

## PEMBERTON ARTS GROUP STREETScape STORY.

The Shire of Manjimup's main street renovations for Pemberton included plans for art work on a wall which extended some 80 metres down Brockman Street and the Pemberton Arts Group was invited to submit a concept for the art.

Mark Grey-Smith and Joanna Box worked on a proposal which would potentially include other artists from PAG. Mark's unique concept was derived from his study into 3 dimensional landscapes being two parallel screens of positive and negative designs cut from aluminium and set into structures with LED lights top and bottom. 'Art' panels 2 metres long by 1 metre high would be separated by decorative infill panels designed by Joanna featuring karri tree trunks. The Pemberton Arts Group Committee decided that the whole balustrade should feature the original forest of the Pemberton district and the flora and fauna that live within it and that Mark and Joanna should be joint curators. The Shire Council's Streetscape Committee accepted the proposal and members of the arts group were invited to submit designs.

The first section of wall was completed as a sample to accurately assess the cost per metre and to assist in the Shire's application to Lotterywest for a grant. This was successful and Lotterywest agreed to pay for the other six sections round the community park. The first section features 2 art panels of the local forest by Mark.

In conjunction with this the Shire wanted the local children to be involved in the streetscape and Joanna proposed making decorative terrazzo pavers with designs of 'things that live in the forest' drawn by the children from both the Pemberton District High School and St. Josephs School and cut from stainless steel inserted in them. These pavers complement the aluminium screens and the marble chips in the terrazzo pick up the colour of the stone wall. Anna Czerkasow and Joanna worked with the schools and chose 40 designs. Mark supervised the hand crafting of the terrazzo pavers made by him and PAG members. These have now been set into the pavement opposite the wall to the delight of the children and their families.

The completion of 35 metres of screens around the community park just before Christmas was a highlight for the Arts Group. Eight artists had designs featured showing individual styles and focus. The double screen concept enabled multiple aspects from both sides according to the light and at night the LED lights illuminated the street to dramatic effect. An illustrated brochure was produced to raise enough money to complete the art work at the top end of the wall. The structures for the top end had been paid for by the Shire but a campaign was launched to raise \$50,000 for the art screens and for labour to fix them to the structures.

It was by the greatest good fortune Joanna discovered that all the screens which had been cut out flawlessly by Design Edge in Osborne Park used GMA garnet in the process and furthermore Cutts Engineering in Manjimup also uses GMA garnet for its sandblasting of the screens. An approach to the Managing Director of GMA was made and he was able to see the Lotterywest screens and the excellence of the product which resulted in an enormously generous offer of half the money required plus free garnet abrasive material to complete the project. A further \$17,500.00 has been raised by the community.

The final designs for the top section of screens were chosen by the head of Curtin University Art School raising the number of artists to 10 and these are now in place. The whole project commissioned by the Shire was completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> May when a Back to Pemberton weekend was scheduled to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Mill Hall. In total 22 art screens have been designed by 10 Arts Group Members and children's designs by 40 different children ranging from Kindy to Year 7.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May the Pemberton Arts Group hosted a Community Party in the Park to celebrate the completion of the art work commission for the Brockman St renovations and to thank all the sponsors for their generosity in funding this large and expensive project. It was a wonderful party as the rain stopped, the stars came out, and the balustrade looked absolutely magical with the lights on. The atmosphere was wonderful and this was largely because the VIPs and the sponsors and in fact all the guests were so delighted by the results. Paul Omodei, our retired MLA and notable Pemberton identity opened the party with an enthusiastic speech about putting Pemberton on the map!