

# 32 Picking a punch

Learn to mix the ultimate party potion



# 35 AVATAR

Big screen blockbuster lives up to the hype



# the break

# Let there be light



A talented Tamworth artist is making her mark locally and on the overseas stage. Here, she speaks about her art, inspirations and aspirations with WENDY SPOONER

TAMWORTH artist Bronwyn Woodley Graham has a penchant for facing south. It's all to do with the way the light falls.

Her studio, upstairs in the gracious, old building housing Shearer Arcade, diagonally opposite Tamworth Post Office, faces south.

"I like natural light. I like south light. In the Southern Hemisphere it's coolest, whereas in the Northern Hemisphere, north light is coolest," she said.

"You can see the colours a lot clearer with cooler light; south light is more constant during the day."

Bronwyn, 45, recently returned from a trip to Ferraro, a medieval town in northern Italy where she, along with six other international artists, had been invited to exhibit their work.

She also spent some time in Venice and Florence.

"I spent nearly two weeks in Venice because I like the light in Venice - it's really soft and hazy," she said.

The exhibition, organised by art curator Paola Trevison, is held every year, with different artists each year.

"I met some fantastic people - I made some great friends," she said.

"I found much in common with artists from different countries, even though there was a language barrier."

The opening of the exhibition on October 25 was done in the usual, flamboyant Italian style: a host of flag-bearers did a flag dance which started in the town square and went up to the medieval castle where the exhibition was being held.

The daughter of Lorraine and Warren



Woodley, Bronwyn's current full-time work as an artist is the realisation of a long-held dream.

ARTIST UP CLOSE: Bronwyn, pictured with her poodle, Rembrandt, in her delightful studio. Photos: Geoff O'Neill 161209GOC04

TOP - ARTIST'S PALETTE: Bronwyn Woodley Graham's studio with her paints. 161209GOC01

Continued pages 28 and 29

Answer this  
Test your trivia skills

ONE POINTERS

Number 0247

- 1 What colour are the petals of the cornflower?
- 2 In which Australian state or territory would you find the city of Dubbo?
- 3 On what date is St Valentine's Day celebrated?
- 4 Can elephants jump?
- 5 Who portrayed Virginia Woolf in the movie *The Hours*?
- 6 Name the duo who sang *Mrs Robinson* for the soundtrack of *The Graduate*.
- 7 What are their given names?
- 8 What is the floral emblem of NSW?
- 9 Name the yacht that won the 1983 America's Cup.
- 10 Who designed that yacht?
- 11 How many items are there in a gross?
- 12 How many overs may each team bowl in a limited overs one-day cricket match?
- 13 What was the nationality of the conquistadors?
- 14 In which American state would you find the city of Cleveland?
- 15 What do we call an angle of 90 degrees?
- 16 Thomas Mitchell named the region south of the Murray River Australia what?
- 17 Name the star of the movie *Gladiator*.
- 18 In which country was he born?
- 19 According to the nursery rhyme, who cut off the tails of the Three Blind Mice?
- 20 And what did that person use to cut off those tails?

THREE POINTERS

- 21 According to Benjamin Franklin, what makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise?
- 22 The famous 'To be or not to be' speech appears in which Shakespearean play?
- 23 What do we call the region in which two or more nerve cells make contact across which impulses pass?
- 24 Who was Queen Victoria's personal attendant at Balmoral for 34 years?
- 25 And who portrayed him in the movie *Her Majesty, Mrs Brown*?
- 26 Which two continents does the Bosphorus separate?
- 27 For which movie did Nicole Kidman receive her 2003 best actress Oscar nomination?
- 28 Jonas Salk developed a vaccine against which disease?
- 29 What is the floral emblem of Queensland?
- 30 In which Australian state or territory would you find Lake St Clair National Park?
- 31 How many metres above sea level does Ayers Rock stand?
- 32 In which year did colour television transmission begin in Australia?
- 33 Name the corps of bodyguard charged with protecting the Vatican.
- 34 What type of musical instrument is a surdo?
- 35 To which section of the orchestra does the oboe belong?
- 36 Which Latin phrase literally translates to English as 'stiffness of death'?
- 37 Re is the chemical symbol for which element?
- 38 What do we call any period of four years?
- 39 In which Australian state or territory would you find the township of Murray Bridge?
- 40 In which year did the French begin nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll?

