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Title:
Speech opening Festival exhibition, Lidums Gallery

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, OPENING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION.

LIDUMS GALLERY. 10.3.74

Mr Lidums, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for inviting me to open this exhibition.

An Arts Festival wouldn't be complete without a Lidums Gallery exhibition and I'm sure we're all agreed that this year's display lives up to the Lidums' standards and our expectations.

It covers a wide range of great talent.

There's the new series of Boyd paintings - and what cultural congregation would be complete without representation from the Boyd dynasty?

There is the Louis Kahan's display. I must confess to a special weakness for Mr Kahan's work since he flattered me by inclusion in a recent - and exceedingly good - poster of notable Australians.

And there is the first class collection of craft work by Vagn Hemmingsen, Ninette Dutton and Alex Leckie.

This is in fact the second exhibition I've opened today.

(The first was at the Aldgate Crafts Gallery).

They complement each other perfectly in the attention they give to craft work - a field which is of special current concern to the State Government.

We've begun active promotion of design and craft industries here and have set up a new Authority to do the necessary hard work.

We're convinced there is huge scope for success in this area and that the opportunity to make substantial sums of money out of an industry that creates beauty is too good to miss.

The Authority has now appointed its own executive officer and leased premises from which a group of young potters - and later other craft workers - will operate under its patronage during the formative first year of their careers.

There are two ingredients for success in this industry. We have to develop effective marketing methods. But first we have to develop to the full the talents which we know exist here and of which, thus far, we haven't been able to take advantage.

The best way of doing so would be to induce here designers, craftsmen and craftswomen of world rank to work and teach South Australians.

And, I'm happy to announce today that we've been able to do it - and with spectacular initial success.

Mr Hemmingsen - and no-one will deny that he is one of the world's absolutely first class designers - is going to come and live here for a year. He'll work and teach through a Craft Authority Fellowship.

This means that our young designers will be able to draw on the knowledge, experience and ability of a man who has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Louvre, whose reputation is rightly international and whose wife is no less talented.

In addition next April, the American glass blower Sam Herman - who reputation in his field is as high as Mr Hemmingsen's - will come here to conduct a two-week glass school. He is coming to Australia under Federal auspices and we are financing the school - another example of creative Federalism.

The arrival of these superb designers and the developments within the Authority which I've outlined mean that we're off to a flying start.

South Australia already has within Australia a solid reputation for craft work of very high quality. Soon, I believe, it will generate the same excited recognition internationally.

I'm delighted to see, Mr Lidums, that you share my faith and my enthusiasm and that you've brought together such a notable, beautiful and relevant Festival exhibition.

I have very much pleasure in officially declaring it open.

Thank you.