

OK, so the cold has set in even in Perth and the miser in me means the gas heater isn't ignited of an icy evening.

Instead, out come the old Onkaparinga yellow woollen blankets and over the knees they go — and we stay snug as bugs in rugs.

Of course, most of you people have those great open fires or pot belly stoves, the flue of which warms the room up a treat.

And from memory there was never a shortage of wood to feed into the aforementioned fires — plenty of it picked up from the paddock in preparation for seeding (remembering I was farming in red gum and jarrah country where a seemingly endless supply of timber was turned up from underground by the scarifier).

WILLIAMS ARTIST'S EXHIBITION

It's also the season for art exhibitions with Potpourri coming up this month at north Fremantle, featuring sculpture by Kukerin farmer **Jodie Ditchburn**.

And next month it will be Williams farmer **Catherine Higham's** fourth solo art exhibition, this one at the Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery in Fremantle, July 1 to 17.

Catherine will exhibit paintings and photographs that have an environmental slant with current work focused on two key events — low rainfall and the introduction of GM technology in grains.

Catherine, who is married to **Geoff**, was born in Tasmania and her work has been shown as far afield as Italy at the Beinnale Internazionale del'Arte Contemporanea, Florence, in 2005. In 2007, she also exhibited in Cottesloe's Sculpture by the Sea.

"I am lucky that my mother always encouraged me with my art and as a young person I was under no pressure to do anything practical in my life as art was as valuable, if not more so, than many things," Catherine said.

But it didn't stop her jillarooing and rouseying in the Riverina and later taking up woolclassing as a bread-and-butter pursuit for a struggling artist.



Williams farmer and artist Catherine Higham whose work will be exhibited in Fremantle next month.

batics, live music, percussion and beatboxing.

Regional towns included in the tour are Bodington, Ravensthorpe, Northam, Moora, Karratha, Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Port Hedland, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby.

Conceptualised by **Andrew Fee**, creative producer of the acclaimed RAW Dance Company, the show features five dancers, four musicians, including **Dr Rhythm**, aka the Human Drum Machine and the 2008 London Beatboxing champion.

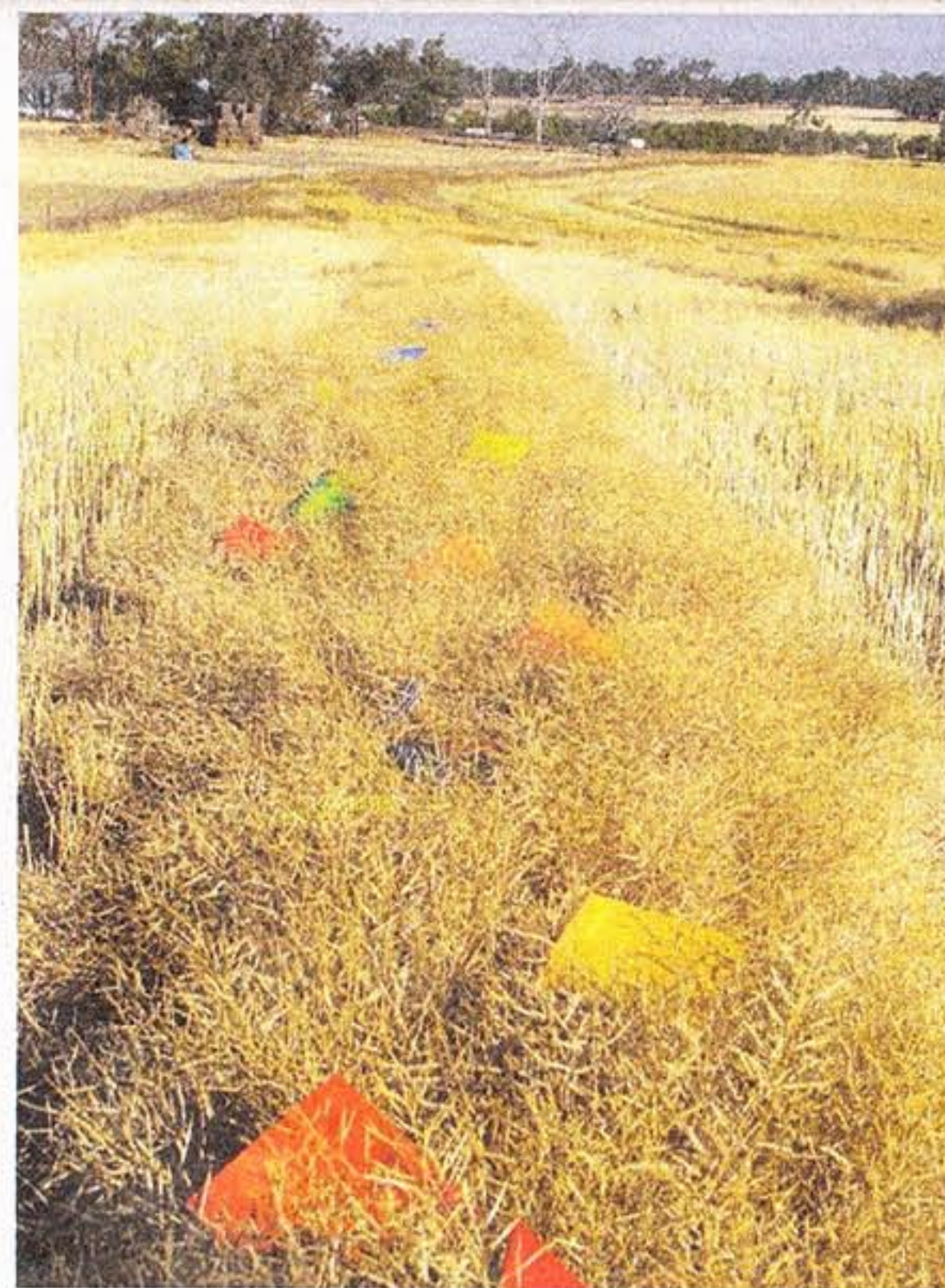
"This crew has the audience from ages seven to 70 clapping and grooving along," the promo said.

