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MARCH 2010 ISSUE 57

artsbark

editor's desk

Arty Spirits is the name a group in Dungog have come up with to describe themselves on the internet. One of what is probably hundreds of groups of people across the region getting together to 'do' things. This group meet once a month and work on their individual and collective projects, share ideas, do demonstrations, outings and sometimes workshops. They are in the process of setting up a blog space so that they can communicate with each other in between meetings. The nature of these groups varies from those who have a history and are well known, such as the Amateur Theatrical groups, historic societies and so on, to people who have come together through networks of friends and mutual interests. Some are incorporated not for profits with a bank account, insurances and so forth, and some are not formalised at all. What they all have in common is an interest in doing things, sharing with others and often participating publicly within their community.

How to keep track of evolving morphing groups like this is a question that has pre-occupied some people lately, or why would you want to keep track of them? I guess the answer to that is pertinent to Arts Upper Hunter in terms of being to ensure that these groups of people know that we are here, and that we may be able to assist them. Ways of assisting can be in connecting them to other groups or skill bases they may be looking for, avenues for funding, even simple questions about insurance, advertising and promotion. Recently I have been talking to the Singleton Bush Poets for example, and they are looking for someone to help them set up a website, I have been able to put them onto two website designers in the area who may be able to assist.

To help Arts Upper Hunter achieve this effectively, last year we had a project called *Connectivity* which was about collecting data on who is out there,

and what they are doing, then putting this into our database and where appropriate, website. The *Connectivity* project as such has been completed and we now have 59 local artist's profiles on our website and 31 venues listed. However the process of collecting this information continues and will forever! It is fabulous and fascinating. For example did you know that there is a group, The Merriwa Railway Society Inc working to resurrect the old train station site in Merriwa, have a look at their website. <http://merriwarailwaysociety.blogspot.com>.



Kent Buchanon, Charlotte Drake Brockman, Ron Ramsey, and Sandra McMahon at the *Regional Galleries Demystified*.

A project we have running this year is a series of professional development opportunities for visual artists. The aim is to run a number of workshop/ forum days across the region covering different aspects of professional practice. The program was kicked off last Wednesday in Murrurundi with a forum called *Regional Galleries Demystified*. Hosted by Haydon Hall the forum coincided with an exhibition



of 4 local artists, one of whom, Charlotte Drake Brockman was the impetus behind the forum. For the forum we had directors of 4 Regional Galleries come and talk about their galleries but more importantly how they develop their programs and how they work with artists both local and regional. There was a great group and we had plenty of question time and open discussion hosted by Brad Franks from the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre and Charlotte. For more information check out the projects pages on our website.

Finally the 'Shift' play development project is starting in April with a residency by the playwright PP Cranney. Pat will be in Singleton and Muswellbrook from the 19th – 30th April. He will be doing a script writing workshop in both towns and generally hanging out, meeting people and talking about shift work. Anyone keen to meet him and have a chat please contact our office. We are also looking for a car for those two weeks to help him get around, if anyone happens to have one that we might be able to borrow? This would be a great form of sponsorship.

Until next month.

March

5 Sobs and Songs

The launch of the book *The Inconvenient Child*, by author Lindsay Lewis, with Sharyn Killens the inspiration for the book. Cost is \$5. Inc refreshments. 6pm, Muswellbrook Library, 126 Bridge St., Muswellbrook. For details or to book call 6543 1913.

5 Screening of *Bran Nue Dae*

Scone Films presents this film starring: Rockie McKenzie, Jessica Mauboy, Ernie Dingo, Missy Higgins and Geoffrey Rush. Rated PG 7:30pm, Senior Citizen's Centre, Oxford Rd, Scone. Tickets are \$9, and available Serendity, Scone, Muswellbrook Eyecare, or at door.

5 2009 Archibald Prize

Exhibition runs until the 18th April. Maitland Regional Gallery, 230 High St., Maitland Gallery hours Tuesday -Sunday 10am-5pm, closed public holidays. Ph 4934 9859

7 Writers' Festival Lunch

Join them for fine food and two fascinating guest authors; Lucienne Joy and Jan Latta. \$65 per head. Presented by the Gloucester Bookshop. Bookings

essential. 12 noon. Senior Citizens Centre, 30 Hume St, Gloucester. For details & bookings call 6558 1208.

9 Screening of *Dial M for Murder*

Presented by the Museum of Rural Life Inc Aberdeen as part of their *Golden Oldies for Golden Oldies*. Open to seniors living in Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter shires. Donation \$10 includes 3 course lunch. 11:30am Aberdeen Bowling Club. Bookings essential call 6543 7150 or 6543 6267.

5-28 Youth Week Exhibition

Gloucester Gallery, Denison St., Gloucester Open 10am-4pm Friday to Sunday. Contact Leanne 0428 508704 or 02 6558 3157

13 22nd Muswellbrook Open Photographic Award

The Award is an acquisitive prize with the winner receiving \$6,000. Other exhibitions on at the same time include: Muswellbrook Golf Club Centenary Celebration Exhibition, *Wood* – from the Max Watters Collection, and *Dad's in the Picture*. Exhibitions run until 18th April. Opening night 13th at 6pm. Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm ph 6549 3880.

