



OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE 40

# artsbark

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## editor's desk

It is always a relief to enjoy the onset of warm balmy evenings and watch people come out to play. This is happening across the region this month and further afield. I am off to **'art at the heart'** 3-5 October, which is the biannual national regional arts conference. The Northern Territory Government is hosting the conference through Arts NT in collaboration with the Alice Springs Town Council. The Australian Government supports Regional Arts Australia's national conferences through the Regional Arts Fund. The Australia Council for the Arts supports the artistic program for the conference. The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is supporting Indigenous participation in the conference. Speakers, exhibitions workshops and activities will abound to raise ideas and dialogue pertaining to the arts in regional areas. This year two of our hard working board members are also attending, Cr Jennifer Lecky from Muswellbrook, and artist Anne Fisher from Dungog. We will bring back plenty of stories and photos.

Closer to home but with similar purpose is the **'This is not art festival, 2-6 October'** in Newcastle. This festival is now in its 12th year. "From its first moments as an Electrofringe and National Young Writers' Festival, the convergence has grown to become an annual extravaganza with a variety of workshops, panels, performances, speakers and exhibitions challenging ideas about making art, making culture and making noise. We have remained true to our core aims - innovating, developing and showcase emerging art and media forms."

One of the main advantages in attending these events is the chance to meet other like-minded people and see what they are up to, perhaps even finding collaborators or people who stimulate you to get on with your own work. In the same vein but on a more local and informal level Arts Upper Hunter is in the process of organising networking events for the arts community (meaning not just those who practise, but also those who are interested, enjoy being the audience or perhaps just want to meet new people), across our region.

The first of these is going to take place in Dungog on Friday 14th November in the garden at the back of the Catbird



Communicating with an elephant ... sometimes easier than talking to our fellow men.

Gallery. This is going to be an informal gathering of people who would like to meet new people and find people who might be interested in similar things. You don't need to have any particular skills or practise any art form, and you are not required to do anything other than come along and have some fun. Those interested please contact Bridget rado@artsupperhunter.com.au or phone 4992 1033. You need to book in by Friday 24th October.

This month is also turning out to be a busy time for those seeking grants with the Arts NSW grant due on the 10th October as well as the Area Assistance Scheme grants, both of which are important funding opportunities for not for profit organisations, especially those needing to do work on their buildings. Another good one is the volunteers small equipment grant which closes on the 17th October.

Focusing on communications the ABC has a new online site



dedicated to the Upper Hunter, the site offers the community new ways to upload their own photos, audio and video, as well as browse for local news, features and online events. The website at [abc.net.au/upperhunter](http://abc.net.au/upperhunter), and its "Contribute" pages, gives Upper Hunter residents a way to participate in the process of reporting on news and features, including a free facility to upload community events listings.

A Spring Online Photo Gallery has been launched. Online reporter for the site Anthony Scully will be responsible for getting the images posted and working with local storytellers to maximise their exposure.

"I'm excited about working with talented amateur photographers and story tellers to get their local stories told," Scully said.

"I've been visiting the Upper Hunter on a regular basis to file stories using photos, audio and text, and eventually video, but there's huge scope to collaborate with the local community."

So far Scully has reported on community and arts related events, filing stories on the NSW Fire Brigade volunteer shortage, the Country Education Foundation initiatives, and features about colourful local identities such as Muswellbrook vegetable grower Maurie Gray, Blandford artist Hanna Kay and Singleton writer and mineworker Jane St Catherine. This is a wonderful opportunity for artists and the arts community to have a voice, and expose some of the underbelly of the area. Please contact Anthony Sully on 0429 600 091 or email [scully. anthony@abc.net.au](mailto:scully. anthony@abc.net.au) with any ideas/stories.

There are also a number of exciting workshops happening, check out the Ellamara Homestead Sculpture weekend and the Sculpture in the Vineyards drawing and large scale clay sculpture workshops at Wollombi, and closer to home the Arty Party Weekend at Perter Novill's - some may recall last year I call it the arty farty weekend but it is actually more salubrious!

## October

### 1-12 Jasper Knight - Rise of the Machines Exhibition

Michael Reid at Murrurundi Gallery, Boyd St, Murrurundi. Open Friday to Sunday 11am to 5pm or by appointment. For details contact 02 8353 3500.

