



JUNE 2008 ISSUE 36

artsbark

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editor's desk

While May was the month of the horse and drama June appears to be shaping up as the month of poetry. In the opportunities section you will find a number of poetry competitions with substantial prize money! So even if you had never thought of yourself as a poet it might be worth a try. I have once had the honour of attending the presentation of the Dorothea Mackellar awards in Gunnedah, and it was a fantastic event with people flying in from all over the state to read their winning poems.

I would be very interested to hear from people regarding drama opportunities for young people within the region. The local drama societies do fantastic work and I was lucky enough to see *A Bride in the Hand* put on by Scone (Amateur Theatrical Society) which was a great laugh and beautifully put together, I have heard the same about *Run for your Wife* put on by Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society (MATS). I know that some of the drama societies run workshops for young people and am interested to know what you think, is this sufficient, are there young people out there who are not able to access and participate in the world of drama? In the meantime don't miss the musical *Cats* this month, being put on by the Singleton Theatrical Society. It was quite amusing when they were calling for actors, a small issue of having to wear a leotard being a challenging concept!

Another big event to report on in May was the *Art as Industry Symposium* in Quirindi. This was one of four such events presented across the north west region by Arts North West (an adjoining regional arts board), with a lot of other partners, local council the Department State and Regional Development, TAFE and the Northern Inland Regional Development Board. The point of these events was to bring artists, gallery owners, arts workers etc... together to share experiences and find out more about how these players interconnect. Hanna Kay and Rodney Swainsborough from Murrurundi both talked about their experiences which were thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening. The term 'Art and/ as Industry' is a very popular phrase at the moment coined in an attempt to demonstrate how commercial, art practice

can be. Personally I am not a big supporter of this branding as I feel strongly that the arts are where we explore our ideas of identity and where people should be encouraged to express themselves openly, this does not necessarily equate to making a sale. Of utmost importance is an understanding of the value of the arts being in their ability to raise ideas and awareness. In the current world of economic rationalism this important aspect of the arts can become faded and I would hate for it to disappear from our working consciousness.

To this end the first of the CASP programs took place at the Scone Horse Festival. Artist Merryn Spencer from Gilgandra was engaged by the Upper Hunter Shire Council to run workshops on mime and then to perform. We look forward to more CASP projects where the local community can



Merryn Spencer in situ.

orchestra their own events. July will see *La Serva Padrona* comic opera in Muswellbrook being presented by the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod committee.

Bridget Nicholson



June

1-9 Ruth Smith Exhibition

Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

1- 29 Bloodlines - Art of the Horse

A traveling exhibition curated by Peter Fay from the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.
Plus a number of other exhibitions including:
An exhibition from Teresa Byrne, Miniatures XII, and "50 Years of The Muswellbrook Local and Family Historical Society"
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.

1 2008 Dungong Film Festival

Over 70 Australian films will feature plus an education program packed with stimulating workshops and seminars.
Tickets on sale now, range of passes. For details call 4992 2420 or www.dungogfilmfestival.org/

4-22 The 55th Sydney Film Festival

The festival program will include 16 World Premieres, 135 Australian Premieres and a stunning array of red-carpet galas.
State Theatre, Sydney. To view program or to book visit www.sydneyfilmfestival.org or call Ticketmaster on 136100.

7-9 Arty Party Weekend

A weekend of life drawing. Models and art instruction tutors will be available. Go for the day or accommodation available by donation.
"Norville" Artists Retreat, Scotts Creek Rd, Murrurundi. Call Peter Norvill on 6546 6175, or visit www.norvilleaustralia.com.au

10 A Conservator's Life: Conserving and Restoring Australia

Scone ADFAS presents this lecture with guest speaker Julian Bickersteth MA FIIC
Scone Arts and Craft Centre, 6:30pm, for details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

13 - 28 CATS

Presented by the Singleton Theatrical Society, Cats is a musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber based on Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T. S. Eliot.
Dates of performances: 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27 & 28 with matinee on 22 & 28. Singleton Civic Centre, tickets available (mid May) from Video Ezy.

15 Broke Community Market

A range of stalls and produce.
From 9 :30a.m.- 1 p.m. McNamara Park . Broke. For details call Elizabeth Johnstone 0429 198871.

22 Drusella and Hagatha

An evening of opera, musical and pop songs with Cinderella's two ugly sisters. This performance is being presented by Blue Bottles Productions.
Sister of Mercy Convent, Queen St Singleton, 2pm, Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 concession (children under 15 & pensioners 65+), tickets available from Video Ezy, Singleton.

29 Musica Viva Concert

Sousaphonics, a five piece World Music Carnival performing world music from mardi gras to European waltz, with percussion, vox, trombone, tenor sax, clarinet, sousaphone, trumpet, playing gypsy, ska, reggae, Romanian, classical, and New Orleans Street beat.
74 George St, Singleton. Super after concert. Video Ezy will be selling tickets late May. For details call Geoff on 6572 2907.

June-July

10-7 Margaret Stockdale Exhibition

Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

July

11 Pix from the Stix Photographic Exhibition Opening.

Focusing on Gloucester, Shire and it's culture. Runs until the 3rd of August.
Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

26 La Serva Padrona - A Comic Opera

The production is performed in colloquial English with a rural Australian flavour, and utilizes local performers from Newcastle and the Upper Hunter. The story deals with the age old struggle between the social classes, this made ever more poignant, and comic, as the struggle is between a landowner and a female servant and is set in 1860s Australia.
Muswellbrook South Public School Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm, tickets \$20 and available from Fuji Image, Bridge St, Muswellbrook from mid June. For details call Suzie Troon on 65412094.

sheri's bon mot

When asked to list his hundred favourite books, Oscar Wilde said "...that would be impossible, ...I have only written five."

