

Media Release  
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## Richard Torbay to launch New England Visual Arts Survey Report

The State Member for Northern Tablelands and Speaker of the House, Mr Richard Torbay, will launch the New England Visual Arts Survey Report at 5pm, Friday 4th May at the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale.

The New England Visual Arts Survey, developed and compiled by Isabelle Devos, was produced as one of the key outcomes of the Creative Arts Symposium held at the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale in 2005.

It was produced and supported in partnership with Arts North West, Northern Inland Regional Development Board, NSW Department of State and Regional Development and the New England Visual Arts Network Group.

The Survey Report aims to provide a better understanding of issues facing those working in the visual arts in the area. Artists, creative producers and suppliers from Armidale, Uralla, Walcha, Guyra and their surrounds, completed the Survey.

According to Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West, the Survey Report identifies and highlights these issues by describing the area's existing visual arts industry and exploring potential means to further its development.

"The Survey Report profiles the visual arts in the New England area and highlights opportunities for the future development of the sector," Mr Ritchie said.

"There are many professional and semi-professional visual artists practising in the area – all keen to develop the region's art industry and engage as a collective community."

The Survey Report's recommendations include: providing artists with increased opportunities to develop their marketing and business skills; increased access to creative workshops; increased access to arts related information and opportunities; increased promotion of artists and the arts across the region; increased funding and income opportunities for artists and craftspeople; more exhibition spaces and venues; and increased networking opportunities.

"The Survey Report provides some clear direction about the needs of the area's visual arts sector," said Mr Ritchie.

Further information and copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Arts North West on 6732 4988.

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