

Something to celebrate

By MARK CONNORS

She may be celebrating a milestone birthday of four score years in 2010 but Rhondda Walters is not slowing down for anybody.

The Kilaben Bay artist will show her latest creations in an exhibition called *Celebrating 80* at Cooks Hill Galleries.

Celebrating 80 is centred on themes from her 2008 trip to the Kimberley Ranges in Western Australia.

Walters said she often used her travelling adventures as inspiration for her work.

"I loved the colours, the rocks, and the shapes," she said.

"Some of the pieces are quite abstract but in others the colours come through quite vividly."

Walters' work is best described as expressionist, incorporating mixed media on paper and canvas.

An artist for 40 years and a lover of the arts all her life, Walters also teaches from her home studio located just a few metres from the Lake Macquarie shoreline.

It is here she teaches her students about the values of art.

"Whether people buy it or not, it doesn't really matter," Walters said.

"If you stick with it, something good will happen to you."

"I don't feel any different than I did when I was 25 – in spirit I'm exactly the same," she said.

"I'm still young at heart. I just have to slow down a little when my body can't keep up."

Celebrating 80 will exhibit from February 19 until March 15 at Cooks Hill Galleries, 67 Bull Street.

Go to www.cookshill.com for more information on the exhibition or phone 4926 3899.



Rhondda Walters outside her studio with one of her pieces.