



HotArt

A group of **artists** salutes an **enigmatic** volcanic landmark, while artists on display at the Art Studio Trail confirm the depth of **creative talent** in the Highlands.

On a trail to success



When artists and artisans across the Highlands opened their studios and hearts in the recent inaugural Southern Highlands Art Studio Trail, the experience and quality of art surpassed expectations of many. In what can only be described as

a carnival atmosphere, art lovers of the Highlands and from elsewhere trekked from one studio to another from Colo Vale to Robertson to view a diverse range of works. The generosity and enthusiasm of artists was palpable.

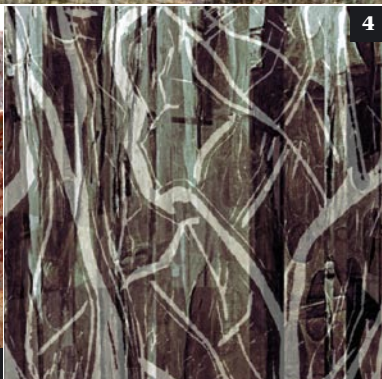
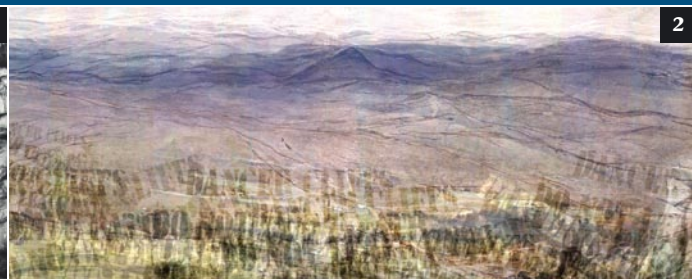
"The Art Studio Trail met with great success", says Jenny Kena, the Community & Cultural Development Officer for Wingecarribee Shire Council. "There were substantial visits from people outside the area and the overall standard was very good and generally well received. The average number of visitors to each studio was 100, 60 per cent of whom were locals, while the remaining 40 per cent came from elsewhere. Although sales were not spectacular, comments from the artists were very positive. It gave them the opportunity to meet other artists from here and elsewhere. Many enjoyed great conversation and found their visitors were well informed about art.

"Some people did the whole trail, planned their weekend and went from one end to the other, while others tried to visit as many as possible. Most of our artists described it as a rewarding but tiring weekend, with lots of different ideas for improvement. They want to do it again."

Let's hope that our new council can get behind our artists and increase their support and funding to assist in the marketing of the Highlands as a centre for arts and culture in the manner it deserves. What better way to showcase the real Highlands?

More photos, page 48.

Celebrating The Gib



1. The Gib NW Face, Tony Ameneiro
2. Danger Cliffs, Robyn Kinsela
3. Gib classical bowl, Steve Harrison
4. Fractured Light, Robyn Kinsela

In their forthcoming exhibition entitled *The Gib – Mount Gibraltar seen, experienced and translated* at Sturt Gallery, four local artists, Tony Ameneiro, Robyn Kinsela, Steve Harrison and John Lascelles have joined forces to salute the local landmark, Mount Gibraltar. Affectionately known as The Gib, Mount Gibraltar by all accounts was created through volcanic activity 150 million years ago and is composed of hard rock called trachyte. Known as "Bowrell" by the local aborigines, it has been a reserve since the early 20th century, attracting visitors and locals alike to the many walks and spectacular lookouts dotted throughout. Maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers under the banner of Mt Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare, the Gib is a bushland microcosm housing a host of protected plants, native species and rocks.

The complementary collaboration finds each artist savouring the Gib across a range of media and styles. The inimitable and resilient Steve Harrison has scoured the landscape foraging for ancient stone to use in his classical bowls and to create his exquisite and rare glazes.

"As a potter, whenever I test a local dark iron-bearing rock for use as a glaze ingredient, I always expect the same old brown, but in the case of the Gib syenite I am pleased to find a mottled blue, a green and a black, in addition to the usual brown. There is however a mottled brown of rather interesting variations that I recognise as a precursor to oil spot tenmoku. This is worthy of further investigation."

Likewise, photographer John Lascelles trawls the Gib to capture its essence and heritage in his black and white images of vegetation and terrain. "What I like about the Gib is the moistness. All that fog and lichen gives it an eerie atmosphere. I've tried to capture that. I have also tried to capture its geological and human history."

Living virtually across the road, Tony Ameneiro sees The Gib from his yard every day and is "intrigued by the ancient geological history and the possibilities of the raw material of Mt Gibraltar. I've used the local Gib trachyte stone as a type of slate for my white ink drawings of the mountain, and the sweeping curves of my large etchings are, in essence, drawing the map back into the landscape."

Reflecting her love of textures, layers, atmosphere and light, long-time resident Robyn Kinsela's fascination and love for the Gib, the Australian bush and the language and culture of the Gundungarra people shows in her work. "I have responded to the Gib by celebrating its contrasts, the taming of the Gib and its inherent wildness. The New Old land, Wingecarribee land, Gundungarra land. I love listening to the sounds and looking through, looking out over Gibbergunyah, Mittagong and Bowral."

Highly original and complementary works.

This project is supported by a grant from the New South Wales Government - Arts NSW, through a program administered by the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA). The Gib, mixed media by John Lascelles, Robyn Kinsela, Tony Ameneiro and Steve Harrison at Sturt Gallery, Range Road, Mittagong from December 19 to February 15.

Art Trail artist Suchin (Shina) Jipraihak + Ome >

FutureArts upcoming arts for the diary

- **Vision of Pleasure** celebrating the creativity of people with disability at Goulburn Civic Centre Foyer and Library from December 2 to 5. Official opening by Cr O'Neill of Vision of Pleasure in the Civic Centre Foyer, 1pm December 2
- **Kids on Show** at BDAS, Short St, Bowral until December 8
- **Sturt School for Wood Graduating Exhibition** at Sturt, Range Road, Mittagong until December 14
- **A selection of new and important works by our stable of collectable artists** at Bell Gallery, Jellore Street, Berrima from November 29
- **Vanessa Forbes Fine Art Student Exhibition** at Greenbriar Park Cellar Door, December 5 to 7, 12 to 14 www.vanessaforbes.com.au
- **Italy to Australia, 2008** an exhibition of works from Italy at the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral from December 5 to 30
- **David Helfgott** at Mittagong Playhouse December 8 at 7.30pm. Contact romad@westnet.com.au
- **A Celebration of Christmas** featuring Multi International Award Winning sopranos Shu-Cheen Yu and Yola Mielezarek, with Bowral's own burgeoning baritone, flutist and pianist Benjamin Slade, at Seventh-day Adventist Church, McDonald St, Bowral on December 13, 2.30pm
- **Recent Paintings by James King** at Bousaada Vineyards, Kells Creek Road, Mittagong until December 31