13 Flickerfest 19th International Short Film Festival

There will be 4 sessions on the day, each one with theme; international short films, films with a musical beat, Oscars nominees and winners, and the best of the Australian shorts from the 2010 Flickerfest. Dungog Cinema, 6 Brown St, Dungog. For details & times call 4995 9399 or visit www.agog.net.au

19 Rediscovered: An Archaeology of the Present

This is an exhibition of contemporary sculpture. Runs until the 26th April. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm. For details call 4991 6619 or visit www.crag.net.au

20 SAMS Double Bill at the Civic Centre Singleton

Piano virtuoso *Gerard Willems* will play Schumann's 'Carnaval' also Beethoven and Gershwin. The *Lake Macquarie Trio* will perform Dvorak's 'Dumky' and Haydn's 'Gypsy'. 7pm, Civic Centre, Singleton. Tickets at Video Ezy, John St., Singleton.

19&20 120th Annual Upper Hunter Show

Pavilion classes include School and Open Handicraft; Photography; Needlework; Cookery; Cake Decorating; Horticulture; Agriculture; and of course the Art section Entries close Wed. 10th March, Muswellbrook Show Ground. For details call Jenny Webster on 6541 201.

22 Screening of *An American In Paris*

This movie starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron is being presented by the Dungog Shire Council to celebrate *Seniors Week*. This is a free event and includes morning tea. Booking essential by 18th. 9:30am, Dungog James Theatre. 6 James St, Dungog. For details and booking please call Tracy Lowrey of the Dungog Shire council on 4995 7777.

23 Screening of *His Royal Highness*

Australia's first musical comedy motion picture of 1932. Written, produced and starring George Wallace. This film will be screened in its original form. Presented by The Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life Inc (Aberdeen) to celebrate *Seniors Week*. Donation of \$10 includes 3 course lunch. 11:30am Aberdeen Bowling Club, New England Highway, Aberdeen. Booking essential by 20th, call 6543 7150 or 6543 6267.

28 Vacy Village Country Carnival

A community event with activities to suit all the family and includes; rides (camel, pony, donkey, & helicopter), music (various groups), market stalls, art display and artists creating works on the day, and much more. 10am to 3pm, Vacy Sportsground, Gresford Road, Vacy. For more details call Dianne on 4938 8227.

31 Exhibitions by Jean Buettel and Marie Laurie

The 20/20 Retrospective exhibition is by artist Jean Buettel and the exhibition of lacework by Marie Laurie who will also launch the book she wrote with Anne Meldrum; "The Borris Lace Collection, Irish Needle Lace". Exhibitions run to 26th April. Opening Night 31st, 6:30 to 8pm. Gloucester Gallery, Denison St., Gloucester. Open 10am -4pm Fri, Sat, Sun. For details please call Leanne 0428 508704 or 02 6558 3157

April**10&11 A Little Bit of Italy in Broke**

An Italian festival of food, wine and music. Various venues around the Broke Fordwich Wine Region. For details visit www.brokefordwich.com.au

13 "Sitting Down – a Visual History of the Chair"

A lecture by Mr Michael Bogle MA, MSc., 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.

15 The Quilters Guru - Tita Leach

Presented by the Museum of Rural Life Inc (Aberdeen). Tita will exhibit a large collection of recent quilts and

give a talk on her experiences. Inc a 3 course dinner. 7pm, Aberdeen Bowling Club Auditorium, New England Hwy, Aberdeen. Donation \$25. Booking essential by 5th on 6543 7150 or 6543 6267.

17&18 Baerami Bush Dance & Campout

Traditional acoustic music played by Waltzing Jack. Dances are explained, beginners welcome. For all the details visit www.calli.com.au and look under news/ events for brochure or call 6571 1208.

18 Quilt Extravaganza

Displays of quilts and market stalls. 8:30am to 2:30pm. St Marks Hall, and the grounds of the Aberdeen Information Centre, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen. \$2 entry. For details call 6543 8457.

23 Hannah Kay - *Weightlessness, a survey 2003 - 2010, Anzac Day Exhibition and Worlds Apart - Gutt, McIntosh & Perrin*

Exhibitions runs until 6th May. Opening night 6pm Friday 23rd April. Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 1pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm ph 6549 3880.



Justin, Washpools 2009, digital output print, image courtesy of the artist, one of the works from the exhibition Dad's in the Picture. Muswellbrook Reg Art Centre

March**Now Open - "Page Turner" Short Story Competition**

Turning the Pages, in conjunction with Upper Hunter Waterkeepers Alliance is holding this competition which has the theme "Water". Word length under 21 yrs - up to 1000 words, over 21 yrs up - to 2000 words. For all the details visit www.turningthepages.com.au Entries close 30th June.



1&2 Auditions for Annie

Muswellbrook Amateur Theatre Society (MATS) in conjunction with the Muswellbrook Shire Band are presenting this musical. Muswellbrook Primary School, Rogers St. 1st - 5-8pm, 2nd 7-9pm. Please call Rachel-Ann Wilcher, producer, on 6543 2667 for details.

