Murray Time - the book

Reporter: Dave Lennon and Claire Leunig

Wednesday, 10 December  2003

'Murray Time' is a novel - but it's also a showcase of Albury-Wodonga's literary and artistic talent and, apparently, a world first.

Jane Downing, one of the publishers and organisers spoke to the ABC's Dave Lennon about coordinating 16 authors and 16 artists, all of them locals.

"16 writers wrote a novel - and it has turned out to be a novel - then we got the artists in, and they each had a chapter to illustrate, and it's added another level, another dimension of interest to the narrative."

She says it's a 'gorgeous' book, and one with a story worth reading.

"The novel is this wonderful narrative of murder and mayhem and madness, and the colour plates - the artwork was so gorgeous, we just had to go with colour plates."

The entire process - nearly a year's worth - was documented in posters that are on display at Arts Space, along with the pictures from the book.

Ms Downing says the process has been a rewarding one.

"Hopefully we will inspire other communities to get together, because it's been a wonderful community process," she says.

"When we first started, people were saying 'it'll never work - there's no way you can get so many creative people together to actually produce something', especially as each writer only had one week to do their 3,000 word chapter. There was all these Cassandras shaking their heads saying no, it's not going to happen. Well, it did.

"I do think other communities can do it. There are writers everywhere, locked away in
boltholes, writing in isolation - that's part of the job, you've got to do it in isolation - but if communities can get them together, bounce off each other...amazing things happen."

To listen to the interview, click the link below.

Listen to:

( Audio in RealMedia format ) | Requires RealPlayer
Jane Downing speaks to the ABC's Jonathan Ridnell.

Last Updated: 11/12/2003 10:26:00 AM AEDT

© 2003 Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Copyright information: http://abc.net.au/common/copyrigh.htm
Privacy information: http://abc.net.au/privacy.htm