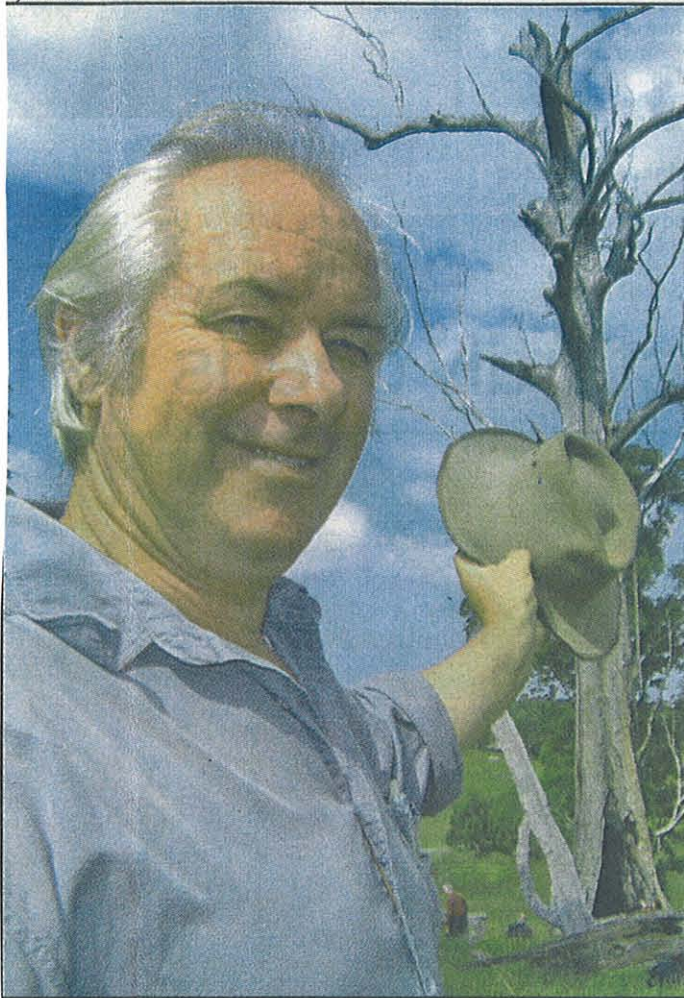


**Press Clipping**  
 The Port News  
 20 April, 2007

## Artist strikes an enlightening brief

eynolds 35



□ **Timber tale:** Artist Rick Reynolds is about to turn a dead tree into a focal point.

**A 30-metre tree struck by lightning will be turned into an icon for an \$800 million development.**

Elands artist Rick Reynolds – the creator of the three flood markers at Laurieton, North Haven and Dunbogan – has been given \$25,000 and an enormous tree by the big wigs behind Sovereign Hills.

The tree will be pushed over and cut up within a week so Reynolds can turn it into a sculpture.

He will work the wood with a chainsaw at first before shaping an eye-catching piece to show the director of Lewis Land Group, Robert Yandell, whose brief was simply: "I want something iconic and something that screams out Hastings."

So far, Reynolds does not know what he will make but the 62-year-old wants it to be dramatic.

"It's a matter of getting the pieces and seeing what I can do with them," said Reynolds, a two-time winner of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's aquasculpture exhibition.

By September, the work will be placed along the Oxley Hwy to welcome incoming visitors to the area and help publicise the aquasculpture show in October.

But once Sovereign Hills is built it will be moved into the centre of Port Macquarie's new suburb and will form part of a network of artworks within the development to inspire further creativity.

Reynolds will work onsite at Sovereign Hills.