



AUGUST 2009 ISSUE 50

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editor's desk

A number of you may be aware that this year is the Centenary of the opening of the Singleton Mercy Convent. To celebrate the Sisters have organized an open day on Saturday the 8th August. Gates will open at 1pm with the formal part of the ceremony starting at 2pm. The grounds will be filled with music, both the Singleton Town Band and the Counterpoint Choir from Maitland are performing. A number of exhibitions, *The First Thirty Years* and *Convent Impressions*, will be housed in various rooms of the convent. As well as the activities on the day there are still two concerts to go to later in the year; the Gala Centenary Concert on September 20th and Inaugural carols in the Chapel on December 11th. For more information visit www.sacredspaces.org.au or call 6572 2398.

The art group presenting the *Convent Impressions* exhibition, formed this year and comprises primarily a number of students who attended Singleton Tafe over the last few years. Finishing their course they were keen to find a place where they could continue to meet and gain support and stimulation from each other. This group made their quest known to Arts Upper Hunter and we were able to put them together with the Sisters of Mercy, who we knew to be keen to support community cultural endeavours, and who had space available that would be appropriate. The group now meets once a week at the Convent and work in, what was once the boarding house kitchen. As well as putting together work for the Centenary exhibition, they have had a workshop with Vivian Dwyer, working in particular on artist's journals a result of which is that Vivian is going to run a water colour workshop later in the year. The group is going to continue with their own work and perhaps find another project.

Elsewhere in the region, others have been doing similar things. In the Upper Hunter, 5 women devised their own project in order to enable them to get together and paint. The project revolves around a host setting up a still life in their home. The group meet and all five do a work. This is rotated through the group and will result in five different perspectives on the same set up. The subjects themselves

will tell a story along with the variety of interpretations offered by the different artists. The works will be exhibited at Haydon Hall in Murrurundi later in the year. Meanwhile the Gloucester Arts and Cultural Council are preparing for their 'Art Trail' an idea they developed last year; where for a two week period artists opened their studios/houses to the public. This was supplemented by mini exhibition in all sorts of places through the town, shop fronts etc... The idea was to showcase what local artists are up to. There were 32 artists in 23 different venues, not bad for a small town! This year workshops and demonstrations are being included in the program. The Arts Trail is during the first two weeks in October, so stay tuned.



Artists at work, the Sisters of Mercy Convent Singleton

Music people are also being active, the Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod Committee are presenting a comic opera (in colloquial English) *"The Shrewd Maid"* by Hasse. This is being performed by *Blue Bottle Productions* who also came to Muswellbrook last year with *La Serva Padrona*. This year, workshops are also being offered by Scott Blick the director



of *Blue Bottle Productions*. The workshops are especially for vocalists wishing to develop and integrate their acting and movement skills with their singing. For more information see listing. The Singleton Amateur Music Society (SAMS) are trying to put together a festival for early next year, although that's all I am allowed to say! And Music Aviva have sent me lots of information about a South American group *Papalote* who will be touring later in the year. There are four performers and they play a mixture of traditional and contemporary instruments and styles. They also do workshops in schools and the feedback I have seen on this says they are just fantastic! so if anyone is interested in finding out more about them and potentially organizing for them to perform in the region, please get in touch.

Finally we are working on a funding application to bring a play write to the area to work with the communities of Muswellbrook and Singleton to develop a play that looks at shift work. We have had a number of professional play writes expressing excitement at the prospect, now we just have to hope the funding bodies feel equally excited!

Bridget Nichol



John Scriven, Luke and Brett Hopson at the screening of *Portraits of Place*, films at the Dungog Cinema.

August

1-9 **"NSW 2008 Indigenous Art Prize Winners", "Naidoc Week Group Show" and "Maryanne McKinnon Kidd" Exhibitions.**
Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm, for details please call 6549 3880.

1-9 **Local Primary Schools Exhibition**
Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

1-23 **A Dog's Life: Dion Beasley & Sketches from the Studio, by Reg Mombassa**
Dion is a 17 yr old Indigenous artist who lives in Tennant Creek. Dion has created a delightful series of screen prints on paper depicting the life of dogs and other animals. Reg's exhibition includes sketches, framed works and t-shirts.
Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. 4991 6619.

