

Museum collaborates with local artists for MAT18

Artists examine reaction of community to 2017 flood

Works by two local artists which examine the relationship between the community and last year's flood will be on exhibition at the Tweed Regional Museum as part of the 2018 Murwillumbah Art Trail, MAT18.

Kathy Egan will present an interactive display, creating an installation from objects brought in to the museum by visitors, over the opening Art Trail weekend on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May.

Museum Director Judy Kean said Kathy's project, *Objects of Flood and Mud*, is part of ongoing project that the Museum is undertaking with members of the community, and the Flood Story Project group in particular.

"Kathy is particularly interested, as are we, in the capacity that objects have to carry significant and powerful memories and stories," Ms Kean said.

"This installation is an opportunity for anyone to bring in an object salvaged from the 2017 flood, or perhaps something used in clean up and recovery.

"From sentimental keepsakes to utilitarian buckets and brooms, all objects are equally valued."

Also on display will be works by Heather Matthew which examine her personal flood experience.

"Heather is currently in Europe presenting about her work at the International Papermakers and Paper artists Association Congress in Sofia, Bulgaria," Ms Kean said.

"So we're delighted to be able to feature her works *Preserved Memories* and *SILT* at the Museum from Tuesday 15 May and throughout this year's Murwillumbah Art Trail.

"This will be the first occasion *SILT* has been exhibited and a short video commissioned by the Museum provides a valuable insight into the process Heather went through when making the work, including salvaging the paper from the floodwaters in her studio.

"Heather also talks about the process of making *Preserved Memories*, which was acquired for the Museum collection from the 2017 MAT exhibition, *Post from the Big Flood*.

"Working with Heather on this project has helped us add to the Museum's collection of photographs, oral history interviews and other items that document the community's diverse experiences of flooding in the Tweed."

For more information about these events visit the Museum website or Facebook page or contact the Museum.

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