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SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE 51

artsbark

editor's desk

August was quite a busy month with a number of large events attracting great crowds. First was the Centenary of the Singleton Mercy Convent where well over 600 people gathered in the forecourt and toured through the grounds enjoying music and insights into the building and the stories/history of the organization. A local community member has made a DVD of the day which is available through Sacred Spaces 657 22398. The Maitland Regional Gallery re-opened following their extension and again a huge crowd gathered in the summer heat eagerly awaiting an opportunity to get in the door. A public appearance by patron Margaret Olley OA was a treat, and she very generously donated a wood block print by Cressida Campbell *Oblique View 2000*, to the gallery. Support and philanthropy of this kind is what the arts needs. This is one area in which we haven't yet followed the lead of our American neighbours. The potential diversity in exhibitions is evident in the site specific installation by Fiona Davies *Intangible Collection*, in the original section of the building, referencing the history of the building as a TAFE and museum, through to the fabulous dogs of Jon Pryer's *Off the leash*. The increase in gallery space is a great asset to the Valley and we hope to be able to enjoy a broad range of exhibitions and events in the years to come.



Margaret Olley OA at the Opening of the Maitland Regional Art Gallery. Photo by Christine Pike.

Support is a word that has come up for me a lot recently and has made me think about what we mean by support. The arts are an area that relies heavily on support and it is support of various different kinds. It is sometimes financial as referred to above, but is probably most often simply 'back up! I find in my work that often what people need to be able to do what they are trying to do, is simply someone to encourage them, someone to bounce ideas off, someone who will be there if things go wrong. Most often artists are trying to do things that haven't been done before, or (aren't the norm) so to speak, so a little bit of reassurance can go a long way.

I find music itself is reassuring and we have been fortunate to have some fantastic opportunities to enjoy it recently. The Singleton Amateur Musical Society hosted the pianist Roman Rudnytsky, who performed on their grand piano at the Civic Centre. He is absolutely superb and just couldn't stop playing! He came to Singleton two years ago and unsurprisingly a large number of the audience had seen him then. He spoke about each piece before playing and for someone who does not have a background in music history, in particular in regards to composition, this was interesting and added another dimension to the night. Blue Bottle Productions brought their comic opera *The Shrewd Maid* to both Muswellbrook and Singleton. In Muswellbrook it was held in the gallery, which worked well as a venue. Thanks to the Eisteddfod Committee and especially Suzie Troon who puts an enormous amount of work into hosting these events. This was followed by *Disco Inferno* at St Josephs in Aberdeen, which apparently just rocked! Check out the photo, they certainly look the part.

September and October are chock a block with things to see and do, we are looking at having to increase the size of the publication! Personally I am looking forward to letting down my hair at the Deca Dance in Gloucester.



September

5 **Dec-a-dance,**

GACCI and the Gloucester Gallery's celebrates 10 years with a dance, music is by acclaimed Newcastle band "Fishfry".
RSL Club, Gloucester. Tickets \$40 for members, \$45 non members and includes refreshments. Tickets available from Gloucester Health Foods. For more details call Leanne Barrett on 0428 508 704.

5 **AGOG – A Feast of Foreign Films**

This are being presented by the Dungog Film Society and the Dungog Cinema. There is 5 films being shown. For details and to book, visit www.agog.net.au/

8 **Screening of "High Noon"**

The Golden Oldies for the Golden Oldies series continues with this film starring Gary Cooper.
Movie and 3 course lunch for \$10 donation.
Aberdeen Bowling Club, 11:30am. Bookings by 4th September to Jan Sumner 6543 7150 or Jan Wild 6543 6267.

11 **Dungog Art Society Annual Competition Exhibition**

The exhibition runs until the 13th.
Opening Night is the 11th at 7.30pm
Anglican Hall, 51 Dowling St, Dungog. Open 12th 10am to 4pm., 13th 10am to 3pm. Enquiries to Wendy Graham on 4992 1637 or Jan Samson on 4992 2367.

