

Rope girl dances to joyful life

By KATE HICKSON

BUNDALL'S Erica Gray says she 'hates to think how long' she spent winding manila rope to form the figure of a woman for her latest sculpture.

The part-time artist has created a piece called *Dancing for Joy* as her first entry in the Swell Sculpture Festival and said it had taken 'months and months' to complete the piece.

"It has been the biggest learning curve because it is the first time I have attempted something like this," she said.

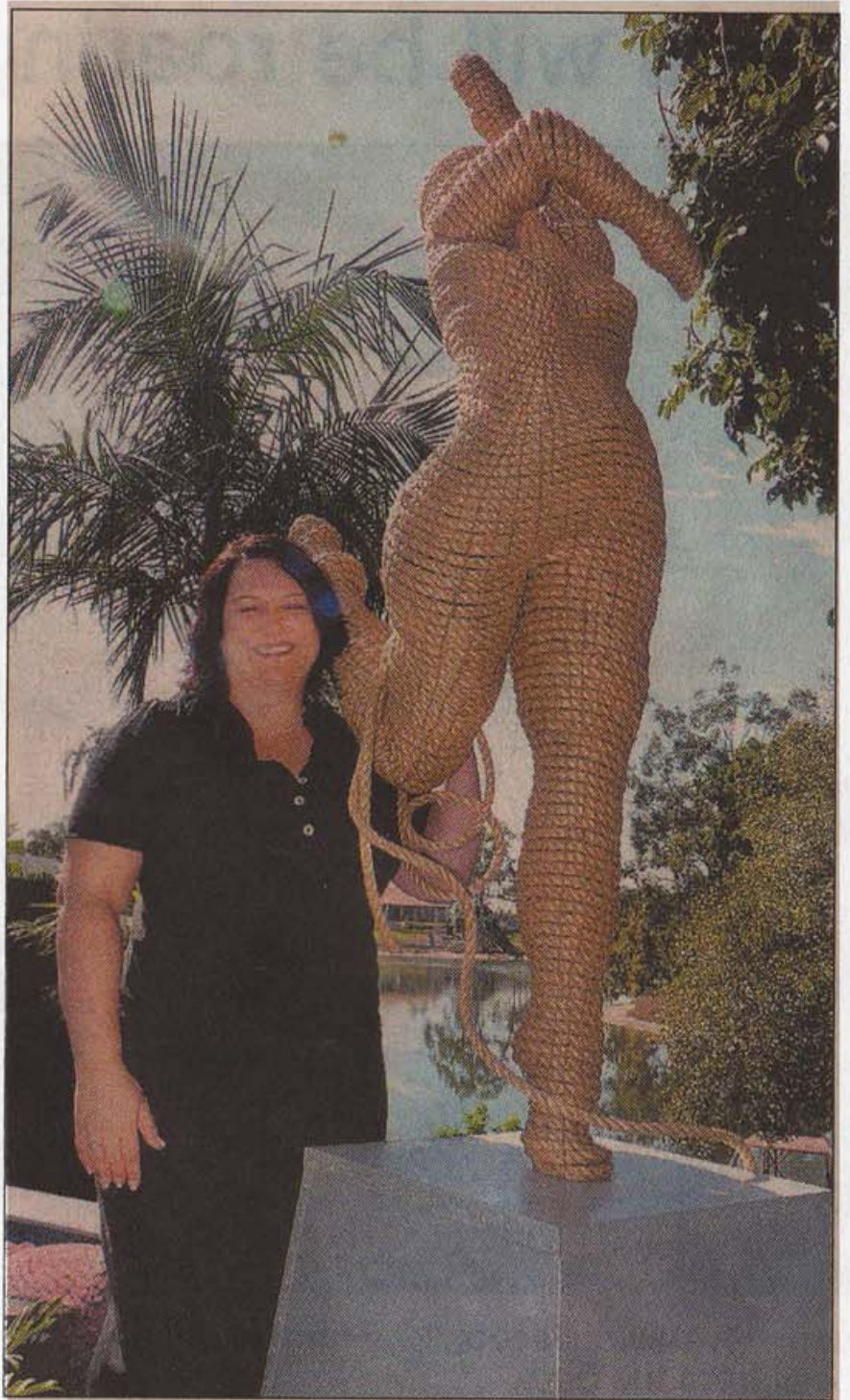
"I have never done any coil basketing before so I am glad it worked out and I really enjoyed making her."

Mrs Gray said making art was her hobby but she would love to make it her full-time career.

"I have sold a few pieces before and I really hope this one gets sold at Swell," she said.

"You do get a sentimental attachment to some of the pieces but I just don't have room to keep them all and it is nice to think someone else likes the piece and wants to put it in their home."

Mrs Gray said she went to Swell last year and was 'very



Erica Gray will unveil her sculpture at the Swell Sculpture Festival.

inspired' by the variety of work on display.

"I wanted to enter with something I had never seen before and was thrilled to get into the exhibition," she said.

"It is such a fantastic opportunity for artists to show their craft to a large audience.

"And the location at Currumbin Beach is, to me, the most beautiful beach on the Coast."

The Swell Sculpture Festival will be held at Currumbin Beach from September 11 to 20.

www.swellsculpture.com.au