



Prue and Pia Help Celebrate 50 Years of Frocks and Friendship

If you are still coveting a Prue Acton original in the back of your closet November is the time pull it out of the plastic and catch the bus to Goombungee to celebrate “Forging Friendships with Food and Frocks”, an event hosted by the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF).

Activist and iconic fashion designer, Prue Acton OBE is partnering with the AKF to celebrate the friendship between Dulcie Mason and local dress maker Thelma Beutel; a friendship that spanned 50 years during which time the two ladies designed 50 dresses.

Ms. Acton, has worked tirelessly to protect koalas in the forests of South East NSW and she is now wanting to highlight the fact that koalas, just like farmland on the Darling Downs, are under threat.

Pia du Pradal, Brisbane’s famous fashion designer to some of Australia’s most powerful women will also attend and is thrilled to be meeting Prue.

“I think this function will help to cement friendships between the bush and the city and we aim to have 50 city and 50 country folk together to talk and hear the stories of the bush, like those of Dulcie and Thelma”, says Deborah Tabart OAM CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation.

Dulcie comes from Acland, formally a pretty farming town in the heart of koala country which has disappeared from the map. Only one resident remains in the town, Mr Glenn Beutel, Mrs. Beutel’s son.

The story of Dulcie’s dresses is heartwarming; Dulcie loved dancing, and the only way she could afford her beautiful dresses was to sell 1,000 eggs a week in Toowoomba. She would design her dress, buy the fabrics, and ask Mrs Beutel to draw on all her creativity to sew the beautiful gowns.

Dulcie has kept every dress, along with feathers, fans, shoes, handbags and they will be on display in the Rosalie Gallery as part of the “Forging Friendships with Food and Frocks” event.

The function will be held in Goombungee, a town just past Toowoomba on the 19th November. Guests can take a chartered bus from Brisbane or can choose to make it a weekend visit to the Darling Downs. NOT TO BE MISSED!

For more information about Forging Friendships with Food and Frocks visit www.savethekoala.com and follow the link.

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- **Interview opportunities: Deborah Tabart OAM, ph 0407 750 668**