

This newsletter is written as an update on the progress of the *Turn the Soil* exhibition for artists and fellow travellers. It was produced between each venue and distributed by Craft Victoria.

The Final Leg



Soil had turned full circle

By now the works from *Turn the Soil* should be back in the studios from whence they came. Congratulations to those objects, who endured a tour that took them around Eastern Australia over the course of twenty months. They have stood the test of time admirably, and may even have matured through exposure to curious eyes. Of course, their longevity would not have been possible without the expertise of the crate-maker, Don Walters, and the packer, Mae Adams & Sandy Saxon.

Broken Hill

Broken Regional Art Gallery brought Liz Fotiadis up from Adelaide to run some workshops. There was a reasonable turnout to the opening in the Silver City. The exhibition received a good deal of publicity in local press and radio. As a result, it was easy to engage shopkeepers in conversation about *Turn the Soil*. The day after the opening, the curator and Elizabeth Fotiadis took a large group of 'Multicultural Women's Association' through the exhibition. There was a long and intense conversation over tea and Nice biscuits about the experience of arriving in Australia, compared with the life of their children. The following evening, a *Turn the Soil* dinner was organised at a local artist's restaurant. A table of twenty tucked into a Middle Eastern meal and explored some of the alleyways of history.

Delving a little into its rich history, it seemed that Broken Hill was a very cosmopolitan city in its early days. You might recall that the city was the WW1, when some disaffected Turks opened fire on a picnic



crowd. There is still some evidence of the 'oriental' presence. Thanks to a local historical tour, we were able to visit some evidence of this in the old synagogue and mosque. Though the synagogue is used now as offices of the historical society, the mosque is a public museum, with occasional religious use. One of the growth industries in Broken Hill is export of feral goat meat. Since

much of this is sent to Muslim countries, there is one Halal butcher in residence. His presence turns an Afghan museum into a living temple, once a week.

These days, Broken Hill seems much more homogenous. Hungry Jacks is taking over from Spaghetti Napoli and the aging proprietors of the one-man cafes have trouble finding company. A new life is taking over as old industry is being re-modeled for tourists. The 'Line of the Lode' tour is especially recommended for the rich Cornish history of life underground.

Future

The *Turn the Soil* web site will continue in the foreseeable future, so if you ever feel nostalgic, please drop in for a visit. Also if there is anything else happening online, please send a reference to the curator who will insert a relevant link painlessly.

We still plan to 'burn' the web site onto a CD-ROM, though how far we go with design will depend on future funding.

Thanks to the artists, Craft Victoria, Nets Victoria, Visions Australia and all the fellow travellers met along the way.

KAMADAN

