

Creative Roma



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Since the completion of the \$3 million Roma Community Arts Centre in 2008 the town has seen a boom in imaginative events, artistic workshops and creative businesses.

The new creative Roma is seeing professional artists being re-inspired to make their art a priority, local events are moving from the mundane to magical and young professionals are moving to the town to utilise their creative talents to run successful businesses.

Jenie Fawckner is one local professional artist who is committed to making 2009 a creative success. Jenie said, "Since getting married and having four children it has been really hard to do any art at all, but my husband and I are committed to making my art a major priority this year so I can produce a large body of work enabling me to host my own exhibitions again." Jenie has a Degree in Fine Arts; she has sold a considerable number of works through Arts West and has had two solo exhibitions in Brisbane. Jenie, who is President of Maranoa Artists, strongly believes the new Roma Arts Centre has provided a real boost to the local community.

Local events also have been changing to meet the needs of the creative community. Last year, the Santos Food & Fire Fest was held for the first time and featured world folk music, fire art and multicultural cuisine. Roma Regional Council coordinated the event and attracted a large amount of sponsorship to enable the engagement of professional musicians

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Roma Community Arts Centre



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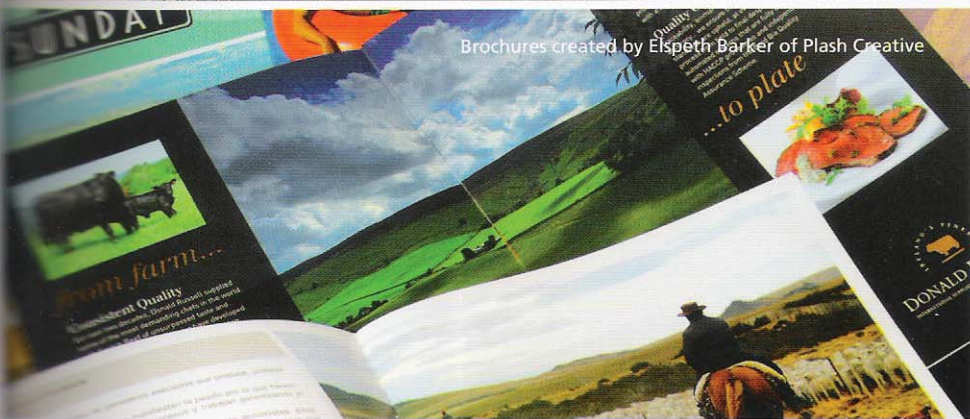
Roma's new \$3m Community Art Centre



Jen Fawckner at the recent Lucija Paj workshop



All creative pursuits are catered for in one centre



Brochures created by Elspeth Barker of Plash Creative

PLASH CREATIVE

Plash Creative Is Our Name.

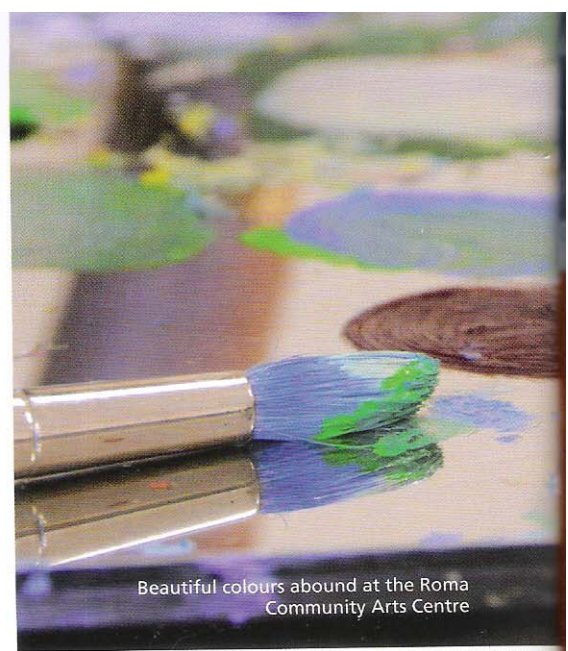
It doesn't mean we're an agency that dabbles in a bit of this & a bit of that. It means we specialise in the integration of all things creative. Offering all things Graphic Design.

