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MAY 2009 ISSUE 47

artsbark

editor's desk

It is very satisfying to be able to report that all those things we said were happening last month have actually happened! The *Portraits of Place*, filmmaking workshops took place in Dungog and Gloucester, as a result of which we have two very 'place specific' films and two groups of highly enthused, motivated and now skilled, budding film makers. If you see people peering at you intensely or asking weird questions be warned they might be sizing you up for a role! There will be a public viewing of the films made, which will be advertised in the local papers and on our website. The groups are keen to formalize their status, to obtain equipment, and set up a register of interested people with skills etc... to be able to assist one another in progressing and making more films. Anyone interested in joining these groups please contact us and we will point you in the right direction. I also did a brief introduction to film making for year 10-12 students at the Muswellbrook High School and am happy to do elsewhere if there is interest.

The *Connectivity* project is under way and Clare has started collecting and connecting people. Forms are being sent out by email and through the post, focusing on venues. If you receive one of these we would greatly appreciate it if you could respond ASAP. Further information about this project is on the website www.artsupperhunter.com.au - under projects.

On our seasonal calendar we are moving into drama. I suspect this has something to do with the onset of cooler weather and a desire to stay indoors. All of the dramatic society productions within the Hunter region have fans and a large following. The groups are almost at the point of, resisting advertising, because they are assured of being 'booked out'. This is not good for those who are new to the area but all I can suggest is get in early and book your tickets.

Muswellbrook Ceramics Group with the assistance of Scone Ceramics Group held a very successful 'raku' firing at Muswellbrook Pothouse on the 18th April. A considerable number of handbuilt and thrown works with a variety of

glaze and postfiring techniques were produced. The rapid firing process was a winner with the public. The day was planned to rekindle interest in ceramics as an artform in the region, and attracted good media interest as well as (hopefully!) new members to the potters ranks. The Muswellbrook Pot House is a fantastic asset with great equipment and a long and prosperous history.



Jen, Brad and Jo at one of the *Portraits of Place* filmmaking workshops. Photo courtesy of Anne Fisher.

There are also a number of exciting projects getting underway as a result of receiving CASP funding. The Singleton Amateur Musical Society is hosting the Newcastle Festival Opera in May. In Scone and Dungog there are series of workshops across a range of media being run through the Scone Arts and Crafts and the Dungog Arts Society. The Singleton Youth Venue is running a series of comedy/drama and improvisation workshops that will culminate in a performance. The Singleton Library is offering workshops to encourage teenagers to 'Write' and hope that a young writers group may form. The Dungog Arts Society are also hosting a touring ensemble who make music for animation and film,



they will be holding a workshop and doing a performance. Later in the year the Gloucester Gallery is hosting an 'Art Trail'. This is a self guided trail that enables the public to visit local artists in their studios and will also include local businesses promoting local artists with window displays. We congratulate all those who received funding. The process is time consuming and laborious, however it is worth it as you not only receive money but often pick up skills along the way. A good application usually reflects a well thought through project.

We would also like to promote the band 'Set the Skies Ablaze' with the launch of new EP "While The City Sleeps...", and forth coming tour (see events). The band has recently moved to Newcastle from Muswellbrook and last year participated in a recording project funded through the Artstart program. The Artstart program for this year is 'Creative Development Retreats'. These retreats are for young people aged 12-24 living across the Hunter. They offer creative development opportunities for young people and will include a combination of structured workshops delivered by industry professionals and unstructured creative development time. Anyone interested needs to fill in an expression of interest form and return by the 8th May. Rebecca will be processing and determining which workshops are on when and notifying everyone. The selection process is not competitive and you do not need to have experience to apply, the purpose of the Expressions of Interest is to determine what type of workshops people are interested in and enable us to organize tutors, numbers and places. So if you haven't got your interest registered with Rebecca please contact here on 0428568291 or email hunterartstart@live.com.au.

May

events + festivals

- 1 Bush Poet Evening**
A fun filled evening of poetry and music, fun and frivolity, soup and damper, tea and coffee provided. 6pm open for seating & soup, performance at 7pm. Memorial Hall, Ogilvie Street, Denman. Tickets are \$25 and available by calling 0427 472290 9am to 5pm. BYO drinks and nibbles.
- 3 "The Paper Trail", "Miniatures XIII", "Signs of Tension" and "Military Artefacts" Exhibitions.**
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.
- 1-17 Scone Horse Festival**
A huge program of events and activities including parade, busking competition, fete etc. For details please visit www.horsecapital.com.au or call the Scone Information Centre on 6545 1526.

1-3 "Miss Saigon"

Opera Hunter presents this musical by Allan Boublil & Claude-Michel Schonberg, which tells the tragic tale of a doomed romance involving an Asian woman abandoned by her American lover. Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, ph 4993 4100. It is also on at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre on 8th to 17th May, tickets can be purchased from lower Hunter branches of Commonwealth Bank.