### 1, 3, 4 Trouble in Tahiti

An opera in 1 act, music and lyrics by Leonard Bernstein. Set in the 1950's, it is the story of a young couple trying to live the American dream. This is being performed by Opera Hunter. Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, Lake Street, Warners Bay. Adults \$30, Concession \$25, Groups of 8 or more

\$20 each. For details please call 4921 0412.

### 1-4, 6-11 Wind In The Willows

Shakespeare et al presents this multi CONDA Award winning production, celebrating 100 years since the Wind In The Willows was first published. Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, Sandgate Rd, Shortland. 10am, tickets \$15 and includes entry into the Wetlands. (or family of 4 for \$50). For bookings or other enquiries call 4951 6466.

### 1-26 The Year of the Bird Exhibiton

This exhibition investigates the use of the bird in contemporary Australian artistic practice, curated by Diana Robson.

19/10 - 1pm Talk by Keith Brandwood on the birds of the Hawkesbury region.

1 & 9/10 - Children's workshops.

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Deerubbin Centre (1st Floor) 300 George Street, Windsor. Mon - Fri 10 am - 4 pm (closed Tuesdays and public holidays). Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. Free entry. For details call 4560 4441.

### 1-26 Concerts: Adam Geczy

'Concerts' is a haunting and subtle installation comprising two black-and-white video pieces by Adam Geczy.

Lake Macquarie Art Gallery, First Street, Booragul. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm, free admission.

### 2-6 This Is Not Art Festival

Join thousands of the nation's most creatively adventurous to connect, collaborate and celebrate at This Is Not Art, an annual festival of independent, emerging & experimental arts & media.

A free program of panel discussions and artist presentations, hands on workshops, interactive exhibitions and other special events including gigs, performances, markets, and four nights of surprises at the Festival Club.

Various venues across Newcastle, for full details visit [www.thisisnotart.org](http://www.thisisnotart.org) or call the co-ordinator on 4927 0675.

### 4-6 Arty Party Weekend

A weekend of life drawings. Models and art instruction tutors will be available. Accommodation available by donation, or just go for a day.

"Norville" Artists Retreat, Scotts Creek Rd, Murrurundi. For details call Peter Norvill on 6546 6175, or visit [www.norvilleaustralia.com.au](http://www.norvilleaustralia.com.au)

### 4-6 5 Ways Art Exhibition

This exhibition of paintings and sculpture is the work of 5 artists; Adrienne Crouch, Frances & Chris Fussell,

Di Baker & Dorothy Wishney. It will be open all the weekends throughout October.  
Crowtrap Studio, 341 Palmers Lane, Pokolbin. 10am to 5pm, other times by appointment. For details please call on 4998 7617.



Dungog Annual Art Exhibition winner of the open section Paul Coglan with judge Susan Somer and his work 'Birology'

#### 4 **Wollombi Valley Short Film Festival**

Laguna Hall, Wollombi, 7pm, \$15 adults, \$7.50 children.  
For details phone 4998 3419 or visit [www.valleyartists.org](http://www.valleyartists.org)

#### 10-12 **Country Music Muster and Talent Quest**

Artists includes Melissa Bajric, Lindsay Butler, Shazza Leigh and Terry Gordon.  
Friday - 8pm to whenever, cost \$10  
Saturday - 10am to 4 pm - Free entry  
Saturday - 7:30pm to whenever, cost \$10  
Sunday - 9am Talent Quest, to enter quest \$5, to attend show free entry.  
Gloucester Soldiers Club. For details call Maree Germon 6558 2498. Tickets at the door.

#### 11 **2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award, & the 2008 Muswellbrook Local Art Awards**

Opening Saturday 6pm. An occasion not to be missed. 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.

#### 15 **Big Night In - Youth Talent Quest**

Categories include: solo instrumental and solo vocal, group instrumental/vocal, liquorice allsorts (comedy, recital, circus etc), Junior (12-14) and senior (15-18) sections.

Gloucester Senior Citizens Centre. \$5 entry. For details call the Gloucester Information Centre on 6558 1408.

