

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Wagga Wagga

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bugger Annabel Nowlan

What thoughts and experiences does the well used expression 'bugger' conjure up for you? As a ubiquitous part of the rural vernacular it's a word that's used in many different contexts: frustration, disappointment, anger, illness and bad luck. As a title for this exhibition, ***bugger*** explores the experiences, nuances, and personal aspects of mans' struggle for survival and domination over the land. Loneliness, isolation and uncertainty are part of both the historical and present day challenges of life on the land. But there's also resilience, resourcefulness, humour and compassion.

These are recurrent themes in the works that explore the personal histories behind the Soldier Settler schemes in rural Australia, using material gathered from visits to actual sites as well as historical and archival texts.

bugger presents a group of mixed media works by Annabel Nowlan from the past ten years, which have their foundation in the artist's long and personal connection with the land. The many years spent working on the family farm at Bimbi, 30km west of Grenfell have been a major inspiration for the works in this exhibition.

The artist states; 'I'm attracted to the unique markings of repetitious human and animal activity on the land, the allure of weatherworn materials, and the beauty in what is often considered mundane. Inspiration is found in everything from second hand materials, fencing patterns, jerrybuilt construction, and erosion scars, to colorful colloquial slang. Through the manipulation of recycled and unrefined materials such as flattened tin, old patched tarpaulin, recycled copper the artist translates these unique stories into their own visual narratives. There is also acknowledgement of the indigenous connection to country that exists at a spiritual level rather than through legal ownership.

Official Opening

When: Saturday, 24 April, 2.00 -4.00pm

Where: Links Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free

Exhibition Dates: Friday, 16 April – Sunday, 30 May, 2010

For more information please contact Cath Bowdler on 02 6926 9660 or email bowdler.cath@wagga.nsw.gov.au