

A new, free, full-colour guide to the local arts scene hits the galleries, cafés, schools and other outlets across the Northern Rivers this month. The magazine is the initiative of local arts lover, Rosie Lee, and it's been made possible with the encouragement and support of galleries and individual artists across the region.

BUT THE NORTH COAST ARTS QUARTERLY ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT, and not just because of the dead horse in the driveway.

working in the sector – individual artists, gallery directors, even academics – who urged her to take on a new version herself. A couple of cash loans, some sponsorship and advertising dollars provided sufficient budget for a first issue and *The North Coast Arts Quarterly* was born.

"*The North Coast Arts Quarterly* is designed to tell our stories, meet our artists, celebrate and document their considerable achievements or simply enjoy their work," said Rosie. "It also attempts to be wide ranging and outward looking, as are the artists of the region."

"The modest size – A5, 32 pages – is handy for carrying in a bag or glove box and it is cost effective to produce on a small budget. Because it is reliant on advertising revenue and sponsors, a quarterly is more sustainable than bi-monthly. The print run is reasonable, at 4,000 copies (3,000 is not enough; 10,000 is cost prohibitive) and of course these must also be distributed, over distances."

Like to publish your own regional arts magazine?



The North Coast Arts Quarterly looks beautiful. The cover of the first issue features a work by North Coast artist, Hobie Porter, 'The Seeds We Sow', a Conrad Jupiters Art Prize finalist 2006.

The magazine is printed on high quality, gloss art paper, with full colour images to best showcase artworks, as well as the local gallery guide and map, exhibition guide, profiles of local artists and writers, articles and local news contained in the guide.

The aim is to help visitors and locals alike discover the vibrant galleries, writers and artists of the region, for which it is renowned as much as its stunning natural beauty. Content attempts to be as "inclusive" as possible, covering Coffs Harbour to the Gold Coast, but also including select capital city exhibitions.

The first issue of *The North Coast Arts Quarterly* comes off the presses on 1 December and nothing – not even a horse dying the driveway and threatening to block the front door with no bobcat driver in the region available until January – was going to stop it (although it did present some challenges).

This first issue supported one graphic artist – a graduate from Southern Cross University; one writer, editor and distributor; and, of course, the printers.

"It has been an exciting and enormously satisfying project," said Rosie. "But to have longevity, it must reflect and serve its community, and support those that give their time and energy to produce it. If it inspires that, that will be the mark of its success." ■

Pick up your copy of the North Coast Arts Quarterly from outlets in the Northern Rivers region, or online soon at www.ncaq.com.au

When *The Northern Star* decided to discontinue publication, after five issues, of the free arts supplement developed by Rosie in her role in the publisher's advertising department, it looked like curtains for Rosie's dream of producing a little arts magazine.

But Rosie was not the only person disappointed about the demise of *The Northern Rivers Arts Quarterly*. There was a groundswell of community support for a local arts magazine from people

March

10 March – 29 April

👁 Kenmore Hospital Museum Exhibition & Tours take visitors back into a 19th Century psychiatric asylum. Accompanied by the 2007 exhibition, *Mental Health Nurses GOULBURN*
Tel 0438 212 587 Web www.igoulburn.com

17 March

🎭 Opera in the Paddock presents a selection of Opera, Operetta and Musical numbers in the beautiful bush setting of Mimosa near **INVERELL**, for an inspiring night under the stars.
Web www.operainthepaddock.com.au

17, 18, 24 & 25 March

🎵 The 10th Kowmung Music Festival at **OBERON** returns to the Abercrombie Caves for fantastic acoustics and a special folk music addition to the program.
Web www.kowmung.com.au

24 – 25 March

📖 Norman Lindsay's Festival of Children's Literature is a magical 2 day celebration with a comprehensive program for writers and readers of all ages.
SPRINGWOOD
www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au