



DECEMBER 2008 ISSUE 42

artsbark

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editor's desk

Welcome to the last edition of artsbark for 2008! Our next newsletter will be February 2009 as we do not do one for January, normally because there is very little on and we like to take a break ourselves! The big news is that our website is now up and operational www.artsupperhunter.com.au so please take the time to have a look around, a word of warning, the artsbark is on the 'what's happening page'. We will be focusing in January on collating and putting more information on the website in terms of artists, and venues in particular. We have standard forms for these so please contact us if you are an artist or have a venue that we can add.

It is a good time to start thinking about The Country Art Support Program (CASP). This is the Regional Arts NSW small grants program that is available for a range of arts and cultural activities including but not limited to: workshops, arts activities as part of a community festival, artists in residence program, professional development type activities for artists, etc. Maximum of \$3,000. The closing date is Friday 13th February. The updated application information is not yet on the Regional Arts NSW website but will be up shortly. The grants section of this newsletter has a number of things closing in December, I think there is an undercurrent of thinking that is making all these applications due at times when we are preoccupied with other things, but that's the arts game don't let it go for a minute. Opportunity is just around the corner.

Singleton Library hosted a fabulous night and daytime reading with Les Murray. Les read for 45mins from his vast collection of poems and it was a very special treat. Rumour has it that the Redbarn gallery may be going to make shorts with his *The dream of wearing shorts forever* emblazoned on them!

The play *Lost Property* has been touring the Region. It is not often that we have live theatre written specifically about life in rural/regional areas being performed locally so it will be very interesting to see what peoples' reaction is.

In other news we have been very busy organising networking events in all regions that are geared around a central local focus. The Dungog event was a dinner with live entertainment by local comedian, script writer John O'Brien. The focus was on getting people to meet like minded people and we were very pleased that 60 people turned out to participate. The next one is in Murrurundi talking with Hanna Kay about how the Turning the Pages project came about and then on Wednesday at Gloucester looking at what direction they may want to take in terms of developing arts related events that put Gloucester on the map. Singleton and Muswellbrook are going to happen in the new year so hopefully we will start 2009 with many new ideas and dreams that we can spend the year pursuing.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas, new year and some holiday time. The Dungog office will be closed for the month of January so please contact Sandra in Scone, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. Take care and enjoy.

Bridget Nicholson



Les Murray and Bridget Nicholson at the Singleton Library



December

1-7 "An Eclectic Review"

This exhibition is by Estelle Asmodelle who has been painting abstract pieces and working with photography since 1978. Artemis of Aberdeen, Old Presbyterian Church, 93 Macqueen St, Aberdeen. Open Thursday to Monday, 10am to 5pm or by appointment. For details call 6543 8023.

1-14 National Trust Portrait Exhibition (Drip in the Bucket Series)

A group of 9 Hunter Valley artists, including Shirley Cameron Roberts, Brian Roberts, Robyn Werkhoven, Katherine Sullivan, Glenn Henderson, Francis Celtlan, Ron Baer, Paul O'Brien and P. Ross Gould, were invited to paint national and local celebrities and dignitaries. Brough House (former Maitland Art Gallery). Open Saturday & Sunday 10am to 3pm.

1-21 "Pixels on Paper" Maeve Vella and "Wire. Feathers. Rock" Leanne Barrett - Gloucester

This is Maeve's 3rd show of digital art, since being introduced to computer graphics in 1999. Leanne's exhibition follows on from the successful sticky tape installations last year. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

1-24 Susana Enriquez exhibition and Christmas 2008 Local Artists Selling Show

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.

6 Carols at the Gardens

Featuring all the old favourites, and a visit from Santa. Free community event. Fireworks 9pm. Village Green, Hunter Valley Gardens, Broke Road Pokolbin. for more details call HVG on 4998 4000 or visit www.hvg.com.au

14 Carols by Candlelight @ Gloucester

6:30pm for BBQ followed by carols at 7:30pm. Gloucester Recreational Grounds.

21 Twilight Markets & Carols in the Park

A variety of guest artists from the region will perform a selection of Christmas songs and lead the carols. Take a picnic or enjoy the BBQ to support Broke Rural Fire Brigade. Santa will arrive with gifts for the kids! Market will have: books, bric-a-brac, local produce, gifts etc Market 4pm, concert 6pm. McNamara Park, Broke.

January

3 Opening of the Recent Acquisitions 2006 - 2008 & the Leica Photography Exhibitions.

The exhibitions will run until 8th February. Opening 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.

3 Opening of "Working with Wood"

This exhibition by Peter Blanchard is a combination of contemporary fine furniture and evocative sculpture, with the wood for many of the pieces coming from the Gloucester region. The exhibition runs until the 1st of February. 2pm. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

24 Opera at the Tops, Twilight Soiree

Opera Hunter and The Barrington Country Retreat presents this wonderful night. The performers include: Angela Black, Jacquelyn Brown, Rob Dennis, Michael Saunders and Josephine Tan. Opera Pops to Music Theatre. 2 x 30 minute sets. 6pm, The Barrington Country Retreat, Chichester Dam Rd, Dungog. Tickets \$35 includes canapes and sparkling wine. Dinner available afterwards, as well as 3 to 4.5 star accommodation packages. Bookings essential. For details or to book, please ring 4995 9269 or visit www.thebarringtons.com.au

Dinners at the Dungog network dinner were encouraged to write their ideas on the table cloths.



