

Carving a niche for art



Sculptors Cathy Money and Jenny Rumney with Lachlan, Clare Money and Jessie Rumney and the new Sculpture at Buderim Primary School.

ARTISTS Jenny Rumney and Cathy Money completed a sculpture wall at the Buderim Primary State School in January this year.

Funding from the Regional Arts Development Fund (Maroochy Shire Council) (\$1330 specifically for artist's wages) was complemented by all the necessary materials provided by the school.

Jenny Rumney and Cathy Money are both from Buderim — Jenny is a sculptor and Cathy a mosaic artist. This was the first time the two artists had worked together collaboratively.

"Themes portrayed in the sculpture wall include the banksia as seen on our school badge," Jenny said.

Buderim's own banksia is known as *Banksia Spinulosa* variety *Collina*, also known as Honeysuckle or Hill Banksia.

The local Aborigines called it Both'arum or Badderam — which became Buderim. It is found on mountain heathland ridges at Buderim and Mapleton and can be found as far south as Newcastle.

"The banksia seed pods have such beautiful sculptural qualities that we felt compelled to incorporate them



more than the flower head commonly depicted around Buderim," Jenny said. "The seedpods are ceramic with a manganese oxide finish.

"The stems and leaves are made from aerated concrete and are coated in cement render."

Other themes include Martin's Creek — a beautiful feature of Buderim that borders the primary school grounds.

"It seemed only natural to link the sculptural elements of the wall by interpreting it in mosaic," Jenny said. "It winds its way around the wall a bit like the Rainbow Serpent.

"Within the mosaic are words that refer to the themes of the sculpture wall — a subtle way of teaching a little bit of the story of Buderim to children

parents, teachers and visitors to our school.

"A different species of banksia (*banksia serrata*) has been planted beside the wall — however, as you walk into the school there is an example, in front of the sign, which is kept well pruned."

Jenny and Cathy are very pleased with the 'nodding' appearance of the seedpod, which creates the sense of a breeze blowing in a field of banksias, and the way in which the leaves appear to dance around the curve of the wall.

The ceramic tile mosaics catch the sun in contrast to the matt oxide finish of the seedpods.

On the other side of the wall in the seating area, is a collection of 16 mosaic pavers made by children from pre-school to year seven. These were made under the guidance of Cathy and are based on themes of nature.

Jenny and Cathy were employed for an Artist-in-Residency program at Buderim Mountain State School.

Jenny and Cathy conducted classroom talks and had an open house at school, where classes could visit while the artists were at work.