2 **Screening of *Elegy***
Scone Films presents this film starting starring Ben Kingsley and Penelope Cruz. It is about celebrated New York author, media personality and college professor, David Kepesh who becomes obsessed by Consuela Castillo, a beautiful Cuban student in his University class. Rated M, 108 minutes.
Scone Senior Citizen Club, Oxford St, Scone. 2:30pm, tickets \$7, afternoon tea \$5.

8 **Centenary Celebrations at the Convent of Mercy Singleton.**
The Centenary of the opening of the Convent of Mercy will be celebrated exactly 100 years after the completed convent was officially blessed and opened in 1909. Gates open at 1pm with an outdoor ceremony at 2pm followed by afternoon tea, music and a heritage exhibition in the Convent. Open invitation. For details please call 6572 2398.

8 **Opening of *Studio La Primitive***
This is an exhibition of recent collaborative works *Caprice* by Gresford artists, Eric and Robyn Werkhoven. Celebrating 30 years artistic relationship. It runs to 30th August. School of Arts Gallery (SOAG), 15 Elizabeth St. Tighes Hill. Open Wed to Sunday, 11am to 5pm. For more details call 4969 1811.

8 **Big Night In**
This is GACCI's Youth Talent Quest, supported by the Gloucester High School. Prize pool over \$800. 7pm, Senior Citizen Centre. Gloucester. \$5 entry fee for contestants, \$2 admission fee.

10 **Shannon Hartigan Photography Exhibition**
The exhibition runs until the 6th of September. Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

11 "Great Tarts In Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession"

A lecture by Miss Terry Pearson BA (Hons), MA Dip Ed NADFAS presented by the ADFAS Scone. 6 for 6:30 pm, Scone Arts & Craft Hall, Kingdon St, Scone. For more details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

12 Roman Rudnytsky Concert

Solo piano recital in which Roman will play works by Rachmaninoff, Greig, Beethoven, Babajanian, Ravel and Liszt. Presented by Singleton Arts & Music Society. Singleton Civic Centre, Queen St. 7:30pm. \$30 adult, \$25 con, \$10 student. Bookings contact Video Ezy, John St, Singleton.

14 The Journey by Jan Vincent, and The Lovers Series by Dorothee Heibel Exhibitions

Award winning, Canberra based water colourist Jan Vincent presents an exhibition of works from the past year featuring subjects "from the places of her heart". Well known Hunter Valley painter Dorothee Heibel's pictures radiate the joy of life and in this suite Dorothee presents the joy of love. These exhibitions run until the 13th September.

Opening 14th from 6pm.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm, for details please call 6549 3880.

14 Opening of the Maitland Regional Society of Artists Members Only Exhibition

14th, Opening night, 6-8pm.

15th & 16th 9am to 5pm. Gold coin donation.

Masonic Hall, Grant Street, Maitland. For more details call Christine on 4934 2573.

20-30 Morpeth Weird and Wonderful Novelty Teapot Exhibition

A staggering 3,991 teapots are on display and for sale from all over Australia and the world. Watch artists paint teapots, enjoy tea tastings.

Morpeth Gallery, 5 Green St, Morpeth. Open Thursday to Sunday between 10am to 5pm, or by appointment. For more details call 4933 1407 or visit www.morpethgallery.com

22 Barrington Community Market

Wide array of goods available, including: local honey, local mustard, local herbs & plants, local hand made jewellery, local crafts, large selection of bric-a-brac, books, movies, morning teas and more... including a raffle of course! A sausage sizzle is offered by the Barrington Rural Fire Service: this is a fundraiser for them. All stallholders are locals.

9am to 1pm, Barrington Hall, Argyle Street, Barrington.

22 & 23 The Shrewd Maid

Scott Blick and his *Blue Bottle Productions* present this comic opera, set in 1930's Australia.