#### 17 **Family Focus Exhibition**

An exhibition featuring the creativity of Upper Hunter families through photos, children's art and text. Launch includes free BBQ.

Scone Arts and Craft Centre, Kingdon St, Scone. 4pm.  
Free entry. For details call 6541 3000

#### 18 **Arrowfield Buskers Challenge**

Musicians, clowns, street performers, food, wine, market stalls & plenty to do for the kids.  
Arrowfield Estate Winery, Golden Highway, Jerrys Plains. 10am to 6pm, \$10 adult, \$7.50 concession, & \$40 family of 5, tickets can be pre-purchased on 6576 4041 or at the gate, for more details visit [www.arrowfieldestate.com.au](http://www.arrowfieldestate.com.au)

#### 18 **Muswellbrook PCYC Art Auction**

Proceeds will go to the Muswellbrook PCYC and Challenge Disability Services.  
6:30pm, cnr of Carl St & Market Lane, Muswellbrook.  
\$10 adult, \$5 children, includes light refreshments. To book or for more information call 6541 1434

#### 19 **Bulga Broke Fordwich Milbrodale Community Markets**

Gourmet sausage BBQ, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Local produce, Vegetables, Gourmet Foods, Gifts, Bargains  
McNamara Park Wollombi Street, Broke. For details call Elizabeth Johnston on 0429 198 871

#### 21 **Mavis Tersteeg Retrospective Exhibition**

Runs until the 17th November. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.  
Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157

#### 22 - 26 **2nd Warrumbungle Arts Expo— Coonabarabran NSW.**

Featuring demonstrations of: wire sculpture and workshop with Artist in Residence Merryn Spencer, Warrumbungle Plein Air workshop with Ken Tucker, silver jewellery making, bead making, quilting, papapol sculpture with many other demonstrators.  
For more details call Janet on 02 68424435, or write to the Warrumbungle Arts Expo Committee PO Box 537 Coonabarabran NSW 2357, or email [warrartx@yahoo.com.au](mailto:warrartx@yahoo.com.au)

#### 24 **Norvill Art Prize 2008 Opening**

The prize is the largest privately funded award in Australia (to date) and is funded by Mr Peter Norvill OAM It is in memory of his parents who love landscape paintings, especially the Australian landscape. The exhibition will run until the 16th November.



6:30pm, RSL Hall, Mayne Street, Murrurundi. The exhibition will be open from 25th daily 10am to 4pm. For more details, visit [www.norvillprize.org](http://www.norvillprize.org)

**25 Daniel Herscovitch and James Cuddeford in Concert**

David is one of Australia's leading concert pianists and James is a young distinguished violinist. They will be playing music from Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, and Ravel and others.

Civic Centre Auditorium, Singleton. 7:30pm. Tickets from Video Ezy.

**25 St Mark's Pet & Doll Show & Market Day**

There will be displays of Teddy Bears and dolls, a Teddy Bear Parade and a Hat Parade, lolly scramble, orange race, and many stalls etc.

St Mark's Anglican Church, Segenhoe St, Aberdeen. 8am. Stalls holders \$5. For details call Peggy on 6543 6286.

**31 Folk In Broke**

This year the festival includes: Folk, Jazz, World, Choral, Ballads, Poetry, Drama, Storytelling, Workshops, Dance, Blues, Blackboard Concerts and Markets. All venues are under cover. Festival runs until 2nd November. MacNamara Park, Broke Village Hunter Valley NSW 3 day passes available. For full details visit <http://www.brokefordwich.com.au/>

## November

**1 Art Action - The Big Paint Out**

Calling artists from all over. Painting on the Highway at Murrurundi. A day of open air painting/drawing followed by a BBQ. Bring paints etc and your own meat. Free

Further details please ring 65466270 or 65466291

**16 Aberdeen Monthly Markets**

Information Centre, New England Highway, Aberdeen. For details call 6543 8457.

**16-23 "Lost Property" is touring our region.**

Shakespeare et al presents "Lost Property", written and directed by Anne Frost. The drama is set on a dairy farm on the outskirts of Stroud, once a thriving milk producing area. It is about the division of a family farm and the changing landscape of rural NSW.

