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MAY 2008 ISSUE 35

# artsbark

## editor's desk

Its weather for ducks, although I am having trouble explaining this to my dog, who doesn't see why we shouldn't spend the day walking in the rain, perhaps she should become a duck! Hopefully the rain will abate for King of the Ranges, the three day horsemanship event (May 2, 3 and 4) held in Murrurundi each year. This is a great opportunity to witness the prowess of both beasts and burdens. The horse will continue to be celebrated throughout May with the Scone Horse Festival. The parade on the 10th of May is reported to be the highlight of the year and the Scone Cup on the 23rd an opportunity for special celebration in light of the trauma inflicted by the Equine Influenza. As we slide into winter there is a great mix of inside and outside activities on offer throughout the region, see events section.

The horse holds a special place in the history of Colonial Australia and particularly in the Upper Hunter, so it seems timely that a collection of history is being undertaken by the Upper Hunter Heritage Advisory Committee. This is a fairly recent committee of 12 residents from the Upper Hunter Shire. Their purpose is to increase awareness and knowledge of local heritage places. They can provide assistance and support to the community in relation to the documentation of these places and where appropriate, conservation. To this end they have initiated an historic mapping project. They are asking anyone who may have historic maps and/or plans to take them into an Upper Hunter Council Office where they may be scanned or photographed. This is the start of what I think, will turn into a wonderful modelling of space and time, a 3 dimensional drawing of the history of the area. Stories and other information are welcome. You can scribble notes and leave them with Council or leave your contact details and someone from the committee will be in touch. There is the hope that this may develop into a major public exhibition, so find what you can.

Museum mania continues with the opening in April of *Gone to War* at the Gloucester Gallery. This is a fantastic exhibition, and that is from someone who is hesitant about war memorabilia. The exhibition uses a vast collection of

objects, and images to tell the story of life, not just for those who went to war but for those behind. It is the intricacy of the detail, that is so alluring. The show continues until the 11th May so don't dilly dally. This is the first time that the historic society has put together a specific exhibition. Under the direction of Michael Meldrum (volunteer curator from Taree) they have done a wonderful job and we hope they may continue to present exhibitions. The Gloucester Historic Society is also seeking funding for an extension to their premises. Their existing premises, the old Council Chambers, have reached capacity and the extension would enable the group to have space to actually work on their collection, provide workshops, and potentially training and work experience opportunities for the younger generation. The connection between history and the future is a very important one and we fully support their endeavours to ensure this connection may grow and prosper.



Some of the group at the Merriwa artists' talk. Artists in front row from left Sonja Karl, Leanne Thompson, Sam Newstead and Liz O'Reilly.



The diversity of career options for school leavers is overwhelming. To assist students still at school in determining what they would like to do the Upper Hunter Council is hosting a Careers Expo. This will take place on Friday the 9th May at the Scone High School Hall. The focus will be on what is available both in employment and education, in the local area. Arts Upper Hunter will be there together with the Upper Hunter Conservatorium, we will provide information and ideas to those with an interest in pursuing careers in the arts. For the more mature who still deem themselves students in life there is what is being called 'Art as an Industry' symposium in Quirindi on May 16th. This is one of a series which have been held throughout the New England North West Region. The day is designed to enable artists and creative producers to come together with gallery owners and others who make the 'arts' their business. Two artists from Murrurundi, Hanna Kay and Rodney Swansborough, will be talking about their work. The keynote speaker is Janet Clayton, Director of Wilson Street Gallery based in Newtown, Sydney. See listings for further information.

There has been considerable activity in the music sector recently with the Upper Hunter and Kia-Ora music camp taking place in April. The three day camp culminated in a 4hour music extravaganza at the Scone High School. The Music camp is the initiative of the Kia-Ora Stud, it has been running for 7 years and student participation numbers keep increasing. A new activity this year was improvised drama where students were given a phrase and/or scenario to become on the spot, it was hilarious and clearly demonstration the quick wit and agility of the young mind! A special treat this year was the presence of Mr Ananda Krishnan the stud owner. Mr Krishnan is a Malaysian who attended Melbourne University in Australia, Harvard University in USA and has gone on to be one of the world's leading businessmen. His support and value of the arts and community involvement is commendable and sets an example to other businesses and governments alike.

