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OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE 52

artsbark

editor's desk

October kicks off with the school holidays, which I am sure there are many happy about. We are too as we have two more of the Artstart creative retreats happening. In the first week of the holidays we will have a group at Vacy doing circus skills and street theatre and in the second week another group will be up at Murra House in Murrurundi madly writing, both creative writing and song writing. It is also the Artstart Online Festival so check out their website www.artstart.com.au and see what young people are doing all over the state. In other youth happenings, the Dungog youth program are excited to announce that they have a travelling cinema. They had their first screening in September in Gresford and are showing *Australia* in October in Dungog, for more details and to find out about other activities contact Kylie Pratt 0428329643 youth@bravo.net.au.

Arts Upper Hunter Inc is pleased to announce that Kara Mitchell-Watson is joining the Arts Upper Hunter board as the community representative for the Upper Hunter Shire. Kara has been involved in dance and theatre; she is also an active member of the garden club and is studying tourism. We look forward to her input and encourage you to talk to her about your aspirations. We are also sad to say that Sheri McEvoy has resigned from the board. Sheri has recently married and has a lot of things going on. We thank her for her work on the board and we are very happy that she is going to continue to send us the 'bon mot' each month for artsbark.

It's all film, film, film. This year, the Department of State and Regional Development ran a short film competition for their Community Award. "You don't have to fill in 20 pages of entry forms - you just have to make a movie and convince us all that "my town's special coz...." The advertising happened through the Chambers of Commerce (they obviously need to be better connected to their artists) as DSRD weren't inundated with applications. There were 8 and they were all fabulous. Wollombi took out the first prize with a beautifully shot, poetic interpretation of their landscape. Then two second places were awarded to Gosford and Dungog! The Gosford one was lyrical and poignant, a young boy kicked his

soccer ball throughout town visiting all their special places. The Dungog one was the *On the Move* film made as part of the *Portraits of Place* project. This was about the controversy surrounding the monument/obelisk. It highlighted the ability of local residents to 'have their say'. The whole affair was such a hit that DSRD are keen to develop this into a bigger project .They are going to work with myself and Annette Hubber from Screen Hunter to develop a plan which will enable people to become involved earlier on and have the opportunity to learn some film making skills in the process! But most importantly be able to make films that reflect their places as they see and feel them.



Bernadette Cullen, Paul Ferris, Sharolyn Kimmorley, Penelope Mills, Douglas McRae and Julia Malczewski., from the Opera Highlights Concert at Gloucester. Photo courtesy of Julie Lonie and John Hall

From now until Christmas the cultural calendar becomes chaotic. It is hard to plan ahead when there is so much on, but I am receiving enquiries from groups looking at touring next year. Two fantastic looking plays in particular; one is called 'Meat', this is about a butcher in a small town. Say no more. The production is flexible in terms of venue, and can be put on in small halls eg. Gundy. The other is a



Musical play called 'The Tank', which has been described as a Tasmanian Dimboola. The music is written and performed by Mick Thomas from Weddings Parties Anything. I was a bit of a groupie of theirs in my youth in Melbourne, and would love them to come! Anyone interested in finding out more about either of these please call the office and I can send you their promotional material. The Sydney Theatre Company are also touring 'Burnt' in November. This will be mainly in schools but there may be the opportunity to add a couple of night time performances in as well, will keep you posted. In regards to opportunities it is wonderful to be able to announce that a new trust has been formed by Bridgman Ridge, the Bridgman Ridge Community Trust, which enables residents of the Singleton Shire to apply for funding for community events. Check out the grants section for more details.

For the makers there is not time to rest as although the Arts Prizes in the area are all over for this year, we now have shows and the myriad of opportunities these offer for putting your handiworks on display, be they cakes, quilts, or chooks, get them out there.

Bidget Nicholson



Leanne Barrett promoting the Gloucester Art Trail

events + festivals

October

1-5 **Keddies Pastoral Photographic Prize**

This inaugural biannual prize, valued at \$10,000, has been initiated by the Keddie family and aims to promote excellence in contemporary photography. RSL Hall, Mayne St, Murrurundi. Open 10am to 4pm. For more details, please call Mandy Archibald on 6546 6262.