22nd, 8pm, Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, crn Bridge & William St, \$25 adult, \$22 Concession. For booking call 6549 3880.

23rd, 2pm, Sacred Spaces, Queen St, Singleton. \$22 adult, \$17 Concession. Includes cup of tea/coffee. For bookings contact Video Ezy, John St, Singleton.

27 Opening of a Cessnock City Council's Art Collection Exhibition

This collection contains award winning art collected over nearly 50 years; including works by Ann Cape, Bruce Naylor & Frances Fussell. Runs till 20th September.

27th Opening Night - 6-8pm. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. 4991 6619

28-30 Flora Australis

An international Floral Extravaganza with demonstrations and workshops with a range of floral artists including German Master, Gregor Lersch. Sydney Showground. For details call Margaret 6777 0977, or visit www.nswfloralartassociation.org.au

30 Two Men & Two Pianos

Bill and Richard return to Merriwa with programme featuring a lot of popular music from the movies, the musical theatre and songs from shows written by Bill. 2pm, Merriwa School of Arts. Tickets \$20, concession \$15, and school children free. Afternoon tea is included. Tickets from the Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre, and will be available at the door. For details call Edith Shipway 6548 7201.

September**5 Dec-a-dance,**

GACCI and the Gloucester Gallery's celebrates 10 years with a dance, with music by acclaimed Newcastle band "Fishfry".

RSL Club, Gloucester. Tickets \$40 for members, \$45 non members and includes finger food and dessert. Tickets available from Gloucester Health Foods. For more details call Leanne Barrett on 0428 508 704.

11-13 Dungog Art Society Annual Competition Exhibition

Opening Night is the 11th and at 7.30pm Anglican Hall, 51 Dowling St, Dungog. Open 12th 10am to 4pm., 13th 10am to 3pm. Enquiries to Wendy Graham on 4992 1637 or Jan Samson on 4992 2367.



18 Drawings by Andrew Antoniou, and Self Rising by the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club Exhibitions

These exhibitions run until the 18th of October. Opening on the 8th from 6pm. Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm, for details please call 6549 3880.

20 100th Anniversary Concert

A gala concert to mark the 100th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy Convent in the Chapel. Features Brendan Lukin, organist, strings of the Newcastle Conservatorium and Catherine Lukin, soprano. 2 pm. Tickets \$25/\$20 conc/\$5 school students. 30 Queen St, Singleton. Bookings 65722 2398 or sacredspaces@singmercy.org.au

25 Opening of the Keddies Pastoral Photographic Prize

This inaugural biannual prize, valued at \$10,000, has been initiated by the Keddie family and aims to promote excellence in contemporary photography. The exhibition runs until the 5th of October. 25th Opening Night 6:30pm. RSL Hall, Mayne St, Murrurundi. Open 10am to 4pm. For more details please call Mandy Archibald on 6546 6262.

25 Opening of Story.Art.History.Place

Curated by Les Elvin, this exhibition will explore and illustrate the symbols found on animal skins, barks, and trees of this region and includes a survey of current Indigenous artists working in the Wonnarua, Awabakal, Worimi, Dainggatti, and Kamilaroi areas. Runs till 25th of October.

25th Opening Night - 6-8pm. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. For details call 4991 6619.

25 & 26 Singleton Show

Art & craft pavilions, sideshows, rodeo, ring events and all agricultural activities. Singleton Showground, Bathurst St, Singleton. For details call 6572 2039, or visit www.singletonshow.com

27 Duo Histoire Concert

Nick Russoniello, who plays the saxophone, and Murilo Tanouye, who plays the guitar, perform music from South America, Sapin, France and Australia. 2.30 -4.30pm, Mechanics Institute Hall, 74 George St, Singleton. Tickets will shortly be available from Video Ezy, John St, Singleton. All enquiries call 6572 2907.



Rosie Munro at one of the Creative Development Camps, that is part of the Artstart Project.

