

Preserving memories of the environment through art

By Emma Biscoe

MIRJANA Psakis cannot remember a time when she wasn't painting.

In 2009 she decided it was time she made art her first priority and has been doing it full-time since.

Mrs Psakis recently moved to Marulan and wants to show people, through her art, what nature has to offer.

"I work on depicting and preserving the relationship of natural, unspoilt scenery, through an understanding of nature's divine creator," Mrs Psakis said.

When she was 11-years-old she moved to Australia from Serbia with her childhood bearing no electronic enticements and no modern-day luxuries.

"The landscape was the primary stimulant to create and preserve all that was natural within the action of painting," she said.

She was fascinated by the beauty of the Australian landscape and was immediately appreciative of everything here and she wants everyone else to be.

Mrs Psakis said she is passionate about the environment and determined to preserve it in her artwork, so people can look back and say, "I remember where that was".

Her favourite thing to paint is trees and that she is fascinated by them and their relationship to the landscape. She spoke of an old cottage and an old tree on Inverary Road in Canyonleigh and was breathtaken by the beauty and the symbolism of it.

"It was like they had started their lives together and were now growing old together," she said.

"I like to go down a path everyone is scared to go down because they're too busy or don't want to ruin their car. I don't care about the dirt roads and the potholes, I just want to capture the beauty," she said.

Mrs Psakis paints with a palette knife instead of paint brushes.

"You are able to capture that moment straight away, the emotion within you about that subject," she said.

Her art was a finalist in the Casella Art Prize and the David Turnbull Prize this year and next year her work will be on exhibition in New York at the Agora Gallery.

Mrs Psakis said she was interested in obtaining access to people's properties where she could paint beautiful landscapes and old trees.

Go to www.psakisart.com to contact her and see her work.



Mirjana Psakis with two of her paintings.