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Open for inspection

Open for Inspection is an arts project that celebrates gleaning, scrounging and hard rubbish retrofitting - a local culture where everybody loves 'a good find'.

It's about the universal delight of creativity and ingenuity, as opposed to the blandness of mass consumption and the blight of mass disposal.

East Gippsland artists will contribute an artwork conceived and created from locally-sourced objects and materials to reveal the inner sparkle behind a dreary façade.

The artspace will be launched with an Open House Inspection [as part of **The Long Now** weekend, **24 & 25 November 2007**].

It will continue to evolve through community arts projects that explore the culture and environment of Nowa Nowa.

Acclaimed documentary maker and artist Malcolm McKinnon will be engaged to collect local stories of gleaning and 'making do' to produce a DVD which will be incorporated into the artspace... providing insights into the local culture, language and laconic humour of Nowa Nowa.

Nowa Nowa is routinely labelled as one of Australia's most disadvantaged 'postcodes'.

And while we don't dispute that low income has its 'downside'. It's not all bad ... and anyway... frugality, ingenuity & 'wasting-not' - are all good, green attributes to be fostered... [so long as you can also enjoy yourself along the way].

We are proposing - and hope to demonstrate - that the elusive 'good life' is not all about consumption or the endless pursuit of possessions.

The art begins with a pretty awful, derelict house in Nowa Nowa.

Under the artistic direction of Gary Yelen, artists will be commissioned to shape the re-creation of the site with their artwork.

Objects - not strictly functional [maybe not remotely functional] but alluding to the trappings of everyday life - will be found, or made and installed within this dilapidated house that is ... Open for Inspection.

The work will reflect the unique character of Nowa Nowa - through discarded metals and plastics, knitting needles or spanners, papers and archives, textiles, glass and wire, words and language, sound and light.

The house should ultimately have a housey feel about it - rooms will be designated something like a traditional role.. kitchen, lounge, laundry etc. But the final result should be completely dis-functional. The house should in no way end up as a livable space.

Every element must be a work of art . Some humble. Some grand.

The house and everything in it, and possibly all around it, should be thought-provoking and demand closer inspection. We'd like a touch of a 'living museum' - history & memories through an artist's eye.

We like things that surprise us. Or make us laugh. Or take our breath away with its beauty or workmanship, or its intricacy.

We would like to make a statement about over-consumption and obscene waste and the true value of simple pleasures and family and friends.

We value the authenticity of Nowa Nowa. There is very definitely a style, a humour, an ingenuity - and there are skills and stories and qualities that are in danger of being lost to a bland globalised world.

Our over-arching theme is the Long Now - taking a very, very long term view of mankind - the need to moderate our lifestyles and still have all we could possibly want.

