

## **More Exhibitions for “Focus on Franklin”**

**Exhibitions feature throughout Franklin for the annual festival, March 25-27.**

### **THE VILLAGE GREEN**

Near the Village Green, in the heart of the town, 2 modern displays will be on show in old buildings in honour of the 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations. The Church Studio Franklin will have a jewellery exhibition by Sandi Tradjos and Gillian Bruce. Sandi commented that after last exhibiting at the Waterside Pavilion in Hobart, it was a great thrill to be back at work creating, and especially to be able to show locally. The natural beauty of the Huon Valley provides artistic inspiration for some of the pieces. Gillian added “After an absence of several years it is great to be back at the bench working, and what better venue than within the historic, atmospheric stone walls of the Church Studio Franklin.”

The exhibition will be on at the same time as an installation by well-known Tasmanian sculptor Marcus Tatton, in the front gardens of the 1860 Methodist Church. Charles and Pat Zuber, owners of the building and hosts of the displays, have a philanthropic leaning towards “the arts” from previous experience as lecturers and being involved with community arts projects. This resulted in the old Church being internally remodelled to provide modern-day facilities for an Art Gallery and Studio.

Nearby, at the Franklin Café Gallery, the displays change regularly with art and craftwork supplied by local artists in the Huon Valley.

### **THE NAVY MUSEUM**

The recently opened Navy Museum has an interesting exhibition of paintings and ships. As a special feature for the Focus weekend, memorabilia celebrating the town’s settlement will be on display, including a letter from Lady Jane Franklin, the wife of the Governor of Tasmania(1837 – 1843). Her last “port of call” was in the town before returning to England. Many places throughout Tasmania have inherited her surname, including Franklin, which was founded in 1836 as “The Settlement” overlooking the Huon River.

### **THE PALAIS THEATRE**

Further north at the Palais Theatre, a display to “tempt your tastebuds” is developing already. In keeping with the fruit heritage of the valley, there will be an apple exhibition and baking competition, with challenges such as the “Best Crumble Baked By A Man”. There will also be a display on Franklin’s history and development.

### **THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE**

At the northern entrance to the town, an art exhibition at the Masonic Lodge features the work of marine and local artists. “Now and Then” audio-visual display will also be running as part of the Franklin 175 events. The Bowmont will have exhibits of the building’s history from bank to hospital to community centre. From being established as a bank in 1906, business became babies when it took on a large maternity role from the 1940’s to 1960’s. A get-together in 2009 of babies, staff and families has led to a new publication which describes local history and stories.

### **THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE**

At the southern end of town, art, photos and other local memorabilia will be on show at Petty Sessions Gourmet Café (the old Courthouse) and the Franklin Tavern.

For more information on any of the exhibitions, ph 62663224, or visit

[www.focusonfranklin.org](http://www.focusonfranklin.org)