All shows start at 8pm. Tickets are \$23 full, \$18 concession, bookings taken but pay at the door.

16/11 - Singleton Youth Venue, 7 Pitt St, Singleton. For bookings call 6571 4687 Mon to Friday 9am to 5pm.

20/11 - Senior Citizens Hall, Gloucester. For bookings call 6558 2622.

22/11 - School of Arts Hall, Cowper St, Stroud. For

bookings call 4994 5727 or 4994 5187.

23/11 - School of Arts Hall, Cresford. For bookings call 4992 2212.

Performances also at Wauchope, Dorrigo & Taree.

**18 Maeve Vella Exhibition**

Runs until the 15th December. Gloucester Art Gallery, Denison Street. Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Free entry. For more details call 6558 3157.

**22 & 23 Queensland Conservatoire of Ballet**

The "Inspired Syncopations" tour will include lots of colour and inspired dancing.

Saturday - 7:30pm \$35 includes canapés and wine

Sunday - 1:30pm \$20

Gloucester Recreation Centre, Boundary Road, Gloucester. Tickets available Gloucester Health Foods, and if purchased prior November 1st, \$5 discount.

**28 Opening of the Susana Enriquez exhibition and Christmas 2008 Local Artists Selling Show**

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.



Cast of "Lost Property".  
Photo supplied by  
Anne Frost.

**Open Calling For Expressions of Interest**

Sea Acres Rainforest Centre, Port Macquarie's key eco-tourist attractions, is seeking artists, community groups or educational institutions to submit their expression of interest to exhibit at their centre. For details call Janet Cohen on 6582 3355

**9 The 2008 Mortimore Prize entries close.**

The 2008 Mortimore Prize for Portraiture, Landscape, Waterscape, Still Life, Drawing & Sculpture is now open. There is \$25,000 in cash and prizes to be won in a wide variety of categories. For details call Mike Coward on 0412 638 210

**22 The Australia Post - Our Community Photo Bank Awards entries close**

There are two prizes: The most popular picture, and the picture that best exemplifies the work of Australian community. Each prize is worth \$2500, that is \$1,000 for the photographer and another \$1500 for the community group that nominates them.

For details [www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank)

**30 Capture An Aussie Icon - The Shearer entries close**

A unique competition celebrating the lives of hard working shearers is underway in the western NSW town of Hay. Artists, working in all mediums, are invited to create a portrait that reflects the lives of the iconic shearer.

Free entry. For details visit: <http://www.shearoutback.com.au> or call Ian Auld on: (02) 6993 1092

**28 Wilson HTM National Art Prize Applications Close**

This is an acquisitive art award open to emerging Australian based visual artists practicing in any media. Total prize \$10,000 (a \$5,000 cash and an investment portfolio to value of \$5000).

For details visit [www.artworkers.org](http://www.artworkers.org)

**31 Australian Poetry Slam**

Calling all poets, hip-hop artists and other outspoken wordsmiths to polish their rhymes and lyrics for the State Library's Australian Poetry Slam 08 competition with \$10,000 in prizes on offer. Newcastle Region Library will host the one of eleven heats planned across NSW, with two finalists from each heat battling it at the state final in Sydney in November. For details call 49 74 5300

**31 ArtVenture/Freedom to Create Prize entries close.**

ArtVenture is a grant-making philanthropic organisation that seeks to harness the powers of the arts to improve the lives of people in the hardest communities of the world. The prize carries a total value of US \$100,000. For details visit <http://www.freedomtocreateprize.com/>

2nd February, 1st June & 1st October.

For full details visit <http://culturaltrust.ianpotter.org.au/>

**10 2009 Arts Funding Program Applications close**

Arts NSW has introduced the Arts Funding Program to replace the Cultural Grants. The program provides funding for Program Funding eg administration and core business and Project Funding for projects and capital works. For full details please visit [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au) or call Arts NSW on 9228 5533

**10 Area Assistance Scheme**

This is a regional development program run by the Department of Community Services, for grants between \$10,000 & \$110,000. They can be for capital works eg facilities or resources, and projects.

For details call 4927 8799 or visit <http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/2433.html>

**15 RIRDC NSW Rural Women's Award Applications Close**

This is a celebration of rural women's achievements and is open to all women involved in primary industries. The award provides a \$10,000 bursary for each state winner.