2 Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair

A great day out with lots of wonderful food, wine and entertainment. 11am to 4pm, Ogilvie St, Denman. For details call 0417 439 776 or visit www.visitdenman.com.au

2 Screening of "Gran Torino"

Scone Film Group presents this film starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. Rated M, 116 minutes. 7pm, Scone Senior Citizen Centre, Oxford St. Scone. Tickets \$7, available from The Larda and Serendipity. Drinks and snacks available.

3 'Erin Trio'- an afternoon of Irish Music

An afternoon of traditional Irish music in the Chapel, with the 'Erin Trio' (Bernadette Lannen - voice & bodhran; Nate Downie - fiddle; and Andrew Goodwin - guitar). This concert will celebrate the Irish heritage of the founding Sisters. 2pm, Sisters of Mercy Convent Chapel, 30 Queen Street, Singleton. Tickets (includes afternoon tea): \$25 adults, \$20 concession, \$5 school students. To book call 6572 2398 or visit www.sacredspaces.org.au

7-9, 13-16 "Caught in the Net"

This production of Ray Cooney's comedy is being presented by the Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society Inc in association with Dominie P/L. 7:30pm, Muswellbrook Workers Club, Sydney St. Tickets adult \$15, con \$10 and available from the club on 6543 2011.

8 "Hide" by Bridget Nicholson

"Hide" is an installation of three dimensional felt works. The official opening will take place on the 9th May at 4pm. The exhibition runs until 31st May. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

8 Scone Arts & Crafts Inc 2009 Members' Exhibition & Sale, and The Scone Horse Festival Photographic Competition

Guest speaker is Bridget Nicholson. The exhibition runs until the 17th, and will be open daily. The Opening

6pm, Scone Arts and Crafts, 63 Kingdon St Scone. For more details please call Scott Cooper on 0427 101 697. Markets stalls and BBQ will be available from 8am on Saturday 9th for the Horse Week Parade.

8 **Opening of "The Museum Effect" Exhibition**

As part of the collaborative project, Hunter Art 2: Collecting and Exhibiting Cultures between Lake Macquarie, Newcastle & Maitland Regional Galleries, this exhibition examines regional galleries in the 21st century and the different professional approaches to exhibition practice. Runs to 28th June. Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, First Street, Booragul, Tue to Sundays, 10am to 5pm. Free entry. For details call 4965 8260.

9, 13-16, 22-23, 28-30 **"Play On"**

This play by Rick Abbott is being presented by the Scone Community Amateur Dramatic Society. (SCADS) 9th - Opening Night, there will be a champagne supper after show, tickets \$30.

24th - Matinee 2pm.

8pm. Old Court Theatre, Kingdon St, Scone. Tickets adult \$20, child \$10, available from Halletts Solicitors, Liverpool St. For enquires call Kate Mailer 6545 1933 or Gillie Hayes on 6545 2064.

12 **"What does it take to be an Australian official war artist? "**

A lecture by Ms Lola Wilkins, Head of Art at the Australian War Museum presented by the ADFAS Scone.

6 for 6:30 pm, St Lukes Hall, Liverpool St, Scone. For more details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

14 **Live Music For Film**

The Sunwrae Ensemble from Melbourne is visiting Dungog as part of their national tour. Accompanied by stunning projections, this nine piece ensemble captivates audiences with its lush cinematic music and spectacular improvisations.

7pm, James Theatre, Dungog. Tickets adult \$25, con \$10, students \$5 and available from the Information Centre. For more details please call Helen 4995 9324.

15 & 16 **Gloucester Shakespeare On Avon Festival**

This year's performance is *Twelfth Night*, and the festival includes Saturday markets featuring medieval jousting, dancing & stall, plus "The Feast" is being served both evenings.

Friday & Saturday evenings, with a Saturday matinee.

Various ticket prices. For details call the Gloucester Information Centre on 6558 1408 or visit www.gloucester.org.au and select "events".

15 **Set the Skies Ablaze at Singleton**

This metal band is touring our region which also marks the release of their new EP, "*While The City Sleeps...*"

4pm, Singleton Youth Venue, Pitt St, Singleton. All ages, \$5 tickets at the door.

Set The Skies Ablaze

Photo courtesy of
Dave Budeen.



15 **Opening of "Favourite Object" and "Unseen Works from the Collections" Exhibitions.**

These exhibitions runs until the 21st of June.

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.

16 **"Greetings From Lorn"**

This exhibition celebrates the mail and runs until the 14th June.

Lorn Gallery, 17 Belmore Rd, Lorn. Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. For details call 4933 2533.

