



MARCH 2009 ISSUE 45

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editor's desk

www.artsupperhunter.com.au

is up and running, check it out. Now is the time for artists and organisations to come forward so we can put you up! Please refer to the back page for contact information.

The new year has started at a great pace with all sorts of projects and programs up and running. Consultation has been rampant in February. Sue Boaden of the Australia Street Company has been working with the committee for the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc in Aberdeen, and the broader community, in exploring the shape and form of a proposed Cultural Centre to be based in Aberdeen, providing a gateway into the Upper Hunter. The outcome of this work will be a business and strategic plan that will assist in determining what activities need to be catered for and where the centre could best be housed to grow and develop the central heart of Aberdeen. At the same time the Singleton Council have employed Allan Baptist to work with the Singleton community, delving deep into the cultural life and aspirations of its' residents, to develop a Cultural Plan for the Shire. Both projects are presenting material in March that will be extremely useful in setting in place plans and processes to enable these communities to feel confident in moving forward seeking funding and partners, to provide avenues for cultural expression.

To that end Arts Upper Hunter is working hard on the other end of the scale, the content. We are very happy to have received two grants, both of which enable us to provide skill development for budding artists. For young people we are setting up a series of Arts Camps where people can come together from across the whole Hunter region and experiment with anything from performance and improvisation to song writing and film making. This is being funded by TAFE NSW as part of their biennial Artstart program. Check out the Artstart website for examples of past projects, demonstrating the potential for digital technologies. The ABC is going to assist in this program, ensuring that exploration of the 4th dimension is possible. For both the

young and the old, the other project is called Portraits of Place, intense filmmaking workshops for residents of the Gloucester and Dungog Shires. Funded by Arts NSW this project has developed from a desire of people in this area to make short films and be able to tell their stories. We are hopeful that award winners will be plentiful!

Awards were the order of the day at the recent Muswellbrook Open Art Prize. Ron Ramsay director of the Newcastle Regional Gallery was the adjudicator. The premise for judging art works is fraught, a construct of the era of economic rationalism, however Ron successfully transcended this in searching for works expressive of the place and moment. Awards went to Peter Gardiner for his painting Bonfire (Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians) and in the ceramic section to William Lungas for his Arca' Series 3 an amazing piece of black porcelain.

In pursuit of contemporary expression artist and long time resident of the Williams Valley, Juliet Fowler Smith, has



The Williams River, Juliet Fowler Smith



rounded up a group of 10 feisty artists to spend time in the proposed inundation zone for the Tillegra Dam. The group come from near and far, and are all interested in exploring the emotional effects brought about by significant change to our environment. What are we doing to ourselves when we attempt to control, dictate and manipulate? This group of artists will be spending time in the Valley, not only immersing themselves in the physical but also hanging out with the locals, those who are part of the landscape. Work produced will be exhibited in Dungog and at the Muswellbrook Arts Centre. At the moment this is a self funded project, hopefully funding bodies may come on board when they see the value of engaging in projects such as this. If you would like to contribute in some way to the project- be it through a memory an image, an experience of the valley- or some other creative or practical input please contact Juliet Fowler Smith at jfs@pacific.net.au.

In regards to funding Arts Upper Hunter has completed the local assessment of the Country Art Support Program, (CASP) applications. It would seem that it is going to be the year of music, music for all sorts, in all sorts of different forms, so stay tuned.

That's enough from me. Please read the events and opportunities thoroughly. There is lot of fantastic things going on in the next couple of months, the autumn frenzy before we prepare to hibernate for winter.

Bidget Nicholson



Allan Baptist and representatives of the army, the Argus, Council, and the Liquor Accord, and talking about life in Singleton.

March

1-23 40th Muswellbrook Open Art Prize

Also on show is 'Mirror Mirror' - selections from the Max Watters and the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection. 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 "Wild and Wonderful" Photograph Exhibition Meet the Artists Luncheon

A stunning display by photographic artists Roy Killen and Diane Schofield featuring extraordinary photographs of all kinds of wild creatures in the natural environment. The exhibition will be on display until the 1st of April.

Luncheon - 11 to 12 noon, free entry, bookings essential. Singleton Public Library, 8-10 Queen St, Singleton. Phone 6578 7500. Open Mon-Fri 9am to 8pm, Sat 9am to 12 noon.

6 Launch of "Calumny while reading Irvine Welsh" by Simone Bailey

Simone was born in Merriwa and later moved to Sydney. She has been writing for 35 years. This novel is a satire that tells of the arrest of a young woman for a crime she may or may not have committed, the subsequent unwanted media attention and her court case.

