

DECEMBER 2007 ISSUE 31

artsbark

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editor's desk

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Artsbark. As a surprise we thought we would present our new look and layout, which we are hoping you will enjoy. This includes our new logo designed by Danny Grabham, an emerging artist from the Singleton area, thankyou Danny. We are also very pleased to be able to include wise words 'bon mot' from artist Sheri McEvoy of Elderslie. If you have any feedback regarding the newsletter please get in touch, as I am sure we will need to refine! Meanwhile November has been very busy and some extremely important things have happened. New facilities are springing up everywhere, a trend we hope continues. Denman have a new library with the CTC and Denman News sharing the building. The



River Quiver, Murrurundi 11th November

building has been purpose built on a great site right on the corner of the main street with a verandah providing the perfect spot to keep an eye on what's going on. Singleton opened their new Youth Centre on the corner of Pitt and Bathurst Sts. just one block back from the main street. This too is a purpose built facility and has a fantastic multi function room suitable for live events, it has three phase lighting, flexible staging, a large 3 x 4m screen and tech box. The centre also has a kitchen, meeting room, casual office and can be hired out. Already it has been heavily utilised (by us anyway).

Of a more festive nature there was huge excitement in Murrurundi with the culmination of 'Turning of the Pages' in River Quiver. For 3 months artists, school students and volunteers worked tirelessly fabricating the creatures of the river, recording sounds of the river and then installing them all in the park alongside the river, where they moved gently in the wind, reminding us that the river is a living breathing entity. On the same weekend the Murrurundi Arts Council hosted their biannual Opera performance in St Paul's Anglican church. For two evenings the voices of the students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music raised the roof, literally. Meanwhile in Aberdeen the tastes of India were enjoyed by a mixed crowd of those who had just returned from there, and those perhaps with the desire to go. The evening was hosted by the Upper Hunter Museum Committee as a fund raising event for the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life, Aberdeen. This is a proposed new Museum in Aberdeen which will house a permanent collection pertaining to the Upper Hunter, a Men's shed, and a space for touring exhibitions, for more information contact John Scriven on 6543 7117.

On a more serious note we had a Cultural evening in Singleton at the new Youth Centre, Singleton residents gathered to talk about their vision and aspirations for developing cultural life in Singleton. We are currently determining the way forward and I am about to rush off to Singleton to do just that.



Last weekend I went to Newcastle to see TANTRUM Theatre's Production 'we came in chains'. TANTRUM theatre provides opportunities for young people aged 5-26 to gain experience, skills and confidence in all parts of artistic production. They are hoping to run a three year program of professional drama activities for young people in the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter region with the aim of creating a youth theatre company. They are hoping to perform 'they came in chains' at the Singleton Youth Centre on Saturday December 15th at 4pm. For more information ring TANTRUM Theatre on 4929 7279.

Christmas is approaching at a great rate and I am looking forward to all the festivities that go with it. Arts Upper Hunter wishes you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. Our office will be closed from Friday 21st December until Monday 7th January, 2008. I thought I would leave you with a bit about the Australian Signing Choir (based in Aberdeen) who have a great plan for the Christmas break.

Throughout 2007, a group of seven members of the Australia Signing Choir have been preparing for the Choir's first overseas tour, during which they will be spreading the Choir's community work and programs across the UK (England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland) and France. The group will depart Sydney 27th December, arriving in London 28th December, ahead of four weeks of touring, returning home 28th January 2008.

The Choir group will be based in central England within easy reach of London and all the major cities and tourist centres. Visits will be made to schools and hospitals in each of the countries, to enable the group to promote Deafness Awareness and appreciation through performances and the student cultural exchange programs, an extension to what already occurs within Australia.

The Upper Hunter Signing Choir was established in 1996 and changed to the Australian Signing Choir in 2006. The Choir is the initiative of Tess O'Brien whose desire is to promote deafness awareness in a fun and interesting way, to educate people of both hearing and deaf communities in order to

change perceptions and bridge the gap. The performance is a visual and audio feast created through singing, signing, dance and mime. For more information contact Tess O'Brien

Australian.signingchoir@pacific.net.au or visit the website at www.aussiesigningchoir.com



December

1 Gloucester Community Markets

The markets are being held at the Billabong Park, 9am-2pm local arts, with crafts, BBQ and refreshments available. For more details please call Lorraine Atkins 6558 4361

1-11 Solo Exhibiion- Jose; A Fire in the Heart

An exhibition of works of pure passion from an artist who stretches boundaries.