Other big news for music aficionados is the Xstrata Power of Music Program. This is a new program orchestrated by Mark Walton OAM who as a leading clarinet and saxophone performer has gone on to teach, write music and most importantly for us set up outreach programs for music to regional areas in both Australia and New Zealand. In 2007 The Regional Music Mentoring Program – Music Hub was funded under The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) this program was set up to develop networks for music teachers in regional areas. The vision was to "develop and mentor a dedicated and high calibre music teaching network in regional and remote NSW that fosters creative community music making which provides professional development and support for both teacher and student." It aims are five-fold: to establish music teachers in areas that have identified a need, create a support network, offer professional development, maintain high levels of community participation and provide opportunities for

talented musicians to advance. (reference [www.oranaarts.com](http://www.oranaarts.com)). Moving on from this Mark has worked with the Upper Hunter Conservatorium to put together a two year program to enhance existing and set up new school instrumental programs across seven schools in the Upper Hunter Region. Financial support from Xstrata has enabled the program to go ahead. It includes the provision for musical instruments and setup costs for schools, staffing and will also feature an annual music teachers conference, to be held in the area, this year Denman may be the host. The program will also put on an annual festival to show case student prowess.

It was a tough job for the CASP assessment panels this year. Overall there were 139 successful projects funded statewide. AUH received applications for twice the amount of money available, so congratulations to those who were successful. For those who weren't, please feel free to make an appointment with Bridget to discuss potential other options for pursuing your projects. The successful projects were:  
 Broke Fordwich Tourism Association Inc for Folk in Broke Spectrum of Music.  
 Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod - la Serva Padrona (opera).  
 Muswellbrook Shire Arts Council - Sculpture Workshop Weekend at Ellammarra Homestead,  
 Scone Arts and Craft Inc - Winter Painting Workshops 2008.  
 Singleton Public Library - Away With Words.  
 Upper Hunter Regional Library - Going Potty in the Hunter,  
 Upper Hunter Regional Library - Denman: a moment in time.,  
 Upper Hunter Shire Council - Mime Festival Fun,  
 Warrah Writers - Memoir Workshop.  
 For more details please visit Regional Arts NSW's website [www.regionalartsnsw.com.au](http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au) select news.

## May

### 1-25 Adam Cullen: Pig Dogs & Rednecks

Adam Cullen is a unique figure in contemporary Australian art, a larger than life artist whose abrasive yet expressive paintings are a confronting and incisive view of contemporary life. Michael Reid at Murrurundi, Boyd St. Friday to Sunday 11-5pm or call 6546 6767.

### 1-11 "Gloucester Gone to War"

An exhibition of war memorabilia from the Boer War to World War II, which includes: historical photographers, medals, audio visual displays, flags, maps and uniforms. Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call Barbara Stuart 6588 1080.

### 3 Upper Hunter Food and Wine Festival

The Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair attracts the best of the region's gourmet food producers, olive

growers and vineyards. Live music, taste testing, and a fantastic atmosphere set the scene for a refreshing day out.

Ogilvie Street, Denman. 11am-4pm, for details call Rod on 6547 2590.

#### 4 **Operatic Gala with Peta Blyth and Ensemble**

A delightful afternoon of music selections from Opera, Operetta and musicals.

School of Arts Merriwa, 2pm. Cost \$30, \$20 concession Includes afternoon tea. For details and tickets call Edith Shipway on 6548 7201.

#### 8-17 **"Run for your Wife"**

Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society (MATS) is performing this favourite comedy by Ray Cooney.

Dates 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17 Muswellbrook Workers Club. Tickets \$15 from Inspirational Imaging in Muswellbrook.

#### 10-31 **"A Bride in the Hand"**

Scone (Amateur Theatrical Society) SCADS, presents this play by Alison Lanyon. A comedy about a woman getting married for the second time.

Dates: 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 25(matinee), 29, 30 & 31. Tickets \$20, from Country on Kelly, Kelly Street, Scone.

#### 10 **Ian Jones in Off the Wall**

Creations from clay based on decomposed granite are the foundations for Jones' latest exhibition. Jones has been a full time potter for over 35 years and operates from a studio and gallery in Gundaroo.

Cudgegong Gallery, 102 Herbert St, Gulgong. Thursday to Monday 10.00am-5.30pm. For details call 6374 1630

#### 11 **Bruce Mathiske's Sizzling Strings Concert**

This concert combines the talents of Bruce Mathiske, renowned guitarist, and the Aria Ward winner Chris Duncan on fiddle.

Sisters of Mercy Convent Chapel, Queen St, Singleton. 2pm. Tickets \$25 adults, \$20 concession, \$15 kids and available from Video Ezy, Singleton or at the door from 1:30pm.

