



## **One Tree Art Prize**

**Artist:** Chris Smith

**Title:** Shelley Cove Tree

**GPS:** -33.55376944,115.032

The Shelley Cove Tree stands at the Shelley Cove Lookout overlooking the expansive waters of Bunker Bay and the secluded shoreline below the rocky ridge of Cape Naturaliste. Wind-sculpted and enduring, it acts as a quiet sentinel, witnessing the rhythmic seasonal changes of the ocean - from the turquoise, sunlit stillness of summer to the turbulent swells of winter.

Through these extremes, the tree remains resolute. It silently observes the passing marine life - Humpback and Southern Right whales, dolphins, and fur seals - while overhead Sea Eagles, Ospreys, and Peregrine Falcons ride the coastal winds. Smaller birds, including New Holland Honeyeaters, Western Spinebills, Red-winged Fairy-wrens, and Silvereyes, move constantly through its branches, while hidden nocturnal wildlife forages in the surrounding scrub.



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I return to this place often. Sometimes I bring others; sometimes I come alone, drawn to the solitude of the tree and the quietness it offers. When my children were young, Shelley Cove marked our final swim each summer, usually during the Easter break. We snorkelled in the sheltered waters, marvelling at the hidden world beneath the surface, before climbing across the rocks to the point where the tree stands overlooking Geographe Bay.

Last autumn, I brought my eight-year-old grandson to visit this special place and introduced him to the tree for the first time. Experiencing an old friend through new eyes became an exquisite and deeply personal moment.

Rather than pursuing realism, I used a stained-glass aesthetic to capture the light, rhythm, and movement of the landscape. The mosaic-like fragmentation creates a luminous, almost mystical atmosphere, symbolising the interconnectedness of water, land, sky, memory, and time.