

Opportunity for artists

Denman & District Heritage Village Complex

The Steering Committee of Denman & District Heritage Village met on Monday evening last, 23/10/2006, at the Thornton Room of the Denman RSL Club. The Committee has decided to hold a **Logo Design competition**. We need a logo that can be used on a letterhead, promotional materials, signage & web pages. Something that will be easily identified with & reflects the goals of the Heritage Village project. Depicting the preservation, restoration & exhibition of heritage items of Denman & District from generations past for generations to come.

The Heritage Village display will show how the pioneers of our area lived, worked & played throughout their lives, building the community we now enjoy. We know our communities have many talented & imaginative people so are hoping for a wide variety of entries from as many people as possible; schools & community groups are invited & encouraged to participate.

The only reward the committee can offer is the opportunity to have your work displayed & that logos used for our letterhead, promotional materials, signage & web pages will be attributed to the designer. All entries will be displayed at the Denman Library in December 2006, the **Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre Community Room** in January 2007 & become part of the Heritage Village collection.

EMAIL?

Would you prefer to receive the Arts Centre newsletter and invitations as a pdf file sent by email?

If so, please contact us on 02-6549 3880 and we will amend our records to allow this to happen.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

Corner of Bridge & Market Streets
PO Box 122 Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Tel: 02-6549 3880 Fax: 02-6549 3886
Email: artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au Web: www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
Opening hours: 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Friday, 10am - 1pm Saturday, 2pm - 5pm Sunday

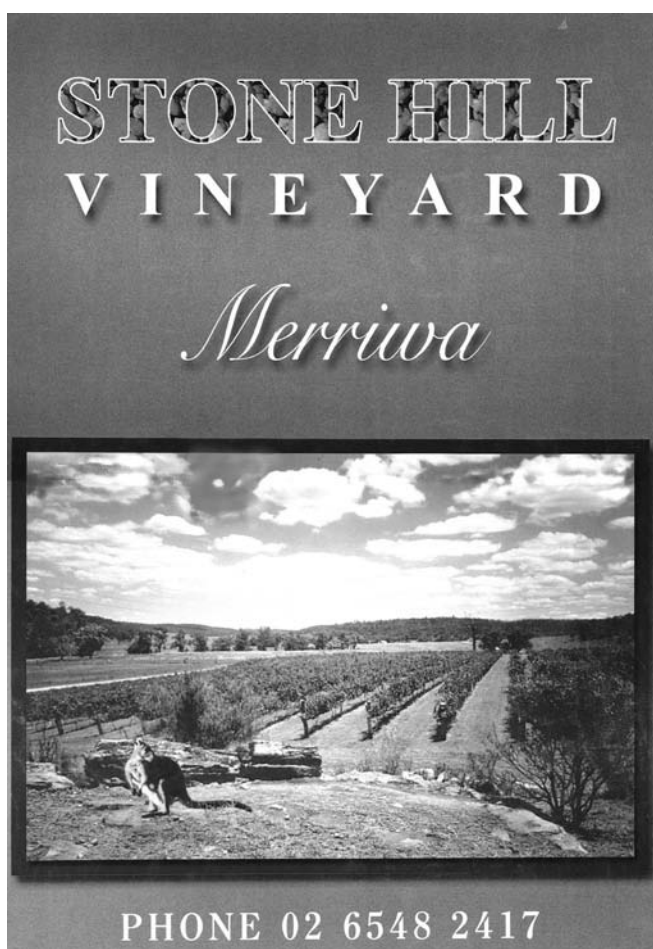


Entries should be NO larger than A4 size for display & it is very important that they are legible when reduced to logo size of 50mm x 50mm. All interested are asked to forward their entry, clearly marked "Logo Design Competition" to:

Mr. Jeff Wolfgang, Chairman, Denman & District Heritage Village Steering Committee
C/- Denman News
28 Ogilvie St, Denman NSW 2328
To be received not later than Thursday December 7th, 2006.

Further enquiries please contact The Secretary, Denman & District Heritage Village Steering Committee PH: 65475023 or Email heritagevillage@bordnet.com.au

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre would like to thank Stone Hill Wines for their continued support of the arts.



muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 2 No 6 November 2006

Local Artists Heritage Exhibition 10 November—14 January



Kelly Munce, *Skellatar House* 2005, digital print, Muswellbrook Shire Collection

The Local Artists Heritage Exhibition engages with Muswellbrook's Heritage not only through presenting the viewer with images from the past but also by implementing a variety of artistic strategies to refer to the theme, engaging multiple approaches and formats to spark dialogue.

