

Community **HOTSPOT**

Sail away with new art display at Logan Art Gallery

WHAT is a stroogle you might ask?

From March 20, Logan residents can find out, when the artwork from a new children's story by Springwood author and illustrator, Dr Cameron Stelzer, goes on display at Logan Art Gallery.

The *Stroogle Sails the Seven Seas* exhibition showcases the original watercolour illustrations created especially for the book.

"He's different, imaginary," Dr Stelzer said when asked to describe what a Stroogle was.

"He comes out of a purple egg that the farmer finds when he's looking for chicken eggs.

"He's a combination of different animals."

Inspired one cold and grey day while living in London, the character Stroogle evolved after Dr Stelzer had the idea of something coming out of an egg, and being colourful and bright.

"It evolved through sketches," Dr Stelzer said.

This is the fourth book in the Stroogle series, which Dr Stelzer describes as more fun and tongue-in-cheek than the others.

"Stroogle finds a map in a bottle and goes looking for treasure. There's lots of action, they get rescued by Grandpa Gnome, there's a bit of magic and the story is full of things to find," he said.

Cultural Services Program Leader, Annette Turner, said each illustration was designed to appeal, with bright colourful characters and a range of fun ideas, such as the raft constructed from colouring pencils.

"The artwork will bring enjoyment to both the young and the young at heart," she said.

"The unique and charming Stroogle with his garden gnome friends and a friendly mouse set sail for hidden treasure, overcoming the fearful pie-rats along the way."

The exhibition at Logan Art Gallery includes a selection of preliminary sketches and character studies developed by Dr Cameron Stelzer as he planned and created this new story.

The *Stroogle Sails the Seven Seas* exhibition will be on display at Logan art Gallery from March 20 until April 18.



SAIL AWAY: Dr Cameron Stelzer releases his book *Stroogle Sails the Seven Seas*.