

Wild Dogs artists take Gippsland on tour

By Emma Ballangell

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 Sunday, August 6, in front of about 300 people.

Wild Dogs from Down Under is made up of a diverse group of 14 professional contemporary artists who come to the New York art world via Karen Warren, Guy Miles, Jason Marquardt, Liane Coffey, Louise Ryan and James Harman.

This distinctive new collection of conceptual and visual art comprises collages and mixed media, abstract oil and acrylic paintings, mixed media, and traditional photographs. "The collection is based on our life style," said Karen Warren, co-leader of the group, "and we have been working together for approximately four years now.

Artist Karen Warren, co-leader of the group, thanked their supporters and those attending the opening for supporting "our passion, our love for art and our love for Gippsland."

The exhibition was officially opened by Bow Bow Blue, manager for Clark, who said his large studio has a reputation for wonderful artists and their work.

"It's a pretty special group of artists," said Mr Clark. "I should be grateful by the week. It's wonderful to see such diversity around the site in this area."

Guest speaker Christine Sparrow thanked the exhibition for continuing its "exciting and diverse".

He said it was fantastic to see the artists from the New York State workshop, together in the presentation, with groups for their business networking.

Ms Sparrow added that a number of students and visiting students also attended the opening, and the group would also have the opportunity to meet students in Gippsland.

At a later stage, it is hoped that the Wild Dogs will collaborate by holding a cultural exchange exhibition in the New York State with their artworks.

"We're looking forward to meeting," said Karen Warren.

As part of their Wild Dogs from Down Under commitment, Mr Clark

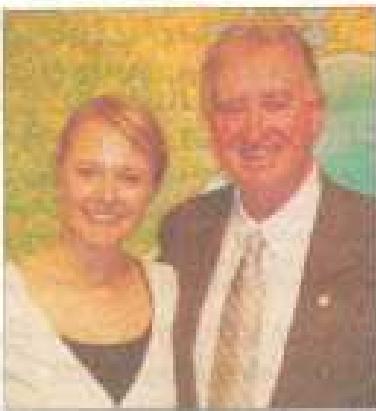
said the group of artists would also be holding "active workshops and visits to local schools".

Mr Sparrow then informed the group that one of the last remaining artists from the New York State workshop, Caroline Heyen, had moved to Gippsland.

Ms Heyen said the Australian coastal town was "surprisingly safe", but added that although the artwork was very different from what her professionally trained eye had painted, they all shared the focus of love for the Australian landscape. She said she would have been painted at the time of the landscape, 2000.

The opening night featured Nerissa Miller playing the didgeridoo and Ryan and Kylie Kinnane playing African drumming rhythms.

For further information, Wild Dogs from Down Under, visit www.wilddogsfromdownunder.com.



Above: At the official opening of the Wild Dogs from Down Under last week group art exhibition "Gippsland" in the arts centre were Louise Ryan, Jason Marquardt, Liane Coffey, Karen Warren, Guy Miles and James Harman.

Right: Warragul residents Christine Sparrow and Caroline Heyen, the co-artists of the last remaining artist, Ms Karen Warren, spoke at the official opening of the Wild Dogs from Down Under exhibition titled "Gippsland".



Painting Aboriginal-Parramatta rhythm music at the official opening of the Wild Dogs from Down Under first group exhibition. From left: Roger Ains, Peter Korkolis, Razy Korkolis and Alison Richardson.

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