7pm, Upper Hunter Regional Library, Muswellbrook Branch. For catering purposes please RSVP by 4th March to Dion on 6543 1913.

6 "Australia"

The Scone Film Group presents "Australia" starring Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman. Rated M 7pm, Scone RSL Club, tickets \$7, can be purchased from Serendipity and the Larda in Scone, and Muswellbrook Eyecare.

6 - 29 "Recent Works" by Jean Spokes

Opening Friday 7pm all welcome. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

9 "Sharing the Caring for the Future"

This breakfast is to celebrate International Women's Day and is being by the Upper Hunter Regional Library. Guest speakers include Jan and Sadie, from Carrie's Place in Muswellbrook, and members of the Choir of No More Knocks.

7am, Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, Muswellbrook, \$15. RSVP to Dion on 6543 1913.

10 & 11 "Organic Gems as Adornment: Amber, Coral, Pearls, and others"

A lecture by Mrs Maggie Campbell Pedersen presented by the ADFAS Scone. On the following day come to "Maggie's Roadshow" and bring along your jewellery etc. Bookings required for workshop, \$35 inc morning tea & lunch. Scone Arts and Crafts Hall, Kingdon St. 10th - 6pm for 6:30pm 11th - 9:30am For more details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

13, 20 & 27 Youth Band Competition Heats

Presented by the Singleton Youth Venue and held in celebration of Youth Week.

6:30pm, \$5, drug & alcohol free, Singleton Youth Venue, Pitt St. Singleton. For details call 6571 4687.

13 & 14 Gresford Show

This show has everything including: exhibitions, shows, markets and performances. The Art Show opens on the 12th, 6-8pm.

Gresford Showgrounds, behind the Bowling Club. For the full program visit www.visitnsw.com, selecting Gresford, or call Ian Dent on 4931 7146.

18 "Love the Beast" is screening at Singleton

Starring Eric Bana, this is being presented by Screen Australia's RDSN. It is the true story of Eric's 25 year passion with his first car, a Ford GT Falcon Coupe. 7pm, Majestic Cinemas, 21 Ryan Avenue, Singleton. \$10 single/\$7 each for a group of five or more. For details call 6571 5252.

19 'The Shiralee' preented by the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc

All seniors in the Upper Hunter are invited to a 3 course lunch and screening of the original 1956 production of the film 'The Shiralee' filmed around the Hunter with many shots of the township of Gundy. The world premier of this film was shown at the Scone Cinema in 1957. Aberdeen Bowling Club starting 12noon, tickets available from the Aberdeen Information Centre 6543 8457.

20 St Mark's Aberdeen Autumn Flower Show

There are 27 categories including roses, geraniums and decorative. Lunch at noon.

11am, Aberdeen Bowling Club, New England Highway, Aberdeen. For details contact Peggy Claydon 6543 7296 or Dianna Daniels 6543 7480.

22 Vacy Village Country Carnival

The carnival involves the whole town of Vacy and will be a fun day for all. Includes: camel, pony, donkey and helicopter rides, Jack Russell novice races, open day at the Arts and Craft's Centre, watch as local artist Christine Pyke draws (creates) the raffle prize, craft & food stalls and much more.

10am to 3pm, Vacy. Registrations for Jack Russells by 15th to Carol on 4938 8119. For more details call Dianne Denton 4938 8227, or Glen on 4938 8138.

27 & 28 Gloucester Show

This show will have something for everyone, with side show alley, pavilions of displays and a range of ring events. For more information please call Ann

Plumridge on 6558 2468 or visit www.gloucestershow.org.au

27 & 28 Upper Hunter Regional Show & Expo

This year's displays include: art, photography, handicrafts, needlework, cookery, flowers/plants, produce. There will be a horse show, fireworks, sideshow alley etc. Muswellbrook Showgrounds, Maitland Rd. For more details call 6541 2014 or visit www.upperhuntershow.com.au

28 & 29 Baerami Bush Dance and Campout

Dance to traditional music at the wonderful Baerami Hall on the edge of the Wollemi National Park. Dances will be explained - you don't need a partner. BYO dinner and supper to share. Dancing starts after 7.30pm. Camp at the Hall or nearby accommodation. Leisurely Sunday morning guided bushwalk or bike ride. Bookings appreciated, on 6571 1208. Adults (pre-booked) \$15 Adults (at Door) \$20. Children Free. Bookings and info call Martin or Jill on 6571 1208, visit www.calli.com.au - see News /Events.

30 Youth Week Exhibition

Exhibition runs until the 5th of April. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

April**3 Youth Band Competition Finals**

A Singleton Youth Venue event that promises to be a big night as the winners from 3 heats battle it out. 6:30pm, \$5, drug & alcohol free, Singleton Youth Venue, Pitt St. Singleton. For details call 6571 4687.