Artemis of Aberdeen Gallery, New England Hwy, Aberdeen, open 10 am to 5 pm Thursday to Monday, or for appointments call Cheryl or DJ on 6543 8023.

1 -16 Artists Selling Show and Red Cross Christmas Tree Exhibitons

An exhibition of original works by local artists, just in time for Christmas. All pieces are under 60cm and under \$200. At the same time you can support the Red Cross with Christmas Tree fundraising event.

Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, Corner Bridge and Market Streets. For details call 6549 3880 or visit www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

1-9 Stop the World I Want to Get Off, and Quiet Waters

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery 1A First St, Booragul 2284. Please call 4965 8260 or visit www.lakemac.com.au

4-22 Paintings by local artist Betty Lambley

Aunt J's Studio, 80 Bridge St, Muswellbrook. Closed Mondays.

7-30 Wendy Fraser Photography. - "Searching for home"

Wendy's fist solo exhibition representing a period of more that a decade away from her home.

Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. The Gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10.00 am - 4.00pm. For more information call 6558 3157.

10th Anniversary Festival of the Upper Hunter Conservatorium

The festival will include something for everyone. To book for any of the following events call 6541 4888 or email uhcm@hunterlink.net.au

8 Excerpts from Handels Messiah

Performed by the Upper Hunter Conservatorium Orchestra and 10th Anniversary Festival Chorus, at 7pm at the Muswellbrook High School. \$15 adults, \$10 concession.

8 Big Jam 07

A Sound Reinforcement Seminar for Percussion to assist musicians to amplify their sound. 10am to 4pm Muswellbrook Public School, \$10 entry at the door.

8 Flute Masterclass

Presented by Marie Fox of the Newcastle Conservatorium. Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music 1-4pm, \$5.

9 Open Day at the Muswellbrook Conservatorium

9-3pm, everyone welcome.

8 Christmas in the Park at Aberdeen

There will be a BBQ, fairy floss stand, fresh donuts, free tea and coffee, jumping castle for the kids, novelty events, lucky dips, information tents, Christmas carols, and Santa. It will be held at McKinnon Oval, Aberdeen and is being presented by the Aberdeen Community Caring Inc. For more information please call 6543 8457.

8- 31 Rural Tranquillity, Landscape oils by Mark Kempton.

Catbird Gallery, 211 Dowling St, Dungog. For details call 4992 2442.

9 Upstairs Art Studio Official Opening

Student Exhibition and works by Rodney Swansborough. The gallery will be open between 2.00pm and 8.00pm. Brad Franks, Director Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, will officially open the studio at 6.00pm with refreshments. All welcome.

Corner of New England Highway and Adelaide Street, Murrurundi. For details contact Rodney on 042 777 57 07 or visit www.upstairs-art.com

12 St Joseph's High School Annual Christmas Pageant

Student performances, the Nativity Story, Christmas Carols, Giving Tree, stalls, food and drinks, activities for children etc. The pageant will be on the school oval, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen from 6pm. \$5 family and \$2 individual.

14-31 Group art show and affordable Christmas gifts

Artemis of Aberdeen Gallery, New England Hwy, Aberdeen, open 10 am to 5 pm Thursday to Monday, or for appointments call Cheryl or DJ on 6543 8023.

14 Queensland Conservatoire of Ballet, Gloucester

Presenting August Bournonville's, "Napoli", Moon Warrior, Chicago

Tickets are \$15.00 for the 4.00pm performance and \$35.00 for the 7.30pm performance, which includes wine & canapés, and are available from Webb Brothers or Gloucester Health Foods.

14 Steve Gillespie's Christmas Concert, Gloucester

Gloucester Bowling Club from 11am. Bring your friends and walk down memory lane with 90 minutes of sing-a-longs and lots of fun. There will be a 2 course meal after the show. \$15 at the door. For more information please Cheryl 4981 9554.

15-16 ' Swing Into Palmers Lane For Xmas Treats'

Fine food & wines produced in Palmers Lane, Pokolbin will be on offer, Chris & Frances Fussell will have their studio ' Crowtrap ' open for viewing. For more details please contact the Calais Estate on 4998 7654.