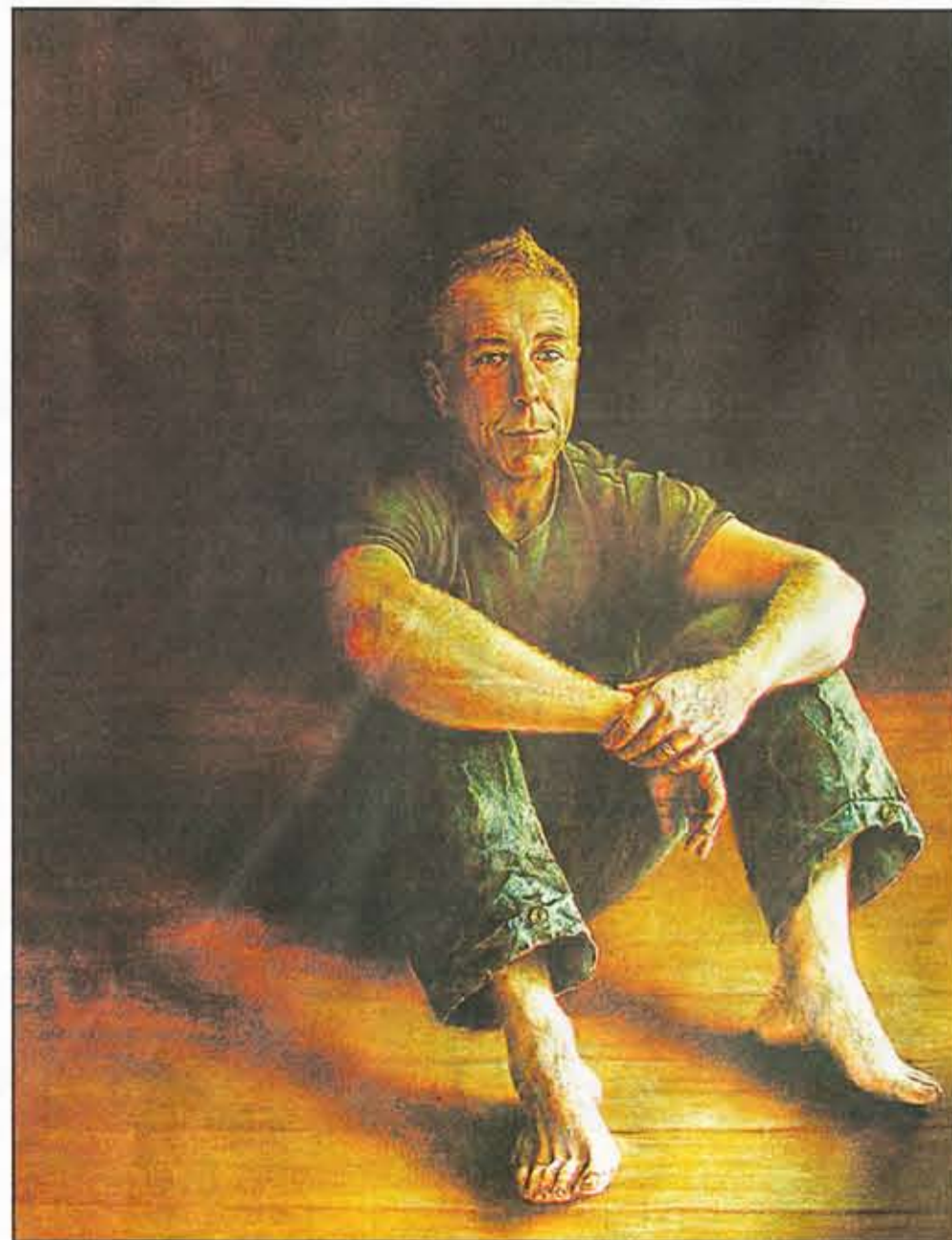
FIVE POINTERS

- 41 What is an isotherm?
- 42 By what name is the largest of the dark plains on the Moon known?
- 43 How is 32 expressed as a binary number?
- 44 Name the two scientists that shared the Nobel Prize with Alexander Fleming for their work on penicillin.
- 45 Into which river was Rasputin thrown after being shot in 1916?
- 46 What is the animal emblem of Western Australia?
- 47 What name was chosen by cinema fans when MGM ran a contest to rename their new star Lucille Le Sueur?
- 48 In which year did the 'Cuban missile crisis' take place?
- 49 Name any three of the six noble gases.
- 50 What is the technical term for the outer layer of a mushroom cap?
- 51 Name the test used to determine if an organic substance is a reducing agent.
- 52 What was the nationality of composer Franz Joseph Haydn?
- 53 In which fictitious town was the television series *Dad's Army* set?
- 54 What is the Haber process?
- 55 Which part of the brain is responsible for balance and muscular co-ordination?
- 56 Which Greek scientist said, 'Give me a firm place to stand, and a lever long enough, and I will move the earth'?
- 57 How do archerfish catch the insects they eat?
- 58 In which year was the Archibald Prize first awarded?
- 59 Name the three parts of a typical comet.
- 60 Who directed the 1985 film *A Chorus Line*?

# Appreciation of the masters



VENICE INSPIRATION: On her recent trip to Italy, Bronwyn spent two weeks in Venice – she loves the soft light there. Photo: Bronwyn Woodley



ACTOR ON CANVAS: Bronwyn painted actor Steve Bisley for the Archibald Prize last year. This painting now hangs at NIDA in Sydney.

From page 27

She studied the oil-painting technique at the Charlie Sheard Studio School in Sydney between 1999-2002.

"I was a graphic artist for many years from the age of 17," she said.

"I had my own business for a long time." She worked as a freelance graphic designer and also "worked as a marketing director for a lot of different companies".

