

**ATT'N ALL CENTRAL WEST NEWS MEDIA, NSW  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Merrill Findlay

Interim Chairperson, Forbes Arts and Culture Working Group

Phone: 02 6852 3860, Mobile: 04040 57162

Email: [merrill.findlay@rmit.edu.au](mailto:merrill.findlay@rmit.edu.au)

## **FORBES PEOPLE TO MAP THEIR LOCAL CULTURE**

**Forbes, NSW  
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**Forbes Shire residents will begin mapping their local culture at a special meeting of the Forbes Arts and Culture Working Group on Tuesday 19 April, 2005, in the Forbes Town Hall Concourse, as a first step in developing a community cultural plan to support and encourage local arts and cultural initiatives, and attract more people to the Shire.**

All community organisations have been invited to nominate a representative to attend this important meeting, and all locals interested in the future of the Shire are urged to attend. The Working Group especially invites the district's "cultural creatives", including all local musicians, artists, singers, poets, writers, historians, story-tellers, rappers, photographers, computer graphics artists, gardeners, land carers and craftworkers, as well as anyone who simply enjoys music, theatre, film and art exhibitions, or cares about the Shire's future.

"Cultural planning contributes to a community's ongoing wellbeing and future sustainability by engaging the creative energies of local people," the Working Group's interim chairperson, Ms Merrill Findlay said. "The Forbes process will be about finding ways to ensure that all locals, regardless of their backgrounds, have opportunities to express themselves creatively, and interact with the Shire's unique local cultural heritage. The Working Group may also consider ways of attracting more tourists and settlers to the Shire."

The Forbes Arts and Culture Working Group will follow the *Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government* published by the NSW Ministry of Arts and Department of Local Government. This publication is available online at <http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au/WhatsNew/CPG.htm>

The community meeting at 5.30 on Tuesday, 19 April, 2005, will begin with a discussion about the values and things that make the Forbes Shire special. It will be opened by the interim chairperson, Ms Findlay, and facilitated by Councillor Graham Falconer.

For more information, please contact Merrill Findlay

Phone: 02 6852 3860, Mobile: 0404 057 162

Email: [merrill.findlay@rmit.edu.au](mailto:merrill.findlay@rmit.edu.au)

**Please also see attached newsletter from the Forbes Arts and Culture Working Group**

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