



HEALING: Cancer survivor Christine Robinson decorated a mask she wore during treatment. The masks will be exhibited at the Casula Powerhouse. **Picture: Simon Bennett**

Masks tell cancer experience

CANCER survivors are telling their stories of survival through turning their radiation masks into works of art.

When patients have cancer near their throat they often require a mask that keeps their head still during radiotherapy so the treatment can be delivered accurately.

Cancer survivors are turning their masks into pieces of art that will be exhibited at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre from Friday June 10 until Sunday June 12.

Macarthur resident Christine Robinson is in remission after surviving a brain

tumour. She was diagnosed last September and received radiation therapy to treat her cancer at Liverpool Hospital.

“Soon after I finished my treatment I decorated my mask in a workshop in February,” Mrs Robinson said.

“I couldn’t see when I wore the mask so I have designed my artwork to represent that feeling.”

Mrs Robinson created a mask called Rio de Janeiro that used feathers, gold eye masks and lace.

“Being part of the workshop helped a lot during the healing process because it

gave me something to do while I was still recovering and I got to represent my experience in the form of art,” she said.

“It was also nice to make the masks with other cancer survivors because we could talk about our experiences.”

Facilitator of the workshops Dianne McClaughlin said the participants felt empowered by decorating the masks because they could rewrite their cancer experiences.

Details: www.casulapowerhouse.com or 9824 1121

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