

Media Release
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New England Visual Arts Survey Report launched at NERAM

The State Member for Northern Tablelands and Speaker of the House, Mr Richard Torbay, launched the New England Visual Arts Survey Report at the New England Regional Art Museum on Friday 4 May.

New England Art Industry representatives joined Mr Torbay, State and Regional Development's Bobbi Ballas, Chair of Arts North West Regional Arts Board and Chair of Regional Arts NSW, Meg Larkin and Cr Ken Waters of Armidale Dumaresq Council at the launch of the report.

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 (NERAM) in Armidale in 2005. The report aims to provide a better understanding of issues facing those working in the visual arts in the area.

"By describing the New England's existing visual arts industry and identifying issues affecting those working within it, the report highlights opportunities for future development," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Development Officer at Arts North West.

"The survey report will be a valuable tool not only for the visual arts sector, but for the economic development of the region as a whole."

The report 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 with the Symposium also being supported by the New England Institute of TAFE and NERAM.

Artists, creative producers and suppliers from Armidale, Uralla, Walcha, Guyra and their surrounds, completed the Survey.

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 New England Visual Arts Survey will be followed by other surveys throughout the New England North West beginning with a survey in the Tamworth area.

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

Image: State Member for Northern Tablelands and Speaker of the House Richard Torbay, Artist Barbara McKay, Bobbi Ballas of NSW State and Regional Development and Artist Anna Henderson

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