She also, with husband Kell, had a first-aid training business for 12 years. They have now lived back in Tamworth for three years; she has had her studio for two years.

Bronwyn loves the work of the old masters and laments that many modern artists have lost touch with the basics of the craft.

"A lot of art is about technique," she said. "A lot of people think it's about self-expression, but it's not."

"In the 14th century, art was a trade; you'd be apprenticed to a master."

"In modern times, artists are sent out to produce work, often without training in materials and techniques."

"It's like saying to an architect, 'Go and design a house' without giving them the knowledge of what's required structurally to make it stay up."

"When you go to a gallery, you notice a lot of the modern works are cracking, whereas you don't see that with the old masters."

Bronwyn said paintings cracked because painters painted "wet onto wet" layers.

"If you paint a layer over a layer that's half-dry, that's not sound, it's not going to last," she said.

As the layer underneath dried, it would expand, causing the upper layers to crack.

The artists she admires are mainly the old masters, such as Tintoretto.

"I love so many of them. Reubens – I just love the Dutch. So clever," she said.

"Most of my work has been inspired by the old masters in one way or another."

"And Turner I love – he used to spit in his paintings and throw sand in his painting."

"A lot of his later works are not archival sound."

Bronwyn will be having an exhibition called *Shifting Light* opening at 6pm on Friday, February 26 at the Tamworth Regional Gallery. The exhibition will run until April 3.

Bonvoyage  
Travel destinations

## See Melbourne's best by walking tour

KNOWN for its great restaurant scene and art-filled laneways, one of the best ways to see the city of Melbourne is to walk around.

One walking tour available is the three-hour Melbourne by Foot tour, for \$25.

