

14 Nov 2011

Australian Koala Foundation

*** INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY***

Prue Acton: leave the land in a better state than we found it

Iconic Australian fashion designer and activist Prue Acton OBE is in Queensland to help the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) highlight the threat posed by mining to both farmland and koalas.

Ms Acton is an honoured guest at *Forging Friendships with Food and Frocks*, a lunch and dress exhibition hosted by the AKF which aims to bring city and country folk to celebrate a 50 year friendship between Mrs. Dulcie Mason and Mrs. Thelma Beutel.

"I so look forward to seeing Dulcie and her best friend Thelma's collection of 50 gorgeous gowns that have become part of Australian history.

"The choice of clothes we wear on important occasions mark these rights of passage forever in our hearts. I hear these stories everywhere I go - the first job, the first ball gown, 21st birthdays, weddings and christenings.

"I also want to highlight, while I can that they are part of a story where towns and enterprises die through lack of big picture thinking. The price of so called "progress" can just be too high", said Ms Acton.

Ms Acton is travelling to Brisbane with her partner Mervyn Moriarty, who is taking part in the Flying Arts 40th Anniversary celebrations at GOMA on Saturday evening.

On Friday Ms Acton will be with the host of the *Frocks and Friendship* event Deborah Tabart OAM CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation.

"Prue and I met through her determination to protect the koalas in the south east forests of New South Wales koalas and that story will also be shared at our Frocks and Friendship event.

"It is imperative that friendships are forged between the people of the bush and the city. If we do not hear their stories, more towns like Acland will become ghost towns. They will disappear in silence and the Australia we know and love will be lost to us forever", said Ms Tabart.

- ENDS -

BRISBANE PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY with Prue Acton OBE and Deborah Tabart OAM

 Ring Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO Australian Koala Foundation, to arrange a time and place ph 0407 750 668

For more information about the Forging Friendships with Food and Frocks: <u>Prue and Pia Help Celebrate 50 Years of Frocks and Friendship</u> available at <u>www.savethekoala.com/media</u>

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