

Wild Dog artists take Gippsland on tour

By Emma Ballingall

Wild Dogs from Down Under last week held an official opening for its first group exhibition titled "Gippsland" at the West Gippsland Arts Centre on Tuesday, August 19, in front of about 300 people.

Wild Dogs from Down Under is made up of a diverse group of 40 professional, contemporary artists who reside in the New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory and New Zealand.

The initiative was a collection of concepts and visual art concepts, indigenous and contemporary, and a range of media including painting, sculpture and mixed media. The exhibition was presented on 19th

August. Kerrie Warren, on behalf of the artists, thanked their supporters and those attending the opening for supporting "our passion, our love for an exciting location in Gippsland".

The exhibition was officially opened by New South Wales member Ian Clark, who said the large crowd was a testament to the wonderful artists and their work.

"It's a pretty special night indeed," said Cr Clark. "I shouldn't be accused by the week. It is wonderful to see such a concentration in the event tonight."

Cr Clark said the 40 successful artists all had different talents, styles, colours and all had something special to offer.

Cr Clark said that following the exhibition at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, the exhibition will travel to the Merrivale Gallery and Hastings Gallery before heading to Melbourne and the New South Wales state gallery before going to a cultural exchange.

At a later stage, it is hoped artists in Gippsland will experience by holding a cultural exchange exhibition in the New South Wales with their artwork.

"We're a sharing process, but what an opportunity to showcase the wonderful talent in the area," said Cr Clark. "It's an opportunity to showcase New South Wales and bring new artists in as an artist. There is a wonderful team of people around the arts in this area."

Cr Clark said the exhibition is "exciting and diverse".

He said it was fantastic to see the artists and New South Wales working together on the project, integrating their groups for their shared learning.

Mr. Seymour noted that a number of Gippsland artists and members who were able to attend the opening would also have the opportunity to view a show in China.

He said all artists will benefit from the passion and it would be a mutually beneficial experience.

As part of their Wild Dogs from Down Under commitment, Mr. Seymour said the group of artists would also be holding a series of workshops and talks in local schools.

Mr. Seymour then mentioned the great-granddaughter of the late landscape artist Sir Hans Heysen, Caroline Heyson.

Ms. Heyson said the exhibition consisted of more "inspiration works". She added that although the artworks were very different, they all shared the theme of love for the Australian landscape. She said she would have been proud to see the love of the landscape shown on.

The opening night also featured Nicholas Murrillo playing the didgeridoo and Peter and Holly Kitchener playing African/Latin-American rhythm music.

For further information on Wild Dogs from Down Under, visit www.wilddogsworld.com.au.



Above: At the official opening of the Wild Dogs from Down Under exhibition "Gippsland" the artists share with Kerrie Warren, Louise Curran, Claire Morrison, Kerrie Warren, Gerry White and Jenny Murray-Jones.

Right: Warragul resident Kerrie Warren, on behalf of the artists, thanked their supporters and those attending the opening for supporting "our passion, our love for an exciting location in Gippsland".



Playing African/Latin-American rhythm music at the official opening of the Wild Dogs from Down Under exhibition is from left Peter, Kerrie, Holly Kitchener, Kerrie Warren and Kerrie Warren.

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