1-18 **Drawings by Andrew Antoniou, Self Rising by the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club, & Upstairs Art by artists of the Upper Hunter, 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.

1-11 **Artstart Festival**

The aim of the ArtStart Festival is to showcase ArtStart projects and young people's creativity across NSW, at a local and regional level, as well as online. For all the details visit <http://www.artstart.com.au:80/CommunityProfiles.aspx>

1-5 **This Is Not Art**

This is an independent, emerging and experimental arts festival. A supercharged convergence of writers, performers, thinkers, independent and industry musicians, creative researchers, electronic artists, dilettantes, and DIY culture makers in a showcase featuring over 400 local, national and international artists. Various venues around Newcastle. For all the details please visit www.thisisnotart.org

2 **Both Views Exhibition**

This is an exhibition by Chicken-in-the-Window artists Charlotte Drake-Brockman and Fran Wachtel. The exhibition will run until the 31st.

Opening at 6pm.

Creative Arts Gallery, Chandos St. Gunnedah. Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. For details call 6740 2270.

3 **Fashions of Yesteryear Parade and Doll Exhibition**

The Gloucester Museum is providing costumes from the museum's collection for the parade. There will be a large doll exhibition. Light refreshments available. Barrington Hall, Barrington. 10am to 4pm, fashion parade at 2pm. Gold coin entry. For enquiries regarding dolls call Marjorie Mead 6558 2880, and for the event, please call Jill Crowley 6558 4133.

3 **"Smoking at the Pot House"**

This is presented by the Muswellbrook Ceramics Group. Pots and glazes available for purchase, firing of pots, gallery wares on sale, refreshments available.

The Pot House, Lower Brook St, Muswellbrook.

9am to 5pm, enquires call Scott Cooper 0427101697.

3-18 **Gloucester Art Trail**

Over 30 local artists will exhibit in shop windows, hotels and cafes in Gloucester and Barrington, and 7 artists will open their studios over the long weekend. There are a range of workshops, for details see page 4. For details visit Gloucester Information Centre or Art Gallery, or call Leanne Barrett on 6558 3157.

6 **Toddler's Prom**

Presented by the Sydney Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. This is a great way to introduce young

children to the sights and sounds of an orchestra. Muswellbrook High School, 10:30am, tickets \$5 each or \$15 per family. For details, call the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music on 6541 4888.

6 "The Architecture and Music of King's College Chapel, Cambridge"

A lecture by Mrs Elizabeth Gordon 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.

6 Exhibition by Gloucester Art Society

The exhibition runs until the 1st of November. Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details 6558 3157.

7 2009 Orchestra Camp Concert

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music will be concluding their orchestra camp with a concert featuring the Sydney Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and then combined with camp participants. Muswellbrook High School, 1pm, for details call the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music on 6541 4888.

9 Screening of *Australia*

This is being presented by the Travelling Youth Cinema and stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. For young people, 12-25 yrs and is free. Take along a pillow if you wish. 2pm-4:30pm, Teresa Doyle Hall, Gresford. For details call Kylie, Dungog Area Youth Worker 0428 329 643.

14 Tom Vincent Quartet In Concert

Tom is an arranger, composer and performer who for many years has been a regular on the Australian Jazz music scene. 7pm, Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music Hall, 8 Sowerby St, Muswellbrook. For details call 6541 1488.

16 Peters Quartet Vocal Recital

A male vocal ensemble will be performing Russian sacred and folk music. 7pm, All Saints Anglican Church, 40 High St, Singleton. Adults \$20, con \$15, children free. Tickets at door. Details call Royston George 6572 2613 or Ray Robinson 6572 2833.

17 Murrurundi Fair Day

With antiques and jewellery exhibits, and a series of 3 lectures, this event is hosted by Country Style and the prestigious Australian Antique & Art Dealers Association. Michael Reid at Murrurundi, Boyd St. 10am till 4pm, \$120 (inc morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) or \$80 pp without catering. To enrol visit www.michaelreid.com.au, select Education, Murrurundi Events, or call the gallery 02 8353 3500.

