

**ART = INSPIRATION + PERSPIRATION, AS THE OLD SAYING GOES. But in Bourke, the ingredients are drought, low literacy, community participation, stormwater awareness, a truckload of rubbish pulled from the river and catchment area ... and inspiration + perspiration.**

Last September–October, around sixteen members of the Bourke community attended ‘found object sculpture’ workshops with noted Mudgee artist, Nigel White.

The workshops were just one part of a Bourke Shire Council initiative, the ‘Culturally Creative Stormwater Education Project’, which has been running for the past year with a grant from the EPA through the Stormwater Trust.

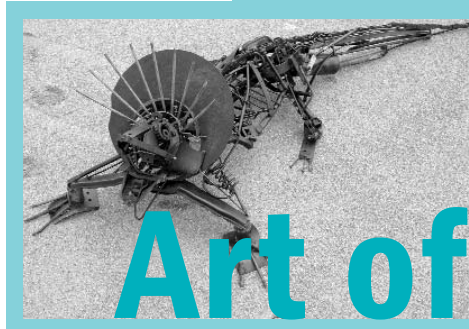
The aim of the project is to raise awareness of stormwater and catchment health issues in the community through a series of arts-based workshops.

Participants in the sculpture workshops were required to use metal objects dragged from the low river on Clean Up Australia Day, as well as sourced from various illegal dumping sites around the catchment area, to create sculptures

depicting animals that use the river and which would be affected by poor river health.

Over a week, the participants – with a little help from Duggy, the local welder – brought to life emus, kangaroos, lizards, water birds, yabbies, fish and dragonflies. Twelve sculptures in all were created, which were

lined up down the main street of Bourke during the recent Mateship Festival. They were unanimously well received. It is hoped that the sculptures will be installed along one of the many river walks on the banks of the Darling with some interpretive signage to further increase awareness of catchment health issues. There are, of course, many public liability issues to be considered, but for now they are on public display at the Back of Bourke Centre – a solid testament to contemplation, inspiration, perspiration and a little frustration as they await installation. ■



by ANDREW HULL

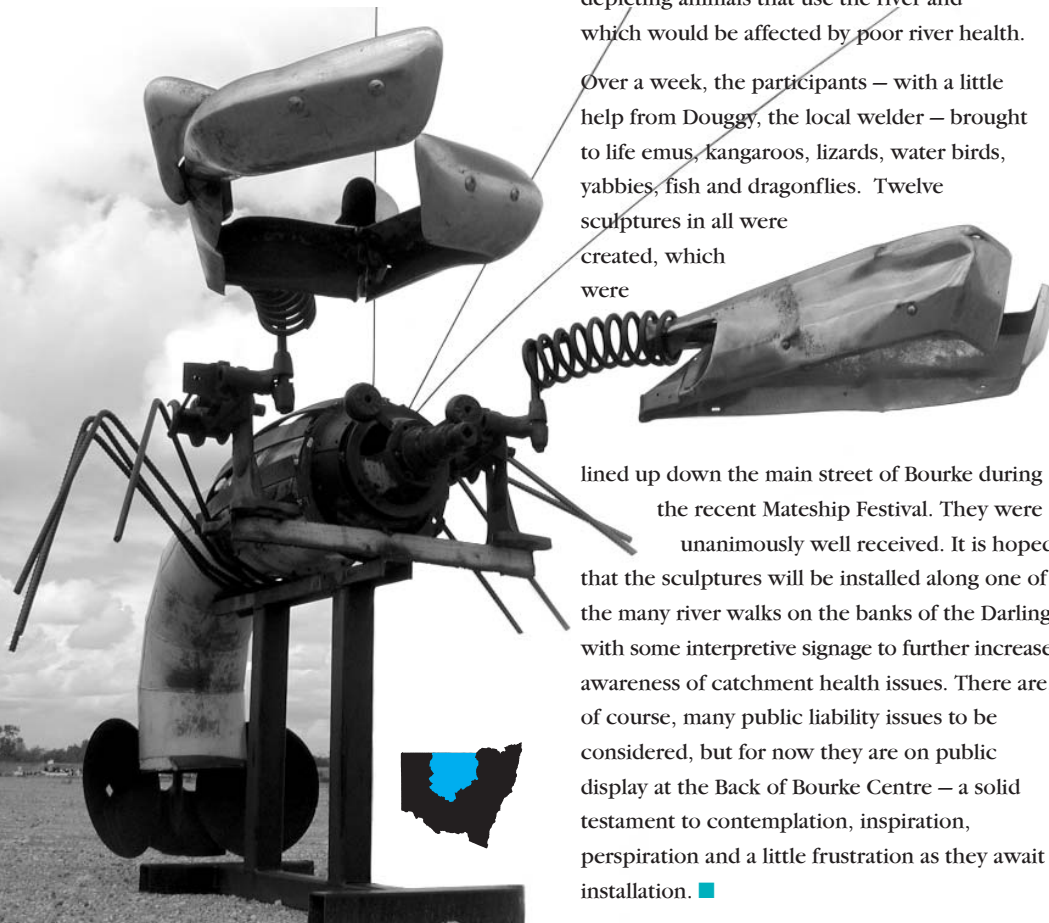


13



*As well as the found object sculptures, the Culturally Creative Stormwater Education Project has also produced a CD from songwriting workshops which uses students' words and ideas to describe their relationship with the river; a large number of mixed-media paintings, where participants had to use litter from the stormwater drains to construct their images; digitally enhanced photographs, a short film and a shadow puppetry performance.*

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## December

to 18 January

👁️ *Master Works* Selected works from the Newcastle Region Art Gallery's significant collection of Australian art. Newcastle Region Art Gallery, **NEWCASTLE** Tel 02 4974 5100 Email [artgallery@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

to 25 January

👁️ *The Good the Great and the Gifted* Photographic portraits by Yousuf Karsh of Ottawa and Athol Shmith of Melbourne. Orange Regional Gallery **ORANGE** Tel 02 6393 8136

to 31 January

👁️ *Christmas is Here* Local arts and crafts. Sweetbriar House **LITHGOW**. Contact Jeanette Dean Tel 02 6351 3342

to 8 February

👁️ *50 Years of Australian Ceramics* exhibition at the Newcastle Region Art Gallery, **NEWCASTLE** Tel 02 4974 5100 Email [artgallery@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@ncc.nsw.gov.au)