



2013 Heiser Gallery Emerging Artists exhibition
Graydon Gallery, New Farm
Friday 19 April 2013, 6.30pm

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice**

Five years ago I had the heart warming experience of opening the first Art from the Margins exhibition, staged in the Albert Street Uniting Church. It was heart warming to sense the exultation of developing artists who would otherwise have lacked the capacity to express or display their talent.

Tonight, we have been privileged to experience an enlivening presentation by Mark on behalf of the four artists – artists who display an artistic bent to which few of us could pretend.

I was greatly honoured to accept the Chairman Dr Ian Airey's recent offer, on behalf of the Board, that I assume the role of patron of the initiative.

As a Judge, as Chief Justice, presiding in court I am regularly exposed to situations of disadvantage even discrimination. Initiatives like Art from the Margins, which address that situation in a practical and positive way, are to be nurtured and commended.

I will strive to be a worthwhile patron, and I acknowledge with great respect the Wesley Mission in all its compassionate outreach.

The support of Bruce Heiser is most valuable for the initiative, and I add my sincere thanks to him, and to the Heiser Gallery, and to the Graydon Gallery and Cath Nicholson, for their continuing support.



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And above all, of course, commendation and congratulations are due to the artists. My hope is their work will become more widely known and appreciated, and the 21st century opens up another avenue.

In this technological age, every substantial initiative should be harnessing the reach of the internet to spread its message and garner support. Tonight we launch the AFTM website, which means the fulfilment of one of our key goals, and I gratefully acknowledge the generous facilitation of Carol Brosi and Staffing Options, AFTM's communications partner, and of the Wesley Mission Brisbane, and also, the essential contribution which has been made by Tania Daly to design and completion.

This website, which we should all visit, appropriately and interestingly publicises the initiative; it offers information on exhibitions, events, workshops and the like; and it houses a growing portfolio of artists and their work.

The website should, itself, operate as a further springboard for this developing band of creative people.

It is wonderful to be here, and to see this really worthwhile public endeavour progressing so well.

Thank you!