Hesketh Pearson

June

- 2 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards Close**
Forests, Feathers, Fins and Fur" is this year's theme for Australia's largest poetry writing competition for students, which celebrates the work of well-known Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar. Award entry forms, resource notes for teachers and judges' reports are available at www.dorothea.com.au
- 13 Stroud Writers FAW NSW Inc - Short Stories Literary Award - Applications Close**
Short Story of up to 3000 words with an open theme. First prize: \$200; Second prize \$100. Normal Fellowship of Australian Writers Inc (FAW) competition conditions apply. For details or to send entries & entry fee of \$5 per story contact the Competition Secretary Stroud Writers FAW NSW Inc, PO Box 4, Stroud. NSW 2425.
- 27 Pix From the Stix Entries Close**
This is a photography competition with total prize money of \$1400 and presented by GACCI. Exhibition will be 11th July to 3rd August. Entry forms are available from Gloucester Information Centre, call 6558 1408 or the Gloucester Gallery.
- 27 The Blake Poetry Prize**
This year's theme is exploring the nature of spirituality in the 21st century. 1st prize \$5,000 and publication. \$15 Entry Fee, entry form from www.wetlink.com.au/blake.htm
- 30 The Dogwood Playrights Initiative**
Open to all Australian residents, this is a radio play writing competition. 1st prize \$3,000. For details ring Ann Gibbons on 07 4627 1131 or visit www.murilla.qld.gov.au

July

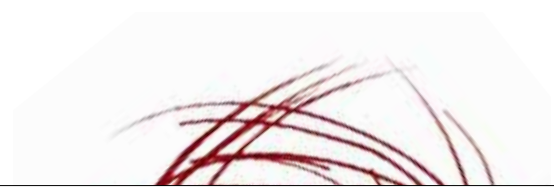
- 1 Selling Yarns 2, Call for Papers and Workshops Proposals Closing Date**
Selling Yarns 2: Innovation for Sustainability is a conference being held on 6-8 March 2009, in Canberra that addresses contemporary Indigenous craft and design practice. Everyone welcome to submit. For papers contact Louise Hamby on 6125 8986, for workshop proposals contact Valerie Kirk on 6125 5833, or visit www.sellingyarns.com
- 4 The Newcastle Poetry Prize Entries Close**
There are two sections, Open and New Media. Total prize money \$13,500. \$20 entry fee, for details visit www.hwcentre.com.poetryprize.html
- 25 Poet Union Poetry Prize Entries Close**
For a poem up to 100 lines, open theme. \$3000 1st prize. \$15 entry fee, entry form and conditions visit www.poetsunion.com
- 31 Realise Your Dream Competition Applications Close**
The British Council is calling for young Australian's to enter the 2008 Realise your Dream Competition. This is a professional development award open to all Australians under the age of 30 who are involved in the creative arts industry. Prize is a flight to United Kingdom to work with a mentor and \$8,000. For details or to apply, call Raynee Dewar on 9362 6730 x 230.

August

- 1 Norvill Art Prize Entries Close**
A biennial acquisitive competition with a first prize of \$10,000 for an Australian landscape painting in any style and medium. Entry Fee \$30, forms available by calling Murrurundi Arts Council on 6546 6620 or visit www.norvillprize.com

June

- 30 Community Heritage Grants Applications Close**
The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program aims to preserve and provide access to locally held, nationally significant cultural heritage collections across Australia. The program provides grant funding of up to \$15 000 for preservation projects, and preservation and collection management training through community based workshops.



Community organisations such as historical societies, museums, public libraries, archives, Indigenous and migrant community groups which collect and provide public access to their cultural heritage collections are eligible to apply.

For details call 02 6262 1147 or visit <http://www.nlg.gov.au/chg>. Arts Uppr Hunter has some guidelines and application forms.

Various Australia Council for the Arts

The Australia Council for the Arts offers a wide range of funding programs for Australian artists and arts organisations. These are for all major areas of arts practice - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, community partnerships, dance, inter-arts, literature, music, theatre and visual arts. <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants>

August

8 Regional Arts Fund (NSW) 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. Guidelines and conditions will be available next week from Regional Arts NSW website, www.regionalartsnsw.com.au, select Grants.

June

2 Media Art Curating Forum

Experimenta, Australia's powerhouse of Media Art is presenting this free workshop aimed at public gallery, museum and library directors and staff, volunteers, artists, independent curators, arts educators and students. etc Topics covered include: an overview of contemporary media art; exhibition design and presentation; technical/equipment requirements; maintenance and logistics; installation; invigilation; and audiences. For details call 6801 4444 or email info@wpccdubbo.org.au

not to miss



Leanne Barrett, Sticky Tape sculpture 2007

Art Classes in Gloucester

10 Life Drawing Classes

For details call Chris Steele 0428 589 294

13 & 14 Time Exposure Photography Workshop

This will be a technical workshop designed to be fun and hands on. For details call Wendy Fraser 6558 9803.

21 Children's Clay Workshop

For details call Louise Oldfield 0427 581 885

22 Sticky Tape Sculpture Workshop

For details contact Leanne Barrett 0428 508 704

28 Silk Painting Workshop

For details contact Judy Simonson 6558 2709

Contributions to the July Edition of Artsbark Closes 23rd

June To be included in the June edition of Artsbark, 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 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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