16 Carols in the Park Gloucester

Join guest singers and the local school choirs for carols at the Recreational Centre Park. BBQ starts 6pm followed by carols. Please contact Stuart Benson on 6558 1065 for further information.



Hold

December - January**1 - 31st Exhibition of Old & the Very New**

An exhibiton of fine antiques & contemporary paintings.

Michael Reid at Murrurundi Gallery, open 11am to 5pm Fridays to Sunday or by appointment. For details call 6546 6767, or visit www.michaelreid.com.au

1-13 Paintings 2001-2006 by Newcastle based artist Chris Capper.

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High Street



Maitland, for details call Kim Blunt on 4934 9795 or visit www.mrag.org.au

31-1 Poley's Country Music Festival

Music in the Mountains by the Barrington River. This annual festival includes a country music hoedown and talent quest. For more details please call Rosemary Everett 6558 4220 or visit www.glouceter.org.au

December - February

14 - 3 Float

This major exhibition celebrates the figurative and metaphorical potential of the boat in contemporary Australian visual arts practice.

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, 1A First St, Booragul 2284. Please call 4965 8260 or visit www.lakemac.com.au

January

4-28 "Remembering Craven"

Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. The Gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10.00 am - 4.00pm. For more information call 6558 3157.

January to February

2 - 3 Hold

This is an installation of ceramic 'heads' conceived by Bridget Nicholson during a residency in Gunnedah and based on a traditional Aboriginal mourning practice.

Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, Corner Bridge and Market Streets. For details call 6549 3880 or visit www.uswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

December

Open Dungog Film Festival Submissions for 2008

The Dungog Film Festival is dedicated to promoting local films and filmmakers. The Festival will be held 29 May - 1 June in Dungog, New South Wales. The festival accepts feature film, short narrative, documentary, animation, film and video submissions. To download the Entry Form go to dungogfilmfestival.org or call 02 4992 2420 Closes 4th April 2008

14 "Remembering Craven" Art, Prose and Poetry Competition Application Close

There are two divisions - an Open Division, which is open to persons of any age, residing anywhere, and a Student Division which is limited pupils enrolled at Gloucester High School or a Primary School located in the Gloucester Shire, or the vilages of Stroud or Stroud

Road. For more information contact the Gloucester Informtion Center on 6558 8273

14 Max Kelly Medal Applications Close

The Max Kelly Medal was established by the History Council of NSW to encourage students and other beginning historians in the writing of Australian history from original materials. For more details visit <http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/prizes.html>

11 2008 Sydney Royal Easter Show Art Competition Applications Close

The Sydney Royal Arts Show brings together a unique combination of all arts, including sculpture, pottery, silverwork and beading and showcasing a wide range of mediums from traditional quilting and knitted work to modern scrapbooking and paper tolle. For details on entering please visit <http://www.eastershow.com.au/srcomps/artscomp.html> or contact Ana von Alten, Arts Events Coordinator, on 02 9704 1152

sheri's bon mot

"Change favours those who welcome it"

from an old Chinese proverb

January

15 The Bald Archy Prize 2008 Applications Close

Created in 1994 as a spoof of that more serious competition, the Bald Archy provides artists of all styles and standards with a genuine opportunity to create portrait paintings of humour, dark satire, light comedy or caricature.

Artists are now invited to submit paintings in the competition for the \$5,000 prize to be awarded in March next year. For details please call the Museum of the Riverina on 02 6926 9655 or visit www.baldarchy.com.au

31 National Youth Self Portrait Prize 2008

Tha National Portrait Gallery invites all young Australians between 18 and 25 to enter this competition. 10 shortlisted entrants will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery at Old Parliament House, Canberra. The winning entry, selected form the exhibition, will recieve \$10,000. For information and

application form visit www.portrait.gov.au select news.

31 **Black Dog Institute 4th Annual Writing Competition Entries Close**

The Black Dog Institute seek essays and poems from people who have, or did have clinical depression or bipolar disorder in adolescence and their carers, to share who and what helped them most, their strategies and the responses of family members, friends and professionals. For more details please visit <http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/media/writingcomp/index.cfm>

February

22 **2008 Kathleen Mitchell Award Submissions Close**

An award offering a prize of \$7,500 to encourage young Australian authors. Entrants must be under 30 and have been a resident of Australia preceding the 22nd February 2008. For more details contact Petrea Salter, Cauz Group P/L on 02 9144 2415



Launch of the Denman public art project.

