her DVD entry *other[wize]* from the New Media and Photography Category.

with me there, smiling," she said. "It was a bit of a surprise to me that the work won, not just because it's a screen-based artwork, but because the subject matter deals with the unpleasant history of the land clearing, and people dispersing from the Gold Coast and Hinterland.

"It's definitely not the usual feel-good pretty picture that most city councils would want to be promoting."

Ms Fraser said she didn't want to let the dust settle for too long, and that the *other[wize]* video would also feature at the Wairoa Film Festival in Aotearoa

(New Zealand) with upcoming shows in Brisbane, Lismore, Darwin, Sydney, China, Japan and Noumea.

More than 200 people attended the opening of the Gold Coast City Council exhibition to view artworks depicting the theme, Dhagun ya Borrogura

(Land and Sea of the Gold Coast), in a range of artistic mediums.

The award, which recognises establishing and emerging local Indigenous artists, featured a diverse range of traditional and contemporary Indigenous art and culture.

A total of \$13,500 prize money was awarded.

Entries were invited across three categories – new media and photography, 2D and 3D.

Other winners were Kayla Ellis for the Youth Award with her photographic series *Liquid Neon Icons*; Janelle McQueen for the 3D Award with her sculpture *Life*, and Anthony Walker for the 2D Award with his painting *Lizards*.

All works submitted in the award will now be considered for selection as part of the City Gifts program, which recreates the work of local artists in gifts and mementos for official visitors to the city, potentially leading to national and international exposure.

● The exhibition will be displayed until 19 May at the Crowne Plaza, Royal Pines Golf Resort and Spa, Ashmore. For more details visit [www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

For more information about *other[wize]* visit [www.home.pacific.net.au/~lcarroll/text/otherwise.htm](http://www.home.pacific.net.au/~lcarroll/text/otherwise.htm) or [www.geocities.com/dot\\_ayu](http://www.geocities.com/dot_ayu)