



MIXED MEDIA: Sunbleached by Rhondda Walters.

Three new exhibitions at Muswellbrook arts centre

THE current exhibition at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre will be seen for the last time on Sunday and preparations are already underway for the next showcase.

The upcoming exhibition will feature the works of Rhondda Walters, a NAIDOC Week display and the results of a series of photographic workshops entitled Youth Snaps.

Mrs Walters' collection entitled 'Journey' is based on different moments and travels over the last 30 years to create a large range of variations utilising texture, different media, and colour combinations on a myriad of surfaces.

She said creating the works was a very personal experience.

"The best paintings are created without thought of result, selling or impressing," she said.

"To be a successful artist, as in life, one must have integrity."

The annual NAIDOC Week display has featured works from St Heliers Correctional Centre in the past and this year will include new works from the

group of artists.

Some of the artists have modified their implements to achieve different painting effects and draw from the themes of animals, native flora and more personal elements.

Youth Snaps is a series of photographic workshops aimed at young people during Youth Week and the results of this will soon be lifted onto the walls of the gallery.

Sam Dennis, Alvin Singleton, Ellie Thomson, Stephanie Wiseman Cody Wright and Jessie-Lee Wright all took part in the workshops and the results will be available for all to see.

Selected ceramic and glass works from the Max Watters collection will also feature in the gallery as part of ongoing series showing the different choices of mediums available to artists for the production of their work.

The official launch will take place on Friday, June 11 from 6pm and all residents are invited to attend free of charge.

The works will be on display until July 25.

An arty good time

THE art-savvy of Muswellbrook welcomed the New Year with an exhibition opening on Saturday.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre staff members were busy working in the lead up to the event to present the first exhibition of 2016.

Exhibiting artist Rhondda Walters said creative arts are important to her.

"All my life I had been involved with music; singing, piano, musical theatre," she said.

And, since adding visual art to her list, Mrs Walters has always tried to do something different with her work.

"I'm still discovering new things, I'm still learning new things," she said.

"I hate repeating myself, everything I do is different.

"I pick a theme and then I go to town on it.

"If you stand in one position you're no longer a creative artist - you're a technician."

The artist works with a range of materials, and styles to bring her intriguing pieces to life.

Mrs Walters has recently moved from Lake Macquarie to Sydney, where she will return to teaching next month.

She said it means a lot to her to have her latest collection on display at Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre.

Rhondda Walters: Themes and Variations opened alongside *Art of the Body Politic: Councillors and the Collections*, and *Max Watters Sydney Exhibition Preview 2016*.

The exhibitions will remain open until Thursday, February 21.

First 2016 exhibition opens Saturday



BLUES MUSIC: Rhondda Walters, *Painting with Music 2015*, mixed media and collage.

UPPER Hunter art fans didn't have to wait long for their first 2016 exhibition.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre will open its doors on Saturday, welcoming the public to another display of creativity from locals and beyond.

The opening night will feature works from popular Lower Hunter artist Rhondda Walters.

Rhondda Walters: Themes and Variations will appear alongside two other exhibitions.

Art of the Body Politic: Councillors and the Collections; and *Max Watters Sydney Exhibition Preview 2016* will also be on display at the event on Saturday, January 9, from 6pm.

There will be refreshments courtesy of Two Rivers Wines, Hunter Belle Cheese, Artiste Espresso Bar and Pukara Estate.

There is no cost to attend this event.

The exhibitions will be on display from Sunday, January 10, to Thursday, January 21, at the art gallery.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre is located on the corner of Bridge and William Streets, Muswellbrook.

For more information about the opening night, contact Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre on 6549 3800 or visit www.muswellbrookartscentre.com.au

First exhibit for new year

THERE was an appreciative crowd at Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre on Saturday.

Local art fans gathered at the Centre for the first exhibition opening for 2016. *Rhondda Walters: Themes and Variations*; *Max Watters Sydney Exhibition Preview 2016*; and, *Art of the*

Body Politic: Councillors and the Collections opened at the event.

The exhibition will remain open until Thursday, February 21.

For more information about the exhibition, and opening hours, contact Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre on 6549 3800.



CREATIVE: Exhibiting artists Rhondda Walters and Max Watters with Muswellbrook Shire mayor Martin Rush.