

FEBRUARY 2008 ISSUE 32

artsbark

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editor's desk

Welcome to the February edition of Artsbark, and happy new year. Before Christmas I was lucky enough to see a number of our regional bands perform. The **James Ross Trio** played at the Gloucester Arts & Cultural Council Inc Christmas Party where they were joined by Max Hammerly on the mouth organ - fantastic. **Fish Fry** played to a die hard audience at the Gundy pub and survived the onslaught of rain -just. All this came on top of the Muswellbrook Conservatorium's 10th Anniversary concert. Put this all together and you start to the depth and breadth of musicians in the area. Soon these groups will be able to post their profile on the new Arts Upper Hunter website, so people will be able to find who is out there and how to get hold of them. If you know anyone who lives in the region who might be interested , please get them to contact us. (contact details see back page)

Another big event has been the **Remembering Craven** exhibition held at the Gloucester Gallery. This opened on Friday 4th Jan. to a block buster crowd of over 80 people.

The exhibition consisted of artworks from a range of medium, including poetry and prose, with prizes for all sections. This event was orchestrated by Gerald and Patricia McCalden in response to the gradual disappearance of the township of Craven as mining moves in. The purpose of the exhibition was to enable artists to express their response to



Gerald McCalden at the opening of **Remembering Craven**

this. Gerald has compiled a book of selected works and the first edition of 100 copies. The second edition of 50 copies will be out shortly, cost \$15.00. To order call Gerald on 6558 8273. A huge thankyou to Gerald for pursuing his idea and pulling together partners in the Gloucester School of Arts and the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance. Not only did this exhibition bring people into the gallery who don't normally frequent there, but it was also about addressing issues that are current and pertinent to the area. By doing this through the arts there is room for a far greater expression of ideas.



The James Ross Trio, Gloucester Art gallery Dec. 2007



For 2008 there seems to be an increasing number of opportunities in the way of artists camps, informal workshops and events of this nature planned. Kicking off on Australia Day weekend are Peter Norville's Arty farty days which happen again over Easter. There is also the opportunity to make your own traditional Windsor Chair, over a period of 8 days spent in the workshop of Howard Archbold at Moonan Brook for details <http://www.rarechairs.com.au/Home.html>. For aspiring sculptors, local artist, wine maker, and Arts Upper Hunter board member, Stephen Bottomley is teaming together with Penelope Young of Ellamara Homestead (Sandy Hollow) to put on a two weekend workshop where you will draw, mould in clay, and carve in plaster a portrait of your own choice. You can stay for the weekend and enjoy the company while meals are catered for. This is programmed for October this year so keep in touch.

On a more practical front there is going to be a very important community meeting in Scone on Monday 11th February for all those who would like to be able to see films in Scone rather than driving to Singleton. The aim of the meeting is to form a film society who can work together to find a venue and then host regular film nights. This would be a great addition to cultural activity in Scone so please come and meet at the Civic Cinema in Kelly Street at 6pm for a tour of the cinema, followed by the meeting at the Scone RSL at 7pm.

Book clubs are starting up in Scone and Singleton. This has been assisted by a grant for the whole Hunter Region which enables the libraries to buy numerous copies of the same book. Anyone interested in joining please contact the libraries as they are ready to start reading! There is also interest in starting up a contemporary art group in the Singleton area. The aim would be to put together a series of lectures/talks with guest lecturers, curators, artists etc. Anyone interested please contact Sandra at Arts Upper Hunter.

Bridget Nicholson



Civic Cinema Kelly Street, Scone

February

Now **Artemis of Aberdeen Summer Series**

A cornucopia of art, from the east coast of Australia. Traditional landscapes are the highlight of the display as well as some of the finest work of Stephenie Bester, David Dolahenty, Jose Zarb and DJ Stief. Complementing the art work is a variety of specialist crafts from Elizabeth Birch and Tony Jones. Closes April 1 - Old Presbyterian Church, MacQueen St. Open 10 am to 5pm Thursday to Monday or by appointment on 02 6543 8023.

1 **Hold - Artist's talk by Bridget Nicholson**

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, 6pm refreshments provided. Exhibition closes Feb 3rd Contact Muswellbrook Gallery 6549 3880

6 **Merriwa Mural Official Opening**

6pm at the Welcoming Centre Bettington St., Merriwa. Come and see the mural unveiled and hear the artists speak. All welcome. For more information contact Tess Hynes 6548 2109

8 **Susan Hodgins, Phenomena-Cultural & Natural**

Catbird Gallery Dowling St., Dungog Opening 7-9pm Refreshments provided.

8 **Turramurra: Baribunma-gudhing**

An exhibition of artworks by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates at the St. Heliers Correctional Centre, Muswellbrook. The exhibition explores the artists' identity and their relationship to the dreamtime.

Gilbert Hermon - Journey So Far

A survey show of Muswellbrook local artist following his obsessions: time, reflection, spirituality, music and the monsters of the sub-conscious.