August

7 Wanted Regional Arts Development Officer for by South West Arts - applications close

They are seeking a dynamic and self motivated person, to oversee the activities of the organisation and manage the development, implementation and ongoing activities contained within the triennial plan and annual Business Plan. For details contact Nina O'Brien on 03 5881 7749 or eo@southwestarts.com.au

8 Wanted Stage Crew for Production - expressions of interest close

The Valley Artists Inc is presenting *The Ugly Ducking* and are looking for stage crew and a co-producer. Please call Cordelia Howell on 4998 8110.

14 Scone Art Prize 2009 & Banool Conservation Prize – entries close

For all the details and an entry form please contact, Scott Cooper on 0427 101 697, or via email on innerscape@hunterlink.net.au or post request to: The Secretary, PO Box 151, Scone. NSW 2337.

14 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize - entries close

Total prize pool is \$13,000. For details and an entry form please visit sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/2009_prize

September

4 Dungog Arts Society Annual Art Exhibition - entries close

With a total prize pool of \$2,500, sections include - Open Award, Photography, Local Artists, Traditional Landscape, Three Dimensional Works, and two Youth Sections for Art and Photography. Enquiries to Wendy Graham - 4992 1637 or Jan Samson 4992 2367.

artist opportunities

4 2009 Mortimore Art Prize – entries for pre-selection close

This is the 4th Annual Mortimore Prize for Landscape, Waterscape, Still Life, Portraiture and Drawing. Prize pool of \$33,000. Open to all Australian artists. Entry fee \$30 for 1st, \$15 for each subsequent. For details visit www.australianartsales.com.au/mortimoreprize.html or contact Mike Coward on 0412 638 210.

4 UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award And Exhibition 2010 – entries close

Australian sculptors are invited to submit work. Total prize pool is \$30,000. For details visit www.uws.edu.au/community/in_the_community/uws_art_collection/events_and_exhibition/sculptu

12 Wollombi Valley Short Film Festival – entries close

Total prize pool of \$2,500. The screening will be 7pm, the 3rd of October at Laguna Hall. The films to be 10 mins or under in duration.

Entry fee \$15, non-refundable. For details or to download an entry form please visit valleyartists.org/ or email enquiries filmfestival@valleyartists.org

15 Singleton Show, Fine Arts & Photography sections – entries close

Classes includes both open, novice and junior sections in the following: Drawing, any drawing medium (eg Pencil, Pen, Crayon, Pastel etc), any painting medium (eg Oils, Acrylics, Watercolours etc), Any other Medium (eg Collage, Textiles, Wood, Prints etc) as well as numerous photographic classes. For a schedule, details and entry form please call Fay Gray 6572 1961.



Holiday fun with Denise Hedges at the Singleton Public Library.

August**6 Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation – applications close**

The foundation supports initiatives that benefit the community in areas such as health, education, the arts, the environment, sport and community based projects. Small grants under \$50,000 and larger grants over \$50,000. Applicants must have DGR status. For details visit www.newcastlepermanent.com.au/Community/NewcastlePermanentCharitableFoundation/AboutFoundation/tabid/613/Default.aspx

14 Regional Arts Fund - applications close

Grants supporting arts and cultural activities in regional NSW that are sustainable, have long term cultural, economic and social benefits, develop partnerships and cultural networks and provide skills development opportunities. For details, call Annette Eassie on 9720 2502 or visit www.regionalartsnsw.com.au select grants.

17 Accessible Arts Small Grants 2009 – applications close

To support events in the month-long campaign called Don't DIS My ABILITY. Grants up to \$1000 are available. Events must be registered with the Don't DIS my ABILITY Campaign 2009. For details please visit www.aarts.net.au/projects/idpwd/

25 Visions of Australia, The Contemporary Touring Initiative Program – applications close

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts aims to enable more Australians to enjoy the diverse culture by accessing exhibitions of cultural material. Projects should commence from 1st February, 2010. For details please visit www.arts.gov.au/arts/contemporary_touring_initiative

31 Incoming Touring Exhibition Grants (ITEG) - applications close

ITEG program provides financial assistance to public galleries, visual arts organisations, craft and design centres and exhibition spaces in NSW enabling them to bring high quality visual arts and craft exhibitions to their community that they might otherwise not be able to due to costs and/or distance. Minimum of \$2,000 per application, there is no upper limit. For the guidelines and application form please visit mgnsw.org.au/grants/gallery_grants/ visit or call Cath Fogarty at Museums & Galleries NSW on 1800 114 311.