17 & 18 Allynbrook Art Show

There will be artworks from Sydney, Hunter and local artists in the beautiful and historic 160 year old St Mary-on-Allyn Church at Allynbrook.

Opening 17th, 7:30pm, \$15 includes scrumptious supper & wine. Please RSVP by 10/10.

18th Open 10am to 4pm, entry gold coin donation. For details or to book, call Rosalie on 4931 5257.

18 "Everything's Coming Up Roses"

Floral art displays at St Marks Church, plus markets in the church grounds and the Aberdeen Information Centre. 8:30am to 2pm, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen. For details call the Information Centre on 6543 8457.

23 900 Eyes by Susan O'Doherty and Corner Country by Max Miller and Barry Gazzard Exhibitions

These exhibitions run until 6th December.

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High St, Maitland. Tues to Sun 10am to 5pm. For details visit www.mrag.org.au or call 4934 9859

24 Dungog Festival of Flowers

The historic Dungog Uniting Church will be filled with floral displays, and the results of the children's colouring competition. Various stalls, and morning tea (\$4) and lunch(\$8) are available. Booking for lunch would be appreciated by calling Beryl Bale 4992 1447 or Ena Wade 4992 1083.

Dungog Uniting Church, 9am-2pm

24 Muswellbrook Local Art Award & Charles Blandford Retrospective plus the Williams River Valley Artist's Project Exhibitions

The Awards include painting, works on paper, ceramics, photography and the Esther Bellis Youth Prize. These exhibitions run until the 29th November. Opening at 6pm.

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.

24 Upper Hunter Collectors Fair

The aim of the fair is to promote collecting as a leisure-time activity and to display historical, educational and interesting items and artefacts.

Denman Town Hall, Ogilvie St, Denman. 9am to 3pm, public entry, adult \$3, child \$1. For details call 6547 1161 or visit http://web.mac.com/michellemoon/ACCS/COLLECTORS_FAIR.html

25 Screening of *The Beckoning Silence* and *On the Move* and *What's Yours is Mine...*

This is being presented by the Travelling Youth Cinema



for young people, 12-25 yrs, and is free. Take along a pillow if you wish.

2pm-4:30pm, Clarence Town School of Arts Hall. Call Kylie, Dungog Area Youth Worker 0428 329 643.

29 "Full Circle"

An exhibition of drawings, paintings and prints by students of Singleton TAFE studying Certificate 3 in Visual Arts. Peter Carlin of Haydon Hall, Murrurundi, will officially open the exhibition. Runs to 10th November. Singleton Public Library, Queen St. Mon-Fri 9am to 8pm, Sat 9am to 12 noon. For details contact Dorothy Wishney on 6578 7133.

30 & 31 The Ugly Duckling

Play by A.A. Milne, it tells the story about a princess who was cursed (some would say blessed) by her godmother to be loved only for herself, not for beauty. Also runs 1, 5, 6 & 7 November. Luguna Hall, 7pm, adults \$15, child \$5, con \$10. Tickets from Laguna / Wollombi stores or from www.valleyartists.org

November

5 The Art of Photojournalism

Marking the 30th anniversary of leading photojournalism agency Contact Press Images, this exhibition offers a rare insight into the making of some of the most iconic news images of the past three decades. Runs until 6th December. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. For details call 4991 6619 or visit www.crag.net.au

6 & 7 Opera Murrurundi

The Opera Unit of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music will be performing. 6pm, St Paul's Church, Mount St. Murrurundi. Tickets \$30 from the Murrurundi Tourist Information Centre.

6-8 Folk In Broke

A 3 day festival with some multiple stages, a workshop program, dance program, kids fest, multiple blackboard concerts, dedicated session venue/s, markets, and a feast of local and interstate artists. Nightingale Vineyard, Broke. Venues undercover. Tickets prices \$25 to \$75. For details call Eden 6579 1259 or visit www.folkinbroke.com.au

6 Wendy Fraser Photographic Exhibition.

The exhibition runs until the 19th Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details 6558 3157.

