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DECEMBER 09 ISSUE 54

artsbark

editor's desk

The last Artsbark for the year! I thought we should have a quick look at the year that has been. In Singleton, a serious amount of work went into consultation and the development of a Cultural Plan to assist council in planning and budgeting over the next ten years. It is not quite finished, but is imminent. For the cultural community this is an extremely helpful process as it can ensure that there is an understanding and valuing of cultural activity which also means it can be financially supported. The Youth Venue has held numerous and varied events ranging from; the *Battle of the Bands* earlier this year that attracted ferocious competition and large enthused audiences, to opera performed by Newcastle Festival Opera hosted by SAMS (Singleton Amateur Music Society). It was also the centenary of the Sacred Spaces Convent of Mercy, and over 600 people turned out to a day of celebration that included music, exhibitions and an open house. It was a day for some to reminisce and for others to further understand the importance that this institution holds in the lives of so many.

In Muswellbrook the Eisteddfod group decided to host an opera performance again and had Blue Bottle Productions present, not only a performance, but also a series of workshops. MATS (Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society) put on another excellent comedy. Muswellbrook South Primary School Choir performed at the Sydney Opera House while the Upper Hunter Showband went to the Stampede in Canada. St James Primary School developed an intensive arts programme with assistance from Muswellbrook Coal and the Companion Credit Union. Five artists were brought into the school to work with the children over a 5 week period and the works were then on exhibition as part of the Muswellbrook Carnivale.

The Upper Hunter's *Turning the Pages* has moved into its' second stage and workshops and water watch programs have started with the schools. Invited artists painted the river for an exhibition marking the second anniversary and Hunter Councils have committed \$20,000 to kick start the second stage which includes the development of a

river walk with interpretive art works and the design for a permanent sculpture. There will be lots of opportunities for people to participate in a wide variety of ways. A significance assessment is almost complete for the Hunter Valley Museum of Rural Life collection at Lake Glenbawn. The process has involved unearthing the stories pertaining to many of the objects, which has revealed formally what an important collection this is. A business plan was completed for the Aberdeen Cultural Centre and the group driving that are now seeking funding for a feasibility study, in the meantime they continue to put on events such as the film series that John Scriven has going at the Aberdeen Bowling Club. They had to show the *Shiralee* twice due to popular demand and it was sold out on both occasions. The Upper Hunter Shire Council entered the Museums Advisor program run by Museums and Galleries and employed Lyn Collins to work with the Historic Societies and Museums in the area.



Lee Watts, Mayor of Upper Hunter Shire Council and Hannah Kay at the "Painting of the Pages".

The Gloucester Gallery had their 10th anniversary, a great achievement for a small artist run space that is now booked



out a year in advance. The *Art Trail* happened again (its second year) and had people coming from far and wide to visit local artists in their studios. The film *What's yours is mined....* produced during the Portraits of Place project, won an award at this year's Foster Short Film Festival. The festival is travelling to Gloucester and will be on at the Barrington Hall on the 5th December. A dedicated committee have been preparing a bid for the biannual *Women's Gathering* a Rural Women's Network event that brings 1000's of rural women together for a number of days. The plan includes many arts opportunities and a plan to film the event with all these new film makers in town.

In Dungog the arts society ran a series of workshops throughout the year and two new studio/exhibition spaces have opened, one in Gresford, the other at Shiloe, just out of Vacy. Both these are privately run and putting on events which are being well attended. Michael Winchester is shooting his feature film *Bathing Franky* as I write, so we look forward to seeing this on the screen sometime next year? The film *On the move*, produced as part of the Portraits of Place won second place at the Department of State and Regional Development's short film competition *My town is special coz....* and people are banding together to make things happen. A community group are in the process of setting up the Dungog Community Radio station; people everywhere are putting their hands up to 'do a program!' Another group are forming with the intention of developing a network of arts Hubs across the Shire and a central 'Big Venue' where arts, education and a full range of creative industries may come together.

As you can see much has happened and there is plenty more that I haven't mentioned, *Folk in Broke*, for example - only due to a lack of space and a fractured brain. Next year promises more and new things. The Regional Arts Fund grants have just been announced and Arts Upper Hunter have been successful in their bid for funding to bring a play write to Singleton and Muswellbrook to work with the community in the development of a play about shift work. There will be workshops on play writing, readings, and the opportunity for community members to participate in all aspects of putting together a show, this will be a 2 year project. We have applied for funding to run a regional project that will put young people together with older people to tell stories in the form of short films. This will enable both generations to look at each other in new ways and to document some of the really interesting aspects of peoples' lives. We will find out if this can happen in February. We are working on the development of a youth arts network and program and will be talking to many people in January February to set up partnerships and develop what that might look at (anyone interested in furthering this please contact Bridget). We will be running professional development seminars for artists across the region and facilitating networking and sharing possibilities for museums and historic societies. We would like to thank Clare Tilyard for the hard work she has done in collecting information on