Opening Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre at 6.00pm Contact the Arts Centre on 6549 3880

11 **Scone Film Society**

Anyone interested in being able to watch films in Scone please come along and help work out, where, when, what. Meet at the Scone Civic Cinema 6pm for a tour of the Cinema and then at 7pm at the Scone RSL Club Guernsey St. Scone Contact Irene Esteves 6545 2562

17 **Community Markets @ Broke**

The Broke Fordwich Tourism Association will again be holding bi-monthly community markets. McNamara Park 9:30am. Interested stall holders should ring Elizabeth Johnstone on 0429 198871

23 Barrington Community Markets

All local produce on sale including fruit & veg, honey, plants, crafts, herbs and herb products and more.
9am -1pm Barrington Hall, Argyle St.,
BarringtonContact Deborah Brooks 6558 4324

26 The Splendor of Hampton Court Palace

A lecture by Linda Collins presented by ADFAS.
6pm for 6.30pm Scone RSL, Guernsey St., Scone
Contact Gail Bragg 6543 4620

March**21-24 "Norville" Artists Retreat Arty Farty Event weekend**

All welcome to come along and have fun with art, life drawing and art instruction available (provided models & tutors available). Contact peternorvill@bigpond.com or phone Peter on 02 65 466 175 www.norvilleaustralia.com.au

29 Aboriginal Art Talk - Michael Reid Murrurundi

Wally Caruana was Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra from 1984 to 2001 during which time he oversaw the development of one of the most important collections of Indigenous Australian art in a public museum. This will be a full day series of lectures with Wally Caruana and Michael Reid. To enrol go to www.michaelreid.com.au

February**Open Newcastle TAFE short courses**

Newcastle Art School (TAFE) is offering a range of short courses at their Hunter St, Newcastle and Singleton Campuses in areas including Photography, Oil Painting, Drawing, Life Drawing, Printmaking, Lino Printing, Pottery, Digital Photography, Digital Video



Part of Merriwa Mural to open 6th February

Production, 2D Animation, Photoshop, Web Page Design, Interior Design, Jewellery Fabrication and Fashion Fundamentals.

Most courses run for 10 weeks, one class per week 6 - 9 pm and cost \$425. Our Teachers are leading practitioners in their field. You will find the classes enjoyable and challenging. Contact carol.woodland@tafe.nsw.edu.au or ph: 4929 0345

Open Inscription Awards

In a hunt for talent, Inscription offers a range of awards for script writers. There are seven prize categories which include Film, Television, Theatre, Regional, Grey Matter, Youth and Indigenous. The winner of each award category will receive a prize package worth \$25,000, including \$5,000 cash, \$15,000 worth of intensive script development with leading international talent, and \$5000 in production support. There is also a \$200,000 Chairmans Award which takes you to Los Angeles with all the things to go with it. www.inscription.com.au

Now Artist/Teacher

The Songroom are looking for an artist to work in the Scone area one day/wk running creative arts programs in schools. For more information contact Ilona Rayson 03 9495 6422

March**17 A Brush with Verse Art Prize**

Art inspired by poetry, in any medium to be exhibited in Tenterfield, April 3-May 4. Prizes \$2000 for Acquisition Plus \$2000 in other cash prizes – includes \$400 for best original Poems judged by Dangerously Poetic.
Full details at www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au or PH (02) 6736 1305

sheri's bon mot

"There are no good writers, only good rewriters"

Ernest Hemingway



February

Open Young Filmmakers Fund

Applications welcome from artists under 30 years of age. The Fund provides a unique opportunity for young talent to break into the highly competitive film and television industry. Successful applicants receive grants of up to \$30,000 for production and/or postproduction. Applications close 14th April www.fto.nsw.gov.au

14 CASP closes

Grant applications must be received by Arts Upper Hunter Inc. Contact Bridget Nicholson 6545 9727

15 Festivals Australia

Open to organisations that manage regular festivals. Funding is available to add a new or special sort of cultural activity. Activities that are eligible for funding are those that have not been previously presented and that could not be afforded without the funding. For more information see www.arts.gov.au/arts_culture/arts/festivals_australia or call 02 6271 1661 or 02 6271 1931.

15 Festivals Australia Residencies

The Regional Residencies program encourages communities to explore a local theme or tell a local or regional story that is of relevance to their community, with the assistance of an artist-in-residence. For more information as above.

March

7 Community Heritage Grants

Australian Government Grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations for the preservation and reformatting of cultural material. Applications close 6th June see www.nla.gov.au/chg/ ph 02 6262 1147

17 The JB Seed and Arts Grant Fund - closes

Offers a variety of grants to artists, particularly musicians. Check out the website at www.thejbseed.com/catagories.html#02

28 Small Grants for Small Rural Communities

Not for profit organisations may apply for projects

and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Grants up to \$5,000 <http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/2324.html>

February

1-2 Hunter Writers' Centre - Writer's Workshop

This workshop will cover a range of topics for the beginning writer or the writer looking to revitalise their work. Presented Brian Joyce director Hunter Writers Centre.

Venue: Hunter Writers Centre, 90 Hunter St, Newcastle Bookings: ph 02 4926 3485 / hwadmin@optusnet.net.au

10 ABC Sunday Arts Regional Artmap

When the Art Show starts back up they will be referring people to their website which will now house an artmap where individuals can post their event. www.abc.net.au/tv/sundayarts/artmap/

Now Accessible Exhibition Space in Sydney

An inexpensive accessible exhibition space for hire at Accessible Arts. Situated on Pier 4, The Wharf, Walsh Bay, Sydney. Facilities include feature hanging tracks, refreshment amenities, tables and chairs. DVD and digital projector equipment is available on request. The space would suit not for profit groups wishing to exhibit work produced in community programs. Contact Mukesh Bhardwaj on 9251 6499 or email: mbhardwaj@aarts.net.au

March

8 Working with Collections

A workshop for people working with collections of any type. Learn how to plan a collections strategy, develop a collections policy, assess the significance of objects and/or collections, ethical issues, interpretive approaches, target audiences and legal and insurance requirements.

Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre 9.30 - 4pm Cost \$25 Contact Arts Upper Hunter to register, see below.

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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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