

Box of Art comes all the way from Europe to Forbes

The Bibliobox is coming to Forbes. It's about the size of an esky, it's made of wood and it's travelled all the way from the Netherlands. But what is it?



The Bibliobox is a travelling archive; it contains information about art projects in the rural context. It connects rural people for all over the world by sharing stories of arts projects in those communities.

Arts OutWest was invited to host The Bibliobox during its short Australian visit. In Australia it has already been to areas diverse as Newcastle and Swan Hill. Locals can see and experience the Bibliobox at Mezzanine Style in Forbes on Friday 15 of January from 11am where there will be presentation and a facilitated discussion about the nature of arts in our own region and the way arts and agriculture can relate to each other. Arts OutWest would like to see people there from both the arts and the farming communities. The Bibliobox returns to Europe in February.

Inside are films to be watched, books to leaf through and CDs to listen to. The box brings together project information from different countries. People in Forbes will be able to see community arts projects from villages of the same size in Europe and other parts of the world.

“In a rural context, the box offers a broader view of people living in similar situations in other rural areas. It presents an opportunity for people to share experiences from art periphery to art periphery. It invites people to make their own contribution to contemporary art,” explains the Bibliobox website.

Bringing the Bibliobox to Forbes will be Neil Berecny-Brown, a retired art lecturer who is a farmer in the Hunter region. He will talk about the background of the Bibliobox, followed by a presentation by Ian Tully, director of the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery who will share the thoughts and ideas that came out of a day centred around the Bibliobox that was held in Swan Hill and featured a range of high profile presenters. After a break for lunch, discussions will be led about what the issues are for creating arts in our context of Forbes and the Central West, and looking at what the contributions to the Bibliobox could be from our own region.



“Arts OutWest jumped at the offer to host the Bibliobox.” said Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan. “We’re curious to see what people of the Central West make of the stories in it. Are we all that different to people in rural France or England? This will also be a fun and different way for us as the regional arts board to hear about arts stories and ideas from the community.”

Arts OutWest will be capturing people’s responses to the Bibliobox and Neil Berecry-Brown and Ian Tully’s presentations, as well as people’s thoughts and feelings on art in the rural Australian context. These will be then added to the box as it continues to tour the world.

What: See ‘the Bilblio Box’
When: Friday 15 January 2010
Where: Mezzanine Style, FORBES
Cost: FREE. Attendees to buy own food and drinks
More info: Arts OutWest 6338 4657 or email artoutwest@csu.edu.au
Bibliobox: <http://www.bibliobox.org/index.php>