

# muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 4 , No 5 August 2008

## 50 Years of the Muswellbrook Shire Collection 1958-2008



Thomas Gleghorn *Death of Voss* 1958 oil on hardboard  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection  
Winner of the very first Muswellbrook Open Art Prize in 1958

What was then known as the Muswellbrook Municipal Collection began with the first Muswellbrook Art Prize in 1958. That first competition saw Thomas Gleghorn win with an abstract in oils called *Death of Voss*. Since that first acquisition many important artists and important artworks have entered the Collections not just through the various prizes which were expanded in 1987 to include the Muswellbrook Photographic Award but also through the generosity of many donors including both artists and collectors.

Growing also from that first Art Prize competition and exhibition was a desire to bring art of excellence to Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter region eventually resulting in the establishment of the Muswellbrook Regional Gallery in 1976. The Regional Gallery provided a venue for presenting travelling exhibitions, a focus for local artists and a home for the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection much as it still does today.

In 2000 the new and improved gallery space opened as the award winning Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre with five exhibition spaces and improved storage and workshop facilities.

In 2004 local artist and collector Max Watters entrusted his important collection of contemporary Australian art to the Arts Centre, thus ensuring that Muswellbrook would continue as a centre of excellence for the arts not just in the Upper Hunter but with a national reputation.

To celebrate fifty years of great art in Muswellbrook, the exhibition ***50 Years of the Muswellbrook Art Collection 1958 – 2008*** curated by Katrina Rumley, and designed by Peter Gill, will open on Friday 22 August 2008 at 6.00pm and will also feature the launch of the accompanying book 'Fifty Plus'. Please come and join us for this special celebration of culture in the Upper Hunter. The exhibition will continue to 5 October 2008.

When you join us at the opening of ***50 Years of the Muswellbrook Art Collection 1958-2008*** you may wish to enjoy the wines of our opening night sponsor for the exhibition Roseglen Estate & JUUL Wines of Denman. Located here in the Upper Hunter Valley this relatively new vineyard produces some of the Upper Hunter's best wine and that's saying something! So on Friday 22nd August please join us and our sponsors Ingrid & Steve for the fine art of Roseglen Estate.



# The 2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

Exhibition Dates 12th October to 23rd November 2008  
Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

**\$3000 Acquisitive First Prize**

Adjudicator Rose Peel



"Import" Kelly Munce Winner 2007  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection  
Courtesy of the artist

This years Award will be accompanied by a workshop on the Saturday afternoon, prior to the opening night ceremony given by Rose Peel, the former Curator of Works on Paper at the Art Gallery of NSW , on the conservation and preservation of digital images.



Muswellbrook Shire Council



Hunter Valley Operations,  
Mount Pleasant Project, Mount Thorley  
Warkworth  
**Major Sponsor**  
[www.coalandallied.com.au](http://www.coalandallied.com.au)



Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre PO Box 122 Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
Ph 026549 3880 Fax 026549 3886 or email [artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)  
for information and entry form



Arts Centre Curator Peter Gill at work on the conservation of the Tapestry

## Muswellbrook: The Bicentennial Tapestry 1988-2008

During 1988, the Supper Room of the former Muswellbrook Regional Gallery was converted into a studio space for the weaving of a tapestry designed by local artist Max Watters. Entitled "*Muswellbrook*", it depicts the artist's impression of the view from the southern side of the town looking north to the distant hills and mountain range which are easily recognisable as being a feature of the region. Certain buildings, for example the three major church spires in the town, can also be identified. Once the initial sketch, painting and various trace-ups and enlargement to full "cartoon" size were completed, the next stage was the building of a loom, selection of threads and colour blending, matching and interpretation. A team of seven weavers, drawn from the local community, were taught by the then Art Gallery Director, now Arts Centre Curator, Peter Gill the necessary skills to make the artwork. Eight and a half months, or 3,400 hours, later, the tapestry was completed and put on

public display in the Foyer area of the Administration Centre of Council. Except for a brief one month period when it was featured in a special display in the former Regional Gallery, it has been on constant display at Council. Twenty years down the track, it will again feature in pride of place in the Community Room of the Arts Centre as part of the celebration exhibition *50 Years of the Muswellbrook Art Collection*. In order to present a complete picture of this important community project, the original artworks and some work in progress photographs will accompany the tapestry. It is proposed to also include a demonstration of the technique of tapestry weaving as another component to the display. This will act as both an educational tool as well as give an indication of just how complex and time consuming this technique is.

