

A contemporary art exhibition

Nilma North artist Leonie Ryan has created installation artworks for the 'Wild Dogs from Down Under' contemporary art group exhibition entitled and based on the theme of "Gippsland".

Leonie is one of six pro-

fessional artists from the Baw Baw Shire to form the exhibition, which will be launched at the West Gippsland Arts Centre on August 8 before touring regional Victoria, Melbourne and the Baw Baw Shire's sister city Jiajiang in China on a cultural exchange.

"My installation of Gippsland distorts the environ-

ment, infusing it with fantasy, to create a surreal concept," said Ms Ryan. "The subject material within 'Gippsland' relates directly to nature, her physical beauty, strength and endurance."

Ms Ryan said she enjoys exploring and experimenting in photography, as she has done to create her art-

works for "Gippsland". She has also highlighted five elements - air, fire, water, earth and life.

Ms Ryan has created four enormous flowers to represent the four corners of Gippsland, north, south, east and west, and a totem pole representing the fifth point, the centre of Gippsland.

The stems of the flowers consist of images of earth and rock. The leaves have been created from images of the trees unique to each region. The petals are designed to represent the ele-

ment of fire, including native wild life as an interpretation of the spirit of the land. The stamen sits deep inside the petals and is made up of water images from each region.

The works also include large photographic images displayed behind each flower to reveal scenic views of north, south, east, and west Gippsland.

The "Wild Dogs from Down Under" artists are Kerrie Warren, Leonie Ryan, Eileen Harrison, Gary Miles, Jenny Murray-Jones and Laurie Collins.



Nilma North artist Leonie Ryan has created four large flowers and a large totem pole using photography to represent north, south, east, west and central Gippsland for the 'Wild Dogs from Down Under' contemporary art exhibition.