

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Arts, Ageing & Creativity Conference**

**22–23 October 2009**  
**Adelaide Convention Centre**

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### **LUCY'S FANTASY MASTERSTROKE**

Painting has drawn Lucy Pilmore out of herself and into the world of "Fantasy".

The 87 year old Felixstow grandmother created a dynamic acrylic and water colour painting entitled "Fantasy" in 2006. Fantastic birds and flowers in vibrant oranges, purples and greens, come alive on the canvas, which has pride of place at Aldersgate Nursing Home.

"The colours were a bit daring," Lucy said. "But purple is one my daughter's favourite colours so I knew I couldn't go too wrong with that."

Lucy took up painting classes as a way of moving on with her life after her husband's death. After some years her interest waned and may have been lost forever following a stroke in 2002. "I was in hospital for a month," she said. "I had to learn to walk again and I couldn't use my arm."

The diversional art therapist at Aldersgate, Katherine Tumes, encouraged Lucy to return to painting. "With Katherine's help and understanding I tried a different style. I used to paint landscapes and use oils."

Lucy now studies the flowers in her small garden and her botanic books to gain inspiration for her uplifting works in water colours and acrylics. "That's all I'm doing now, the bright colours."

Fantasy was selected to illustrate the brochure for the 4th International Conference on Creative Expression, Communication and Dementia: Arts, Ageing and Creativity- unlocking the potential.

"I was very pleased about the brochure, and honoured. I'm amazed really and very happy with the colours." Lucy would encourage anyone to paint. "It makes you feel happier and gives you something to look forward to."

Lucy's painting and those by other artists ranging in age from 80 to 96, all of whom have varying degrees of dementia, will be on display on October 22 and 23 at the Convention Centre as part of the conference.

Chair of the conference organizing committee Jane Pickering said the conference, and the exhibition, was a great opportunity for people to learn and understand the therapeutic benefits of the arts for older people.

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Creative Expression, Communication and Dementia: hosted by the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care (Australia) and Aged and Community Services SA & NT will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, October 22 and 23.

Media contact: Alan Graham, Mobile: 0408 231 047

Website: <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/CECD09>

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