venues and artists in particular and putting into our database and website. Clare finishes up at the end of this year but we will be continuing to add to this and update so please contact us if you have things to add. Finally a big thank you too to Rebecca Fowles who has co-ordinated and played host on all 5 Artstart *Creative Development Retreats*, there are two more happening in December at the Stroud Monastery. The feedback has been fabulous and it seems everyone has enjoyed going away, meeting new people, and learning new skills. We hope to establish a youth program that will enable these skills to be used and developed continuously.

Finally our office will be closed from Tuesday 22 December until Tuesday 5th January 2010. Please take note that the CASP (Country Arts Support Program) grant applications must be postmarked on or before the 12th of February and you need to speak to us about your application before you submit them. So if you haven't had a look at the Regional Arts NSW website www.regionalartssnsw.com.au, please do so.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

December

4 **Gloucester Gallery 10th Anniversary Exhibition**

A selection of works by artists who have shown at the Gallery over the past 10 years. The exhibition runs until the 3rd January.

Opening 6pm. Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details please call 6558 3157.

5 **Messiah**

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music is proud to present Handel's most famous work for choir, orchestra and vocal soloists.

7pm, Muswellbrook High School, adult \$15, child \$10, for more details or to book, call 6541 4888.

5 **Comedy Short Film Festival**

This festival will be featuring the winners of the Foster Film Festival 2009, including 2 local Gloucester films. This event is proudly supported by GACCI and the Barrington & District Progress Association.

8pm, Barrington Hall. Tickets adults \$15, con \$12 and available at the door.

5 **Gresford Christmas Fair**

The entertainment includes the school choir and bush poets. There will be a range of market stalls selling quality soft goods and jewellery, an alfresco cafe and Santa Claus will make a visit. Proceeds to the Gresford Patterson Anglican Church.

events + festivals

9am to 2pm, "Clevendon" 2034 Gresford Rd, East Gresford. For details call Belinda Richards, 4938 9488

5 **Collections Exhibition**

This exhibition will feature works from: Teresa Byrne, Betty Lambley, Charlotte Drake-Brockman, Yvonne Harris, Asher Milgate (photography) and Fran Wachtel. Runs until 17th January 2010.

Scone Arts and Crafts. 63 Kingdon St, Scone. Opening most Fridays to Sundays, 10 am to 4pm, for details call Pam 0418 441 128.

5 **ArtBazaar 09**

Presented by the Hunter Arts Network. Market stalls with unique gifts and goods from over 50 artists. Participate in workshops & demonstrations, and enjoy street performances.

9am to 3pm, Laman St, Newcastle. For details please visit www.hunterartsnetwork.org

7 **Red Cross Christmas Trees & Wreaths Exhibition and the Local Artists' Selling Show**

The Christmas Trees and Wreaths is a bi-annual event featuring local artists, community groups and schools. The Local Artists' Selling Show has local artists making their work available to the public. Exhibitions run until the 20th. Official Opening at 6pm.

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

8 **A Christmas Celebration**

The Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc (Aberdeen) is presenting a four course Christmas Dinner, live entertainment, and the screening of "That's Entertainment", a film featuring clips of archive footage from the MGM Museum Collection of Great Musicals from 1920-1970.

6:30pm, Aberdeen Bowling Club, donation \$25. Bookings essential by 5th to Jan Sumner 6543 7150 or Jan Wild on 6543 6267.

10 **Singleton Rotary, Carols in the Cathedral**

Community carol singing combined with solo items from instrumentalists and vocal.

5.30pm, All Saints Church, High Street, Singleton. For details please call Ray 6572 2883.

11 **Carols In The Convent Chapel**

7pm, Sacred Spaces, 30 Queen St, Singleton. For details call the Sacred Spaces on 6572 2398.

11 **Sediments of Haptic Play by Tanya Alexandra Richards, and Days of Summer by Salvatore Zofrea Exhibitions**

Days of Summer is a masterful achievement in Salvatore Zofrea's oeuvre, and Australian printmaking generally. This exhibition is touring NSW & QLD.

These exhibitions run until 28th February.

Official Opening 6pm.

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High St, Maitland.

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm. For details call 4934 9859 or visit www.mrag.org.au

12 **Poetic Memories Over The Years, Book Launch**

This book was written by Del Smith. Profits from the book go to the St Mark's Anglican Church Hall. Light refreshments provided. RSVP by 7th for catering.