Open National Youth Self Portrait Prize 2009

The National Portrait Gallery invites young Australians between 18 and 25 to enter the National Youth Self Portrait Prize 2009. A selection of entries, including the prize-winning work will be displayed at the National Portrait Gallery from the 23rd July to 13th September 2009. First prize is \$10,000. Applications close 30th April 2009. Information and entry form available at portrait.gov.au or call 02 6102 7000.

Open Dungog Film Festival Submissions for 2009

The Dungog Film Festival is dedicated to promoting

local films and filmmakers. The festival will be held 28-31 May 2009. They accept completed shorts, features, documentaries, animations on film and digital. They also accept works in progress for narrative features only and for documentaries at 50mins. Entries close 31st March 2009.

For entry forms or more information visit www.dungogfilmfestival.org or call 02 4992 2420.

December

12 City of Albany Art Prize entries close

This is an annual acquisitive prize open to all Australian artists for a two dimensional painting. As well as a cash prize of \$25,000 the winner will have the opportunity to spend up to 4 weeks in a self contained studio cottage in Albany (Western Australia) with \$2500 for associated expenses.

For details visit <http://www.albanyartprize.com.au/>

15 Max Kelly Medal entries 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 material. Prize includes \$500.

For details visit <http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/prizes.html> or call 02 9252 8715.

16 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show Art Competition postal entries close

The Sydney Royal Arts Show brings together a broad range of arts including: painting, pottery, sculpture, silverwork, felting, photography, mosaic etc. For details on entering visit <https://www.rasns.com.au/OnlineShowEntries/ArtDefault.aspx>, entries online closes 2nd February 2009.

January

16 Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing entries close

This is an acquisitive prize open to Australians for a drawing completed within a period of 12 months prior to the 16th January 2009. The prize is \$15,000, and the People's Choice is \$2000 non-acquisitive.

For details visit <http://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/public2/exhibitions.asp>

21 "She who discovers", applications close

This is an annual competition for female artists to exhibit contemporary art works in celebration of International Women's Day. Work can be two or three dimensional and can be created in any medium. Winners will receive exhibitions at sponsored galleries. Application fee \$10, if accepted, exhibition fee \$45. For details visit <http://www.greaterdandenong.com> select Leisure, Walker Hill Gallery, or call 03 9706 8441.

31 Black Dog Institute 5th Annual Writing Competition entries close

The Black Dog Institute seeks essays from people in the workplace who have clinical depression or bipolar disorder, and also from their family, friends, workmates, supervisors and managers to share their experiences. The topic this year is: Mood Disorders in the Workplace. Prize pool of \$3500.

For application form and details visit <http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/media/writingcompetition/index.cfm> or call 02 9382 4530.



John O'Brien at the Dungog networking dinner.

December

1 Screenteen Scholarships applications close

Scholarship applications are now open for young people, aged 12-16 years, who have the passion but not the funds to learn acting at Screenwise workshops in February 2009. The recipient of the scholarship will receive specialist, career-focused training in acting for film and television and will work intimately with the crème of industry professionals. For details call (02) 9281 4484 or email: info@screenwise.com.au

12 Hill End Artist In Residence Program applications close

This program aims to provide an opportunity for creative development in all areas of the visual arts in the unique environment of Hill End. Artists can apply to spend four weeks living and working at Haefligers or Murrays Cottage. Upon completion of their residency the artists may have the opportunity to exhibit their work at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery or at the Jean Bellette Gallery, Hill End.

For details visit <http://www.bathurst.com.au/index.php/hillend/artistinresidenceprogram>

15 Playing Australia applications close

Playing Australia is the Australian Government's national touring program for the performing arts. A principal objective of Playing Australia is to support tours to regional and remote Australia. From theatre to music and opera, dance, puppetry and circus, Playing Australia has assisted the touring of performing arts across Australia since 1992. For details visit http://www.arts.gov.au/arts/playing_australia



not to miss

31 Community Heritage Grants applications close

The program provides grant funding of up to \$15 000 for preservation projects, and preservation and collection management training through community based workshops. Australian community organisations that collect and provide public access to their documentary heritage collections, including public libraries, archives, museums, art galleries and schools, are eligible to apply. The grants are administered by the National Library of Australia. For more details visit www.nla.gov.au/chg/ or call 02 6262 1111.

February

2 Ian Potter Foundation applications close

The Ian Potter Foundation makes grants to organisations that are both DGR and TCC status. Grants are available in program areas of arts, community wellbeing, education, the environment etc. For details visit www.ianpotter.org.au

13 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) applications close

Small grants of up to \$3,000 for arts and cultural projects in NSW happening between 1 April and 31 March 2010. For an application form and guidelines please visit www.regionalartsnsw.com.au and select grants or call Arts Upper Hunter and we can post you a copy.



Jane Richens and Zac Watts Wright at the Gresford Create Festival opening with Jane's chocolate sculpture.

December

4 Information session for Certificate 2 Visual Arts and Contemporary Crafts

Singleton Campus TAFE is offering this course in 2009 and is inviting anyone interested in the course to go to an information session. Enrollments can be made on this day or 5th February 2009. 10am, Block A, Singleton TAFE Campus, York St, Singleton. For more details call Dorothy Wishney on 6578 7133 or 6578 7100.

2-24 Aunt J Studio - closing down sale

This store stocks quality brand art supplies and accessories. Best be quick as first in best dressed. 98 Bridge St, Muswellbrook. Open Tuesday to Friday 9:30 am to 4pm, Saturday 9am to Middy. For more details please call 6542 5915.

sheri's bon mot
*"You have to practice art
to practice art"*

Sarah Linskey

Contributions to the February 2009 Edition of Artsbark closes 21st January 2009.

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.

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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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