

Media Release
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Quirindi Symposium to bring Art Industry together

Art industry representatives from the New England North West and across new South Wales will be in Quirindi on Friday 16th May to attend the region's fifth Art as an Industry Symposium.

"The Symposiums highlight the significance of artists and the art industry to Australia's, and this region's cultural sustainability," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

"This is an opportunity for artists, art teachers and students, galleries, arts and crafts suppliers and others with an interest in art to explore opportunities that exist for the development of the art industry in Australia and the opportunities that exist within this region."

According to Mr Ritchie, the region's art industry continues to go from strength to strength. The Symposiums highlight this and identify the valuable contribution the industry makes to the New England North West's broader cultural and economic strength.

Arts North West, Northern Inland Regional Development Board, New England Institute of TAFE, the Department of State and Regional Development and Liverpool Plains Shire Council present the Art as an Industry Symposium in partnership. It will be held at the Quirindi Golf Club.

Keynote speaker will be Janet Clayton, Director of Wilson Street Gallery based in Newtown, Sydney. She has worked extensively in the arts including with the Australia Council and the ABC.

Other speakers include high profile New England visual artist Angus Nivison, renowned Sydney-based Aboriginal artist Bronwyn Bancroft, Murrurundi-based artist Rodney Swansborough and Hanna Kay, an Israeli born painter living in the Upper Hunter, exhibiting in the New England North West and developing an international reputation. Tristan Sharp, Senior Education Coordinator at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Peter Sniekers, (Acting) Business Development Manager for the NSW Department of State and Regional Development will also speak at the Symposium.

The Quirindi Symposium follows the success of the first, held in Armidale in 2005 and those held in Tamworth, Moree and Inverell in 2007.

Each of the Symposiums has received a wonderful response from participants and has provided valuable knowledge, skills and the resources for artists to develop networks and secure exhibitions in the region, Sydney and even internationally. They have also suggested excellent strategies for the further development of the industry.

Visual Arts Surveys have been undertaken following each of the Symposiums. A Survey Report collating the results of each of the surveys will be produced on completion of the Quirindi area survey. This will be a valuable resource in the development of follow-up projects.

The Quirindi Art as an Industry Symposium has received financial support from NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and the New England Institute of TAFE. Qantaslink has played an active role in supporting regional development by being a generous supporter of the Symposiums.

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