MURRAY TIME

THE artistic and literary talents of 34 of the Border District’s artists and writers have come together in an innovative way – as an illustrated progressive novel.

“Murray Time” which is to be launched on Wednesday, December 10 at Arts Space, Lawrence St., Wodonga from 5.30pm to 7pm along with an exhibition of the original art works used to illustrate the book is very much the brainchild of publishers Dirk Spennemann and Jane Downing.

“Basically it’s a progressive novel which has never been done before in this fashion,” Mr Spennemann said.

“It’s very likely a world first and has been very exciting. The response to the novel has been excellent as has been the quality of the writing and the artwork.”

All the writers and artists who worked collaboratively on the novel live within a 45km radius of Albury-Wodonga. The novel was given a regional focus as a means of promoting the region.

Contributors to the novel were chosen from artists and writers who responded to expressions of interest advertised in the local media and through existing arts and writers’ networks.

The main characters and the background of the novel were workshopped with the editors and 16 participating writers, then the writing commenced. Each writer had only one week to write a chapter in their own voice.

A second workshop brought the writers and the artists together to discuss expectations. Once the novel was completed, 18 visual artists illustrated a chapter each in their own style and preferred medium which ranged from acrylics to photography.

A project website kept writers and artists abreast of the progressive story-line and character development.

“Murray Time” will also be a travelling exhibition which will tour regional Australia for two years. The project has been supported by Booranga Writers Albury, Murray Arts, Regional Arts NSW, Upper Murray Regional Library, Albury City and the City of Wodonga, Charles Sturt University and LETAO.

For further information contact Dirk Spennemann or Jane Downing on 02 6021 7032.

For background see: