

# Sculptures reflect the forces of nature

By **Tristan Maddocks**

**T**HE works of Nilma installation artist Leonie Ryan are part of an exhibition at the Walker St Gallery examining the Black Saturday bushfires.

*Fields of View* shares the visions, emotions and concepts of environment — as well as the individual experiences of the bushfires — of five artists: Ms Ryan, Kerrie Warren, Peter Biram, Ursula Theinert and Werner Theinert.

Ms Ryan's contribution to the display is an installation featuring five sculptures and a video.

"The sculptures are abstract representations of the environment," she says.

"One is Mother Nature, one is a frog which represents the wetlands, one is a tree that represents the lungs of earth, and one is a triple energy spiral which shows universal connection."

Ms Ryan says the fifth sculpture, *Man in a key*, is "earth's guardian".

The sculptures are made of mirror-finish stainless steel and took the better part of a year to complete.

"It took about nine months



**Mirrored masterpiece:** Leonie Ryan's stainless-steel sculptures are abstract representations of the environment. **Picture: Sam Stiglec**

from the sketch and design and concept stage to make them. I had to have them fabricated at a metal laser cutting company."

It was the first time Ms Ryan had worked with mirror-finish stainless steel, which a friend had recommended to her.

"It was a very exciting experience. I enjoy trying different mediums and materials to represent concepts."

The purpose of the exhibition was to encourage conversations about Black Saturday and the environment, she said.

"What I'm trying to do is engage the viewer. Hopefully there is some sort of psychological connection."

***Fields of View* is at the Walker St Gallery, corner of Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong, June 1-26.**