



Marita Brodie shows how leather can be turned into art.

## Brodie's made leather an art

**SHERYL NADAN**

MARITA Brodie is probably the only artist who works with leather in Fiji, and probably one of only few who do it in the world.

She is originally from South Africa and has been in Fiji since 1979.

"The art is called leather collage which means cutting out pieces of leather into different shapes and gluing it to create a picture," Mrs Brodie said.

"First I have to have an idea of what I am going to make and the idea has to coincide with the leather texture, colour, size and thickness," she said.

Her art work is on

landscapes, seascapes, flowers, and many other things.

"I started this art in 1997 when the initiation for it came to me when my husband told me to go and buy some leather for his engineering workshop," she said.

"I saw a mountain of leather, not doing anything and then decided to start this art," she said.

She sells her work from a range of \$100 to \$900, depending on the size and how difficult it is to produce.

"I am also organising the Annual ANZ sponsored Fiji Arts Club Art Exhibition which will be opening on June 14 and going on to June 17," Mrs Brodie said.

"For the opening night, tickets are for \$15, and can be bought from Caines Jannif and the Rock, Republic of Cappucino.

"It will then be open to the public from 10am to 6pm with an entry of \$2."

"This will be the biggest Art Exhibition in Fiji because last year we had 164 art work entries and this year we are expecting about 200.

"Last year the demand was so big on opening night with 300 people attending it and the Playhouse was too small to hold all that people.

"So this year it will be held at the Civic Centre.