The tapestry has been undergoing a complete cleaning and conservation servicing in the lead up to the exhibition. Time and gravity, not to mention environmental changes over its twenty year history, have caused some changes which, after this processing and treatment will result in the artwork being seen again in all of its original glory.

***Muswellbrook: The Bicentennial Tapestry*** will be on display from 23 August until 5 October 2008 in the Community Room.



Last years winner of the Muswellbrook Local Art Prize, Marie Lunney's *The Wreck*

# Muswellbrook

## Local Art Awards 2008

The Muswellbrook Local Art Awards are on again this year with prizes in Art (painting & works on paper), Ceramics, Photography and our open prize for Youth. **Total prize monies of \$4,000.** This years Adjudicators are Sandra McMahon, Director, Tamworth Regional Gallery & Rose Peel, fmr. Curator at Art Gallery of NSW. Entries close on Friday 15 September so contact the Arts Centre soon for your entry form.

Exhibition dates 12 October - 23 November 2008

**Thanks to this years sponsors The Estate of Esther Bellis, Max Watters, Muswellbrook & District Camera Club, The Pot House & Scone ADFAS Inc.**



Les Elvin at work on the Muswellbrook Reconciliation Mural in 2003. Les was one of the team of local artists assembled by George Anderson, the Mural's designer, to bring the Mural to fruition.

## Congratulations Les Elvin

Cessnock based artist Les Elvin, well known in the Upper Hunter for his work with the community and as the TAFE Fine Arts Teacher at St Heliers Correctional Centre was honoured on the 12 July when he was named the 2008 National NAIDOC Week Artist of the Year. Les is a regular contributor to the Arts Centre program as an exhibiting artist, as an organiser of the St Heliers contributions and as a tutor in the ArtFest program. His work is also represented in the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection. Last year the Arts Centre featured Les during NAIDOC Week with a solo survey exhibition in the Wollemi Gallery. Les was chosen as Artist of the Year from a field of over 100 nominees. The award pays tribute to Les' outstanding contribution to the community.

## ArtFest 7

The seventh of the school holiday workshops program took place during the July break. Five workshops catered for kids from 5 to 18 years of age and featured photography, drawing and collage. The workshops which are held at the Arts Centre in conjunction with Upper Hunter Community Services Inc. attracted 48 participants. Keep a look out for ArtFest 8 in October.



Participants in the Drawing the Human Figure workshop with tutor Brad Franks



## Fifty Plus: Half a century of collecting at Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre by Katrina Rumley

Don't miss the launch of this milestone publication at the opening of the exhibition ***50 Years of the Muswellbrook Shire Collection 1958-2008*** on Friday 22 August 2008 at 6.00pm at the Arts Centre.

Renowned author/curator Katrina Rumley has chosen 72 key artists from the Muswellbrook Collections to highlight and discuss in a book for everyone.

Featuring 99 full colour reproductions of works by Charles Blackman, James Clifford, Robert Dickerson, Angus Nivison, John Perceval, Roger Skinner, Ray Taylor, Max Watters and many more.

This is an event not to be missed.

**Proudly sponsored by Mt Arthur Coal.**

# Sculpture Weekend at Ellamara Homestead

Two Hunter Valley sculptors traditionally trained are coming together to host a two weekend intensive sculpture workshop. Sheri McEvoy of Elderslie and Stephen Bottomley of Denman. They have selected to focus on portraiture. The first weekend will consist of drawing your subject and then using an armature to mould your head in clay. The second weekend you will carve your subject out of a block of plaster.

Ellamara Homestead is the original town of Giants Leap where the Cobb & Co coaches stopped overnight on their way to Merriwa. On the outskirts of Sandy Hollow 35kms from Muswellbrook it is set at the foot of the famous Giants Leap range. Now owned by Penelope Young, it houses a collection of fascinating buildings including the old foundry and a museum. Outdoor and under cover fire places, a bar, a helicopter shed (where work will take place) and plenty of space for camping.

Artists, both novice and experienced, are invited to come and spend two weekends camping and making. Sessions will start at 10am on the Saturday morning and finish at 4pm on Sunday. Some indoor beds are available for those who do not wish to camp otherwise bring your tents. Warm showers available, all meals will be catered for so just bring yourself sleeping gear and some drawing materials.

