



South Coast artists celebrate the spirit of Bherwerre

21 January to 16 February, 2011, Launch: Saturday, 22 January, 12–2pm

BHERWERRE 3: INVOCATIONS

In an exhibition at the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre in Nowra, three artists express the spirit of Bherwerre from both Indigenous and European experience as well as celebrating their 35-year long friendship.

Bherwerre is the name given by the Aboriginal people to the country on the southern shores of Jervis Bay and beyond – wild coastal bush, rugged cliffs and wave-scoured rock shelves. Bherwerre is the name of the ridge that runs through Booderee National Park like the spine of an ancient goanna. It is the name of the great stretch of beach that curves west from Caves Beach headland towards the mountains, the Budawangs.

Bob Dixon was introduced to Bherwerre by his friend, Paul Heckenberg, in the mid 1970s where they fished the rock shelves and beaches together, walked the bush tracks by moonlight, swam with their families in the green surf on empty, sunlit beaches and brought home schnapper, bream and whiting for the table. They met and formed strong, lasting friendships with the Aboriginal people of Wreck Bay who, in their inimitable way, explained to them the significance and spiritual value of that country.

The two artists approached long-time friend, Tom Brown of Wreck Bay to join them in this project, to introduce his sublime shell artwork to the Shoalhaven community. Bherwerre resonates in every fibre of Tom's body and his love of that country is absolute.

Image credits, from left: Robert Dixon; Paul Heckenberg; Tom Brown (detail).

On view:	21 January to 16 February 2011. Launch: 22 January, 12–2pm. Access Gallery: Shoalhaven City Arts Centre Berry Street, Nowra. 2541
Hours:	Tuesday to Friday 10am–4pm. Saturday 11am–3pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.
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Images:	High resolution images are available on request. Email hollyhill@shoalhaven.net.au

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