#### 11 **Classical Vibes - Nick Parnell in Concert**

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music presents one of Australia's leading percussionist performing music from his new CD, Classical Vibes.

Muswellbrook South Public School Hall, tickets \$20, for details or book tickets call the Conservatorium on 6541 4888.

#### 13 **The Splendour of North Africa: Roman and Islamic Art**

Lecture is being presented by the Scone ADFAS and

the guest speaker is Mr Christopher Bradley B Eng (Hons) FRGS.

Scone RSL Club, 6:30pm, for more details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

#### 14 **Cactus screening at the Majestic Cinemas**

The latest Australian thriller, Cactus is screening for one night only in Singleton. This film stars Bryan Brown and was filmed in Broken Hill.

Majestic Cinema, 21 Ryan Ave, Singleton. Tickets \$10 single/\$7 each for a group of five or more. For details or to book tickets call the cinema on 6571 5252. Tickets go on sale 7th May.



Bryan Brown as country cop Rosco in a scene from the film Cactus.

#### 16-17 **Gloucester Shakespeare Festival**

Henry IV Part 1 production by The Stray Dogs Theatre Company. A banquet is available both evenings. Market stalls and medieval entertainment all day Saturday.

Friday and Saturday 7pm, matinee performance Saturday 1pm. For details and tickets call the Gloucester Information Centre on 6558 1408.

#### 17 & 18 **Fish Fry Concerts**

Hunter Region's most loved exponents of Jump-Jive Jazz, Swing and Rhythm & Blues will be playing at 2 venues this weekend.

17th - Lovedale Long Lunch, Wandin Valley Estate 1 to 4pm, the 18th - Lovedale Long Lunch, Wandin Valley Estate, 11am to 2pm - and 18th - Invermien Picnic By Lake Glenbawn, 4-6pm.

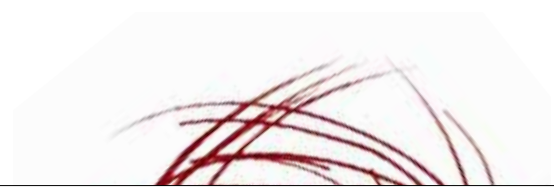
#### 17 **Cultural STOMP Festival**

Newcastle's pioneer festival in promoting multiculturalism, environmental sustainability and celebrating ethnic diversity. The range of activities on offer including; Community Theatre Project 'Waterways', YELL Youth Project, 'Conservation Alley', performing and visual arts, food stalls and markets, forums and workshops.

Civic Park, Newcastle. 9am to 9pm. For details visit [www.octopod.org/stomp](http://www.octopod.org/stomp). Any interested volunteers or stall holders contact Richard DeMartin at [stomp@ctopod.org](mailto:stomp@ctopod.org)

#### 18 **Carlos Perez In Concert**

Carlo is a classical guitarist, and has given concerts throughout Spain, Britain, Mexico, Italy, Portugal, Israel



and Australia. Presented by the Upper Hunter Museum of Rural Life, Aberdeen.

St Mark's Anglican Church, Aberdeen. 6pm. \$20 per person. To book phone 6543 7150.

**19-25 Sydney's Writers' Festival**

Now into it's 11th year, this years festival promises to be as wide ranging, profound and enjoyable as ever, with its wealth of riches covering fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, scriptwriting, film, new media and much more.

Piers 2/3 & 4/5 Walsh Bay, Sydney. For full details & book tickets, visit [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)

**23-25 17th Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Instrumental**

Muswellbrook South Public School and for details call Vicki French on 6541 1433.

**30 & 31 Opera In The Church**

Graduates and students from the Opera School of the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney will be presenting two exciting concerts. Variety is the key to showcase these wonderful voices so the programmes are different and take in operatic arias, Gilbert & Sullivan, musical comedy and operettas for a veritable musical feast.

Gloucester Uniting Church, 7:30pm, light supper served at internal. Tickets \$35, available from Webb Bros on 6558 1507. For details call Susan Dixon on 6550 2591.

**May -June**

**13-9 Ruth Smith Exhibition**

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

**24-29 Bloodlines - Art of the Horse**

A traveling exhibition from the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

Plus a number of other exhibitions including: "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.