11 **Scone Art Prize**

The Scone Art Prize includes the Banool Conservation Art Prize. The exhibition runs until the 20th. Opening Night, venue opens at 6pm, for start at 7pm. \$15 per adult., includes refreshments. Bar available.
Scone Arts and Crafts Centre, Kingdon St, Scone.
Opening 10am to 4pm on 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 18th & 19th, 1pm to 4pm on 14th, 10am to 8pm 17th & 10am to 2pm on 20th. Enquiries to Scott 0426 101 697.

12 **Scone Film Fest 2009**

Scone Film Inc presents its inaugural short film festival with a program of short films, including award winners and ones by: John Winter (starting Roy Billing), Mark Shields and Nash Edgerton. Under 15yrs must be accompanied by adult. Films follow supper.
6:30pm, Scone Senior Citizen's Centre, Oxford St, Scone. Tickets \$25 from Serendipity and Larda in Scone, or Muswellbrook Eyecare.

12 **Recent Works by Chris Steele**

Chris explores and extends the boundaries of photographic practice and perception. The exhibition runs until 5th October. Official opening Sat.12th

Sept at 2:30pm. Gloucester Gallery, Dennison Street, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

12 **Waterways by Hanna Kay**

A solo exhibition by Upper Hunter Valley artist, Hanna Kay. Opening 4 - 6pm.
Wilson Street Gallery, 30-34 Wilson St, Newtown.
Wed to Sun 11am to 6pm. Phone 9516 3144.

13 **Screening of *The Beckoning Silence***

This is being presented by the Travelling Youth Cinema and tells the gripping story about a man's adventure on the most menacing mountain in the world. It is based on a true story. It will be followed by refreshments and a discussion. 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.

13 **The Highlights Concert**

Presented by The Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod. It will showcase talented performers from various divisions of the 2009 Eisteddfod program.
Afternoon tea is provided.
2pm, free entry. Muswellbrook South Public School.
For more details call Alison Murphy 6541 4187.

15 **"Gloriana: Queen Elizabeth 1, Woman and Icon"**

A lecture by Miss Terry Pearson BA (Hons) MA DipEd NADFAS presented by the ADFAS Scone. 6 for 6:30 pm, The Uniting Church Hall, Main St, Scone. For more details call Gail on 6543 4620 or Jill on 6545 1822.

15 **Books Alive Book Club**

This is a special meeting to promote and build interest in the author talks and to encourage lots of discussion before and during the events. Refreshments provided.
Singleton Public Library, 1.30-3pm Queen St, Singleton.
For details or to book call 6578 7500.

18 **New Gresford Gallery**

There will be a group show of local Gresford artists and a performance. Dinner will be available, to book please call Therese Doyle on 49317119. 6-8pm, Community Hall, Park Street, Gresford. (opposite Catholic church)

18 **Drawings by Andrew Antoniou, and Self Rising by the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club Exhibitions**

These exhibitions will run until the 18th of October.
Opening on the 18th from 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.

19 The Last Night of the Proms

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium Orchestra and Choir, pays tribute to the long held tradition of British Music.

Muswellbrook High School, 7pm, tickets available at the door, adult \$15, child \$10, or available from conservatorium on 6541 4888.

19 Opera Highlights Concert

This is being presented by the Gloucester Opera & Arts Support Group. Includes drinks & supper.

7:30pm, Gloucester Uniting Church, Tickets \$30 available from Gloucester Health Foods. For more details contact Jennifer Emmerton 9398 3183.

20 100th Anniversary Concert

A gala concert to mark the 100th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy Convent in the Chapel. Features Brendan Lukin, organist, strings of the Newcastle Conservatorium and Catherine Lukin, soprano.

2 pm. Tickets \$25/\$20 conc/\$5 school students. 30 Queen St, Singleton. Bookings 65722 2398 or sacredspaces@singmercy.org.au

21 Toni Jordan, author talk at Singleton

Toni's *'Addition'* is a fabulous debut novel about Grace who is witty, flirtatious and headstrong. Toni has burst onto the writing trail partaking in Writers Festivals all over Australia and teaching writing at RMIT in Melbourne. Bookings essential. Singleton Public Library, Queen St, Singleton. 10am to 11:30am, phone 6578 7500.

24 Behind the Seams

This is a fashion runway show with a difference. Organised by Zian Meredith, a Year 11 student and a "Max Potential" scholar, Zian has invited the local Singleton community to become fashion designers and models.