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- Water, Uniforms, Magnets
- Billboards & Banners
- Brochures & Prospectus
- Invitations
- Photography
- PR & Events Management
- Stationery
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- Branding
- Packaging & Labels

Call Elspeth Barker: 104 McDowall St Roma Qld. 4455 Ph 07 4622 3315 Eml info@plashcreative.com Web www.plashcreative.com



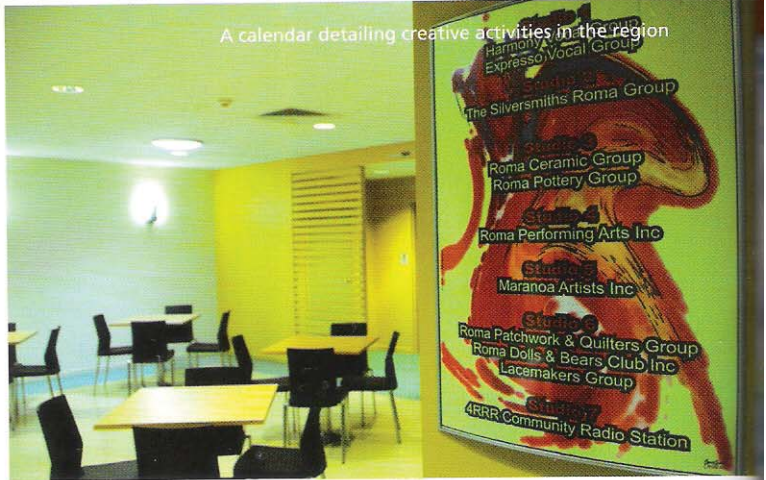
Elspeth Barker proprietor of Plash Creative



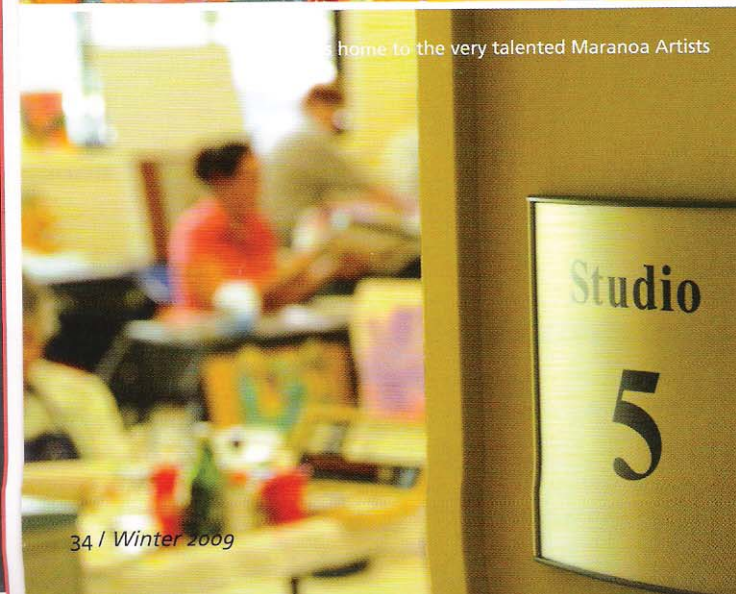
Beautiful colours abound at the Roma Community Arts Centre



Maranoa Artists encourage all painting styles



A calendar detailing creative activities in the region



Home to the very talented Maranoa Artists

and fire artists who worked with the community prior to the big event. Thousands turned out for the evening and everybody is looking forward to this year's event, to be held on September 12.

Elspeth Barker grew up in Charleville and after spending many years in Brisbane for school, university and work she has taken a huge gamble and moved to Roma to establish her own graphic design business, Plash Creative. Elspeth said, "Roma has a great young population; lots of other young people own businesses and it is very central to clients in the surrounding region." Elspeth has been surprised at how supportive and interested people have been in her services, stating that many businesses, organisations and individuals want professional branding, websites, promotional material, invitations, flyers etcetera.

Elspeth said, "People respond really well to being able to meet face to face and discuss their needs. I love coming to work every day and I want to be able to encourage school students to follow their creative dreams because there are genuine careers in the arts and creative fields, in both metropolitan and rural locations."

There is artwork in the street furniture of Roma; there is a calendar dedicated to the cultural events of the region and children as young as three have hosted their own art shows. Creativity abounds in this rural community.

words ~ Justine Miller
images ~ Browngully Photography