December

10 **CASP information session**

Information and assistance with applying for the Community Arts Support Program grants

Scone Council Chambres, Liverpool St., Scone 7pm

11 **Casp Information Session**

Information and assistance with applying for the Community Arts Support Program grants

Singleton Youth Venue, Cnr Pitt & Bathurst Sts., Singleton, 4pm

12 **Casp Information Session**

Information and assistance with applying for the Community Arts Support Program grants

Upper Hunter Regional Library, Muswellbrook, Bridge St, 7pm

December - closing date

31 **NSW Heritage Grants 2008**

A one year funding program to assist the owners and managers of state heritage items and to provide funding for both Aboriginal heritage projects and local government heritage management in NSW. There are also eleven other funding programs available throughout the year. For details please call 02 9873 8500, or visit www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

February - closing dates

14 **CASP (Country Arts Support Program)**

A small grants program funded by Arts NSW, providing funding for arts and community organisations for short term locally initiated projects. Guidelines and application forms can be found at www.regionalartsnsw.com.au or by contacting Arts Upper Hunter.

15 **Festivals Australia**

Festivals Australia is an Australian Government cultural funding program which provides assistance to Australian regional and community festivals for the presentation of quality cultural projects. Funding is available to add a new or special sort of cultural activity that has never been done before and could not otherwise be afforded. For more information www.dcita.gov.au or phone 1800 819 461

15 **Festivals Australia Regional Residencies**

Festivals Australia Regional Residency is an Australian Government cultural program that provides assistance to regional and remote communities. The program provides funds for an artist(s) to undertake a residency to work with communities to express their stories through visual arts/crafts, literature, dance, music, drama or other mediums. For more information www.dcita.gov.au or phone 1800 819 461



opportunities not to miss

December

14 Free Regional Film Workshop Expression of Interest Close
 Metro Screen is sponsoring two free video-production workshops in regional SW for young people aged 16 to 25yrs. This initiative is part of the 2008 Play Now Act Now Creative Competition. The workshops aim to produce a short film, maximum 5-minutes in length, around the issues associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs eg health, social, political, moral or ethical issues. The aim of these workshops is to reach young people who are at risk and/or would not normally have access to these opportunities. For more information contact Katrina Douglas on 9361 5318 or visit www.metroscreen.org.

Now ArtsLaw Information Sheet: Organising a Festival
 This information sheet and checklist provides an overview of some important issues festival organisers will need to consider. The document can be used as a basis for putting together either a checklist or a business plan. To get your copy today visit www.artslaw.com.au

Now Regional Arts NSW E-Bulletin
 This is a free monthly emailed Buttetin packed full of highlights of upcoming events across regional NSW, Funding and Grant Opportunities, Jobs, Training Opportunitites and much much more. To subscribe visit regionalartsnsw.com.au and while you are there check out the wealth of information on their website.

Now Dance Informa: new free dance magazine
 Dance Informa is Australia's new internet based dance email magazine designed to inform dancers about the happenings of the Australia dance scene. To subscribe visit www.danceinforma.com

Now Hunter Arts Diary
 This is an online comprehensive calendar of arts, music, theatre events, arts activities and gallery exhibitions in the Hunter Valley. Visit www.hunterarts.org.au

January

5, 12 Still life and abstraction Masterclass with artist Chris Capper.
 A two day class aimed at painters, who have some experience. Please bring drawing implements, paints and brushes etc. Booking essential.

Maitland Regional Art Gallery , 230 High Street Maitland, Contact Kim Blunt ph 4934 9795 or visit www.mrag.org.au/



River Quiver

Lawn Mower Race

Time to soup up your lawn mower, take off the blades or do whatever you can to make it go faster! The Muswellbrook Show Committe are introducing a Lawn Mower Race at the 2008 Show, 8th March. This is apparently now an international trend, with International titles being held in England. This is the first opportunity to participate in NSW so get out there and go... The Show are also planning on breaking the Guinness Book of Records with a water pistol fight. Contact Max Curnow on 654 11557 for more information.

The next edition of Artsbark will be out February 2008

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Artsbark draws on information from local, state and national arts organisations. We thank you and welcome your contribution.

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