



**BONNET HILL:** The installation called *Hood* on a hillside near Devonport. Picture: CHRIS KIDD

# Car culture takes a detour

A HILLSIDE covered in car bonnets provides an unusual coastal spectacle as part of Tasmania's premier arts festival Ten Days on the Island.

The temporary art installation *Hood*, by Devonport artist Troy Ruffels, consists of 130 car bonnets placed along the hillside of Don Heads.

Dr Ruffels, a lecturer at the School of Visual and Performing Arts at the Launceston campus of the University of Tasmania, says *Hood* is a playful project with a serious undertone.



"I am fascinated with the reflective surfaces of car bonnets and their ability to mirror nature," he said.

"The project looks at the relationship between the environment and man-made landscapes.

"I have arranged them so that they represent a digital pixilation of the

environment. Most of the bonnets are from damaged vehicles at car wreckers, which reminds you that cars are vulnerable vessels that travel fast along the highway and can potentially result in the loss of life and loss of natural habitat."

Dr Ruffels said the urban landscape was designed to cater for cars, yet cars were marketed using natural landscapes.

"There is a strong car culture and cars are often associated with

life memories," he added.

"I have had people recognise the make of the car bonnets and relate stories of a car of that make they once owned."

Setting up the installation was a massive project involving a number of volunteers carrying the three tonnes of metal across the paddock and using 800 star pickets and 400 metres of wire to secure the bonnets to the ground.

Ten Days on the Island begins tomorrow.