



Tony Bishop



Craig Medson

national  
limestone  
sculpture  
symposium



John Nelson



Birgit Grapetin

the old gaol  
margaret street  
mount gambier

# 2011 national limestone sculpture symposium

mount gambier

20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
february  
2011



Government of South Australia  
Arts SA

## guest artist : silvio apponyi



Silvio studied at the SA School of Art (Diploma of Fine Art-Sculpture) and was then awarded a German Scholarship to study with the Munich Academy of Fine Arts. He holds an extensive CV of individual exhibitions in Australia and overseas as well as commissions.

His most recent commissions are in Maroochydoore, Queensland (Sculpture of Steve Irwin & Children) and Mount Gambier, South Australia (Memories in a Suitcase). In 2006 he was the winner of the Waterhouse Sculpture and Objects Prize.

Silvio's work focuses on the beauty of the natural world, especially endangered species. His philosophy is to bring pleasure to the viewer; his pieces are always made to be touched.

He particularly hopes to engage children with his works and that they will develop an appreciation of and concern for Australia's unique culture and wildlife.

## guest artist : stephen newton



Since 1985 Stephen's sculptural practice has extended from exhibitions in commercial and state galleries to national public art commissions in wood and stone.

Landscape and our physical and psychological connections to place inspire his working methodology. Stephen employs techniques which emulate the weathering processes of time and nature, exploring qualities of touch, texture, rhythm, layers, contours and contrasts.

His commissioned work develops as ensembles both totemic and uplifting or horizontal and earthbound. Quietly evocative and deeply connected to the geology and topography of the built and natural environment, his sculptures are physically, visually and emotionally tactile, moving beyond form and object into a relational viewer centred experience.

Stephen was awarded the 2008 Palmer Sculpture Biennial First Prize and has completed public sculpture commissions and exhibitions in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.

## community workshops : kevin free



A full-time sculptor since 1983, Kevin's enthusiasm for wood carving is inspired by a life-long involvement with trees, as a nurseryman, landscape gardener and a conservationist.

Working with salvaged timber, to create pieces which respect and transcend the natural form, figure and grain is endlessly varied and absorbing. By contrast, Kevin's work in coralline limestone allows bold exploration of abstract and semi-abstract form, an expression of his natural spontaneity.

In addition to his range of indoor and garden sculpture Kevin offers practical sculpting programmes in schools and for special interest groups, individuals or families.

Kevin's studio is in the Victorian Pyrenees. He draws inspiration from the bush, from journeys into wild country, and from the community of fellow artists.

## school workshops : jojo spook



Art teacher/Community worker/Artist JoJo Spook was awarded the "Carclew Education and Arts Minister Award" for her contribution to arts education for the state of South Australia. In 2010 JoJo received the "Advantage SA" award for her contribution in creating

community art projects and awareness and creativity in the Limestone Coast.

Community initiatives have enabled JoJo to travel and complete project work in remote communities, involving youth groups, drug strategy emphasis and wellbeing.

Nationally known for her contemporary style and creative use of different mediums, JoJo's work can be found in many galleries and collections. Her work is described as satirical and unique with an element of humour. Well known for her large fashion inspired metal sculptures, JoJo completed her Masters Degree in 2005 with emphasis on fashion inspired structures.

JoJo will be teaching the creative schools program for 2011 at the Symposium enabling school students to enhance their skills in design, use of hand tools and carving techniques.

## symposium program

8.30am - 5.30pm Old Gaol site open to community - Monday to Friday

### Monday 21st February

3.00pm - 5.00pm Artists visit Limestone Quarry

5.00pm - 7.00pm "Carving a Place in the Community"

Young people from Mount Gambier Migrant Resource Centre and members of the City of Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Committee come together to explore their place in the community through the practice of limestone sculpting. For further information contact Gina Ploenges - 0417 858 458

### Tuesday 22nd February

9.00am - midday Master-class part A - "Creating Maquettes"

Artists only

10.00am - 2.00pm Creative Schools Workshops with JoJo Spook

Schools register with Riddoch Art Gallery - \$5 per student. For further information contact Lucia Pichler 0438 239 566

6.00pm - 7.30pm Community Workshop with Kevin Free

\$40 per person payable at the Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - open 7 days 9am-5pm. Further information contact Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - phone 8724 9750

7.30pm - 8.30pm "Geology Presentation" with Fred Aslin at Old Gaol Sports Bar - community welcome - no cost

### Wednesday 23rd February

9.00am - midday Master-class part B - "Creating Maquettes"

Artists only

10.00am - 2.00pm Creative Schools Workshops with JoJo Spook

Schools register with Riddoch Art Gallery - \$5 per student. For further information contact Lucia Pichler 0438 239 566

