



Artist Peter Biram with his work at the Walker Street Gallery.

PHOTO: RICHARD BENTON, GEMSBROOK

## Bold colours a plus

### EXHIBITION

Jane Kenrick

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PETER Biram's paintings are alive with vivid colour.

In the upcoming Walker St Gallery Christmas show, "9&5", his work is rich in the traditional Christmas shades of red and green.

Which is kind of ironic, considering the

Gembrook artist is red-green colour blind. While that might put a hold on any ambition to be an airline pilot, as a painter and ceramicist prone to using bold colour in his work Biram, 45, says it's a plus.

"I think it's an advantage. It's liberating; I ignore colour completely."

His work *Christmas Landscapes* is one of more than 130 to be included in the second annual "9&5" show at the Dandenong gallery.

Artists produce their work in a nine inch by five inch format, a style established in

1880 by Australian artists from the Heidelberg School who painted on cigar box lids for a Melbourne exhibition.

The idea has captured the imagination of artists and patrons alike, says the gallery's Cathy van Ke. "We're getting quite a following now. People want to get involved," she said.

Works will be for sale and range in price from \$50 to \$300.

"It's a great way for people to buy an affordable piece of unique art," Ms van Ke said.

### WHERE, WHEN

- The 9&5 exhibition is on until December 20 at the Walker St Gallery, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.
- Open weekdays, 11am-5pm, Saturday, 11am-3pm. Phone 9706 8441.