2pm, St Mark's Church Hall, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen. Carol Bowen 6543 7113, Wendy Milwain 6543 7400.

12 **Annual Youth Art Award Exhibition 2009 - Down To Earth**

This award is for young people 13-21 yrs. The prize is \$5000. The exhibition will run until the 31st of January 2010. Official opening 5pm.

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent St, Cessnock. Tue to Sat 10am to 4pm. For details call 4991 6619, or visit www.crag.net.au

20 **Carols by Candlelight**

8pm to 9.30pm, Christian Israelite Church Grounds, Goulburn St, Singleton. For more details call Nancy Gray on 6575 2200.



Norma Everett showing 4 generations of family Everett dolls, circa 1900.

Fashions of Yesteryear Pade & Doll Exhibition. Photo courtesy of Colleen Ellis

January

8 **Glorious Gloucester Exhibition**

The Gloucester Environment Group is presenting this competition which has the theme of "what makes Gloucester special to you". Exhibits will encompass a



wide range of mediums. Exhibition runs until 31st. Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details 6558 3157.

15 Tamworth Country Music Festival 2010

With 120 venues, about 4000 performances and 590 buskers in Peel St, this is the place for country music fans. Runs until 24th. For all the details visit www.tamworthcountrymusic.com.au

26 Australia Day Celebrations at Gloucester

The following awards will be presented: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Project of the Year. 8am, Billabong Park, free breakfast followed by ceremony, which should conclude by 9.30am. 5:30pm Gala evening at the town pool. For all the details visit www.gloucester.org.au

sheri's bon mot

"Emelio Greco started off making tombstones"

Sheri McEvoy

December

1 12words – entries close

12words is a national, online twelve-word story competition for 15-25 year olds. For all the details please visit www.12words.com.au

4 WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition 2010 – entries close

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2010 on the 2nd February, WetlandCare Australia is hosting its 3rd annual Australia-wide art competition, offering categories for children and adults. Total prize pool includes \$5500 cash plus prizes. For all details please visit <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/default.asp>

10 Junction 2010 - expressions of interest for presentations close

Junction 2010, is the seventh biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference. They are inviting expressions of interest for creative concepts, projects, ideas, workshops, interactive events and presentations that respond to the conference core themes of Footprints, Threads, Resilience and Momentum. The conference is being held Launceston, Tasmania, from 26 to 29th August 2010.

For details visit www.junction2010.com.au

11 Max Kelly Medal 2010 - Nominations close

The Max Kelly Medal plus a prize of \$500 is awarded annually by the History Council of NSW, to a 'beginning' historian for a work of excellence in any aspect of Australian history. For all details please see www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

14 Manager, Western Plains Cultural Centre - applications close

The multi award winning WPCC comprises an art gallery, museum, community arts centre, café, and extensive landscaped grounds. For details of the job please visit www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au, select Your Council /Careers at Council

18 Hal Porter Short Story Competition - entries close

Australian writers are invited to enter a short story, written in any style, for the first prize of \$1000. For all the details visit the East Gippsland Art Gallery's website at <http://eastgippslandartgallery.org.au/>

22 "Glorious Gloucester" - entries close

The Gloucester Environment Group has organised this competition with the theme of "What makes Gloucester special to you". Entry open to all, encompassing any form of visual art eg painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, collage, poetry etc. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded according to "People Choice" votes. Entry forms from Gloucester Information Centre or Gloucester Gallery. Entry fee is \$10 per art work. For details call Kate 6550 2556 or Narree 6558 9280.

31 Black Dog Institute 6th Annual Writing Competition - entries close

This year focuses on people 60 years and older who have experienced "late onset" depression. Total prize pool \$3,500. For all the details please visit www.blackdoginstitute.org.au or call 02 9382 4523.

January

8 Imaging Identity Symposium - call for papers close

The National Portrait Gallery is inviting proposals for the symposium: Imaging Identity; Media, Memory and Visions of Humanity in the Digital Present. Hosted by the National Portrait Gallery and the Research School of Humanities, Australian National University the symposium will be held at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra 15-17 July 2010. For details visit www.portrait.gov.au and select News.

artist opportunities

15 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 15th January 2010. The prize is \$15,000, acquisitive and the People's Choice is \$2000 non-acquisitive.

For details visit www.plc.nsw.edu.au select Art Gallery

30 Josephine Ulrick Prizes - entries close

With a total prize pool of \$40,000. There are two prizes; The Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize 2010 which is for a short story of between 1000 & 3000 words, and the Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize 2010 for a poem of up to 200 lines or suite of poems. For all the details <http://www.griffith.edu.au/arts-languages-criminology/school-humanities/news-and-events/josephine-ulrick-prizes>



Some of the Participants at the "Creating Dreams" workshop, held by the Cessnock Regional Art Centre and Endeavour Industries, supported by AARTS

Open Country Arts Support Program

CASP provides small grants to arts and community organisations and local arts councils in regional NSW for short term, locally initiated projects. For details please visit www.regionalartsnsw.com.au Applications must be postmarked on or before 12th February 2010.

