

## Around Adelong

# Museum ready to rock Friday

Robyn Bright

THE ADELONG Alive Museum will host an exhibition of internationally celebrated sculptor Andreas Buisman's travelling works 'The Twelve Apostles', with the opening night this Friday at 6pm.

The exceptionally talented and self-taught craftsman will present a photography display and samples of his intriguing sculptures, with special guests for the evening including the Austrian Embassy, Canberra and Gabi Hollows.

From an early age Andreas can recall being fascinated by nature in its purest and uncompromised form. "I would always be playing in mud and building clay houses as a child," he informed.

"I have always felt a deep connection with the physical environment."

Evidence of this organic connection can be seen in Andreas' sculptures with their smooth edges, gentle ripples and flowing lines contrasting perfectly with those parts of the rock which are left untouched in their natural form.

Andreas' intention is never to corrupt the integrity of the rock. He merely peels back the surface to reveal a little of the rock's mystery and character.

"I am just the servant to what is already there and I help it to tell a story," said Andreas. His sculptures are highly sought and examples of his creations exist around the world, with Adelong fortunate to have acquired pieces of his inspiring work some years ago which are perfectly situated beside the flowing waters of the creek.

As no two rocks are ever the same, each sculpted piece is exceptionally unique with their smooth surface irresistible to caress. Andreas uses many different types of rock for his sculptures including basalts, granite, quartzite and the shimmering dark-crystalled norite which is sourced at locations around Adelong.

It is strong and beautiful and looks great when it is polished," enthused Andreas.

"Sculpting the rock is very hard and very physical work but the results are wonderful."

Buisman travels to Australia at least twice each year visiting and working in locations around the country. His affinity for the country and its fascinating landscapes is evident as he recounts his many rock-collecting expeditions with the Adelong area a firm destination favourite.

"I go to many places all around Australia and this area is pretty special and very high on my list," affirmed Andreas.

Over many years he has shipped tons of raw rock material from Australia overseas to his homeland Austria. Consequently the resulting pieces of Andreas' work, whether they be granite from Eucumbene, basalt from Bondo or norite from Adelong now grace the gardens, parklands and private residences of Europe and beyond, telling Australia's story to the world.

Andreas' 'twelve apostles', the subject of his exhibition, are comprised predominantly of basalt rock with just one being quartzite. They were sourced from various loca-



Renowned Austrian sculptor Andreas Buisman will be presenting his travelling sculptures "The Twelve Apostles" at the Adelong Museum this Friday.

tions around New South Wales during 2006 and were then sculpted and polished in Canberra. The idea of the travelling 'twelve apostles' came to Andreas during a trip along Australia's visually stunning Great Ocean Road.

Here he witnessed the breathtaking spectacle of Australia's world famous Twelve Apostles rock formations.

"These magnificent structures just have to sit there in the ocean, they can't move anywhere and not many people see them," said Andreas. "So I decided my rocks would travel with me everywhere and many people would get the opportunity to appreciate them."

Andreas' 'twelve apostles' are indeed very well-travelled, having accompanied him and wife Sandra to many spectacular locations around the world. The rocks are photographed during each journey with the diverse range of locations providing for breathtaking backdrops to his sculpted creations. The rocks range in weight from 1.4 - 1.5 kilograms and Andreas informs they

sometimes travel singularly or alternatively in small groups and occasionally all 12 will journey together.

"The rocks are sometimes sold but I am very selective with who can buy them," said Andreas. "They have to meet my standards and the owner must agree to allow me to borrow the rock back so I can travel to new places and continue to photograph it. I also encourage the owner to travel with the rock and take pictures as I do to continue the rock's journey."

Every four to five years the best photograph of each sculpture is selected for sale. Andreas only allows a limited edition of 24 copies to be produced with 12 copies destined for the southern hemisphere and 12 for the north.

The 'twelve apostle' exhibition has travelled to other locations in Australia and Buisman is excited at the prospects of holding the exhibition in Adelong, a place which plays a special part in his life and for which his fondness continues to grow. Andreas hopes the local exhibition will lead to a symposium at a

later date, which would involve several sculptors working as 'artists in residence' in Adelong with the resulting pieces of artwork remaining in the town.

Delivering the opening address at the exhibition will be Andreas' good friend Gabi Hollows. Ms Hollows' late husband, the well-respected ophthalmologist and humanitarian Professor Fred Hollows, passed away in February 1993. As he had requested Fred was buried in the 'red dirt' of Bourke Cemetery and in February 2005 the Hollows family commissioned Andreas to create a sculpture which would replace Fred's original gravestone. The rock chosen for the task was a 3.3 metre piece of norite sourced from Gary Hindmarsh's property at Adelong and which weighed an enormous 8.8 tons.

Following the exhibition opening on Friday night Andreas welcomes those interested to observe him on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10, from 11am - 3pm to 'look over the artist's shoulder' as he polishes an Adelong norite at the museum.

## View plans trip to Tumberumba Women's Hut

THE most recent Adelong View meeting was held on February 7, with president Ruth welcoming 18 members.

A letter was read from Tumut Shire thanking the club for organising the Australia Day celebrations in Adelong. All the members who helped were thanked.

Student Rainah is now attending TAFE College, with a rise in fees. Adelong Club will continue to support her.

A donation had been made at the end of 2012 for the Smith Family Christmas Appeal.

Ladies were told of an upcoming trip to the Pioneer Women's Hut at Tumberumba. This will be held on the normal meeting day (Thursday, April 4). Sue Beattie is organising this event.

A lunch will be enjoyed and a short meeting will be held. A small bus will be organised for transport.

The guest speaker for the February meeting was Kate Pickering.

Kate is a primary care nurse and travels throughout the district educating children through to grandparents about the benefits of a healthy diet and exercise.

The main aim is to slow the spread of diabetes type 2.

She described her interesting life, being educated around the world of 22 different primary schools, and has mainly worked in oncology and midwifery, and is now settled in Tumut.

Kate was thanked for her interesting talk and given a delicious cake.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, at the Royal Hotel at 11.30am for 12 noon. For bookings or cancellations ring Ester on 6946 4418.

## ML pre-season

GUNDAGAI-ADELONG Minor League held its first registration day recently with over 80 families taking the opportunity to register early for the upcoming season.

The first events for the season will be the trials to be held on April 6 and the Mini/Mod Carnival at Tumut on April 27.

A gathering of all competitive teams (under 10s - under 16s) will be held at the Gundagai footy fields at 4.30pm on March 12.

The under 13s will start training on Friday March 8 at 4.30pm at Gundagai. Training for the U6s - U6s will commence on April 12 in Gundagai at 4.30pm. Registrations will be held at training on Friday March 15 and Friday April 12