



The latest news on Kangaroo Island arts!

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Edited by Kathie Stove

Cellar door a work of art



Arrival at Chapman River Wines is, like the name of the wine they sell there, happiness. An hour or three spent there is bliss.

The place is an oasis, a refuge for rejuvenation from the rigours of Willoughby Road and the rest of the world. It's an inspiration to hoarders and renovators alike.

Of course it's been a team effort – Bruce behind the bar, Kylie creating in the kitchen; the builders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, who transformed the old disused aircraft hanger. But the guiding hand for this work of art has been Diana's.

Diana Keir has taken ceiling tin from Linnett's at American River, mixed it with fashioned oak to make the bar. She has placed old church pews collected through the years near footstools covered in middle eastern-looking fabric. A table picked up from a bank in Port Adelaide 30 years ago is covered in a floor rug and the floor rug in the toilet area is painted on the concrete floor.

Dominating the lounge area, the French chandelier hovers over a lounge set that looks like it belongs in my granny's house. And it is all encased in glorious aged corrugated iron.

"I left the old tin of the hangar; as an artist I could not have designed the grey and the red and the patina," Diana said.

"I found the chandelier in a shop in Magill about nine years ago and bought it in the hope that it might come in useful sometime."

That it certainly has; and with Diana's fine artist's sensibility these odd pieces that in the hands of a mere person would become a jumble of unrelated things, belong together.

'Artist' is Diana's definition.

Her recent illness has kept her away from her canvases for three weeks and she is panicking to get back to the studio next to the cellar door. To get back to work in the 'great big room to be creative in'.

"I am worried that now that I am never having another cigarette in my life, it will change the way I work. Nicotine concentrates the muse, and the addiction and the creativity are tied up together. I am sure that it will change but we will see what happens."

In the studio are at least six unfinished canvases all with great potential.



ABOVE: Diana Keir at work

Contorted tea trees lean over the Chapman River; flocks of birds flow over a sparse landscape; The Pages float like nipples loose in the sea; yaccas wait for a background.

"I work standing up. I get a bit of a buzz depending where I am. Sometimes I go from one thing to the other and then suddenly the paint is flowing and I know I've got it and it's working."

"If you don't give it your best shot it eludes you."

Other cellar doors on the Island are placed to take in the stunning views of their area. At Chapman River Wines cellar door the view is inside, the cellar door itself.

That's not to say that the room is isolated from the outside.

Diana knows that the most stunning beach in the world is 10 minutes walk away at Antechamber Bay. The dunes behind the beach separate land and sky through the large cellar door windows.

"I am extremely lucky to live in the most beautiful part of the world and I like sharing that," Diana said.

"It takes my breath away, still."

"I need to find my muse in place of nicotine. I will rely on the natural surroundings to inspire me."



Arty parties and smarties

KI Art Feast – some highlights

The 150th anniversary of Cape Borda, on Saturday October 4, will feature artist-in-residence Neil Shepherd working live, 'living history' performances by the KI Players, the unveiling of the Cape Borda sesquicentenary shiraz, and a freshly graded road.

The best of Fine Art Kangaroo Island at Sunset Winery, September 27 to October 12 opens at 6.30pm, Saturday September 27, with local fine food, wine and live music.

The Dreamful Journeys exhibition at Rustic Blue, which runs October 1–19, displays the work of two Sydney printmakers: international award winner Christina Cordero and nationally established Susan Baran.

KI Art Feast opening

For the first time the official Art Feast opening will be held west of Kingscote. Kiawarra Seal Bay Tourist Park will host this free Island event which begins at 6pm on Saturday night October 4 from 6pm and features the work of a range of Island artists. Island food and wine will flow and a jazz trio will keep everyone entertained into the night. A bus, which leaves Kingscote at 5.45pm for the opening and returns at about 11pm, costs \$30 per person and bookings must be made at Tourism KI.

KI Art Feast bus tours

The Best of the West Bus Tour, on Saturday October 4, takes in Cape Borda 150th Anniversary Celebrations, Feast of the Senses at Andermel Marron Café, Dreamful Journeys at Rustic Blue Gallery and Kaiwarra Seal Bay Tourist Park. The tour includes a lunch of marron platters and a glass of wine, homemade cake and coffee at Kaiwarra, and the work of many Island artists.

Eastern Delights Progressive Lunch on Sunday October 5 tours around Clifford's Honey Farm, Kangaroo Island Lodge (entrée and meet the artists), Sunset Winery (main course and a glass of wine), KI Artworks Gallery and Dudley Wines Cellar Door (dessert and coffee).

Each tour can take a maximum of 20 people at \$90 per person. Pickups at Penneshaw, American River and Kingscote. Find the brochure at

www.tourkangarooisland.com.au/ArtFeast.aspx

Opening hours

September opening hours for Rustic Blue are Wednesday to Sunday 10–4 and longer hours on warmer days. If the flag is flying we are open.

KI Artworks at Baudin Beach is open 10–6 everyday except Thursdays.

A week of Shep workshops

Shep will be running a whole week of workshops during April school holidays in 2009 (April 13–17) and school-aged artists are very welcome.

A different focus for each day (Monday, perspective drawing; Tuesday, composition; Wednesday, the limited palette and colour mixing; Thursday, a procedure for landscape painting; Friday, experimenting with mixing your media) allows for those who only wish to attend specific lessons (\$50 each), though priority will be given to those who wish to attend all five (\$200). Please contact Shep on 8553 2116 to book your place!

AP&S Info

If you'd like your arty event or success noted in this column, let Kathie know (8553 1353 or kathie@inwriting.com.au).

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