

A blessing in stone

The Bulgarian sculptor Sasho Diskov arrived late to Symposium I but when accommodated with Wondabyne sandstone he set to work.

Moved by the sight of a massive Aboriginal rock carving, Sasho's sculpture combines Aboriginal and Bulgarian beliefs and techniques depicting two hands giving a blessing from Bulgaria to the people of Australia.

On the back of the sculpture are embedded six bronze wedges creating an interaction between good and evil.

Located in Kibble Park, Gosford.

COMPOSITION

by Aleksandar (Sasho) Diakov (Bulgaria)



How to get to Mt Penang



Enjoy the beauty of art in nature

Open daily from 9:30am-4:30pm

(Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and special events)

16 The Avenue, Mt Penang Parklands, Kariong 2250
Tel: (02) 4340 1002 or 1 300 304 676
info@ccrdc.nsw.gov.au www.ccrdc.nsw.gov.au

Waterfall Café

Open daily from 9:00am-4:30pm
Tel: (02) 4340 1660
www.waterfallcafe.com.au

The Central Coast Regional Development Corporation acknowledges that the land occupied by the Mt Penang Parklands is Darkinjung Aboriginal Country.

Mt Penang Gardens is an initiative of the NSW Government.



Mt Penang
Gardens
& Parklands

WONDABYNE SCULPTURE SYMPOSIA

Discover our magnificent cultural heritage on the Central Coast



TWO INTERNATIONAL ART EVENTS CARVED HISTORY FROM STONE

The International Sculpture Symposium movement began in 1959 where sculptors from different countries came together to produce permanent public artwork from local stone.

In 1987 the perseverance of Central Coast sculptor Lawrence Beck succeeded in bringing together sculptors from all over the world for Australia's first ever International Sculpture Symposium.

