



At the opening of "Gippsland" at Queen's Hall, Parliament House in Melbourne are (from left) New South Wales Mayor David Cahill, after Jeremy Mundy-Jones, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for the Arts, Ian Staffell, artist Joanne Ryan, Lord Mayor of Melbourne John Sa, artist Laine Calkin, actress Harman and Ayoob Hassan, and Minister for Northern Gary Blackwood. Absent is artist Gary Miles.

## Queen's Hall show for Wild Dogs artists

"Wild Dogs Iron Down Under" recently celebrated the successful opening of their exhibition themed and titled "Gippsland" at Queen's Hall, Parliament House in Melbourne on May 1.

The highly successful exhibition, held from April 18 to May 3, was officially opened by Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for the Arts Ian Staffell.

The opening night attracted more than 100 VIP guests including Lord Mayor of Melbourne John Sa and Lady Margaret Henry Chang, New South Wales Mayor David Cahill, Mayor for Northern Territory Blackwood and New South Wales cultural development officer Karoo Whelan-Spive.

"Wild Dogs Iron Down Under" is a

diverse group of six professional contemporary artists including Kevin Warren, Louise Ryan, Edna Harmon, Jerry Maravellos, Laine Collins and Gary Miles. Their exhibition "Gippsland" is a contemporary body of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art in various styles.

"Gippsland" has been exhibited at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, Murrumbidgee Art Gallery and Barrack Gallery.

It will now be headed north to participate in Warragul's sister city of Dulang, China, where it will form part of a cultural exchange in August.

"Wild Dogs Iron Down Under" will then start preparations for a new cycle of work to exhibit at the Lancelotti Regional Gallery early next year.

## Carers miss out in "family" budget

The stop-off payment of up to \$1000 to carers of disabled people announced in last week's Federal budget did not sway the Gippsland Carers Association's view that the government had "abandoned those most in need".

"A token gesture of a few dollars to carers does not address the Federal government's" GCA president Jane Topp said.

The disabled people with severe and profound disabilities were the biggest losers from the budget that also imposed no pensions for nursing home care.

Minister for Disability Support, Broadbent said about 3000 carers in Melbourne would receive the \$1000 payment.

But Ms Topp believes the so-called family budget helps worse off families caring for severely and profoundly disabled children and adults and said the association will urge these families to "say no" to the government at the stroke due later this year.

Mr Broadbent said about 14,500 pensioners would also benefit from one-off payments.

Those would be \$500 for a single pensioner and \$1000 for a couple.

The payments would be automatically paid to pensioners - they do not have to apply - that had a Commonwealth seniors' health concession card or a Department of Veterans Affairs gold card, Mr Broadbent said.

He said he particularly welcomed the budget's assistance to families, elderly people and for improvements to local infrastructure.

He referred specifically to education funding, an increase in childcare payments and changes to the rebate for use of public childcare services.

Also disappointed with the budget was the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Its president Dr Peter Riechardt following a lack of funds to train more medical graduates to work in country areas.

"We need to look at the budget program and recognize that our medical work force is struggling to provide services to a timely fashion in rural communities," he said.

Dr Riechardt said health care costs for rural Australians would continue to rise unless the right infrastructure was put in place to teach and train graduates.

## WHAT'S ON AT LARDNER PARK

### Trucks In Action and Civil Works Expo 2008

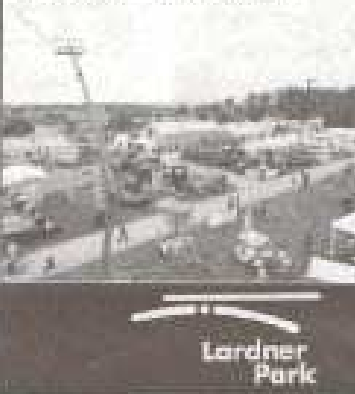
The annual Trucks In Action and Civil Works Expo will be held at Lardner Park on Friday 15 to Sunday 17 February 2008.

With the introduction of the new heavy vehicle emission standards on January 1, 2008, this will be an important time for the road transport industry.

The industry committed 30m x 20m pavilion will assist in meeting the demand for higher quality undercover space. Both the civil construction and road transport industries are currently experiencing strong demand.

The event is managed with the support of our industry committees. The Civil Works Expo Working Group comprises representatives from the Civil Contractors (Institution) and local government organisations, the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, and the Municipal Works Officers Association.

The event is the "Trucks in Action" Advisory Committee where 50 representatives of truck, trailer and component suppliers help shape on the future direction of the event. These two committees help ensure the event continues to meet the changing and evolving needs of two major markets.



## Register for a safe return

Almost 100 people have registered for the New Law Police safe return program.



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Warragul Police sergeant Terry McDermid said the safe return program was not just aimed at elderly people and for anyone that may suffer a health problem or mental illness.

The safe return had received national approval for the program.

He said more than 70 people had registered in the program and another 20 people had indicated their intention to register.

Mr McDermid said the program was designed to register people so that if they become disorientated or lost and come into police contact, police can quickly return the person to their family or home.

He said all information provided to the safe return website was confidential.

He said the program was proudly conducted to allow people a "safe return" to their loved ones when they may not be capable of giving police the information themselves.

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