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New garden studio

Professional photographer Robert Bignell has moved into his new Everglades Garden Studios at Abermain.

Mr Bignell chose the Grafton Street, Abermain site because of its proximity to Cessnock and Kurri and its natural garden setting.

He added that with the trend moving towards "environmental portraiture" it was essential he established a studio where people can be photographed in natural surroundings.

The former Jenkins' residence has spacious grounds with well-established gardens and trees which provide effective and pleasing backdrops.

Setting vital

Mr Bignell said so few homes in Greater Cessnock had the necessary settings and as well there is a general lack of suitable parkland.

Renovations to the studio are well advanced as is extensive landscaping to the grounds. He said that even during wet weather, the natural outdoor setting can be taken advantage of through work carried out in the indoor studio.

Children's portraits will be taken in the outdoor setting where Mr Bignell feels they will be more relaxed.

Discussing other trends in the profession, Mr Bignell said there is a swing back to large portraits which can be displayed in the home.

Disappearing are the days when people had small portraits prepared and more often than not placed them in a draw to be forgotten.

He feels his association with the Institute of Australian Photography has been beneficial to both him and his clients.

He is one of only five NSW photographers who has a registered classification for portraiture and weddings with this body.

Study course

Resulting from his association has been a study course with Canadian Al Gilbert who is recognised as the world's top wedding photographer.

Mr Bignell said that working under such top-ranking professionals must raise the standard of his work and at the same time allows district clients to benefit from the latest trends in overseas photography.



• Mr Bignell is pictured outside his new Everglades Garden Studio.