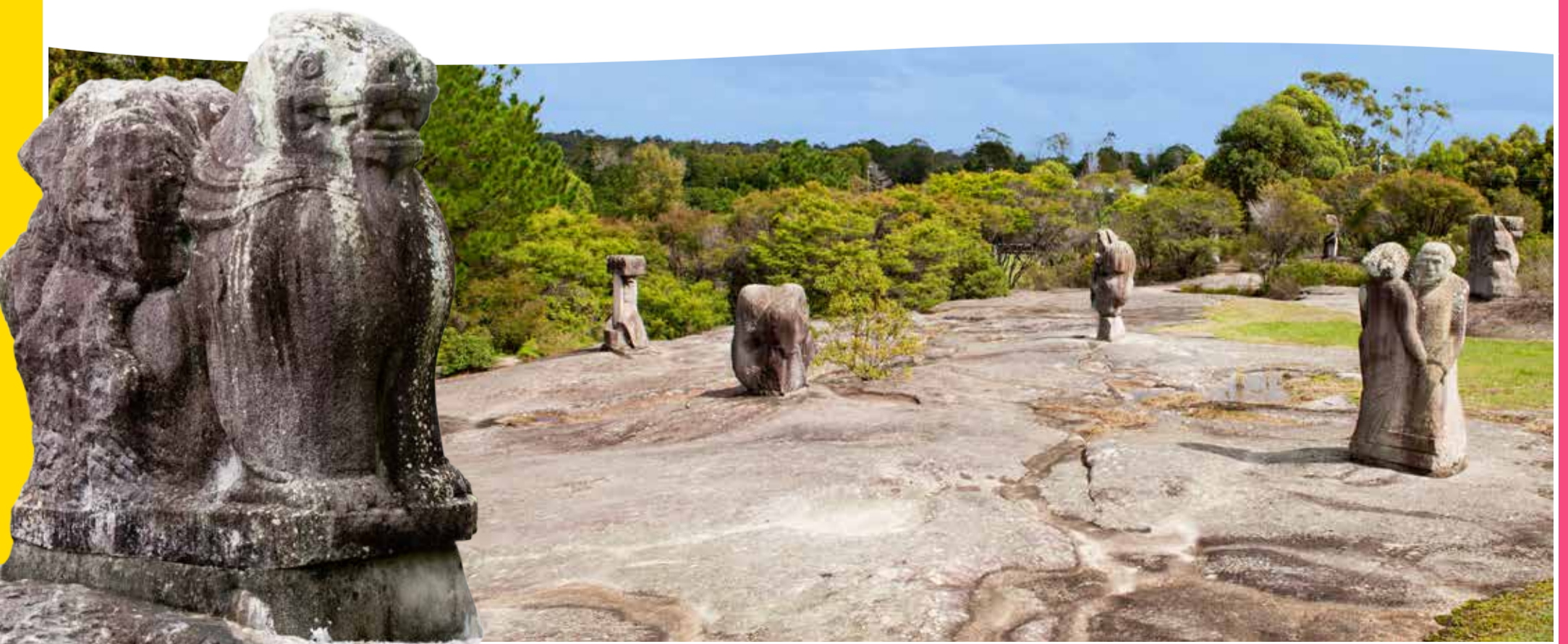
A legacy left to the Australian people

For this historic event, the picturesque hamlet of Wondabyne, with its tranquil water, views was chosen for the work to take place. Beautiful sandstone was donated from Gosford Quarries and the sculptures were handed over to the people of Australia as a bicentennial gift from the artists. It was a great success and a second international symposium was held at Mt Penang in 1988, again under the leadership of Lawrence Beck.

To ensure their safety and public accessibility, these magnificent sculptures were relocated to the lovely Mt Penang Gardens and Parklands where they are visited and enjoyed by thousands of people a year.

Each sculpture is unique, influenced by the environment and the cultural heritage of the artists. Common themes emerge from the collective work - nature, mother earth, the womb as a force to mold and form, man's relationship to nature and partnerships between human beings.

Lawrence Beck may be Australia's best-known sculptor. He founded both Australian Symposia and the first Georgian-Basque Symposium in France (1991). His work can be found in Spain, Mexico, Georgia, New Guinea, Japan, France and Nepal.



SYMPOSIUM I MT PENANG GARDENS

Under the direction of organiser and artist Lawrence Beck, a dozen sculptors from across Australia, Papua New Guinea, Bulgaria, Nepal and France were invited to transform sandstone blocks into stunning and unique pieces of art.



ABORIGINAL PONDERING THE FUTURE 1788

by **Pavel Koichev**

(Sofia, Bulgaria)
An aboriginal looking towards the sea at approaching European ships and pondering the future 2 centuries ago. The piece also speaks about the pagan winter festival, where children wear masks to frighten off the bad winter spirits.



THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE & PEACE

by **Ratna Kaji Shakya**

(Patan, Nepal)
The depiction of the artist's god Buddha acknowledges that all spiritual forces reside in the head, be it human or that of a deity. The work talks about a world where people live tolerantly together in peaceful existence.



BIRD OF PARADISE TOTEM

by **Apkwina Asanamba**

(Sepik River, Papua New Guinea)
Reflecting the tribal images of his New Guinea Highlands community, the artist's ancestor spirit Woy Wop is represented by the big face looking at the water. At the bottom left corner, facing the path is the sculptor's sign - his tribal signature.



ATHENAIOI TREMETE 1256BC

by **Lawrence Beck**

(Maitland, Australia)
Paying homage to love as a peacemaker, Beck recalls Athens in 1256BC, when women united to stop men making war. It is also a statement about the energy of nature and the earth mother.



SUNWOMAN/ MOONMAN

by **Bruce Copping**

(Maitland, Australia)
Here, the complimentary forces of Aboriginal legends Sunwoman and Moonman are revealed. One side is left rough while the other's large sweeping form has drama, formal interplay and soft emotional dialogue.



THEY CAME IN FROM THE SEA

by **Paul Trappe**

(Tanunda, Australia)
Inspired by the artist's affinity to the bushland, this piece displays nautical shapes and parallel lines as well as the bold forms and fine details of the natural environment.



ZONE OF PEACE

by **Nu Nem Raj Sakya**

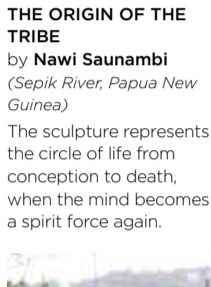
(Patan, Nepal)
The piece speaks of peace and cultural friendship exchanged by the sculptors of Symposium I. According to Mahayanisium teachings, the Maihia Buddha will come and all countries will cooperate in creating an equal world.



