

The Clarence Valley is soon to have a new piece of public **sculpture** thanks to The Gallery Foundation.

Grafton Gallery Director, Jude McBean, says "This is the first artwork commissioned for the Gallery exterior spaces. Given the proposed location it is likely to become one of the Gallery's signature works."

The Gallery Foundation has become an established part of the Clarence Valley's cultural and philanthropic life since it was established barely five years ago, mainly through its events to raise funds to support the Grafton Regional Gallery.

The Annual Dinner and Art Auction attract more than a hundred people to the glamorous Gallery event. The recent Gate to Plate event saw 250 people sit down to the most fabulous lunch seen in the Valley, and about a thousand people bought out the goodies of many of the producer and restaurant stalls set up for the day.

Whilst the small band of volunteer members of the Foundation Board have been organising and delivering these events, there have also been some plans to deliver on another major objective of the Foundation.

Having now raised over \$100,000, including considerable earned income on monies held, the Foundation has announced that it will fund the acquisition of a major art work for the Gallery, costing about \$10,000.

Accordingly, a sub-committee has been established to identify, select and recommend to the Board an artwork, or an artist from whom a piece of work will be commissioned, for the Foundation to gift to the Gallery in 2009. The sub-committee is chaired by the Gallery Director Jude McBean, and includes former Foundation chairman Kay Alden and Foundation Board member and artist Pam Fysh.

The Call for Expressions of Interest was made available to artistic networks on Friday, 3 July, requesting submissions by close of business on Friday, 31 July 2009. Further details may be obtained from the Gallery.

The criteria indicate that the work should be a contemporary **sculpture** of steel and/or stone, and that the artist should be a resident in the North Coast of NSW region. The artwork is to be located in the Gallery courtyard. This setting mandates some dimensional requirements for selection.

Priority will be given to high quality, innovative and well developed proposals which consider issues of safety and physical accessibility, materials maintenance and durability, and are relevant to the Clarence Valley's history, culture, environment and society.

Foundation chairman Dr George Burkitt says "It is great to see the fruits of the Board's efforts, and the generosity of so many people who cherish the educational and cultural benefits the Gallery contributes to the Clarence Valley, being realised in this way. It is especially a tribute to the efforts of the inaugural chairman, Kay Alden, that so much money has been raised to date that we are able to make such a substantial donation at this time from the income earned from the fund."

It is expected that the **sculpture** will be installed in November, and revealed at a special function at that time