



### **Penrith Lively Base for Arts and Artists**

In the 1970s, Penrith raised the eyebrows of the Sydney drama scene when it attracted Doreen Warburton's well-established Q Theatre away from the city. Today its offshoot, Railway Street Theatre Company, tours its productions throughout regional New South Wales from its Penrith base.

Railway Street Theatre Company at Q Theatre – to give it its full title – was born out of an amalgamation of Q Theatre and New England Theatre Company in 1998.

Penrith boasts a particularly fine venue in the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre that has hosted many world-class artists. One of only three true acoustic venues in the Sydney region, the centre is also blessed with the versatility to stage intimate productions or spectaculars.

EVAN Theatre within Panthers World of Entertainment is a flexible venue for theatre, cabaret and cinema, and a multi-screen complex at Penrith Plaza provides an excellent selection of first-release cinema.

Penrith Valley also offers a wealth of opportunities for those who appreciate fine arts and crafts. Penrith Regional Art Gallery and Lewers Bequest is located in a delightful garden setting on the banks of the Nepean River at Emu Plains. Formerly the home of artists Gerald and Margo Lewers, it retains the original character of the environment they created combined with architecture both old and new.

This modern spacious regional gallery hosts important travelling exhibitions of local, national and international art and craft. Lewers Gallery houses the permanent collection of important acquisitions.

Local artists also have an important showcase in Lorraine Quartermain's Art Gallery on Blaikie Road at Penrith. The gallery specialises in oil paintings, but also shows a selection of watercolours, pastels, pottery and folk art.