Artists such as Charlotte Drake Brockman and Fran Wachtel have been working dynamically with the memory of materials. Their sculpture *Dog* 2006 is constructed from Dingo Brand roofing iron from the old Temple Court Rail-

way Station.

Dianne Jenkins – Pen and ink drawings of galvanized iron also recognise the stories inherent in the old materials or the diverse ways they have been used over time.

Change over time is a theme that Roma Kropp has used in her work *"Beginning of Muswellbrook to Present Day Muswellbrook"*, a painting ichnographically depicting the major elements and spiritual significance of place for the artist. The changing face of Muswellbrook is also depicted in Roger Skinner's photo-

graphic installation, which draws on beautiful photographs taken during the demolish of the town hall and its makeover into the Arts Centre of today.

Archaeology

Danny Grabham is working with installation and projection. *Travelling Places / Finding Traces 2006* is a series of found objects and photographs exploring the landscape and place through the archaeology of the site. Grabham gives the objects new meaning, they are transformed into artifacts. By placing them into the archival and revered space of a museum or gallery he creates an interesting dialogue between objects and viewer.

Archives and evidence

Janette Beer's acrylic paintings over old surveying maps of the region reflect her interest in fauna as well as human resources and remnants of early European settlement. Inspired by Muswellbrook's Natural Heritage the artist has also produced works such as *Landscape with Turtle, Landscape with Emu, Glider and Peacock*.

Family history and memory could describe Roberta Wiseman's *The Pool Series* painted in the late 1980's – early 1990's, which depicts her family life in Scone of this period. Fiona Davies installation "*Memorial*" is an artwork created from her personal family history and memories of her father who grew up in Aberdeen. The installation is an emotionally charged work that takes the viewer on a journey through an individuals overwhelming and personal experience.

Also in the exhibition is a new sculpture by Gilbert Hermon and paintings of historical buildings such as Charlotte Drake Brockman's *Lost Heritage - Temple Court Railway Station* and Nina Stainsberry's *Loxton House, Shamrock Inn and Brighton Villa*

The Local Artists Heritage Exhibition reveals more about Muswellbrook to the outsider visiting the Arts Centre and creates a dialogue, which local visitors to the gallery can engage with, adding their individual memories and experiences of place.

Through talking about history, and engaging in the experience, the exhibition comes to life and becomes a site for civic dialogue. The question emerges as to how art functions as dialogue between artist and viewer. Does the interchange of ideas between the artist and

viewer through an artwork constitute civic dialogue? Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre's exploration of viewer experience and response to the Local Artists Heritage Exhibition will shed light on the 'dialogue with self' that is inherent in experiencing art and grappling ideas the artwork evokes. Exhibition opens 6pm Friday 10th November, 6pm all welcome.

Personalities from the Past

Local & Family History Society



Artist unknown
Ald. W. M. Bowman, Mayor of Muswellbrook c.1870 – 72
Photograph

Personalities from the Past is a collection of photographs of some of the people who have played a significant role in the development of the Muswellbrook area. The images have been selected from the Local & Family History Society's collection, the Muswellbrook Shire Collection and from privately owned collections. The Muswellbrook Local and Family History Society has been in operation since 1958 and

have a large collection of museum items and research material. Unfortunately due to limited display area in their current location at Weidmann Cottage not everything is on permanent display. This exhibition is a partnership project between Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre and the Local & Family History Society which will enable the public to view item rarely on display and learn a little more about the history of the area. The Arts Centre also sees this as an opportunity to develop curatorial skills with the members of the Local and Family Histories Society. Thematically the exhibition will be displayed in categories such as Mayors, Residents, Business and Commerce, Early Land Grants, Public Servants, Religion, Illuminated Manuscripts, Sport, War and the Benevolent Society. You are invited to attend the official exhibition opening by Cr John Colvin, Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council, at 6pm on Friday