**29-1 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.dungongfilmfestival.org/](http://www.dungongfilmfestival.org/)

**June**

**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.

**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.

sheri's bon mot

*"I tried to be normal.*

*It sucks."*

Unknown

## May

### Now Part Time Gallery Manager

The Michael Reid at Murrurundi gallery is seeking an experienced gallery manager who will run the day-to-day operation of this gallery including an evolving exhibition schedule and a growing art education program. Please see [www.michaelreid.com.au](http://www.michaelreid.com.au) for a general understanding of the broad range of art activities the gallery undertakes. Hours Friday till Sunday 10.45am till 5pm. Letter of applications and CV and references, (marked Private & Confidential) to Michael Reid, 44 Roslyn Gardens Elizabeth Bay, NSW 2011. For more details call Michael Reid on 02 8353 3500.

### 2 Waste as Art 2008 Final Registration Date

Several categories including: 3D/sculpture, functional art, junior/primary school age groups, secondary age group. An interpretation of climate change. The overall winner will collect \$2500, and there are other cash prizes for each category. Entry forms and details available from Hunter Waste Education Group on 4908 6848 or visit [www.hweg.com.au](http://www.hweg.com.au)

### 9 Regional Arts Development Officer - Wagga Wagga

Salary of \$45,000 + car (neg)  
Eastern Riverina Arts Program, a non-profit regional arts board, is looking for an experienced arts manager to implement its cultural development program across the region. The applicant must have a demonstrated knowledge of community cultural development and arts and regional development funding agencies. Full position description and selection criteria at [www.regionalartsnsw.com.au](http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au). Enquiries to Ray Goodlass, 0412 363 718 or [rgoodlass@gmail.com](mailto:rgoodlass@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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 \$1400 prize money. Presented by GACCI. Exhibition will be 11th July to 3rd August. Entry forms available from Gloucester Information Centre, call 6558 1408 and the Gloucester Gallery.



Ian Jones - Off the Wall exhibition at Cudgegong Gallery

## May

### 23 2008 NSW History Fellowships Application Closes

The NSW government, through Arts NSW, is offering two history fellowships in 2008. They are the annual NSW History Fellowship and the biennial NSW Indigenous History Fellowship. Both Fellowships are worth \$20,000. Guidelines and nomination forms are available from the Arts NSW website, [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au) or through Jean Moylan, Arts NSW [jean@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jean@arts.nsw.gov.au), (02) 9228 4351.

### 12 The Foundation for Young Australians - Indigenous Small Grants Applications close.

Grants provide funding to Indigenous organisations and organisations that work with Indigenous young people and communities to develop new initiatives, as well as the expansion of existing successful initiatives. Indigenous Small Grants offer funds up to \$5,000 to successful applicants. For more details call 1800 252 316 or visit [www.youngaustralians.org](http://www.youngaustralians.org)



## 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. CHG is funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia; the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts ; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia. For details call 02 6262 1147 or visit <http://www.nlg.gov.au/chg>.

## May

### 8 Free Grant Writing Workshops

The Hunter Area Consultative Committee is conducting these workshops to assist community groups, government and business in developing projects, writing submissions for grants and managing grants. They will also be used by Hunter ACC to gather direct from attendees their views on current regional needs and issues. Singleton Youth Venue 9-12am, Muswellbrook Council 2-5pm. Please call 4961 2600 to book your place.

### 12 Life Drawing Short Course

This is being held at the Singleton TAFE Campus for 6 weeks starting the 12th May. For details call 4929 0345.

### 14 Self-Publishing Seminar

Top tips and techniques will be revealed. Learn the steps to successful self publishing from industry experts. It will illuminate, educate and inspire you on your self-publishing journey. NSW Writers' Centre, Rozelle, Sydney, 6.00 - 9.30pm for

details and bookings call Caroline on 9327 5196.

### 16 Art as an Industry

The program will benefit artists - established and emerging—supporting industries, galleries, those directly and indirectly engaged in the industry and people supporting the arts as individuals, collectors or as representatives of organisations. Presenters include Janet Clayton, (Keynote Speaker) Director of the Wilson Street Gallery, Hanna Kay and Rodney Swansborough both of the Murrurundi area. Cost \$50 adult, \$27.50 concession (inc GST) includes symposium, morning tea, lunch and drinks. For details or to register call Cas Barnes on 6746 1755 or Arts North West on 6732 4988.

## 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](mailto:info@wpccdubbo.org.au)



### Contributions to the June Edition of Artsbark Closes 22nd May

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.

not to miss

Artsbark is the bi-monthly publication of **Arts Upper Hunter Inc.** supported by the 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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