



The new committee of the Living Artist project met in Candelo recently and pictured are vice president Anne Hopper, treasurer Julie Burke, secretary Kerri Binstock, president Prue Acton and committee member and inaugural Living Artist Poppy Benton.

Living Artist project alive and flourishing

THE unique project all about fostering the talent of an emerging artist on the Far South Coast is alive and well as it enters its third year.

The new committee of the Far South Coast Living Artist Project met in Candelo earlier this month electing new members and getting a progress on report on the current recipient, print maker Tanja Riese, who resides in the locality of Tanja north of Tathra.

President, fashion icon and artist Prue Acton said it had been a wonderful year with the previous committee raising \$36,000 to fund Ms Riese. "We've achieved more than anyone could have expected us to achieve," Ms Acton said.

She praised the previous committee who raised the funds through raffles, an art auction and other social events.

The inaugural recipient was ceramicist Poppy Benton, also of Tanja, but the project has now been expanded to take in the whole coast from Eden to just north of Moruya.

Artists such as Ms Benton and Ms Riese use the scholarship funds of around \$40,000 to allow them to focus on their art with the goal of having a solo exhibition at the end of the period.

"It's about raising awareness of art among the general public and in particular the professionalism in art," Ms Acton said.

"Poppy Benton's solo exhibition at Narek Gallery was an unmitigated success for both the artist and the gallery."

The long-term goal was to keep emerging artists on the Far South Coast and to secure a future for the galleries on the "art trail" of galleries along the coast. The Living Artists committee visited the studio of Tanja Riese on December 16, handing over the first payment of the grant to check on her progress.

The committee is also seeking new members to join the social subcommittee to help organise upcoming social events.