



● Ben Simpson will be showing his work in the *Bull, Horse and Man and Beast* exhibitions.

Picture: KYLIE GOLDSMITH

Exhibition has grunt, no 'bull'

BY SARAH DEAN

ONE of Australia's leading livestock photographers will hold his first exhibition on the Border next month.

Ben Simpson is the managing director of OGA Marketing and Design at Mullengandra where his main clients are horse and cattle studs in every state of Australia.

His work also takes him to America and his fascination with capturing animals in their natural environment has led to a three-part exhibition at Creators Artspace Wodonga from next Wednesday.

"I have incredible images of bulls racing towards me; it's a bit like those amazing documentaries in Africa of elephants racing," he said.

"There's nothing like a photo of a bull in its own environment, it's raw and amazing."

The first exhibition *Bull* will be officially opened on Friday, August 6 at 6.30pm and features images rarely seen by people due to the closeness Simpson has with his subjects.

Simpson said he always thought there was an "enormous use for people to see animals and how they behave in their natural environment".

"About 90 per cent of the population never sees horses and bulls in their natural environment and I

get to see a different aspect of how these animals react," he said.

"We have become homogenised in our view of how animals react to people. We see cows with flowers in their mouths and horses as pony clubs for the tamed.

"These photos show us that animals start out wild and need to be tamed."

The second exhibition *Horses* studies the nature of horses and will be open from October 6.

Meanwhile, the third exhibition, *Man and Beast* is the study of how humans are affected by their interaction with animals and will run from November 24.

Simpson has a large body of work and the photographs were taken over a 10-year period.

Some of the images are two metres tall and are on both canvas and paper.

"When you are looking at a bull running towards you there's nothing like it ... you need the picture to be large to show the strength of the animal," Simpson said.

The images will be available to purchase but only 10 of each photo will be reproduced to keep the prints rare.

Simpson also plans to take this exhibition to major cities across Australia.

The *Bull* exhibition will be on display until August 11.