

Six Wild Dog artists unite to present Gippsland exhibition

Local artists from Wild Dogs from Down Under are currently holding their exhibition titled "Gippsland" at Queen's Hall, Parliament House in Melbourne.

Leader for the Opposi-

tion and Shadow Minister for the Arts Ted Baillieu will officially open the exhibition tonight at an invitation only event, with the exhibition to run until Thursday.

The exhibition will then be packed up ready for its exciting journey to Warragul's sister city, Jiujiang in China, where it will form part of a cultural exchange in August.

The artists, partners and a Baw Baw Shire Council delegation will travel to Jiujiang to meet up with the work and be present and available to talk to community members throughout the exhibition. The exhibition will be hosted in the Library of Jiujiang in the Jiangxi Province.

The Gippsland Regional Art Gallery in Sale has offered to host the exhi-

bition after its safe return in January or February, featuring a mix of work that is still available and new work that has been inspired and influenced by the tour to Jiujiang.

The tour of "Gippsland" will officially come to an end at this point, but the Wild Dog artists will be busy preparing their next series of work to exhibit at the Latrobe Regional Gallery in early 2008.

The Wild Dogs from Down Under are a diverse group of six professional contemporary artists united by their love of Gippsland.

The artists are Kerrie Warren, Leonie Ryan, Eileen Harrison, Jenny Murray-Jones, Laurie Collins and Gary Miles, who have come together to create a contemporary

body of two dimensional and three dimensional visual art titled and themed "Gippsland".

Through their diverse and individual styles the Wild Dogs have expressed their immense love of Gippsland, their place. The exhibition embraces the environmental and social issues affecting the area, it captures the diverse landscape of the region and how each artist visualises themselves as a part of it.

The aim of this project, in essence, is for each artist to tell a story, each perspective forming part of a whole. The artists' vision, through this touring exhibition, is to foster interaction and understanding within their own community, but mostly their great hope is that this eclectic mix of

stories, dreams and ideas resonates amongst other cultures and communities.

This distinctive collection of conceptual visual art comprises indigenous and non-indigenous oil and acrylic paintings, metal sculpture and three dimensional photographic installation work.

"Gippsland" was unveiled at the West Gippsland Arts Centre in Warragul during August, 2006, with more than 300 guests attending the opening the night.

The collection then toured to Meeniyan Art Gallery and Burrinja Gallery in Upwey.

The Wild Dogs from Down Under artists hope that those who viewed the exhibition were moved and provoked by the love, time, thought, humor and spirit that went into creating "Gippsland".

The exhibition of work and the artists can be viewed on the website, www.wilddogsdownunder.com.

The Wild Dogs from Down Under were also recently announced as winners of the Arts Business RAVE Award, which will be presented this Saturday.



The Wild Dogs from Down Under artists including (from left) Laurie Collins, Kerrie Warren, Gary Miles, Jenny Murray-Jones, Eileen Harrison and Leonie Ryan are currently preparing to take their exhibition "Gippsland" to Warragul's sister city of Jiujiang, China.