



Artist Michael Legge-Wilkinson with surfing legend Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew and his portrait

Artist canvasses Coast for Rabbit buyer to help Kirra

by Gemma Patterson
Tweed bureau chief

A GOLD Coaster could soon have a life-like portrait of surfing great Wayne Bartholomew hanging at home.

The man fondly nicknamed 'Rabbit' features in a large oil painting which is hoped will raise thousands of dollars to help bring the Kirra surf break back.

In the portrait, Bartholomew is shown sitting cross-legged, looking pensive, in what is the first of a series of portraits of local legends by award-

winning Australian artist Michael Legge-Wilkinson.

The painting has a market value of \$25,000 and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Mr Legge-Wilkinson is offering the portrait for sale as part of a fund-raising effort on behalf of the Kirra Business Group (KBG), which hopes to re-establish the famed Kirra break which has declined in the past decade due to sand build-up.

He will donate half of the proceeds of the painting to the KBG.

However, his preference is for the painting to remain on the Coast.

Mr Bartholomew, a member of the Kirra Point Committee, said he sat for the painting several years ago.

"It's weird, you feel all self-conscious when you're three times bigger but it's for a great cause," he said.

"People want to surf Kirra again, it's something the Gold Coast surfing community wants to happen."

Potential buyers are asked to call John Rankin on 0418 591 202.