

How would you raise \$300K to relocate an old gallery?

Good question.

Ask an expert.

by NIKKI BROWN

EARLY LAST YEAR I WAS CURATING A TOURING EXHIBITION AT the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery. Jacqui Hemsley, the Gallery Manager, and the Broken Hill City Council were in the throes of planning the relocation of the gallery from above the Entertainment Centre to heritage building in the centre of town. The move was timed to coincide with the gallery's 100th Anniversary later this year. There was funding for the move from the council and the State Government, but it was not enough. The fitout was going to need another \$300,000. Jacqui asked me to help with an independent fundraising initiative.

been incredible and we now have works donated by Jack Absalom, David Aspden, Christopher Coventry, Tom Offord, Ken Done, Dick Watkins, John Firth-Smith, Pro Hart, Bill Meyer, John Olsen, Max Miller, Jim Paterson, Andrew Sibley and others who have promised to send a work.

We now have Shapiro's in Sydney to host the auction in their rooms on the 7th of October. Even Edmund Capon has agreed to speak at the auction which is expected to attract hundreds of buyers and artists on the night. NSW Premier Bob Carr will open the new gallery over the weekend of 16-17 October – an event that will attract wide media and public interest, as it coincides with the centenary of the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery.

One hundred years ago Lord Northcote, Governor-General of Australia, remarked at the opening of the first regional art gallery in NSW at Broken Hill, that he had noticed since his stay in Australia, that it was appropriate that a great mining centre should have a gallery of its own.

100 years on the edge of sundown



Working with a Sydney based colleague, Colleen Pettiford from CPWorks, we devised a two pronged strategy that would offer the sale of naming rights to the seven gallery spaces and an auction of artwork by artists with a connection to Broken Hill. From early on we understood that such a campaign would not be viable to undertake in Broken Hill, given the demise of local industry, and planned to base our work in Sydney.

We researched people whose families had been based in Broken Hill and who might have an interest in buying naming rights to the gallery spaces. This proved to be very positive and to date we have sold 4 of the 7 rooms to such families who have nominated particular spaces in memory of their time in Broken Hill.

The next part of the campaign, the auction of artwork, has been spearheaded by Jacqui who contacted artists who have exhibited in or have an interest in the Broken Hill area. The response has



One hundred years later, in a city that boasts many art galleries and a significant interest in the arts, the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery will have a more sympathetic venue in which to show local, Indigenous, travelling, installation, works on paper and its own extraordinary permanent art collection. ■

Left: Broken Hill's Entertainment Centre which currently houses the gallery.

Right: The Walter Sully Emporium or 'Sully's', originally a heavy machinery and hardware store with its own livery stable and blacksmiths in the yard at the rear, built in 1889. an appropriate new site for one of the NSW's oldest galleries. .


Photos: Rachael Vincent



CONTACT Nikki Brown Tel 02 9518 1900 nikkibrown@bigpond.com

July


21 July

 *Second Childhood* Play that looks at the life of a group of 'nobodies' who come to realise that they are in fact 'somebodies'. Presented by HotHouse Theatre Company. **ALBURY** Performing Arts Centre. Tel 02 6051 3051


24 - 25 July

 *In This World* Directed by Michael Winterbottom and dealing with the plight of refugees. Screening at the Civic Theatre, **GUNNEDAH** Tel 02 6740 2266

25 July

 *Ebullient Brass Brasswest* Combining the professional brass talent of Bathurst and Orange. **BATHURST** Art Gallery. Tel 02 6331 6622

28 July

 Colin Noble - Complete Performance of Messiaen's '20 Looks at the Infant Jesus' University of New England, **ARMIDALE**. Contact Mrs A Ghandar 02 6773 6456