Since 1998, RAW has evolved into an internationally renowned training and performance troupe with 80 dancers, teachers and administrators from Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Asia and Europe.

"We're delighted to be touring such an energetic troupe of dancers to delight and inspire regional audiences," Country Arts WA chief executive **Jessica Machin** said.

"The Project X crew will have young people trying new moves and old people remembering moves they thought they'd forgotten."

Shows on the Go touring is made possible by support from the WA State Government through the Department of Culture and the



Catherine Higham's work in a canola swath before it is assembled.

this time it's for young country people.

High school students from Peel and the South West will have the chance to experience life as a UWA student and consider a career in science, thanks to a memorial fund established by Alcoa of Australia.

In the next six years Alcoa has committed \$35,000 to the **Chanelle Carter Memorial Fund**.

Chanelle was a former Alcoa employee — and UWA graduate — who died in a Spanish cycling accident last year.

The fund will enable six students each year to travel to Perth and take part in National Science Week activities, while staying at UWA's Trinity College.

Chanelle won the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Prize while completing a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry and was held in great esteem at Alcoa where she worked as a senior research scien-



Catherine Higham's assembled work.

Chanelle's principles, her Alcoa colleagues approached UWA about their idea.

"Chanelle was unquestionably one of the most talented people I have ever worked with. She was also committed to developing young scientists and was a fantastic mentor," Alcoa's director of Research and Development Global Refining **Ian Harrison** said.

UWA's Centre for Learning Technology associate professor **Jan Dook** said the fund would help generate interest in a science career for young people from the country, especially girls.

"Programs such as these raise awareness of what it takes to go to university, the opportunities available to students and what they can achieve," she said.

The first group of Year 10 girls from Pinjarra and Bunbury's Newton Moore Senior High School will arrive at UWA in August.

KOJONUP CRAFT SHOP LIVES ON

Good to read in **Shirley Brokenshire's** Great Southern Advocate that the Kojonup Craft Shop won't be closing.

Last August, it was reported that the Horse and Hobby Craft Shop, on Albany Highway, would be closing at the end of the year.

But it has survived and is locating across the highway next to the Community Resource Centre (formerly the telecentre).