12-14 Art Show at Dungog Agricultural Show

Official opening is 12th, 7:30pm, \$5. Dungog Showground. 8:30am till late. Entry into show includes entry into Art, Needlework, Craft exhibitions.

28 Historical Movies Under The Stars

See the classic Australian 1946 film 'Bush Christmas' and shorts by starlight (weather permitting). Enjoy a BYO picnic or BBQ before the movies. Accommodation or camping available overnight. Bookings essential. Callicoma Hill Eco-Cabins, 529 Mt Royal Road, Carrowbrook. Adults \$8 Children \$4. For details call 6571 1208.



Stuart Dawson's *Cattle Droving 2009*, part of the Upstairs Art Exhibition at MRAC, photo courtesy of the Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre.

October

7 Gresford Skate, Art & Hip Hop for 12-25yrs

Range of free workshops including: hip hop music, pro-skater clinic for skateboarders and aerosol art. Plus art, food & drink stalls. Gresford Skate Park. A free bus, for details please call Kylie, Dungog Area Youth Worker 0428 329 643 to book your seat.

7 Mixed Media Workshop with Pauline Jollow

9:30am to 12:30 pm \$25, 310 Tipperary Lane, Firefly. Call Pauline on 6559 1733 or email on paulinejollow@bigpond.com to book or for enquiries.

7-15 Workshops with Jean Spokes

7th - Acrylic - Ocean scene
 9th - Beginners taste for watercolour
 13th - Oil pastel & ink - monoprint & flowers
 15th - Figure drawing
 10am to 3pm, \$40 per day, Jean Spokes, 73 Wellards Lane, Gloucester. For details, call Jean on 65589380.

workshops + conferences

7 Watercolour for Beginners with Vivian Dwyer

This will run for six weeks until 11th November, Wednesday from 10am to 2pm in Singleton. \$300. For more details and to book call John Dwyer 0412 992442.

8, 12 & 14 Workshops with Jean Buettel

Watercolour and mixed media classes. 10am to 3:30pm, \$40 per day, max 6 students. The Art House, Cook St, Gloucester. Call Jean 0421 082594.

10 & 11 Pottery Workshop with Louise Oldfield

10th - Children's, 1-3pm. \$20.
11th - Adult's, 1-4pm, \$30
School of Arts, Denison St, Gloucester. Call Louise on 6558 1885 or www.redskystudio.com.au

15 "Free to be me" Drama, Dance & Music

For ages 8-13 yrs. School Hall, Gloucester Primary School. 10am to 2pm. \$10. Limited numbers so book with Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group on 6558 2454.

22 Accessible Arts TAFE NSW Accredited Disability & Access Training Course

1-5pm, Accessible Arts Training Room, The Wharf, Pier 4, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay. \$110 (no GST charged) includes handbook and afternoon tea. For details visit www.aarts.net.au/training or call Jane Pollard on 9251 6499.

24 Romance Writing with Reeze Dryden

This workshop is for writers at all levels who are interested in learning more about the romance fiction market, with particular reference to Harlequin and Mills & Boon.
The Hunter Writers Centre, Second floor of the Lockup, 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle, Members \$55, non members \$77 (inc GST), to book visit hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au or call 4926 3485.

31 Acrylics Workshop with Jean Spokes

Using acrylic paints plus a variety of mediums the group would explore different methods of application. This is being hosted by Dungog Art Society. Dungog Day Care Centre, Hospital Rd. \$50, to book call Jan on 4992 3233 or Wendy on 4992 1637 by 24th.

Dates Open - Workshops by Judy Simonson

Glass transformations, silk painting, fabric colouring and acrylic canvas. \$80 per person includes material, paints and lunch. Held in an old red railway carriage called "Redfern" in Gloucester. For details call Judy 6558 2719.

October**9 Muswellbrook Local Art Awards - entries close**

The annual celebration of local talent in the Upper Hunter Region, sections include painting, works on paper, ceramics, photography and the Esther Bellis Youth Prize.