**Where:** Sandy Hollow 1/2hr from Muswellbrook  
2hrs from Newcastle on the Golden Hwy

**When:** Sat/Sun 11th & 12th October  
Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd November

**Bring:** Camping gear (optional)  
drawing paper, charcoal  
chisels, mallet

**Cost:** \$300

**Contact:** Stephen Bottomley  
roseglenestate@bigpond.com



**Your tutors  
Sheri McEvoy and  
Stephen Bottomley**



**Your host at  
Ellamara Homestead  
Penelope Young**



**Sheri and Stephen at  
Ellamara**



## NAIDOC Week - St Heliers Inmates Visit the Arts Centre

above l-r James Borodin, Steve McDonald General Manager MSC, Alan Tekely, Noel Phillips, Cr John Colvin Mayor Muswellbrook Shire, Cr Cindy Terrace MSC, Michael Boudan, Jean Hands Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer HNEHS, Mark Munro, Pompi Putobeam, Russell Esdaile Director Corporate & Community Services MSC, Mal Tiedeman Regional Superintendent DCS, Simon Eager Manager of Security SHCC, Brad Franks Arts Centre Manager MSC.



Pompi Putobeam



Alan Tekely



James Borodin



Noel Phillips

### The Artists



Michael Boudan



Jean Hands talks to the artists.



Mark Munro

On the 17th July the Arts Centre was privileged to host a visit by the artists from St Heliers Correctional Centre. Welcomed by Muswellbrook Shire Council to morning tea and a look around the exhibition to which they had contributed so much, the artists were overjoyed to see their paintings displayed for the public.

Opening Night at the **max waters art encouragement group show, NAIDOC Week Local Aboriginal Artists Exhibition, Max Watters Preview & YouthSnaps 08**  
 Saturday 5 July 2008 at the Arts Centre.



A terrific night and a terrific crowd - thanks for coming.



Rebecca Butler-Jones with her mum artist Colleen Jones



Lee Moore-Sam, Chris Sam and their son Benjamin



Jacinta Melia & Deanne Douglas with a work by Tane (Jim Burns)



Stacey & Alison Nichols



Jacinta Ledlin & Kieren Shea



Patrick & Nathan Siudek



Artist Phyllis Delves with her work 'The Diva'



NAIDOC artists George Anderson & Les Elvin



Pam

## at the arts centre:

**23 August – 5 October**

\* 50 Years of the Muswellbrook  
Art Collection 1958 - 2008  
curated by Katrina Rumley

**Opening 6.00pm Friday 22  
August 2008**

**12 October – 23 November**

\* 2008 Muswellbrook Photo  
graphic Award  
\* 2008 Muswellbrook Local Art  
Awards

**Opening 6.00pm Saturday  
11 October 2008**

**29 November – 24 Decem-  
ber**

\* Susana Enriquez  
\* Christmas 2008 Local Artists  
Selling Show

**Opening 6.00pm Friday 28  
November 2008**

## ART CLASSES WITH MAX WATTERS

### Monday

12.30 - 2pm Challenge, Muswellbrook  
2.30 - 5pm Hunter Park  
Family Centre  
Janelle: 6543 3566  
6 - 8pm Wybong Community Hall

### Tuesday

4 - 6pm PCYC : 6541 1434

### Thursday

2 - 5pm McCully's Gap Art Group  
held at pot house

6 - 8.15pm Pot House Max:65432875

### Friday

2.30– 6pm Scone Youth Art Group

### Saturday

1.30 - 4pm Aberdeen Art Group

## SCONE ADFAS COMING EVENTS

**September 16th 2008**

**The Shakers: their Beliefs,  
Architecture & Artifacts**

John Erickson BA(Hons)Cert.Ed.NADFAS

**October 21st 2008**

**The Life Enhancing Garden**

Dr Laura De Beded Dip LA MLI NADFAS

For info phone 02 6545 1156

## Upper Hunter ARTS EVENTS

12th September 2008

**Art in the Vines** - Opening Night  
(Entries close 22 August 2008)

Ph: 02 6579 1036

12th September 2008

**Scone Art Prize Opening**

7pm Scone Arts & Crafts Hall, Scone  
(Entries close 25th August 2008)

Ph: 02 6543 7160

14th August - 7th September

**Making Stuff - A 20 year retrospective  
Of Charlotte Drake-Brockman**

Opening 17th August at 7.00pm  
Haydon Hall, 66 Mayne Street  
Murrurundi phone 02 6546 6969

## muswellbrook regional arts centre

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Opening hours: 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Friday, 10am - 1pm Saturday, 2pm - 5pm Sunday  
(closed Mondays and public holidays)

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre is owned and operated by Muswellbrook Shire Council  
and is a non-profit facility and resource servicing the Upper Hunter Region