Departing daily at 9am and 1pm (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) from Federation Square, the tour teaches visitors about the traditional owners of the land, the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung people, and the tragedies they suffered under the settlers.

Visitors will tour Melbourne's famous art-filled laneways and learn about the underworld crime scene.

They will also learn about Melbourne's cultural diversity and immigration history, as well as visit the city's iconic architecture, like the MCG and Flinders Street Station.

Tours operate regardless of the weather, so be prepared for rain, hail or shine and wear comfortable shoes.

Details: visit [www.melbournebyfoot.com](http://www.melbournebyfoot.com), email [info@melbournebyfoot.com](mailto:info@melbournebyfoot.com) or call 0418 394 000.

## Trading relaxation for excitement

MANY TOURISTS are trading traditional and relaxing beach holidays for adventurous treks through Africa or Siberia, according to online travel agent responsibletravel.com.

The travel agent says it's seen a shift in demand this year, as the previous top best-selling destinations – beach holidays in Turkey and Malaysia – were replaced by Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and a trans-Siberian rail tour.

Responsibletravel managing director Justin Francis says his company has noticed a growth in holidays that are more challenging.

"Travel is becoming less about ticking off lists of places and things, and more about fulfilment, rejuvenation and testing goals that are physical, emotional and spiritual," he said.

"The feel-good factor of achievement has started to be recognised as a new way of holidaying."

Here are some travel suggestions that will allow you to learn something new, from responsible travel:

- Volunteer to coach a football team of disadvantaged young men in Kenya;
- Be surrounded by nature in India, staying at the Bandhavgarh treehouse;
- Learn how to create woollen clothing in Scotland, shearing sheep and dyeing wool;
- Take a self-guided bicycle tour through the vineyards of Bordeaux, France; and
- Immerse yourself in sustainable green living, staying at the Straw Bale Cottage in Yorkshire, England. The cottage has a wood stove, 100 per cent renewable electricity, bikes, organic sheets and towels and wormery and compost facilities.

Details: visit [www.responsibletravel.com/learnsomethingnew](http://www.responsibletravel.com/learnsomethingnew)

## Use of different types of medium

"A LOT of my paintings are about painting the light or the changing light within a scene," Bronwyn said.

"The painting technique that I use is in layers."

"I use the techniques of the old masters, but I interpret that in a modern way – it can be up to 20 layers."

"All these colours come through and what it does is shift the light."

"I use a combination of transparent and opaque (types of paint)."

"Transparents react differently to the light, because the light passes through the pigment. With opaques, the light bounces off the pigment."

"If you can manipulate those qualities in a painting, the light will shift as you view the painting, in a multitude of ways."

She does abstract and figurative work, as well as portraits.

You can commission her to do your portrait if you wish.

"The thing with portraits is to capture more the essence of a person, not just the resemblance," she said.

"The majority of works I exhibit tend to be semi-abstract landscapes."

"My work tends to be anywhere from extremely figurative to abstract."

"Having the combination is good, because I can do figurative but go abstract."

It takes her "six weeks, on average" to do a painting.

"I'll be working on different paintings at the same time," she said.

"Art should be about the dialogue it creates between the viewer and the artwork."

"It's what it does for you. A lot of artists think it's about them, but it's about the viewer."



LANDSCAPE MARVEL: *The Road Home* (oil on linen, 56cm x 56cm) – one of the paintings that will be on show at Bronwyn's exhibition in February in Tamworth. It's the first time the public will see this work.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT – ARTIST AT WORK: Bronwyn concentrates on another of her delightful paintings. Photo: Geoff O'Neill 16120960006

FLAG DANCERS: Bronwyn took this photo of the exciting display of flag-dancing which kicked off the exhibition in the village square and wended its way toward the castle where the exhibition was held. Photo: Bronwyn Woodley

ITALIAN CASTLE: Bronwyn had several works in an exhibition of international artists' works held at Estensa Castle, Ferrara, in northern Italy, in October. Photo: Bronwyn Woodley

