

artgallery

art

Trek opened a new palette

By Tahnae Goldsworthy

A MONTH-LONG road trip to Darwin, and 2500 pictures later, Mike Forster has many tales to tell.

And he's started telling them in his latest exhibition at the Mezza Bar, Bowral, with eight works showing different impressions of the trip to Darwin last July with fellow artist Max Miller.

"We discovered an amazing place," Mr Forster said. "We'd been talking about going for ages."

The adventure really began when Forster's daughter said she wanted to travel overseas to meet new people and discover new places. He told her she could do that in her own country before realising he hadn't traveled far out of the bounds of Bougainville or Bowral.

"Max made the offer [trip to Darwin] and I jumped at it. I think everyone should get out there," he said.

And out there they did.

Packed into a car with a selection of works bound for an exhibition Mr Miller was having in Darwin, a few paper notebooks, pencils, pastels and a camera, they stopped at small towns and soaked up a 360-degree view of Australia's outback.

Having spent his life in the Highlands and Bougainville with



IMPRESSIONS: Mike Forster gazes into his work created with a range of pigments found along the way to Darwin displayed at the Mezza Bar.
Photo by Tahnae Goldsworthy

quite cool climates, most of Forster's past work featured a palette of greens and browns.

But out on the open road between Bowral and Darwin the red earth changed Forster's palette to tones of orange, reds and browns.

He said there were elements to his display at the Mezza.

The first was the commercial element, where he hopes to sell works, and the second was to impress to visitors the

experiences of the trip "beyond the Black Stump".

One of his works depicts an Aboriginal man with a kangaroo inspired by a lone footprint in the sand. The print had no tracks leading to it and no tracks leading away.

"If you open yourself up to it you can see these things," he said. "I didn't know it was important, I just thought someone was walking around with no shoes on."

"It's a huge thing art – it lives," Mr Forster said. "It's a trip I recommend for everybody. Everywhere you looked there was a masterpiece to be painted."

□ Mike Forster's exhibition at the Mezza Bar, Bowral will run until the end of July. A book detailing their trip, experiences and a few photos is behind the counter at the café and available to read.

Furniture with art twist to go on display

By Tahnae Goldsworthy

FUNCTIONALITY meets sculpture in Ian Factor's first solo furniture exhibition at the Craft ACT: Craft & Design Centre, opening today.

Factor showcases a minimalist and contemporary influence with clean-cut lines and a simple symmetrical design with his plywood and jarrah furniture works.

"I've always wanted to work with wood," he said.

"It's just a passion. I love working with my hands and I love design."

The Mittagong architect and builder made his first coffee table in his early 20s and pursued his passion with a one-year course at Sturt School for Wood.

"Through my architect training I developed a love for minimalism and contemporary design and through studying at Sturt I developed my own style," he said.

The exhibition will display

eight pieces of furniture including a Legato Chaise Lounge, dressing table and Lollipop Drawers that showcase the mix of sculptural gallery-type works and the craft of making furniture.

□ Ian Factor's Abstract Furniture Exhibition runs from today until July 31 at Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre. The gallery is open Tuesday-Friday from 10am-5pm and Saturday from noon-4pm.



CREATIVE BALANCE: Ian Factor's Cantilevered Media Cabinet is one of the eight pieces set for display.

- Shop in Your Own Home Town photo display by Bundanoon History Group features an array of old and new photographs that tell the story of Bundanoon's bustling main street. It continues at the Old Goods Shed, Railway Avenue, Bundanoon on the first and third Sunday (market day) of every month from 10am-3pm or by appointment. Details: Marianne Ward, 4883 6082.

- Don Talintyre Retrospective Exhibition entitled *My Life in Art* is on each Saturday from 10am-4pm indefinitely or by appointment at Clarence House, Moss Vale. Details: Don, 0408 648 884.

- An exhibition of lustre fired ceramics by John Kuczwal is on display at Sturt Gallery from this Sunday until August 22. Details: Sturt Gallery, 4860 2080.

- Greg Hyde is holding his third exhibition at the Milk Factory Gallery until June 30. Details: 4862 1077.

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Let us know about your local art exhibition, talk or workshop. Phone Tahnae on 4861 2333 or email tahnae.goldsworthy@ruralpress.com.

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Phone: 4226 1677

web: www.lagoonrestaurant.com.au
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