Dorothy Burns—Ceramics

10th Nov-14th Jan

Dorothy Burns, an indigenous woman from Papua New Guinea, worked as a potter and lived for a number of years in Aberdeen in the Upper Hunter until 20 years ago. She is renowned for the exquisite highly polished and chip carved surfaces on her ceramic artworks. The inspiration for the decoration of her pots and platters stems from both her indigenous cultural background and an assimilation of motifs and forms from other cultures. Chinese style dragons appear on the side of one pot whilst simple curvilinear scroll patterns feature on another. Her pots are all hand built using a coiling and beating technique. Once leather hard, the designs are carved out in an intaglio technique and the surfaces are burnished to a very smooth finish with a high sheen using a light bulb as a tool. Apart from the traditional pots and platters, Dorothy has produced a number of pieces which have been inspired by the natural organic forms of nuts and seed pods. Likewise, the surfaces are highly burnished and the only colouration results from the choice of clay, usually earthenware, and the flashes and stains from the firing process. A final polishing with a wax based polish helps to seal the surface.

This selection demonstrates the whole range of Dorothy's work whilst living in the area and is a constant source of inspiration for both artists and the general public on many levels.

Coming Events

JANUARY

The **Archibald Prize 2006** is coming to Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre in January 2007 it is an exhibition not to be missed.

Francheska Klose, is a young contemporary German photographer breaking the boundaries of traditional photography combining her images with funky sculptural installation.

Volunteers Preview Training and Induction Session

9th November 2006, 1-4pm

Don't miss this unique opportunity for existing volunteers, and people interested in becoming a volunteer, to acquire skills to be more deeply involved with the operation of MRAC and help contribute to Muswellbrook's cultural development, dedicated to promoting the arts of this region and bringing arts to the community. Call to Arts Centre now to book your place
02 6549 3880

PREPARE TO MAKE ART

The biannual
Muswellbrook Open Art Prize
is coming in February 2007

Entry forms available at the
Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre
Phone: 02 65493880

Opening night Muswellbrook Photographic Awards & Muswellbrook Local Art & Ceramic Awards

Saturday 30th September 2006 saw the opening by Cr. John Colvin, Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council, of the national Muswellbrook Photographic Award and the Muswellbrook Local Art & Ceramic Award exhibitions at the Arts Centre.

The event was very well patronized by over 250 guests who enjoyed the informative and interesting adjudicator's speeches from our judges Miranda Lawry, Senior Lecturer in Photomedia at the University of Newcastle and Tobias Spitzer, Curator Assistant at Maitland Regional Art Gallery and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. Both judges highly praised the overall quality of this years entrants and this

Tori Bingham with her work *Schoolyard Friends* (2006), which took 2nd prize in the Ester Bellis Youth Encouragement Prize.



Adjudicator **Tobias Spitzer** (Curator assistant, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery) Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre's Acting Manager **Tricia Flanagan** & adjudicator **Miranda Lawry** (Artist & senior Lecturer Photomedia, School of Drama, Fine Art and Music, The University of Newcastle) at the opening.

was evidenced by the number of High Commendations awarded by the judges in addition to the prizes. It was a pleasure to note that the overall number of entries this year was up by 33% and that this increase was particularly noticeable in the Esther Bellis Youth Award which has more than tripled since last year.

The major prizes awarded were the acquisitive 1st and 2nd prize in the Open Section of the Muswellbrook Photographic Award which went to Peter Annand of Queensland and Roslyn Elkin of Newcastle respectively. The acquisitive Shire Prize was won by local Muswellbrook photographer Kelly Munce for the second year running. The Local Prize was taken by well known Muswellbrook local Dr. Mark Rikard-Bell. In the Local Art Award 1st Prize went to Muswellbrook painter Daniel Keating and 2nd Prize to Rani Broun also of Muswellbrook and the Viola Bromley Prize to Teresa Byrne of Wingen. The Local Ceramic Award saw Muswellbrook ceramicists Irene Esteves and Craig Dunn take 1st and 2nd Prizes with the Max Watters Prize going to Aberdeen's Lyn Nash. 1st Prize in the Esther Bellis Youth Award went to Emily Esteves of Muswellbrook and 2nd Prize to Tori Bingham also from Muswellbrook.

Our congratulations to the winning and commended artists and to all the entrants who make these annual awards such exuberant and fascinating exhibitions and our thanks to the Award sponsors especially the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club and The Pot House who do so much to make it all happen.

