



Previous Living Artist Poppy Benton (l) and current Living Artist Tanja Riese (r) discuss Tanja's new work

Tanja starts as Living Artist

THE unique philanthropic arts project that sees a local emerging artist supported for a year is forging ahead with this year's recipient receiving the first instalment of her grant.

Tanja Riese, a printmaker from the locality of Tanja, is the second Far South Coast Living Artist Project scholarship winner.

The FSCLP committee toured Tanja's studio on December 16 presenting her with the first cheque from her \$35,000 grant.

The project extends all the way from north of Moruya down to Eden with a local emerging artist chosen to receive the scholarship.

A shortlist of three emerging artists was selected by the committee, with a panel of judges then choosing the finalist to receive the grant.

Funds for the grant were raised through an art auction, social events, private grants and a raffle, making it the largest community art grant in the nation.

Artists such as the inaugural winner ceramicist Poppy Benton and now Ms Riese use the scholarship funds 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," FSCLP president Prue Acton said.

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 committee is also seeking new members to join the social subcommittee to help organise upcoming social events, including a Queens Birthday cocktail party in June.