

28 April 2011

Dear Fellow Friends of NERAM,

The NERAMble is over, the frosts have started, the aprons and tablecloths washed, the plates, mugs and urns have been stowed away until next year, and the final tally is almost upon us, but we do know that 340 people went through the gates and that we made over \$11,000!!!

This makes this, the 5th NERAMble the most successful yet, and not just in financial terms.

The art displays in the gardens were our biggest and most comprehensive yet, with botanical paintings, sculptures, pottery, decorative welding, mosaics, woodwork, and photography and as a public relations exercise for NERAM in terms of representing a showcase for art it was a huge success.

Over 60 of you were involved so thank you so much for all your baking, cooking, preserving, sandwich making, and endless serving, gate sitting, stall organising, counting money, putting up signs, selling raffle tickets, and carting chairs and tables – all with a smile.

Special thanks go to our garden owners in Gungurru Rd. whose gardens were a showcase of cool climate gardening and a wonderful setting for all the various art works on display. Thank you for so graciously allowing us to invade your space. I hope you agree it was worth it – the garden visitors certainly appreciated it.

As with last year's NERAMble, the proceeds this year are going to the re-landscaping of the grounds behind NERAM, including the stage area, to make it a much more enjoyable space which the Armidale community can all enjoy for future events.

Next year's NERAMble celebrating art in the open gardens will again be on the second weekend of April, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, which also happens to be the Easter weekend, on the outskirts of Armidale. Hope to see you there.

We are now heading into our Winter programme of At Homes, beginning in June, and also the NERAM Foundation Dinner which will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and our next opening is on May 20<sup>th</sup> – hope to see you there.

Warm regards,

Lynne Walker, Chair, Friends of NERAM.



PS In the May issue of Country Style there is a great article on Karen Herring, the talented sculptor who provided such a feature in the Dangar's gardens with her wonderful pears, apples and flowers, and also one on Greg Hyde whose art works are so popular each year at our Packsaddle Exhibitions (being held this year from Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – Nov 13<sup>th</sup> - as always not to be missed).

**NERAM Patrons:**

Patron: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW

Vice Patron: Mr Richard Torbay, MP Member for Northern Tablelands

Vice Patron: Mr Tony Windsor MP Member for New England

Vice Patron: Mr Barry Pearce, Emeritus Curator, Art Gallery of NSW