



HotArt

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Wandering The Wollondilly

Ten Regional artists have joined together under the wing of Goulburn Regional Art Gallery (GRAG) to bring the exciting inaugural exhibition entitled 'Wandering The Wollondilly' which is currently on display on the banks of the Wollondilly River near the historic Goulburn Waterworks Museum.

Made possible by funding from Regional Arts Fund NSW and with substantial assistance from Goulburn Mulwaree Council and a host of locals in varying guises, the exhibition highlights the depth of artistic talent in this area.

With water long a source of concern for the Goulburn region and the Wollondilly River's significant impact on the community and countless lives across hundreds of years, the site lends itself beautifully to creative interpretation.

Primarily sculptors, with one performance artist, the group comprising Ross Bannister, Tracy Luff, Miriam Bos, Julie Krone, Giselle Stanborough, Britta Stenmans, Alison Clouston, Boyd, Steven Holland and Sebastian Meijbaum has deftly risen to the challenge set them: to create a sculptural work or site specific performance in response to either the Waterworks Museum or the Wollondilly River.

In response to history, the environment and in some instances their own migrant experience, each artist brings an intelligent and personal dimension to their work.



"The works by Sebastian, Julie, Tracy and Britta refer in some way to the migrant experience, either through the notion of home or habitat, as in Sebastian's steel bowerbird nest, or through transference of person, place or plant," says curator Jane Cush. "Julie's screen printed hardwood 'interventions' try to subtly go unnoticed, 'planted' as they are amongst the eucalypts, while Tracy's foreign carnivorous plants demand to be acknowledged as the exotic 'other'.

"Britta's seedpods are carried along by the water as they seek a place to inhabit and settle. Miriam's delicate test-tube ladders invite us to be aware of our footprint, containing sealed microcosms of flora and fauna from the Wollondilly site, and are as gentle as the Waterworks steam engines are solid."

Clouston and Boyd's collaboration has white bird mesh "protecting a corridor of indigenous plantings, with miniature solar powered pump-houses emitting the sounds of the Waterworks' steam pumps, echoes of the fossil fuel age, but with hope for environmental restoration."



Alluding to seasonal change and hibernation, Holland's hidden work has "a bronze snake curled up with two comforting bronze hot water bottles to create a push/pull reaction in the viewer", while Stanborough's performance piece merges "the cyclic rhythm of the Goulburn steam engine itself, with representations of women from past and present in the landscape."

In conjunction with the exhibition and constructed in workshops with several hundred regional primary school children, Ross Bannister's sand sculpture can be found in the Caroline Chisholm Courtyard, outside the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, while a metal sculpture created in workshops by David Ball and students is materialising at Mulwaree High School.

This is a terrific concept well executed. With the wealth of creative talent in the Highlands, wouldn't a regional art gallery serve the Wingecarribee Shire well?

'Wandering The Wollondilly', Sculpture, Installation, Sound & Performance at Goulburn Historic. Waterworks Museum until 1 November 2009