3 Opening of "The Paper Trail", "Miniatures XIII", "Signs of Tension" and "Military Artefacts" Exhibitions.

The exhibition runs until the 10th of May. Opening is 6 pm. 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 "Chainsaw Sculpture" by Geoff Hitchcock

This exhibition will run until the 3rd of May. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

14 'Recent Events: Design for International Events', Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Asian Games, Doho 2006, FIFA World Congress, World Youth Day (Stations of the Cross).



This lecture is by Mr Michael Scott Mitchell, a set designer, and is being presented by the ADFAS Scone. 6pm. Scone Arts and Crafts Hall, Kingdon St. For details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

19 Quilt Extravaganza

There will be a huge quilt display and lots of variety markets including quilting supplies. Morning tea and a ploughman's lunch will be available. Proceeds to the Aberdeen Information Centre.

8am to 4pm, St Mark's Hall, Segenhoe St & the Aberdeen Community Hall, New England Hwy, Aberdeen. For more details please call the Aberdeen Information Centre on 6543 8457.



Wild & Wonderful Singleton Public Library

March

Open Actress, Mature Aged required for Film

Local film maker, Michael Winchester, is casting his independent feature film called "Bathing Franky" to be shot later this year in Maitland, Dungog and Newcastle. Michael is looking to cast a woman aged 60 years or over to play the title character in the film. No acting experience is required but the actress does have a substantial role in the film and as such would need to feel comfortable in front of the camera. This will be a paid engagement. Applications close 31st of May. For more details contact Michael on 4931 7120 or email, ozziebites@hunterlink.net.au

Open Call for submissions for the 23rd World Congress on Dance Research being held in Athens

Confirmed professionals are invited to submit proposals for: performances, classes, research reports, lecture-demonstrations, exhibitions/sales, video projections. This will be the largest gathering of dance

experts in the world. Submissions close 30th May. For full details please visit http://www.orchosis-portal.org/cdr/index.php?Itemid=1&option=com_content

Ongoing - "Norville" Artist Retreat

The "Norville" is on a 4000 acre property approximately 25 kms from Murrurundi. Workshops are welcome, accommodation by donation. Rock Dhu, Scotts Creek Rd, Murrurundi. For details visit www.norvilleaustralia.com.au or call Peter on 6546 6175.

6 "Images of the Drip" Competition - entries close.

Five categories: Presentation in Art, Photography, Textiles, Sculpture and Written Word. \$300 cash and prizes for first in each category. The exhibition will be from 3rd April to 10th May.

\$10 entry fee. For details call Helen Harwood on 0438 242 872 or Friday, Saturday or Sunday at Fairview ArtSpace, Mudgee on 02 6372 2850, or visit www.fairviewartspace.com/

9 John Jameson Production Competition-entries close.

Would you like to get your ideas for a short film produced? Just come up with a great 3 minute short film idea with an unexpected ending. John Jameson Productions will produce the 3 winning ideas with a budget of \$20,000 per film. For full details visit www.jamesonwhiskey.com.au/johnjamesonproductions/

13 Next Wave Time Lapse - applications close.

Next Wave will select twelve of Australia's most exciting young video and new media artists to make new work for one of Melbourne's most visible and visited public sites, Federation Square.

For more details visit inside.nextwave.org.au/news/next-wave-time-lapse

22 Pastel workshop with Teresa Byrne

Will be held at the Scone Arts and Crafts. Beginners welcome for information contact Betty Lambley 6543 7160

31 Dungog Film Festival - submissions close

The Dungog Film Festival is dedicated to promoting local film and filmmakers. The festival will be held 28th to 31st of May 2009 at Dungog NSW.

For more details and entry forms visit www.dungogfilmfestival.org/ or call 4992 2420.

April

3 18th Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Vocal division, Piano division, Speech, Drama & Public Speaking Division and the Speech, Drama & Public Speaking

Division - applications close.

For details regarding:
 Instrumental Division contact Mrs Vicki French (gelston@maxnet.net.au).
 Piano Division contact Mrs Denise Collins (denisecollins@internode.on.net).
 Speech, Drama & Public Speaking Division contact Mr Graham Turvey (gturvey@aapt.net.au).
 School Choirs & School Bands Division contact Mrs Suzie Troon and Mrs Alison Murphy (suzietroon@bigpond.com).

4&5 Painting workshops with Joy Cooksey

At the Scone Arts and crafts over the two days, for information contact Betty Lambley 6543 7160.