For details visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn/rirdc>

**17 Volunteer Grant Program Applications Close**

The Volunteer Grants Program 2008 provides funding for eligible not-for-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering by:

- purchasing new equipment and sporting items
- contributing towards fuel costs.

Grants of between \$1000 to \$5000 available.

For more details visit Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/>

**16 The Myer Foundation - Arts and Humanities Small Grants Program Applications Close**

Grants are capped at \$30,000. The objectives of the grant are to a) build the capacity of the individual through ensuring that professional artists gain access to training, development and mentoring, b) Develop new works by individual Australian artists and c) to support projects in the Humanities.

The Myer Foundation offers other grants, some without close dates. For details visit [http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/\\_100.asp](http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/_100.asp)

**20 Buzz Grants Applications Close**

Buzz is a grant round offering flexible support for young musicians, sound artists and music-related arts workers through grants of up to \$2500.

For details visit: [http://www.youngaustralians.org/fund/ya\\_fund\\_buzz.asp](http://www.youngaustralians.org/fund/ya_fund_buzz.asp)

Some of the artists who attended the opening of the Gloucester Art Trail. Photo supplied by Gloucester Art Gallery.

**October****7 The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant**

Grants are made to practising artists for professional development and are only available to Australian citizens or those permanently residing in Australia. This grant is for \$7000 for project/travel after 22 December. Note: The close dates for the 2009 funding rounds are:



not to miss

## October

### 1-11 Spring into Arts - Children's Holiday Workshops

There are workshops for 3-8, 7-12, and 8+ (that includes you mum, dad, or gran!) in photography, painting, sketching with water colours, hebel carving, physical theatre, circus arts, art and craft for 3-8 year olds, and cartoon animation. Book in early to avoid missing out, or cancellations.

Newcastle Community Arts Centre, 246 Parry Street, Newcastle West. Call Wendy or Maxine on 4961 1696 Mon to Fri 10am -4pm

### 11 & 12 Sculpture Weekend at Ellamara Homestead

Presented by Muswellbrook Art Council. Sheri McEvoy of Elderslie and Stephen Bottomley of Denman, both traditionally trained sculpturers, are hosting a two weekend intensive sculpture workshop focusing on portraiture. The second weekend will be 1st & 2nd November.

Ellamara Homestead, Sandy Hollow. \$300. 10am Saturday to 4pm Sunday. All meals catered for. For details contact Stephen Bottomley, roseglenestate@bigpond.com or call 6547 1044.

### 11 & 12 Large Scale Clay Sculpture Workshop

With Margo Gabsi, this workshop is suitable for the beginner or those already experienced in clay. Fee includes all material. Booking essential.

Horse Heaven Gallery, Negro Street Wollombi. \$250. Please call Margo 9606 4526 for more information or bookings. <http://www.wollombivalley.com>

### 17 Invitation Business and Legal Skills Workshop.

This is designed for artists and arts organisations. John Christopher Hindle a practicing solicitor and teacher of law, will present: The Law - What it is, Intellectual Property Rights, Basic Contract Law, and Trades Practices Act and more.

Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Region Library, Laman Street, Newcastle. Free. 5:00 to 7:30pm. RSVP essential by 14th October by calling 4974 5300.

## November

### 1 Australian Antique & Art Dealers Association Education Day

An accessible, comprehensive and informative day of talks based around the four great pillars (Silver, Jewellery, Porcelain & Furniture) of collecting within the decorative arts.

Michael Reid at Murrurundi, Boyd St, Murrurundi. \$120 pp, includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. To book visit [michaelreid.com.au/education](http://michaelreid.com.au/education)

### Ongoing Tourism NSW Free Listing

Promote your upcoming attractions eg art galleries and events eg exhibitions, festivals etc on the Tourism NSW website [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com) free. For full details email <mailto:getconnected@tourism.nsw.gov.au> and request instructions and an access code.

sheri's bon mot

*"the man who can't visualize a horse*

*galloping on a tomato*

*is an idiot"*

Andre Breton

### Contributions to the November Edition of Artsbark close 22nd October.

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 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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