CIRCULAR FORMS

by **Vesco Totev**

(Sydney, Australia)
Through an interplay of variations on the circle this sculpture speaks about refuge, security, caring, protection and the womb of the earth.



THE ORIGIN OF THE TRIBE

by **Nawi Saunambi**

(Sepik River, Papua New Guinea)
The sculpture represents the circle of life from conception to death, when the mind becomes a spirit force again.



PIETRA SANTA

by **Cliff Axelsen**

(Sydney, Australia)
Meaning sacred stone, the work captures the points and curves of the landforms, the sun and light flowing through the space; the texture of the water and the weathered rocks.



CONCORD

by **Vern Foss**

(Toowoomba, Australia)

The piece is about partnership between a man and a woman, of a couple rising from the ground and succeeding in harmony.



WOMAN CALLING ACROSS THE WATER

by **Christiane Giraud**

(Bayonne, France)
The piece reflects the basic communication of the sculptors' camp where artists would raise their hands to their mouth and 'Coo-ee' requests to others.

SYMPOSIUM II MT PENANG PARKLANDS

Again led by Lawrence Beck, twelve sculptors from Australia, Japan, Bulgaria, Mexico, Georgia and Burma produced permanent public artwork from local Wondabyne sandstone donated by the Gosford Quarries.



The Spirit Whale - created by the elements of nature and time.



HAGOROMO

by **Tadayuki Shimada**

(Edogawa, Japan)
The artist hoped that people would feel invisible when looking at the piece. "I imagine other's imagination. Some are understood by everyone, but some are made for just one."



ETERNITY

by **Joni Gogaberishvili**

(Tbilisi, Georgia)
In this sculpture composition, the sense of maternity is explained by conditional and associative plastic language, giving the idea of eternity of life on earth.



XX CENTURY (THE DYING HORSE)

by **Jumber Jikiya**

(Tbilisi, Georgia)
The sculpture is of allegoric character. The composition is a rolling over horse situated in space. The influence of present day chaos on nature is taken as a principle.



THE GUARDIAN LION

by **Han Tin**

(Rangoon, Burma)
On many Burmese temples and other buildings, a lion stands guard at the entrance to protect against negative spirits. This lion is protecting all of the other sculptures.



ATHENAIOI TREMETE 1255BC

by **Lawrence Beck**

(Koolewong, Australia)
The sculpture represents Athens in 1255BC in a statement about the beginning.



RELATIONSHIPS

by **Berendina Wullen**

(Canberra, Australia)
Two people connected but looking in different directions. The base is one person, connected with the earth. We all come from the earth, our father, mother, medium for life. The earth has no form but contains all forms of life.



IF YOU WANT MY MEANING LOOK ABOUT ME

by **Bruce Copping**

(Maitland, Australia)
Raising the first monolith signified the beginning of mankind's struggle to find the meaning of existence in the universe. From there temples and great civilisations arose. Man's being is material, his thought is abstract, as is art.



HENED

by **Hersua**

(Mexico City, Mexico)

Hersua believes the opinion of the sculptor is not important. "Think what you will about the piece. People have the capacity to imagine."



SPIRAL

by **Victor Karagulev**

(Bulgaria)
A spiral emerging from the earth attempting to reach the sky.



UNION & APARTNESS

by **Zoyz Trofimiuk**

(Melbourne, Australia)
Representing the dialectic tension between union and apartness.



THE ANGEL OF PEACE

by **Soe Tint**

(Rangoon, Burma)

This Buddhist angel spreads peace, solves problems, dissolves tensions and allows life to flow in a natural, robust way.



THE BRIDE

by **Dan Lache**

(Sydney, Australia)

The stone became a portrait of an idealised bride - so rare to be found in real life.

TAKE A TOUR

Book a guided Wondabyne Sculpture Tour with our Blue Thumb volunteers. Tours take approximately 1.5 - 2 hours with ample time for reflection along the way. One guide is allocated for every 10 - 15 visitors, with a minimum of ten people required per booking.

Bookings are essential on (02) 4340 1002 or 1300 304 676.