

Media Release
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Inverell Art as an Industry Forum a huge success

The many artists and art industry representatives who participated have declared the Art as an Industry Forum held in Inverell on 18 November a huge success.

Kate Black, Inverell Art Gallery Manager, said she was particularly excited by the range of artists who attended - all at different stages in their career.

"I don't think anybody walked away without gaining some sort of inspiration, or some idea how to take the next step in their career," she said.

"Not only was this an opportunity for us all to consider ways that we might develop the region's art industry, it was a chance for Arts North West and the Inverell Art Gallery to remind artists that we are a resource for them to use. Artists and arts organisations can come to us for support, guidance and funding assistance."

Arts North West Regional Arts Board, Northern Inland Regional Development Board and the Inverell Art Society developed the Forum with support from the Department of State and Regional Development, Inverell Shire Council and the New England Institute of TAFE.

"The Forum was well received by the large number of people who attended from across the region," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

"The Inverell Forum follows the success of earlier forums held in Armidale, Tamworth and Moree – all of which have received a great response from participants and provided valuable knowledge, skills and resources for artists to develop their networks. They have also suggested excellent strategies for the further development of the region's art industry."

Visual arts surveys profiling the industry across the New England North West have been undertaken at the completion of each of the forums.

"The next forum will be held in Quirindi in 2008. Survey results from each forum will then be collated," Mr Ritchie said.

Partners in the project are Arts North West, the Northern Inland Regional Development Board, the New England Institute of TAFE, the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Inverell Art Society and the Inverell Shire Council. The Forum has received financial support from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Inverell Shire Council and the New England Institute of TAFE.

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