

Road works to support art works with \$25,000 donation

Artists on the Central Coast will receive a significant boost through a major donation made by a local company.

Famous for their green colour, Gosford civil

contracting and road maintenance company, Sharpe Bros announced on 11th May 2007 that

they would continue their

proud association with the Gosford Regional Gallery, pledging \$25,000 over five years to support Australian artists.

Speaking at a Gala event held at the Gallery, Joint Managing Director of the company, Michael Sharpe, said the funding would secure sponsorship of the Sharpe Bros Art Prize, the Sharpe Bros Roadworkers Prize and the Sharpe Bros Emerging Young Artist Prize until 2012.

“Road works and art works might seem like an odd pair, but our guys find it very rewarding to be able to support the Gosford Gallery, which is such an important cultural and educational resource for the Central Coast and the greater Australian art community,” Mr Sharpe said.

Gosford Regional Gallery Curator, Tim Braham, said the Friends of the Gallery and local artists were very grateful for the Sharpe Bros support.



The Sharpe Brothers with L-R Member for Wyong - David Harris MP, Member for Gosford - Marie Andrews MP & Kevin Faulks - Wyong Chamber of Commerce

"This funding will support the Gallery in showcasing the talents of emerging and established artists from across Australia, giving them a chance to gain public exposure and providing encouragement to pursue their passion," Mr Braham said.

The family run Sharpe Bros company has a long history of community involvement through donations, partnerships, volunteering and sponsorships throughout the Central Coast area and has been making a positive and meaningful contribution to the community for more than 50 years.



L-R Richard Sharpe, "Emerging" Winner Rosita Holmes, Michael Sharpe, Hon. Jim Lloyd MP Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Hayden Sharpe

Federal Member for

Robertson and Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Jim Lloyd, said it was encouraging to see a local company with such a sense of community spirit.

"I've seen the company's equipment helping out in times of need such as during floods and bushfires. They're there to lend a hand during the good times too, taking part in street parades and community clean up days," Mr Lloyd said.

Mr Sharpe said he considered Sharpe Bros staff members were creative artists in their own right having used their natural talents to develop a unique set of award winning equipment to quickly and cost-effectively widen and repair road edges.

"We looked at the traditional methods of road repair, which were time consuming and costly, and thought there must be a better way. So, we went back to a blank canvas and came up with an innovative design and process that is now being used on roads across NSW," Mr Sharpe said.