

Festival brings the fire

IF WARMTH of a supportive community is any measure, interest in this year's Immanuel Arts Festival is on fire.

As the Sunshine Coast's largest community event of its kind, the festival is now calling for entries.

As far as those already involved are concerned, it should not be missed if you're an artist who enjoys being part of a nurturing community.

This year's Artist in Focus, Clive Holden, said he's seen it grow dramatically during the decade he has been on the Coast.

"It's grown a lot bigger and a lot more professional in the last 10 years, and a lot more professional artists are becoming involved because they're looking at it as a premier show," he explained.

The 35th Immanuel Arts Festival will open to the public May 21-24.

The cost of entry is \$15 an artist for one piece and \$30 for up to three pieces

Conditions of entry and entry forms at immanuelartsfestival.com.au.

Muddy hell! Buderim home hit by land slide

By MEGAN MACKANDER

SURROUNDED by the mountainous greenery of the Buderim hills, John Anderson had a sinking feeling his home would be in Mother Nature's firing line as the tail of Cyclone Marcia hit the Sunshine Coast.

That gut instinct was right. The self-employed businessman was left facing a big clean-up after a tonne of mud, heavy boulders, dirt and plants came tumbling down the hill towards his bedroom.

The heavy soil, weighed down by more than 400mm of rain within 48 hours, was gouged from the side of the mountain.

His neighbour's pool still teeters above on the edge of the landslide as he gazes up to survey the damage.

Drainage pipes and electrical cables dangle from the hill. The wooden palings fence is leaning precariously towards Mr Anderson's rental home.

"I just can't stay here until I know it's safe, until I can get that okay," he said.

Mr Anderson had a feeling something wasn't right when the rain started and the weather maps predicted hundreds more millimetres of rain.

"I started having visions of Thredbo and things coming down the hill," Mr Anderson said.

"I just had a strange feeling; I was worried about a landslide.

"I just got ready to evacuate, I packed a bag with clothes and passport all the things I needed, I had my escape route all planned.

"I woke Friday morning everything was fine, but I wasn't going to stay there for the weekend.

"I came back on Sunday evening and driving up the

driveaway I thought 'oh the house is there, it was all in vain'.

"Then I went out the back to check and that's when I got the torch out to check out the shadows I could see - I knew it wasn't good."

In the daylight hours Mr Anderson could see the muddy mess before him.

"I was gob smacked, I was just glad I wasn't home when this happened," he said.

"I'm scared to touch anything, I don't want to move something and have another thing slide away."

Mr Anderson has been in contact with his real estate agent and the landlord's insurance assessor has been on scene.

He said he will sleep somewhere else while he waits for the all-clear to return.



MUD SLIDE: John Anderson sits near the land slip.

PHOTO: JOHN MCCUTCHEON

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