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## **Hurry, Hurry, Hurry**

The Annual Mary Valley Art Festival is almost here and this is the last call for all artists, ONLY 1 WEEK to go to get your entry forms into the Art Fest Committee.

Closing date for lodging entries is Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July but the committee have hinted that they will accept late entries up till Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> so as Committee member, Janine Gledhill, says "Hurry, Hurry, Hurry".

This year the Festival will be 'Celebrating Mary' with an addition section. "This is a combined sponsorship effort from people and businesses who have answered a call announced at last years opening night festivities. Brian Curry, long time supporter of the Festival, publicly called for as many people as possible to join together to create a grand prize to bring attention to the beauty of the Mary River through art." Cr Watt said. "and as a result we are able to offer \$1300 in prizes for this category alone, which is a first for this festival".

The total prizes have increased to \$4,500 this year "We change our categories each year to keep things interesting and have increased our prize money due to the generosity of our sponsors without whom this Festival would not exist, along with the artists of course." Event co-ordinator, Cr Watt said.

The Festival commences with the official opening on Thursday evening 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm at the Imbil Public Hall, Imbil Showgrounds where awards will be announced, The venue will be licensed with some entertainment, and nibbles. The Festival continues for the following three days, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> with the exhibition times of 10am to 3pm Fri and Sat and 10am to 2pm on Sunday with a two dollar entry fee.

The Art Festival continues to spotlight specific artists each year and are pleased to exhibit the pottery and ceramic works of Lynne Smith and Ric Boorn. Visitors are invited to enjoy the exhibition and all pieces will be available for purchase

Enquiries contact Jan watt 54845287 or Janine Gledhill 54845391

**337 words**

HERE is your chance to “celebrate with Mary” in a new section of the annual Mary Valley Arts Festival, an independent arm of the Mary Valley Show.

The organising committee is calling for artists to create something special focussing on the Mary River for this section, and it needs sponsors to provide the prize money.

Yandina businessman Brian Curry floated the idea at the close of last year’s arts fest, and it proved so popular that spontaneous donations totalling \$750 were pledged from the floor.

With the festival scheduled for launch on July 26, and the artwork on show from July 27-29, organisers are looking to tie up sponsorship in time to print the programs by the end of March.

Spokeswoman Jan Watt hopes to build up the sponsorship for all parts of the festival, but particularly the Mary River section.

“They will become joint sponsors for this new class – as we will pool donations from a few sources,” Mrs Watt, who is also a Cooloola Shire councillor, said.

“I want to point out that this is not a section to protest issues surrounding the Mary, but rather a chance to celebrate it and bring attention to it as a beautiful part of the landscape.”

The arts fest has grown substantially since its inception in 2000, attracting about 300 high quality entries last year.

If you can provide sponsorship for the Mary River section, or other sections in the arts festival, contact Mrs Watt on 5484 5287 or Janine Gledhill on 5484 5391.