30 National Youth Self Portrait Prize 2009 - entries close.

For artists 18 to 25 yrs, \$10,000 prize. For full details visit portrait.gov.au or call 02 6102 7000.

30 The William Fletcher Grants 2009

This is an annual grant awarded to outstanding young visual arts students. For full details visit www.williamfletcherfoundation.org.au/grants.htm

For more details visit www.det.nsw.edu.au/eas/acomm/elsa/about.

31 Small Grants for Small Rural Community Program - applications close

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. A small grants program for small rural Australian communities will offer around \$850,000 a year in grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities. Grants up to \$5000 available. For details visit www.frrr.org.au/programsDetail.asp

April

1 Visions Australia - applications close

The Visions Australia program is the Australian Government's national touring exhibitions funding program. For details visit www.arts.gov.au/arts/visions_of_australia

3 Bursaries to attend the Museums Australia National Conference 2009 - applications close

Bursaries are being offered by Museums and Galleries NSW to assist museum volunteers to attend the conference being held in Newcastle 17-21 of May 2009.

For details call Phoebe Arthur, Sector Development Coordinator on 9339 9913 or email phoebea@mgnsw.org.au

Various Australia Council for the Arts

A number of grants are closing throughout April including the New Work - Established - Visual Arts Grants (\$20,000 fixed amount) and New Work - Emerging - Visual Arts Grants (\$10,000 fixed amount). For details call 1800 226 912 or visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au and look under grants.

sheri's bon mot

"Art in any form IS and has been and always will be our universal language."

Penelope Cruz

grants + residencies

March

7 Coal and Allied Community Trust round one - applications close.

The aim of the Trust is to support projects and programs that will create opportunities and foster new ideas that will provide a long lasting benefit to the wider community. For full details visit www.coalandalied.com.au

27 Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program for 2009/2010 - applications close

Program is an initiative of the NSW Government to encourage job opportunities and career advancement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The poster features a navigation menu on the left with items: Home, About us, Find a Gallery, Museum/Heritage/Institution, Find an artist, Find a venue, Find a grant, Find a curator, Projects, and Let us help you. The main content area includes a headline: "Arts Upper Hunter aims to nurture creativity and cultural enrichment across all Upper Hunter communities." Below this is a paragraph of text: "We all through the ability to be the...". At the bottom, there are three circular images: a landscape, a person, and a red exclamation mark. The website address www.artsupperhunter.com.au is at the bottom.



Winner of the Muswellbrook Open prize, Peter Gardiner Bonfire (Paul's First Letter to the Corinthinans) image courtesy of the Muswellbrook Arts Centre.

not to miss

March

Open Register your interest for a visit by the PNAN Youth Arts Festival organisers.

(Play Now Act Now) is a short film, creative writing and graphic design competition that aim to get young people involved in a discussion about the role drugs and alcohol play both in their lives and the wider Australian society, through the creative mediums. Representatives will be visiting the Hunter region in April, and would like to speak to students for approx 10 minutes regarding the festival.

For details call Nic Connaughton, on 9356 1818, or email festivaldirector@pnan.com.au

6 Making Art - Making a Living Workshops

This follows on from the "Art as an Industry" Symposiums held last year. The program cover details associated with the operation and development of galleries, promotion and professional opportunities for artists etc.

Free. To register and choose which sessions you wish to attend contact Arts North West on 6732 4988 or artnsw@northnet.com.au

10 Building Your Audience, People in the Arts Course - registrations close

Being held 24th March. This is a TAFE Accredited Disability Awareness & Access Training.

Accessible Arts Training Room, Walsh Bay, (Sydney). For details call Jane Pollard 9251 6499, ext 3, or visit www.arts.net.au

29 "Portraits in Pastel" - Monthly Workshop

The tutor is Rodney Swansborough.

10am – 5.00pm, Upstairs Art Gallery and Studios, 71 Mayne Street Murrurundi, Cost \$50.00. Art Supply Fee: \$10.00. For more details call 042 777 5707.

April

29 Access to Funding Workshop

Successfully obtaining funds for museums and galleries requires knowledge and creativity. Museums & Galleries NSW presents Access to Funding, an invaluable workshop which delivers the skills and specialist knowledge to make accessing funds a reality.

10am to 4pm, Australian Country Music Hall of Fame, 93 Brisbane St, Tamworth. For more details or to book call Phoebe Arthur on 9339 9913, or visit <http://mgns.org.au/>

Correction - February issue.

The correct website address for the TAFE Arts and Media Short Courses is <http://www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au/artshortcourses>. My apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Contributions to the April 2009 edition of Artsbark closes 21st March 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.

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

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