

Media Release
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Great response to Moree Art as an Industry Forum

There was a great response by the many artists, art teachers and students, galleries and businesses who participated in the Art as an Industry Forum held in Moree on 31 August.

"The Forum gave art industry representatives from Moree and across the New England North West an opportunity to share strategies to build the region's art industry and their role in it," said Meg Larkin, Chair of the Arts North West Regional Arts Board.

"Artists and art dealers are an integral part of Australia's, and this region's cultural sustainability. The region's art industry continues to go from strength to strength and the Forum highlighted this."

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

According to Meryl Dillon, Chair of the Northern Inland Regional Development Board, a valuable outcome of the Forum will be the development of an artists' network and specific strategies which will provide ongoing support to the industry's development locally.

"More and more the art industry is contributing to the region's broader cultural and economic strength," she said. "The New England North West already boasts artists who exhibit internationally."

Keynote speaker at the Moree Forum was Cathy Craigie, one of the founders of Koori Radio, the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council and the Deputy Director General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Other speakers included Moree artists Marg Adams and Amanda Humphries, New England artists Angus Nivison and Terrence Allen, Director of Moree Plains Gallery Katrina Rumley, and Bobbi Ballas from the Department of State and Regional Development.

In her presentation to the Forum, Amanda Humphries described her journey as an emerging artist who has chosen to live and work in regional New South Wales. For her, the Forum was a valuable opportunity to meet with other artists and industry representatives and a reminder to her about why she chooses to spend her time creating in the studio.

The Moree Forum follows earlier Symposiums held in Armidale and Tamworth.

"Each of the forums has provided valuable knowledge, skills and the resources for artists to secure exhibitions in the region, Sydney and even internationally," said Ms Larkin.

Further Forums are planned for Inverell later this year and Quirindi early in 2008.

The Forum have been made possible by financial support from the Department of State and Regional Development, New England Institute of TAFE and participating local governments in the New England North West region.

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