



... at the Margrove Heritage Centre yesterday - A "beaut Sheila" according to he



# 'She's one beaut Sheila' says Les

AUSTRALIA'S cultural attache visited the North-East yesterday - but missing were the nicotine-stained buck teeth, the glazed stare and the filthy tie of Sir Les Patterson.

Comedian Barry Humphries' alter ego had been replaced by 41-year-old Rebecca Hossack, six feet-plus tall, and elegant with shoulder length blonde hair - who really is Australia's cultural attache.

In fact she is so used to people dissolving into giggles at the mere suggestion that Australia really has a cultural attache that she often appears at functions preceded by a 30-second playing of a tape of one of Sir Les's speeches.

Tonight the two Oz attaches dine together. They have

become firm friends since Humphries, lapsing into Les's persona, called her a "beaut Sheila" and was happy to hand over his portfolio to her. Rebecca said: "He is wonderful. If it was not for him I would not be able to go on the radio and talk about the really good things Australia has to offer and what Australia is really about. I am really riding on his back."

She made a special whistle-stop visit to the Margrove Heritage Centre in East Cleveland, which for three weeks earlier this year played host to three aboriginal artists from Australia, Raymond Edney, Elaine Russell and Gordon Hookey.

They left behind ten paintings.



■ Australia's other cultural attache: Sir Les Patterson, alias comedian Barry Humphries