



An artist's impression of the 150-seat centre.

# Works starts on cultural centre

By Laura McCall

Ngeringa Arts founder Ulrike Klein took the first step in realising a long-standing dream when she turned the sod on a multi-million dollar concert hall to be built at Ngeringa Farm.

The 150-seat hall will replace an existing room on the Williams Road property where Ms Klein has hosted an annual concert series since the mid 1990s.

It will feature a 4m high glass wall to take in views of the Mt Barker summit and will also incorporate conference facilities, an exhibition space and alfresco dining.

"This is a big moment," Ms Klein said at the turning of the sod ceremony last week.

"It's so symbolic that we actually turned the soil because the whole project is located within this beautiful nature which has always been so important and dear to us."

Ms Klein said the new hall was about "bringing culture to the Adelaide Hills".

## Acoustic engineers

"It's to not only have the building but to bring the building to life through music and visual art and to make it a cultural centre for the community," she said.

The hall has been designed by architect Anton Johnson in collaboration with specialist acoustic engineers.

"From day one she (Ms Klein) has said it's all about the music," Mr Johnson said.

"The building is a musical instrument in itself, we rely on the building for the quality of the sound."

Mr Johnson said the hall's location set it apart from other music venues.

"The point of difference is that it's situated in the country and for that reason we've got this glass wall facing the summit," he said.

The building will also feature a "sweeping verandah" to further embrace the view.

The Ngeringa Concert Series is being held at the Mt Barker Waldorf School during construction of the new building.

The 2015 series will begin at the school, with the hall's opening concert to be held in August next year.



Ngeringa Arts founder Ulrike Klein turns the sod on the construction of a new concert hall being built at Ngeringa Farm near Mt Barker.

RIGHT:

Ulrike Klein and architect Anton Johnson toast the beginning of construction on the new hall.

