

*Splashing back artists selected*

After over 20 months Arts Council Toowoomba (ACT) has worked with artists, businesses and TRC to bring *Splashing back* to the streets of Toowoomba.

ACT is pleased to announce that the following artists have been commissioned to create *Splashing back* mosaics:

Chelle McIntyre – Anderson’s Floor Coverings

Christian Low– McNab Constructions

Helen La Rosa – Treg Smith Auto Dent Street

Maria Richardson – Lifeline

Mary Kate Khoo – The Spotted Cow

Naomi Hatt – South Queensland Institute of TAFE

Des Verdon – Brumby’s Go! (formerly Big Dad’s pies)

Christine Brassington – Geo Cossarts Saddlery and Craft

Jennifer Wright Summers – DRTV

Kim Beasley Scott –Picnic Point Toowoomba.

Public Art Advisory group members Pamela Armstrong Head of Library and Cultural Services for the Toowoomba Regional Council, Di Baker Curator of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, mosaic artist Bev Ridsdill-Kenny, Sally Johnstone from Creative Regions and ceramics tutor from USQ Alexis Tacey allocated sites to artists in the Expression of Interest process in October. This independent group has now selected the ten best designs for mosaics to be created.

*Splashing back* is the initiative of ACT, created in response to the January 2011 floods. The *Splashing back* concept consisted of providing public art to businesses. The primary aim was to acknowledge the resilience of Toowoomba’s local business community through their successful recovery. The use of mosaic would reflect the water, linking in with the individual flood stories each business had experienced. ACT has worked diligently with businesses, both the owners/operators, employees and their families to record their flood stories.

ACT has conducted two professional mosaic workshops, and two design workshops to increase the professionalism of participating artists.

Derek Tuffield CEO Lifeline spoke to artists about psychological first aid and ACT made artists aware of the possibility of retraumatizing business owners.

Arts Council Toowoomba Inc (ACT) is very grateful to the businesses who agreed to participate, artists who expressed interest in the project and the Public Art Advisory group members.

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Photos available on request

Attached is Maria Richardson’s design for Lifeline