Entry forms from the Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, or by downloading from their website www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do/Muswellbrook-regional-arts-centre/Index.htm

9 Mango Auditions - applications close

Mango is holding auditions on the 11th of October for acceptance into their 1 year Performing Arts Course in 2010, in Sydney. Please complete a Mango Full-time Course enquiry form from their website www.mangodance.com.au to obtain an application form.

12 Paddington Art Prize 2009 - entries close

This is a \$20,000 national acquisitive prize for a painting inspired by the Australian Landscape. For all the details please call 02 9362 0282 or visit www.paddingtonartprize.com.au/index.php

15 The CAL Scribe Fiction Prize - entries close

This is for an unpublished manuscript by an Australian writer over 35. The prize is \$12,000 and a book contract with Scribe. For details visit <http://www.scribepublications.com.au/prize>

30 Alice Prize 2010 - entries close

This is a national contemporary art award. The prize is \$20,000 (acquisitive) plus 4 weeks residency at Araluen in Alice Springs. The non-acquisitive people's choice entitled the 'Tammy Kingsley Award' 2010 is \$1,000. For details <http://www.aliceprize.com/>

November**25 Cessnock Regional Art Gallery Youth Art Award 2009 - entries close**

For residents of the Hunter Valley aged 15-22 yrs. Prize is \$5,000 acquisitive & \$1,000 people choice, non acquisitive. The theme is "Down to Earth". For details visit www.crag.net.au or call the gallery 4991 6619.

30 Curate it/Exhibit it: Your Space 2010 - Submissions close

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery is currently seeking proposals from Hunter Valley artists and curators for solo or group exhibitions for July/August 2010. For visit www.crag.net.au or call the gallery 4991 6619.



October

16 Museum and Galleries NSW Round 2 Volunteer Initiated Museum (VIM) – applications close

VIM Small Grants, with funding up to \$1,500 and Development Project Grants with funding up to \$5,000. For all the details visit http://mgnsw.org.au/grants/museum_grants/

26 Australia Council for the Arts, grant for Emerging Artists (Artstart) - applications close

The ArtStart program provides financial assistance to artists who have recently graduated in creative arts to help them establish a professional arts practice or gain employment as an artist. Applicants may apply for grants up to \$10,000. For details visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au

30 Bridgman Ridge Community Trust - applications close

Community and cultural groups in Singleton can apply for this funding, which is to support local groups and increase community participation in local events. Workshops will be held to assist groups applying. For details call Jennifer Blythe, Singleton Council on 6578 7216 or see "Community Information" at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

Ongoing Quick Response Grants (Quicks)

Made available under the Regional Arts Fund, Quicks offer 'urgent' funding of up to \$1,500 for local arts and cultural projects in regional and rural NSW. For details visit www.regionalartsnsw.com.au under grants.

Ongoing NAVA Artists' Benevolent Fund

Applications can be made at any time to this fund, which provides limited financial assistance to visual arts practitioners faced with financial difficulty as a result of serious illness, accident or some other unexpected catastrophe. For details visit www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/australianvisualartistsbenevolentfund

Ongoing Harold Mitchell Foundation

The Harold Mitchell Foundation supports those who aim to improve our society and create positive change by generating new opportunities in the arts and

health sector. Applicants must be DGR status. Details <http://www.haroldmitchellfoundation.com.au>

For more artist opportunities, grants and residencies, please check our website www.artsupperhunter.com.au

sheri's bon mot

"I say things with colour and form

that I have no words for"

Georgia O'Keefe

October

31 Bus Trip to Steel Magnolias

GACCI is organising a bus trip to this show at the Manning Entertainment Centre, plus dinner. Please call Debbie Howard on 6558 4142 for details.

21 Contributions to the November Artsbark 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 for the event/opportunity. Name and contact details of the person lodging the contribution.

November

6 Information and Enrolment Session for Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft Courses

Singleton TAFE will offer Certificate 2 and Certificate 3 courses in 2010, so go along to find out about them. 10am to 12 noon, Block A, Singleton TAFE, York St, Singleton. For details call Dorothy Wishney on 65787133 or Campus office on 65787100.

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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