August

- 1 Pastel workshop with Jean Buettel**
Presented by Dungog Art Society. 10 am to 3 pm, Dungog Day Care Centre, Hospital Rd. Dungog. For details call Wendy Graham 4992 1637, Jan Samson 4992 3233 or Pat Staker 4992 3304.
- 1 & 2 Watercolour workshop with Patricia Johnston**
Presented by the Scone Arts & Crafts Inc. 9am to 4pm, Scone Arts & Crafts, Kingdom St, Scone. Bookings essential. For details or to book, please call Helen Booth on 6545 2156 (after 6 pm).
- 3 Drawing Classes for Adult Beginners**
9 weeks, 5.15 to 7.15pm. \$120 inc some materials. School of Arts building, Gloucester. For details contact Elizabeth Bartlett 6558 1186
- 2, 9, 16 & 23 Drama Workshop for Youth (8-13yrs)**
Maureen Hjorth and Christine Pettitt are running this workshop at the Gloucester High School over 4 weeks, with a performance on the final day. \$40, for details call Christine on 0427157338
- 9 Pottery Workshop for Adults (16 +)**
Participants will be making hand built masterpieces. School of Arts Building, Denison Street, Gloucester. Cost \$40.00, includes all materials and firing of pieces and Morning tea. Bring your own lunch. Booking essential. Lousie at Red Sky Studio on 65581885 / 0427581885.
- 15 & 16 Oil Painting workshop with Wanda Driscoll**
Presented by the Scone Arts & Crafts Inc. 9am to 4pm, Scone Arts & Crafts, Kingdom St, Scone. Bookings essential. For details or to book, please call Helen Booth on 6545 2156 (after 5pm).
- 21 or 22 Moving Things Around with Scott Blick**
A workshop especially for vocalists wishing to develop and integrate their acting and movement skills with their singing. The workshops run for 3 1/2 hours. Organised by the Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod Committee. Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre. Bookings essential. For details call Suzie Troon on 6541 2094.

sheri's bon mot

"Imagination is more important than knowledge"

Oscar Wilde

August

- Upper Hunter Regional Library 50th Year Celebrations.**
A month of celebrations planned with visits from authors Deborah Abela & Simone Bailey, and "party" at the Muswellbrook, Aberdeen, Denman, Scone, Murrurundi and Cassilis libraries. For all the details visit your local library or www.uhrl.nsw.gov.au
- 9 Cheeky Dog Art Day at the gallery**
Create pet portraits, paw print art, win prizes, and lots more! No pet? No problem! Come along to collect your 'Kids' Adventure Passport' and create wonderful art anyway! Dogs must be kept on a lead and under the control of their owners at all times. Please book. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. 4991 6619
- 26 Bedtime Stories at the Singleton Public Library**
As part of the celebrations for Children's Book Week, children are being invited to go in pyjamas, bring teddy and enjoy stories, craft, milk and biscuits. 6-7pm, Singleton Public Library, Queen St. For details call 6578 7500 or visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au
- 21 Contributions to the September Artsbark closes**
To be included, please forward your contribution to Arts Upper Hunter; see below for details. Please include: Facts of the Event eg: Name, Date, Time, Venue, Ticket costs etc, Description of the event/opportunity etc 1 or 2 sentences. A contact name and phone number for more information regarding the event/opportunity. Name and contact details of the person lodging the contribution.

not to miss

Artsbark is the bi-monthly publication of **Arts Upper Hunter Inc.** supported by the Dungog, Gloucester, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shires and Arts NSW.

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

contact

phone Dungog (02) 4992 1033
Scone (02) 6545 9727

eml rado@artsupperhunter.com.au
or admin@artsupperhunter.com.au

PO Box 48, Dungog, NSW 2420



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