16 **Set the Skies Ablaze at Scone**

The 3rd show in the band's tour of the region.

6pm, Scone Youth Centre, under 18ys. \$5, tickets at the door.

17-20 **Museums Australia National Conference**

The 2009 Museums Australia conference wants to turn "How on earth did you get there?" into "That's how we can do it." With the four sub themes Working Together, Working Hard, Working Differently and Working New. Newcastle City Hall, 290 King St. Cost vary. For more details call 4973 6573 or visit www.ma2009.com.au

23 **Grand Variety Concert**

The Murrurundi Shire War & Services Honour Roll Committee presents this concert of local and visiting artists, with funds raised going to the Murrurundi Military Museum.

7pm, Murrurundi RSL Hall, Mayne St Murrurundi.

Tickets \$15, pen/con \$10, child inc high school \$5.

For reservations call CTC 6546 6440. Any one needing transport within Mdi or for further queries, please call Phillip Mitchell on 6546 6142.

23 **Newcastle Festival Opera In Concert**

The NFO will perform highlights from operas

including: "*The Marriage of Figaro*", "*Don Giovanni*",

"*The Magic Flute*", "*The Merry Widow*" and many more.



The performers include Ghillian Sullivan, Chris Allen, Kathryn Dries, Anthony Cavaiola, and will be accompanied by a 10 piece orchestra. This event is supported by the CASP of Regional Arts NSW with funding from the NSW Government through Arts NSW. 7:30pm, Singleton Youth Venue, Pitt St Singleton, tickets adult \$30, con\$25, child \$10, and available from Video Ezy, 129 John St, ph 6571 2008.

25-31 Library and Information Week 2009

The Upper Hunter Regional Library has a week of activities including a National Simultaneous Story Time in all branches on 27th May at 11am. For all the details call into your local branch or visit www.uhrl.nsw.gov.au

28-31 Dungog Film Festival

This festival will feature more than 24 programs screened in 2 venues. It will also feature "In The Raw" (live script readings) and Industry Seminars. There is a range of passes available, bookings being taken. For more information call 8299 0707 or visit www.dungogfilmfestival.org

28-31 "The Trial" and "Metamorphosis"

Presented by the Hunter TAFE Performing Arts, and by Franz Kafka, adapted by Steven Berkoff. 28, 29 & 30th 7:30pm, 30th 2pm, 31st 5pm. Tickets \$22, con \$18, available Ticketek. Playhouse, Hunter St, Newcastle.

June

6 Opening of "What we see and what we feel" Exhibition by Tim Mullaney.

Tim has been a resident of the Stroud area for 31 years and said he is still inspired by the region's beauty, and the variation through the change of seasons. The exhibition runs until 28th. Opening 6pm. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

6 Benefit Gig

Performing will be popular 80's band, *The Reels* with local jazz identities Matt Crane and Paul McNamarr. This event is part of weekend activities organised by NTDG, for details call Fran Crane on 4992 1067. 7:30p, Dungog RSL, 100 Lord St. Tickets \$25 at door.

12-27 "Beauty & The Beast"

Singleton Theatrical Society Inc presents this Disney classic. 12, 13, 19, 20, 23, 26 & 27th 7:30pm, 14, 21 & 27th 2pm. Singleton Civic Centre. Queen St. Tickets: adult \$22, con \$16, family (2 adult, 2 children) \$65.00, available

from Video Ezy, 129 John St, ph 6571 2008. For more details visit www.singletontheatrical.com.au

23 "The Delight of All Persons of Reputation and Taste" Vauxhall Gardens (1661-1859)

A lecture by Mr David E. Coke, NADFAS 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.

26 "NSW 2008 Indigenous Art Prize Winners", "Naidoc Week Group Show" and "Maryanne McKinnon Kidd" Exhibitions.

The exhibitions run until the 9th of August. The 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.



A screen from "Jest Call me Cowboy" by the Moonan Mummies. Photo supplied by Marion McLoughlin

May

10 "Greeting From Lorn"

This exhibition celebrates the "mail". All mediums including: painting, sculpture, printmaking, textile arts, ceramics etc and also interpretations eg: letters, postcards, letterboxes, envelopes, stamps, house numbers etc are welcome. For more information and entry forms contact Gallery Director, Kathy Dowling on 4933 2533.

31 Actress, Mature Aged required for Film - applications close

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. This will be a paid engagement. For more details contact Michael on 4931 7120 or email, ozziebites@hunterlink.net.au

June

16 **Pix From The Stix - entries close**

A photographic competition with two sections: Junior - up to 18 yrs, and Senior - 19 and over, and various genre categories. All photos must be of the Gloucester Shire and its culture.

Entry fee, \$15 seniors & \$5 juniors per entry. Forms available from the Gloucester Visitor's Information Centre and the Gloucester Gallery. For more details call Chris on 65582760.