10 Head on Portrait Prize – entries close

Total prize is \$45,000. For details visit www.headon.com.au/content/head-portrait-prize

12 Museum and Galleries NSW 2010 Mentorship Program – applications close

The Mentorship Program for museums and galleries is open to paid staff from regional museums and galleries in NSW and is suitable for mid-level or emerging personnel. For details call Steve Miller on 1800 114 311 or visit <http://mgns.org.au/>.

16 Inaugural Australian Bonafide History Awards 2010 – nominations close

The aim of the awards, announced by the Hunter Heritage Network, is to celebrate outstanding scholarship and service to Australian history and heritage in the Hunter Region, and at the same time inspire younger people to get involved in historical research and documentation of local heritage. Various categories. For all the details visit <http://hunterheritagenetwork.org/>

26 Regional Arts Development Officer and CEO for Arts Northern Rivers - applications close

Arts NR is seeking an experienced CEO/RADO to implement its arts and creative industries development policies. The officer must have demonstrated experience in arts development and management, and a proven track record in successful funding submissions. For all the details please visit www.artsnorthernrivers.com.au

26 Regional Arts Australia, Volunteer Awards - nominations close

These awards are to recognise, reward, and encourage regionally-based artists and cultural volunteers who make a substantial contribution to the arts in regional communities in Australia. For details visit www.regionalarts.com.au or call 08 8444 0428

31 Crack Theatre Festival - applications close

The organisers are seeking theatre and performing artists to present performances, workshops, artist and project presentations, demonstrations, panels, forums. For details visit <http://cracktheatrefestival.com:80/>

31 Critical Animals - proposals close

Critical Animals is the creative research arm of *This is Not Art Festival*, held each October in Newcastle. They are seeking proposals for papers, panels, presentations, performances, exhibits, installations and happenings. For details visit www.criticalanimals.org or www.thisisnotart.org



A meeting of some of the members of Arty Spirits. Photo by member Jenny.

March

11 Transmission Support Grants - apps close

The Community Broadcasting Foundation are offering the following grants subsidise community radio stations for transmission costs in the following: Equipment, Operation Subsidy and Special Projects. Each grant has its own guidelines and conditions so please visit www.cbf.com.au/grantfinder_tran.asp#1

April

1 Visions Australia - applications close

This is the Australian Government's national touring exhibitions funding program, and funding is available

Artsbark is the 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.

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from both development and touring. For details visit www.arts.gov.au:80/arts/visions_of_australia

10 Curator Development Initiative – apps close

The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) provides the opportunity for emerging and mid-career curators to gain mentored placements within a gallery, art institution or university. For details visit www.visualarts.net.au look under news.

16 Museum & Galleries, Volunteer Initiated Museum (VIM) Grant Program, Small Grants – applications close

Grants of up to \$1,500 available. For details call 9339 9913 or visit mgns.w.org.au/grants/museum_grants/

For more grants and artist opportunities please visit www.artsupperhunter.com.au

sheri's bon mot

"Forget about what you are doing then a work of art may happen"

Andrew Wyeth

March

2 Youth Creative Writing Workshops

This is a series of 5 workshops held from 3:30 to 5:30pm on Tuesdays, and then full day workshop in the Easter holidays. Young people 10-14 yrs. They can learn about character, narrative, clarity of writing, poetry and language from the HWC's director Brian Joyce.

Hunter Writers Centre, 90 Hunter Street Newcastle. Cost \$20 a workshop, \$50 for the full day or \$150 for the whole term. To book please call 49263485.

6 Chamber Music Workshop for Strings

9:30 am to 9pm. Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music. 8 Sowerby St, Muswellbrook. For details please call 6541 4888.

12 Kids Printmaking Workshop

Includes all artist quality inks and papers. \$20.

1pm Shiloh Art Studio Events, 303 Dungog Rd, Martins Creek. For details please call 4938 8142. Bookings essential.

20 Adults Printmaking Workshop

Explore collograph. \$80 includes all artist quality materials, inks and papers. Morning tea and afternoon tea provided, BYO lunch. Bookings essential.

Shiloh Art Studio Events, 303 Dungog Rd, Martins Creek call 4938 8142. Bookings essential.

20 Linocut Printing Workshop with Samantha Powell

A great introduction, cost \$80 plus materials.

10am -4pm, Newcastle Printmakers Workshop, 27 Popran Rd, Adamstown. For details and to book call Samantha on 02 4969 3095 or 0422 362 924

2&26 Arts Activated National Conference

The second Accessible Arts conference aimed at bringing together those passionate about the arts and disability sector to come together. For full program see www.aarts.net.au Registrations close 15th.

27&28 Watercolour Workshop with Madeleine Szymanski

Scone Arts & Crafts Inc, Kingdon St. Scone. For enquiries/bookings call Gail on 6545 9786, evenings.

27 Photographic Conservation Forum & Workshop with Margaret Juraszek

Presented by Orana Arts and the Coolah District Development Group. 10am-3pm Coolah Youth and Community Centre.

For details please call Prue Thompson 6377 1373 or randallthompson@harboursat.com.au

March

21 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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