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1 March 2006

IDEAS FESTIVAL A GREAT IDEA: NOLAN

This year's Ideas Festival will be full of practical ideas with great guest speakers – including an Ipswich woman –according to the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan.

“If you believe ideas drive change in the world then this Festival is the place for you. If you've ever talked about water, work and family trends, the urban environment, sustainability, communication, justice, international affairs, happiness, education, fear or new medical technologies, then you should get a program,” Ms Nolan said.

The 2006 Ideas Festival is proudly presented by the Queensland Government with major sponsors Griffith University and Brisbane Airport Corporation.

Highlights this year include 13 public keynote lectures, 10 international speakers, an expanded exhibitions program and the first ever schools program.

Internationally renowned scholar and Ipswich woman, Professor Anna Haebich, will be speaking on two topics: Waiting for the Prince (3pm Saturday 1 April) and The Opposite of Utopia (10am Sunday 2 April).

Professor Haebich's career combines university teaching and research with museum curatorship, visual art practice and working with Indigenous organisations.

She is currently writing the first comprehensive cultural history of assimilation in Australia through the Australian Research Council Fellowship project.

“Anna is a warm, intelligent and impressive woman who I am proud to call a friend. I very much look forward to hearing her speak during this exciting Festival,” Ms Nolan said.

The festival is held from 29 March – 2 April 2006 at Brisbane's South Bank and programs are available at the Ipswich Electorate Office, Booval Professional Centre 1/125 Brisbane Road, Booval, phone 3202 3452 or go to www.ideasfestival.com.au.