

# JOHN SHAW NEILSON ACQUISITIVE ART PRIZE

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## *Entry Form*

To be sent to Local Images Gallery, 55 Church Street, Penola by Friday, 8th May, 2009

Cheque/Money Order payable to Local Images

Artist's Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: ..... Phone: .....

Title: .....

Medium: ..... Selling Price: \$ ..... Entry fee enclosed \$15.00

I HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE ENTRY CONDITIONS

Signed ..... Date: .....

Method of Submission: By Hand [  ] Other Means [  ] .....

To be returned by: ..... Will be collected [  ]

PLEASE ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING IN AN ENVELOPE AND SEND WITH THE PAINTING OR ENTRY FORM

The Inspiration for my work came from: .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2009

John Shaw Neilson

# ACQUISITIVE ART PRIZE

\$5000

# ROBERT RIDDOCH RYMILL MEMORIAL PRIZE

\$1000

Official Opening at  
Local Images Gallery, Penola

Friday, 15th May, 2009, 5.30pm

Gallery Open 5.00pm – 6.00pm

*Sponsored by*

Wattle Range Council

Susan Pender

Local Images

Muddy Gate Wine



The Penola Coonawarra Festival invites artists to submit ONE artwork for:

**The 2009 John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize \$5000**

**The 2009 Robert Riddoch Rymill Memorial Prize \$1000**

#### Conditions

1. Each 2D art work, suitably framed and ready for hanging, the subject of which will be the inspiration gained from the poetry of John Shaw Neilson, must be the work of the competitor. Art works must have name, address, title and price clearly written on the back.
2. Art works should be left or consigned to Local Images, 55 Church Street, Penola S.A., 5277 by Friday, 8th May, 2009. No payments whatsoever will be made by the Penola Coonawarra Festival Committee for freight or other charges incurred in the delivery of any entry. A fee of \$15 per entry must be paid or lodged with the entry form by 8/05/2009, any cheques/money orders/cash to Local Images.
3. The Penola Coonawarra Festival Committee reserves the right to refuse to display any entry without being required to give any reason. The Penola Coonawarra Festival Committee reserves the right to exhibit for a period of up to fourteen days any entry submitted for competitions.
4. The Penola Coonawarra Festival Committee will exercise all reasonable care with exhibits submitted but will not accept responsibility for loss or damage while they are in its custody. Packing should be suitable for return and artists are expected to pay all charges incurred in sending and returning works.
5. THE WINNING ART ENTRY WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE PENOLA COONAWARRA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.
6. The announcement of the winner of the prize will be made at Local Images, 55 Church Street, Penola on Friday 15th May, 2009 at 5.30pm. All competitors are invited to be present.
7. 25% Commission + GST will be charged on any work sold.
8. Unsold entries must be removed by 5.00pm Sunday 31st May, 2009.
9. MAXIMUM SIZE OF ART WORKS 1.00 metre high x 1.00 metre wide.  
(Oversize paintings not eligible for judging.)
10. ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY, 8th MAY, 2009.
11. Only artists' entries from the Wattle Range Council Area are eligible for the Robert Riddoch Rymill Memorial Prize.

# JOHN SHAW NEILSON (1872-1942)

## *Information for Art Competition entrants*

### BACKGROUND

Neilson was born on February 22nd, 1872, in a slab hut owned by his parents, John and Margaret (nee McKinnon), out on Racecourse Road, Penola. He was the first of six children.

He spent the first nine years of his life in Penola, during which time he came to know well the surrounding countryside with its swamps, trees and abundant bird life.

He attended the school in Robe Street (now Riddoch Street) for about fifteen months, from 1880 until his parents moved in 1881 to the block they'd selected at Minimay. In 1885 he briefly resumed his formal education, but left at the age of fourteen to work full-time with his father.

From then until 1928, when he moved to Melbourne to work in the office of the Country Road Board, his life was one of unremitting physical toil, personal sorrow, and economic hardship. Family farms in the Wimmera and Mallee districts of Victoria, were unproductive because of rabbits or mice or drought or fire. Consequently from 1916, Neilson worked as an itinerant labourer until he moved to Melbourne in 1928.

Despite these difficulties, Neilson produced the poetry on which his reputation as one of Australia's most original and important lyric poets, is based. Three collections were published in his lifetime.

Neilson died in Melbourne, in 1942.

### SUBJECTS

Neilson was widely read and well-informed. As is evident from his poetry, autobiography, notebooks and letters, he was an intelligent, perceptive, sensitive, compassionate man. He also had a keen sense of humour. He was influenced by his Scottish heritage and by the strict Presbyterian upbringing of his early years.

He wrote about the natural world, particularly birds, and about people of all ages, creeds and social circumstances. He wrote about life and death; joy and sorrow; innocence and experience and love . . .

### SOME CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

AR Chisholm (ed.) *Shaw Neilson Selected Poems* (Sydney: A&R Modern Poets 1976)

Cliff Hanna (ed.) *John Shaw Neilson; Poetry, autobiography and correspondence* (Brisbane: UQP 1991)

Hugh Anderson and Les Blake *The Spinning of a Dream: The Story of John Shaw Neilson* (Melbourne: Red Rooster Press 1986)

### ENQUIRIES

Phone 8737 3434 or 8737 2391.