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WINTER WARMING ART FEATURE
St George's Rosie Carson

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Rosie standing with one of her inspirations - her horse.

Tools of the Trade



Imagine it. The sun sets across the dusty plains filling the sky with lashings of yellow, red and orange. A lone rider steps off his horse....

Rosie Carson has been turning such memories and scenes into tangible, memorable pieces of art for more than 20 years. A Western Queensland upbringing on a cattle property meant daily life was littered with artistic scenes: waterholes, horses and the rural landscape itself. Rosie describes her life growing up: "I grew up mustering and dipping cattle at a young age. And I think that's given me a love for animals and the land. Even before we went to school we used to drive all the wieners in to the sale yard. I suppose it gave me an appreciation for the country and that way of life."

Now settled on a property near St George, not far from where her love of the bush all began, Rosie mixes a part time job with raising children and regular painting. But like most ambitious young women, Rosie decided to try out the city. "After I left school I had to see what the city was like," she says, "I worked as receptionist in a fashion agency and had to book all the models." Although interesting, it was a short-lived stay in the city. You can take the girl out of the country but you can't take the country out of the girl!

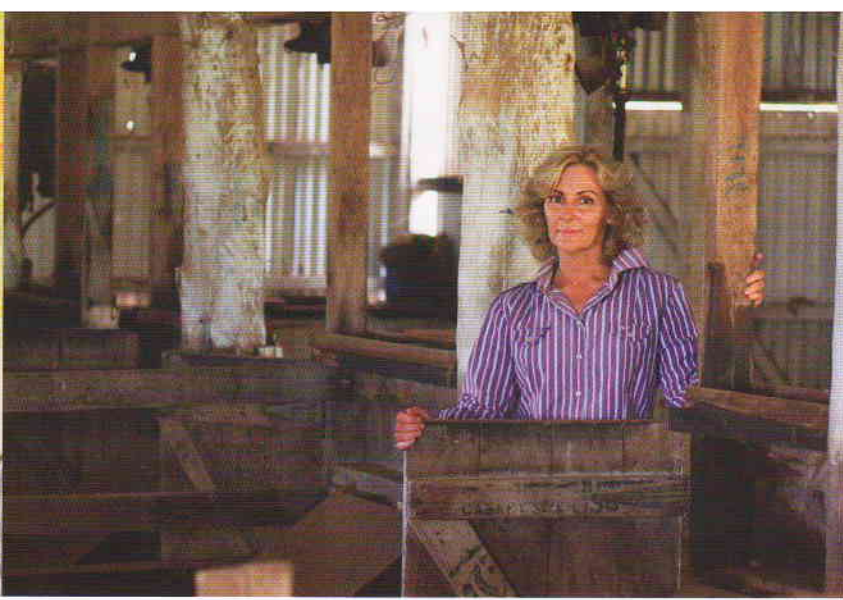
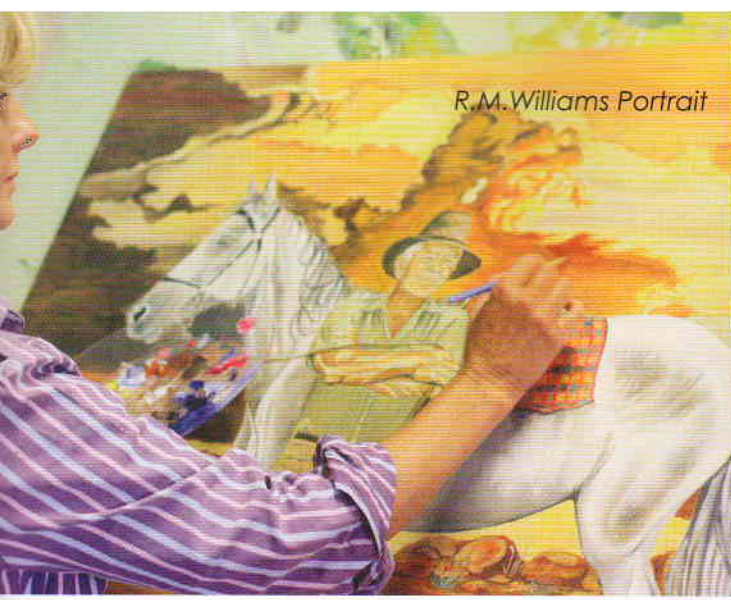
Rosie's artistic work is comprised mostly of commissions, but she also hopes to add more pieces to her personal collection. An exhibition is in the sighting. "It's a 3 day a week job at the moment just doing commissions. It'd be nice to get a few more personal paintings out so I can have an exhibition, hopefully in my woolshed!

"I loved art at school and drew all over my school books. I started out painting for friends and family, and then other people liked them and wanted paintings." Icon of the Australian Bush RM Williams took Rosie's talent seriously from the start. "RM brought a couple of my paintings when I first started. Then he commissioned me to do a little bit of work for him, and I still have one here in my possession."

An Artistic Licence



Rosie and a painting of her son.
Border Living WINTER 2010 Page 20



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The quiet side of Rosie's personality shines through her art as she uses both watercolours and pastels to paint the things she loves. "I'm a very conservative person and it reflects in my art. I like painting things that are good and positive and lovely. I like Australian things and the outback way of life, the rural people and things. There's a lot of interesting faces out there!"

"It's my passion in life now. I think you have to find what your passion is and what you like, what comes natural to them. And that's what I really want to do in life. While I'm painting I'm in my own world with my own thoughts... it's special place."

Words and Images: Dana Gluzde