5:30pm, Lindemans Estate, McDonalds Rd, Pokolbin, \$35. inc canapes, Zian Meredith 0411674491 or Gail Easton at geaston@singleton.nsw.gov.au

25 Opening of the 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. The exhibition runs until the 5th of October.

25th Opening Night 6:30pm. \$15. RSL Hall, Mayne St, Murrurundi. Open 10am to 4pm. For more details please call Mandy Archibald on 6546 6262.

25 Opening of Story.Art.History.Place

Curated by Les Elvin, this exhibition will explore and

illustrate the symbols found on animal skins, barks, and trees of this region and includes a survey of current Indigenous artists working in the Wonnarua, Awabakal, Worimi, Dainggatti, and Kamilaroi areas. Runs till 25th of October. 25th is Opening Night is from 6-8pm. 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

25 & 26 Singleton Show

Art & craft pavilions, sideshows, rodeo, ring events and all agricultural activities. Singleton Showground, Bathurst St, Singleton. For details call 6572 2039, or visit www.singletonshow.com

27 Duo Histoire Concert

Nick Russoniello, who plays the saxophone, and Murilo Tanouye, who plays the guitar, perform music from South America, Sapin, France and Australia.

2.30 -4.30pm, Mechanics Institute Hall, 74 George St, Singleton. Tickets will shortly be available from Video Ezy, John St, Singleton. All enquiries call 6572 2907.



Ripples by Chris Steele. An exhibition of Chris's work opens on the 12th of September at the Gloucester Gallery.

October

3 Fashions of Yesteryear Parade and Doll Exhibition

Large display of dolls. The Gloucester Museum is providing costumes from the museum's collection for the parade. Light refreshments available.

Barrington Hall, Barrington. 10am to 4pm, fashion parade at 2pm. Entry is gold coin donation. For enquiries regarding dolls call Marjorie Mead 6558 2880, and about the event Jill Crowley 6558 4133.

3 "Smoking at the Pot House"

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, for enquires call Scott Cooper 0427 101 697.

3-18 Gloucester Art Trail Opening

Over 30 local artists will exhibit in shop windows, hotels and cafes in Gloucester and Barrington. There are a range of workshops. For details visit the Gloucester Information Centre or Art Gallery, or call Leanne Barrett on 6558 3157 or 0428 508 704.

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.

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.

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.

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

These exhibitions run until the 29th November. Opening on the 8th from 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

sheri's bon mot

"It is important to self promote"

Margaret Olley OA

September

4 Dungog Arts Society Annual Art Exhibition - entries close

With a total prize pool of \$2,500, sections include - Open Award, Photography, Local Artists, Traditional Landscape, Three Dimensional Works, and two Youth Sections - Art and Photography. Enquiries to Wendy Graham - 4992 1637 or Jan Samson 4992 2367.

4 UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award And Exhibition 2010 - entries close

With a prize total of \$30,000. For all the details visit http://www.uws.edu.au/community/in_the_community/uws_art_collection/events_and_exhibition/sculpture

15 Singleton Show, Fine Arts & Photography sections - entries close

Wide range of categories. For a schedule, details and entry form, please call Fay Gray 6572 1961.

21 Music in Communities Awards 2009 - applications close

Invitation to all forms of music groups, total prize pool is \$20,000. Visit www.musicincommunities.org.

25 Expressions of Interest for Artists to tutor at the Creative Arts Retreats, closes

Arts Upper Hunter Inc. is co-ordinating a number of "Creative Arts Retreats" across the Hunter, and is currently seeking expressions of interest from Professional artists and tutors. This is an opportunity to gain exposure for your work, as well as involve young people in creative arts. Proposed dates and locations for the retreats are:
6th-9th Oct (Vacy) – Street Theatre & Circus Skills
12th-16th Oct – (Murrurundi) – Song Writing & Creative Writing
7th-11th Dec (Stroud) – Song Writing & recording
14th-18th Dec (Stroud) – Photography & public art
Interested candidates should contact the project officer Rebecca Fowles hunterartstart@live.com.au or 0428 568 291.

artist opportunities

30 Port Stephens Examiner Literature Award 2009 - entries close

For short stories up to 2,000 words, \$1000 prize pool. For details visit http://www.tace.tilligerry.com/pages/Lit_Award09.htm

26 "Big Night In" - Youth Talent Competition

There are two age groups, Junior and Senior and a range of categories. Contestants must either live or attend school in a 2422 post code area. Entry forms from the Gloucester Visitors Information Centre. 7pm, Senior Citizens. For more details, please call Debbie Howland 6558 4142.

