

artsCape ready to storm the beachfront

Biennial sculpture exhibition artsCape workers will be installing pieces in Clarkes Beach Reserve, Byron Bay, from Wednesday June 23 to Friday 25 with the assistance of Dune Care. ArtsCape is open to the public from Saturday 26 and all are welcome to the official opening at the Beach Hotel on Sunday June 27 at 2pm.

The beachfront will be home to works from local, national and international sculptors. They will create sculptures which convey messages about the environment and sustainability through 'humour, beauty, mystery and surprise.'

In addition, over 40 of the artists from artsCape Biennial 2010 will exhibit small wall, floor and suspended interior sculptures at Retrospect Galleries in Byron Bay. The exhibition opens at 6pm on Friday and runs until Wednesday July 7.

Highlights of the exhibition include participating artist Bert Flugelman, one of the best known and most influential sculptors working in Australia today. Flugelman will exhibit two works in copper and marble, Slender Spiral and Double Arch.

Invited artist Keizo Ushio from Japan will exhibit two white marble sculptures. Keizo produces geometrical forms that consider ideas of space and time and consequently appear as eternal and monolithic in their own right.

Contemporary Australian sculptor Greg Johns is also participating in the indoor exhibition. John's sculpture is predominantly made from corten steel, and his successful art practice spans more than 30 years with artworks in major national and international collections.

For more information on the artsCape Indoor Sculpture exhibition visit www.retrospectgalleries.com or visit the gallery at 52 Jonson Street, Byron Bay.

For more about the Clarkes Beach event and related programs, visit www.artscapebiennial.org.



Annie Younger and her Burger Cruiser will feature in the artsCape sculpture show which opens on Saturday. Merran Morrison and Rebecca Townsend, centre and right, are the curators and project managers of the exhibition. Photo Jeff Dawson

Lismore City's regional library takeover angers councillors

Victoria Cosford

Lismore City Council has taken over the Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL) administration, resulting in the resignation of its director Martin Field. Lismore says the move was on the cards for six years but constituent council members say they have been ambushed.

A meeting of the Regional Councils Library Group was held recently at the Ballina Council Chambers to determine the fate of the structure and ownership of the regional library and its assets. Operating for more than thirty years, the RTRL involves the Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Tweed councils.

Up until now, an informal system of co-management has operated among

the shires with Lismore Council the legally designated owner of all assets. For many years RTRL director Martin Field has tried to have the organisation formally changed to reflect the informal co-ownership status. But in spite of numerous meetings and much correspondence with government and state library officials, Mr Field was not successful in obtaining permission to officially convert Lismore Council's ownership into a joint councils co-ownership.

Councillor Tom Tabart, a Byron Shire representative on the library committee, told *The Echo*, 'Over a number of months the committee had been looking at a different model to run on the basis that the current one had never been legal and was clashing

with the Local Government Act. We were told this had to be done so we looked at a new model. Apparently Lismore Council had moved ahead on this model and we were effectively presented with a fait accompli.'

Among the changes, Martin Field's position was made subordinate to the finance director of Lismore Council, and Mr Field chose to accept a redundancy package. 'It's Lismore's right to restructure,' Mr Field said. 'I perfectly accept that.'

'It's one of the top performing libraries in the state and one of the cheapest to run so any suggestion that costs can be saved, well, there's not much left to cut. It would be like telling a thin person they needed to lose weight.'

Cr Tabart said he and fellow com-

mittee member Cr Richard Staples would bring the decision back to Byron Council. 'We're coming back to our Council and giving them the facts as we see them to see if we'll go along with it.'

'Lismore's doing the bully-boy approach and saying we can't do anything about it but we can, we can pull out and run our own library service. We'd have to put up a whole new administrative apparatus to run staff - it's a very expensive business which up until now has been divided among four councils.'

'There's a myriad of things we'd have to do - we just wouldn't have the pulling power. Basically we don't know where we can go now.'

Byron Mayor Jan Barham told *The*

Echo, 'The whole process has been very confusing. Lismore Council believes they can go ahead and do this - our understanding is it should come back to Council. We really haven't had a report that fully explains the implications of all this, for example how our assets are affected, and our new library ...'

Mr Field was keen to point out that the high standards reached by the regional library under his directorship were not due to his efforts alone. 'It's not a one-man band. It's been a total team effort.'

'A champion staff team has made it successful - with the support of course of the Regional Library Committee.'

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