7.30pm - 8.30pm Artists' Talk

Old Gaol Sports Bar - community welcome - no cost

### Thursday 24th February

10.00am - 2.00pm Creative Schools Workshops with JoJo Spook

Schools register with Riddoch Art Gallery - \$5 per student. For further information contact Lucia Pichler 0438 239 566

Midday - 2.00pm Lunch time chat - "Sculpture as Art in the Community"

Bring your lunch and join the conversation. Community welcome - no cost - located in Artists' refreshment tent

6.00pm - 7.30pm Community Workshop with Kevin Free

\$40 per person payable at the Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - open 7 days 9am-5pm. Further information contact Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - phone 8724 9750

### Friday 25th February

6.00pm - 8.00pm Friday Night In The Paddock

Limestone Coast wine and produce featured. Hosted by Your Professional Network and Red Cross. \$20 per person payable at the Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - open 7 days 9am - 5pm. Further information contact Barbara Linden 8721 2587

### Saturday 26th February

10.00am - 3.00pm Party in the Paddock Community arts and craft market, food and entertainment.

Sculpture available for sale to the public direct from artists

Midday - 1.30pm Community Workshop with Kevin Free

Further information contact Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - phone 8724 9750. \$40 per person payable at the Lady Nelson Visitor Information Centre - open 7 days 9am-5pm.

Riddoch Art Gallery's Exhibition  
DepARTment @ Fidler's Ladies Wear  
(60 Commercial Street East)

Archer's Arcadia - Handmade circus and vaudeville automata by David Archer on view during the Symposium from Monday to Friday 1pm - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 12 midday



## mount gambier coralline limestone

### Limestone for art...

Within the Mount Gambier district limestone has made a comeback in the last 10 years in the form of contemporary sculpture. Limestone is a popular choice for artists and sculptors as it is easy to shape.

Limestone sculptures, such as artist Ivo Tadic's 'Cenotes and Other Encounters' at Umpherston Sinkhole, can be found around the city of Mount Gambier.

### Coralline limestone through the ages

From mining to historic buildings and from rich, fertile soils to art, limestone is the foundation on which livelihoods have been built in the district.

The Limestone Coast region has been shaped by more than 25 million years of geological evolution. As a result, Mount Gambier and surrounding settlements have a rich history and culture based on the quarrying of limestone.

### Did you know ...

...that for over 25 million years the Limestone Coast region was submerged beneath the Southern Ocean. This rock formed from billions of marine animals (mainly Bryozoa) that fell to the sea floor when they died.

Sea level changes since that time have gradually exposed that ancient sea floor - now Mount Gambier limestone.

### Limestone quarrying ...

...in Mount Gambier began as early as 1842. Quarrying in the early days was a hard and physical task, where the working hours were very long. A single-handed cross-saw was used to cut the limestone into blocks weighing up to 2 tonnes - the weight of two elephants.

The stone would then be carted, originally by horse and dray, to the building site, which could be as far away as 100km. There it would be cut into smaller building ashlar. Rail was the main distribution method from 1920 - 1950.

For over a hundred years quarrymen used the single handed cross-cut saw, until in 1950, local inventor Ivan Ploenges developed a series of mobile petrol driven saws which he attempted to patent. These saws are still used today.

### Limestone for building ...

... is recognised because it is a light even textured stone that is easily sawn and can be shaped by simple working tools. Limestone acts as a great insulator, keeping you warm in winter and cool in summer.

From 1948, in a post-war building boom, there was a shortage of building materials. This gave Mount Gambier Limestone the opportunity to compete with popular materials such as brick. During this time, one third of public housing in Mount Gambier was built with limestone.

Pink and grey dolomites are variations of limestone that have also been used in many of the buildings in and around Mount Gambier. Examples include the Old Town Hall built in 1882 with pink and grey dolomite, and the Old Courthouse erected in 1865 which was built with grey dolomite.

### Tantanoola Dolomite

Dolomite is a sedimentary rock forming mineral that can be found in beds averaging 5 to 10 metres thick. The dolomite at Tantanoola is a limestone containing both calcium and magnesium. The colour is often pink, white, yellow or grey. Unimin Australia Limited processes dolomite for Pilkington Australia's glass plants in Dandenong, Victoria and Ingleburn, New South Wales and is also a supplier to the agricultural industry.

Tantanoola dolomite has been used in the glass making industry for over fifty years and was originally owned by Quarry Industries supplying railway ballast to SA Railways. ACI owned the Tantanoola plant for thirty years with Unimin Australia Limited acquiring the business in 2001.