26 **Keddies Pastoral Photographic Prize - entries close**

This inaugural prize has a prize pool of \$10,000. There is Open and Local sections, with People Choice awards in both sections. Theme is "water" - in black and white. For all details please visit <http://www.murrurundiphotographicprize.com.au/>

26 **Singleton Art Prize - entries close**

There is a \$10,000 prize pool. The opening night is the 17th July. Application forms will be available mid May from Brian Ellis on 0408 60 0096. Committee seeking sponsors as well, please call Brian if you are interested.

The guidelines and applications forms for the 2010 Arts Funding Program will be available for download by the close of business. The close date for applications is the 6th July.

15 **Serial Space Residency - applications close**

Serial Space, Chippendale an artist run gallery and performance site focusing on inter-disciplinary and collaborative work. The residency is for 2 weeks between June and October. For full details and an application form visit www.serialspace.org/

15 **The Marketing Grant for NSW Artists applications close**

The aim is to assist professional visual artists and craft people in NSW to effectively promote their work. Initiated by NAVA. For details www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/marketing

June

5 **Community Heritage Grants applications close**

This grant program aims to preserve and provide access to nationally significant, Australian cultural heritage material held by community groups across the country. Grants up to \$15,000. For details call 02 6262 1147 or visit www.nla.gov.au:80/chg/

sheri's bon mot

*"every man mistakes the limits of his vision
for the limits of the world"*

Arthur Shopenhauer

May

Australian Council for the Arts - applications close May and June

The Australia Council For The Arts has 28 grants closing within May and June, covering a broad range of art forms, for both organisations and individuals, with varying amounts. For full details visit <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants> and use the Grant Finder.

15 **Arts NSW's 2010 Arts Funding Program will open.**



Muswellbrook Potters "raku" day. Photo by Mark Southcombe, Muswellbrook.

May

19 **AbaF Artist Business Workshop**

This workshop is to give professional artists a chance to strengthen their business skills and build a sustainable art practise. Andrew Gaynor will present this workshop, organised by Arts North West. 9am to 5pm, Mazda Foundation Theatre, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale. For enquires and



booking contact Arts North West on 6732 4988, or visit www.artsnw.com.au

June

2 Workplace Policies Workshop

This workshop is presented by Office of Industrial Relations and this intensive works helps employers and managers plan, write and apply workable policies to suit their individual workplaces.

9am-1pm, Cessnock Ex-Services Club, 201 Vincent St, Cessnock. \$99. For details call 131628, or visit www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au

14 Sticky Tape Sculpture Workshop with Leanne Barrett

This workshop is being presented by the Dungog Arts Society. This will be a fun day and everyone will finish at least one sculpture on the day.

10am to 3pm, Dungog Day Care Centre, Hospital Rd, Dungog. Fee \$50, or \$25 for members, students and pensioners, materials \$5. For details or to book call Wendy Graham 4992 1637, Jan Samson 4992 3233 or Pat Staker 4992 3304.

20&21 Miniatures/Watercolour workshop with Madeleine Szymanski

This is a two day workshop being held at the Scone Arts and Crafts, Kingdon St, Scone. For details call Betty Lambley on 6543 7160, limited spaces available.



Participants at Muswellbrook Potters' raku day. Photo by Mark Southcombe, Muswellbrook.

Seckou Keita Quintet available to tour our region in January 2010

Hailing from Senegal, Italy, Egypt and The Gambia, the band is quickly becoming a real international treasure having done more than 300 performances across 20 countries. Seckou Keita leads the quintet with his experimental tunings and virtuoso kora playing (a West African stringed instrument likened to the harp or the lute), details at www.seckoukeita.com They are seeking venues with seating capacity between 400 & 1000. For details contact Chélima Fadé on + 44 115 845 0353 (UK) or email chelima@sky.com

On Board: Serving on the board of an arts organisation.

"On Board" is a short guide to the essentials of arts governance and one of the Australia Council's most requested publications. Author David Fishel has revised and updated the publication, which is now available online: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/45874/On_Board_Second_edition.pdf

www.australianmusiccentre.com.au

This is the new website for the Australian Music Centre. The site uses a unique cataloguing system which cross-references material to provide contextualised information in new ways. Visitors can quickly discover connections between creators, works, influences, products, performances, events, commentary and critical discourse to gain a much richer picture of the Australian music landscape than has been available before.

Contributions to the June 2009 edition of Artsbark closes 21st May 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.

not to miss

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

phone Dungog (02) 4992 1033
Scone (02) 6545 9727

eml rado@artsupperhunter.com.au
or admin@artsupperhunter.com.au

PO Box 48, Dungog, NSW 2420

