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Painting Bathurst

By **FIONA STEWART**

RACHEL Ellis decided she wanted to live in Bathurst when driving between her home in Forbes and her school in Sydney.

"I loved the way I could see surrounding landscape from the town, rolling hills rather than flat plains."

Her fascination with her environment led to the precarious existence as an artist and she did finally make her home in Bathurst.

However, that existence has become a little easier with a substantial injection of funds following recognition of her talent by three separate awards.

She is the recipient of the Windmill Trust, the Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing and the Allan Gamble Memorial Art Prize for the best artwork with the theme of the Built Environment.

So, for a while at least, Rachel will not be spending most of her precious daylight hours cleaning houses to earn a living.

Talking about her painting Russell and Havannah St Corner, Bathurst, which won the Allan Gamble prize, she says she was drawn to the motif by the light interacting with simple geometric shapes and forms.

"As I began drawing, the strong vertical and horizontal elements of the subject became apparent and then in the painting tried to suggest



URBAN LANDSCAPE: Artist Rachel Ellis' depiction of the Russell and Havannah St Corner, in Bathurst, earned her a major prize for the best artwork with a theme of the Built Environment.

the soft, predominantly high keyed colours of the subject.

"I'm drawn to subjects in my immediate environment which I encounter on a daily basis. This could be still life, interiors, exteriors, garden,

urban or rural subjects.

"What interests me is the way light transforms what we see and I'm keen to try to distil the underlying abstract relationship of things seen and felt."

With financial pressures eased, Rachel is now hard at work preparing for a major solo exhibition to be held in Sydney next May which she admits will have a definite Bathurst flavour.