

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caption: Artist *Beryl Wood* and her design template that has been selected for inclusion in a state-wide mosaic project to commemorate Queensland's 150th anniversary.

Gladstone artists' work selected for Qld 150 celebrations

Designs by Gladstone artists Beryl Wood and Kim Scrimshaw will feature in an oversized commemorative mosaic commissioned for display during Queensland's upcoming 150th Anniversary celebrations.

The two separate designs, depicting the region's past and present, will form part of a 41 square metre mosaic to be featured at Brisbane's RNA Exhibition in August, 2009.

Queensland Mosaics, through Regional Councils, invited schools, individuals and community groups to create their own interpretation of Queensland to help commemorate its 150 years of independence from New South Wales.

The selected templates will be transferred on to two large tiles based loosely on the shape of Queensland and representing its growth and ability to build on its past and embrace its future. Several dozen tiles in total will be able to stand alone as an artwork yet be joined together with no gaps or overlapping parts.

Beryl Wood's design, depicting the region's past, is based largely on bands of representational colour.

Black for open cut coal mines, blue for the sky, grey for industry chimneys, brown/red for builders' bricks, green for coastal cane, gold for railway tracks that transport wealth, red for indigenous lands and laurel leaves representing many nations.

A Gladstone Regional Art Gallery volunteer and SUNfest tutor, Beryl was also the overall winner of 2008 Rio Tinto Alcan Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award and recipient of the 2007 Gladstone City Council Australia Day Cultural Award.

She has lived in Gladstone for 26 years, taking up painting only 14 years ago, at age 60.

Bunbury Players, which she started four years ago is preparing for its 12th production.

"Gladstone is such a fortunate area," Beryl said.

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"We have the best Art Gallery in regional Queensland and a really strong arts community.

"Some people complain about the industries, but without them, the region would not have bloomed the way it has."

Kim Scrimshaw is also passionate about living in Gladstone and draws upon concepts of culture, learning and the environment in her colourful design depicting the region's future.

Kim, who works mainly with water colour and mixed media has an on-going artist-in-residence role at Rosella State School and is a SUNfest and Regional Gallery volunteer.

She is a three time winner of the Brigalow Arts Festival at Biloela and a regular exhibitor in Japan with the Gladstone Saiki Sister City photograph exchange project and a founding member of the Friends in Art group who meet weekly at Gladstone Regional Gallery.

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum Manager Arts & Heritage Pamela Whitlock on 4976 6766.