1 Playing Australia, Round 35- applications close

Playing Australia is the Australian Government's national touring program for the performing arts. It is designed to assist the touring of performing arts across state and territory boundaries where this is currently not commercially viable and there is a demonstrated public demand. For all the details please visit http://www.arts.gov.au/arts/playing_australia

4 The Edge, Catalysts and Residency Program - applications close

The Edge, Queensland's new digital culture centre for experimentation in design, art, technology and enterprise, is seeking the creative practitioners across sound, screen, writing, sustainability, media, design and journalism. Two weeks to six months. For all the details visit www.theedge.slq.qld.gov.au

7 Australia Council's, Connections Residency - applications close

The Connections Residency program supports a range of residency and placement opportunities for artists with non-arts businesses and industries. Value up to \$30,000. Visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants

7 Australia Council's Soundclash - applications close

Program supports the creative development of innovative and risk-taking contemporary popular music. Grants up to \$10,000. Please visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/soundclash_-_music

9 The Geek in Residence - applications close

The purpose of this program is to connect 'geeks' (by which the Australia Council mean technically confident artists and creatively confident technicians) with arts organisations through a temporary subsidised secondment scheme.

For full details please visit <http://www.artsdigitalera.com/schemes>

10 Community Builders Program - applications close

The Community Builders Funding Program is a community strengthening and capacity building program. It has funds available on an annual basis for time-limited projects in particular regions of NSW, including the Hunter/Central Coast. Funding between \$10,000 and \$100,000 each year for between 1 and 3 years is available. For all the details please visit www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/2433.html

11 Hill End Artist in residence program 2010 - applications close

The Hill End Artists in Residence Program is open to Australian and international visual artists, curators and arts writers. The Residency Program is based in Haefligers Cottage and Studio and Murrays Cottage at Hill End. For all the details visit www.hillendart.com.au



December

5&6 Photographic Workshop with John Harrison

The weekend course is designed for people of varying skill levels from beginners to advanced amateurs. It is being held at Millfield, near Cessnock. For more details visit <http://harrisonshunter.com.au/> and to book, call the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery on 4991 6619.

18 Arts-Activated Conference - earlybird registrations close

This conference, presented by Accessible Arts on the 25-26th of March 2010 at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, has a range of national and international guest speakers. The theme is "Arts - Access - Excellence". The conference is intended for artists with and without a disability, art workers, funding bodies, etc. For all the details please visit www.aarts.net.au or call Jane Pollard on 02 9251 6499.

January

17 & 31 Introduction to Watercolour Workshop with Betty Lambley

This half-day workshop is for the absolute beginner! The workshop will cover materials, washes and introductory techniques, and all materials will be supplied. Cost \$65-00. Limited spaces. Scone Arts&Crafts Centre, Kingdon St, Scone. For details & bookings call Scott Cooper on 0427 101 697 or innerscape@hunterlink.net.au

24 Introduction to Pastels Workshop with Teresa Byrne

This is a half-day introduction to pastels. Workshop will include charcoal and pastel techniques with all materials supplied. Cost \$65-00. Limited spaces. Scone Arts&Crafts Centre, Kingdon St, Scone. For details & bookings call Scott Cooper on 0427 101 697 or innerscape@hunterlink.net.au

25 Beginners Clay Group with Scott Douglas Cooper

An intensive introduction to beginners techniques with an emphasis on wheel throwing. The classes will include hand-building, various clays and an introduction to glazes & kiln techniques including western raku firings. Classes will run Monday nights

6pm-9pm for 4 weeks. Cost \$220-00 will include clay, glazes & firings. Limited places, max 6 participants. Muswellbrook Ceramics Group Pot House, Lions Park, Lower Brook Street, Muswellbrook. For details & bookings call Scott Cooper on 0427 101 697 or innerscape@hunterlink.net.au



"Golden Wattle" by Salvatore Zofrea. Photo courtesy of the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

December

2, 8, 16 & 17 Storytime at the Upper Hunter Regional Library

Storytime for preschoolers will be held at the following UHR branches: 2nd & 16th - Muswellbrook at 10am, 8th - Aberdeen at 10:30am, 17th - Scone at 10:30am. For all the details please visit your local branch or visit www.uhrl.nsw.gov.au

18 Contributions to the January 2010 edition 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.

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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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