October

2 National Film and Sound Archive Research Fellowships - applications close

NFSA invites research proposals from academics, performers, artists, audiovisual industry and archive professionals. Fellows will use the NFSA's collection to create a new sound or moving image work, a publication, an exhibit, a live audiovisual event or a combination of these and other approaches. For details http://www.nfsa.gov.au/about_us/sar.html

2 Liverpool City Art Prize - entries close

With \$10,000 acquisitive prize for the overall winner, the LCAP is open to Australian artists, and has an open theme. For details visit www.casulapowerhouse.com

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. Entries 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



B Young, L Christie, J Deforce, A Watts & A Hobbs-Haigh, from Disco Inferno. Photo by Virginia Greentree.

September

4 Ashfield Council, Artist in Residence at Thirning Villa - applications close

Performing, literary or visual artists from regional or remote parts of Australia are invited to apply. For details visit http://www.ashfield.nsw.gov.au/page_artist_in_residence.html

11 Copyright Agency Limited (GAL's) Cultural Fund - applications close

To support individual Australian creators who wish to develop their skills and careers. Grants of up to \$5,000. For details www.copyright.com.au

15 Urban Theatre Projects, Intersection 2010 Residency - applications close

UTP will provide up to \$15,000 for artistic teams, rehearsal space negotiated dramaturgical feedback and support under this program. For details visit <http://www.urbantheatre.com.au/residencies.html>

25 Community Volunteer Grants 2009 - applications close

Allows eligible non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering by purchasing small equipment and /or reimbursing petrol. Grants available for between \$1,000 & \$5,000. For details http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx

October

1 Ian Potter Foundation, Small Grants Program - applications close

Grants of up to \$20,000 in the following program areas: Arts, Education, Community Wellbeing, and Community Wellbeing International Travel. Organisations applying must have both DGR and TCC status. For detail <http://foundation.ianpotter.org.au/>

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://mgns.org.au/grants/museum_grants/

27 The Myer Foundation, G4 Fund (Small Grants) - applications close 27th October

Grants capped at \$5000. For details visit http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/_110.asp

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



September

- 3 Free Seminar on Story and Script Writing**
Seminar presented by Best Selling Author Michael Domeyko Rowland.
2-5pm. Sydney venue, for details visit <http://www.screenstorywriting.com/free-seminar-how-to-become-a-successful-writer-for-books-and-films/>
- 4 Artists Interpreting History Seminar**
Museums & Galleries NSW and the Historic Houses Trust (HHT) present this half-day seminar studying some of the engaging - and sometimes controversial results - of artists' interventions of museum spaces and collections.
AGL Theatre, Museum of Sydney, \$45 full, \$35 concession (F/T student, senior). Bookings essential, call Zoe Johnson on 9339 9914
- 5 & 6 Watercolour Masterclass with Jan Vincent**
This 2 day masterclass will focus on advance techniques of this most elusive of mediums and is intended for competent watercolourists.
For all the details and to book, please contact the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre 6549 3880.
- 9 Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Training**
11am to 3pm. Singleton Youth and Creative Venue, Pitt St, Singleton. For details and to RSVP call Andrew Snelgar at Yarnteen on 4962 5366 or andrew.snelgar@yarnteen.com.au

October

- 7-15 Workshops with Jean Spokes Gloucester**
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.
- 8, 12 & 14 Workshops with Jean Buettel - Gloucester**
Classes will be watercolour and mixed media.
10am to 3:30pm, \$40 per day, max 6 students. The Art House" Cook St Gloucester. Call Jean 0421 082594.



Barry the bab bulldog and life drawing model at the Cheeky Dog Art Day. Photo courtesy Cessnock Regional Art Gallery.

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For all the details, please visit www.donortec.com.au

September

- 21 Contributions to the October 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.

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Artsbark draws on information from local, state and national arts organisations. We thank you and welcome your contribution.

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