

## Manly's new artwork . . . made of shovels



Hayley Mitchell, of Narraweena, poses with the 'thought provoking' artwork.

Picture: VIRGINIA YOUNG, PP343489.

# Do you dig it?

### Kathryn Welling

FOUR newly installed sculptures are set to provoke debate in the community about their artistic merit.

The works installed in The Village shopping centre's plaza at Balgowlah are made of old bike frames, garden spades, skateboard decks and surfboard fins. They are designed to be talking points for shoppers and residents alike.

International sculptor Glen Clarke was commissioned after an 18-month debate about what to put in the new public space and who should create it.

Mr Clarke now lives in Laos, but formerly lived near the shopping centre in Sydney Rd and has deliberately used local references in all four of his artworks.

# Artworks have links to the area



Artist Glen Clarke, (above centre), who has designed the artworks, also pictured (top and above), at Balgowlah's Village shopping centre.

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The 300-plus garden spades used in The Middens World - Rice Bowl sculpture is a nod to the market gardens that used to dot the Balgowlah landscape and the fact that the area served as a food bowl to Sydney - now it is a food bowl to shoppers.

And the 300 timber skateboard decks that make up the Bark Canoe - a Scar, refer to the early watercraft of local Aborigines.

"It also makes an indirect reference to the Manly ferry and to today's popular culture with our fascination with leisure craft," Mr Clarke said.

The Wall - North Head is made up of hundreds of surfboard fins and was inspired by the North Head precipice. It is designed to

be something of a landmark for visitors.

But, of course, the most recognisable name in the collection is the Tree - Contemporary Totem which is made up of old steel bikes designed to rust over time. The Totem acknowledges the ancient tradition of having a symbol which unites them, according to the artist.

It is also a reference to the former shopping centre called The Totem, which was named and opened in 1959.

A memorial wall will also pay homage to the old totem which stood outside the former centre.

But the original red totem is languishing in storage and is expected to be destroyed as it is in very poor condition.



What do you think of the new artwork?

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