Artists Profile — Roslyn Elkin



Roslyn Elkin *Spectrum* 2006, Digital Print, Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection

Roslyn Elkin was born and raised in Newcastle and lives and works there to this day. She studied ceramics in 1990, which led her to a business venture 'Rospot Pottery'. Throughout her career she has juggled a domestic life with her arts practice, being both wife and mother of three children. Sixteen years of prolific ceramic production came to a halt after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999. The personal journey that followed led Elkin to expand her energies and learning by pursuing a Diploma in Fine Arts at Newcastle Art School.

Elkins work is highly diverse and spans across various mediums including ceramics, printmaking, painting and photography, winning numerous awards in each. She produces emotionally expressive art, with exuberant colour and rhythm. With clay she takes great pride that each piece is unique. Mark making in clay is as important as mark making on paper and she is aware of this whether it be in a small mark or carving.

When she works with photography she invis-

ages the final product. For Elkin, photography is a personal part of your soul that is captured, as there is always the essence of surprise. She hopes that when people view her work they can feel an emotional connection. Printmaking is another area where she uses the brush to convey the essence of colour and mark making. Roslyn says;

" I am reminded that there is no limit to what a person is capable of. If one has the desire and commitment to fulfill their dream then I say go for it. Explore, enjoy and be proud of what you produce as an artist."

Roslyn has recently embarked on a new artistic venture with some of her contemporaries opening an artist run space called 'Greenway Gallery' at Morpeth earlier in October.

Roslyn Elkins work "*Spectrum*" won 2nd prize in the 2006 Muswellbrook Open Photographic Prize and a place in the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection.

Art Fest

MRAC utilised its staff many talents during the last school holidays, and conducted Art Fest, a series of art workshops for 12-16yr olds. A partnership with the Muswellbrook Neighbourhood Service, Art Fest was run over 4 days and attracted 36 enthusiastic young people.



Above: Tim Major shows off his completed monogram.
Below: Participants at work in the 'Monogram' workshop



Monogram was the first workshop and taught the participants Bokran Embroidery. Each person embroidered their monogram onto a piece of calico.

Clay sculpture and Animation had the young people form three groups to devise their own story, represent it onto a storyboard, then make their figures from modelling clay. Their story was then photographed through stop motion animation and edited onto DVD to produce a 1 minute short movie. Every participant



Clare Elliot teaching 'Paint the Town', watercolour and



Martin Curnow's painting of the QE11 building

got to take home a DVD with all 3 movies. 'Paint the Town' - Watercolour and Oil Pastels involved a quick lesson on perspective then the participants sat on the steps of the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre to sketch the QE11 Square and Community Centre. People then went inside to reproduce their sketches and add watercolour. They then applied oil pastels to highlight their water colours.

"Cut em up & Glue em down" – the collage workshop began with a brief history and overview of collage. The participants were then



The Collins sisters at the collage workshop "Cut em up Stick em Down" showing off their artworks

released onto a variety of medium, including magazines, newsprint, postcards and fabric to produce their own A3 size collage and the finished artwork was laminated.

Every workshop was a great success with all participants enjoying themselves and many introduced to new art forms.

The Muswellbrook Regional Arts Center and Muswellbrook Neighbourhood Service will again be running Art Fest during the January School Holidays, anyone with ideas or suggestions for workshops are invited to contact the

Nina Lundstrom, *Scherben Bringen Gluck* 2001 video installation



ART CLASSES WITH MAX WATTERS

Fridays - Scone Youth Club, Susan Street 3 - 6pm Tel: 02-6545 2203.

Tuesdays - Aberdeen Community Hall 7 - 9pm.

Saturdays - Aberdeen Community Hall 2 - 4pm.

Mondays - Wybong Hall 6pm contact Judy 02-6547 8189

Nina Lundstrom's

Have you been in town in the evening and wondered what is going on at the arts centre? The glass façade of the community room has been turned into a night time theatre as we presented the screenings, installations, performances and artists documentaries of Swedish artist Nina Lundstrom throughout the month of October. Lundstrom is examining video as material object and cultural phenomenon.

The community room will continue showcasing national and international artists, as well as its usual use for community activities. Stay tuned for installations from the artist Fiona Davies (lives and works in the Blue Mountains) and Francheska Klose photographic installation (lives and works in Leipzig, Germany)