

# muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 5, No 4 June 2009

## Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize 27 June - 9 August 2009

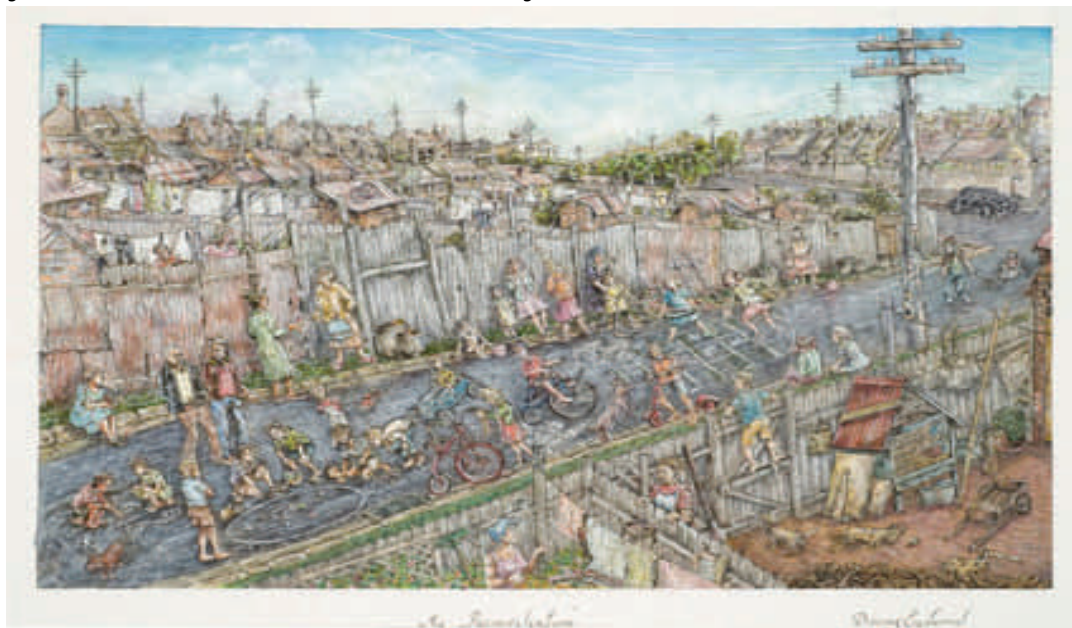
Opening night 6pm Friday 26 June 2009

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre is privileged to offer its audience, the Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize 2008, a Museums & Galleries NSW touring exhibition brought to Muswellbrook as part of its state-wide tour. This year the Arts Centre is proud to showcase the exhibition as part of our NAIDOC Week series of programmes. The exhibition has toured through various other regional galleries since its inception in 2007 but this is the first time it has been hosted by Muswellbrook.

The exhibition will display 51 artworks by Indigenous artists from around NSW, and showcases a marvellous diversity of works, from traditional Indigenous styles through to contemporary illustration and art that combines both. Included in the exhibition, are several artworks that address powerful political and social statements, such as Jake Soewardie's *48 to 2008* that recognises the shifting changes in policies and rights for Indigenous Australians, with symbolic imagery referencing Goya's firing squad, and Gordon Syron's powerful painting and statement

*...and they never asked us for our land.*

The exhibition also presents artworks that express a strong sense of community and culture. Leanne Tobin's *Early morning custodial flight over country*, conveys the strength of Indigenous spiritual connection to the land, and Danny Eastwood's winning artwork *My Reconciliation* offers a positive and vibrant expression of urban community experience. As a whole, the exhibition presents a celebration of contemporary Indigenous culture, rich with individual expression and commentary and the collective voice of creativity.



Danny Eastwood *My Reconciliation* 2008 pen ink & watercolour on paper

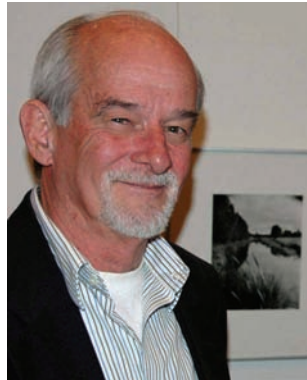


# Unseen Works From The Collection

## Opening Night Snaps



**Artist Fran Wachtel  
of Murrurundi.**



**Guest  
Speaker  
Peter Carlin  
Haydon Hall  
Art Gallery  
Murrurundi.**



**Connie Martin & Renee Whitney  
enjoying the speeches**



**Sheri Court-Kriesch, Mick Kriesch &  
Kristen Ryan enjoying the artwork.**



**Aberdeen artist Marie Lunney, Helen Fairweather of Piazza  
Connection & Scone artist Teresa Byrne**



**Glen Gallic's  
Pauline & Laura Sykes**



**Muswellbrook's Kevin Doherty  
shares a joke with a friend**

# Naidoc Week

5 - 12 July 2009



*Waterhole* by Michael Troutman

The annual NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition featuring the work of local Aboriginal artists is on again at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre. This year the exhibition accompanies the Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize 2008 touring exhibition allowing our local artists to see their artwork along side some of the best NSW has to offer. Contributing to exhibition once again are the Indigenous inmates of the St Heliers Correctional Centre at Muswellbrook.

Artworks in the Naidoc Art Exhibition will be for sale. . Guest Speaker will be Les Elvin, National NAIDOC Week Artist of the Year 2008. Opening night 6pm Friday 26 June 2009

## **NAIDOC Week 2009 - Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth**

celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and its continuing contribution to Australia.

**"Elders are inspirational leaders and nurturers of young people. The theme encompasses the achievements of Elders past and present and look to the future. Young peoples lives were enriched by the care and mentoring of Elders and our young people are our future and through their guidance, the Elders encourage them to find and stay on the right path."**

- National Naidoc Committee Co-Chair Anne Martin

NAIDOC Week provides an opportunity for Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians to join together to recognise the valuable contribution Indigenous people have made to this country.

## **Brad Joins The Judges Circuit**

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre Manager Brad Franks recently adjudicated the 2009 Far West Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Prize. The prize held at the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, attracted 30 works and was sponsored by the Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation and Country Energy. Brad awarded First Prize to Muriel Riley for her work *Granny Moysey by the Campfire*.



Muriel Riley and Brad Franks with Muriel's winning work.

Photograph by Bruce Tindale.



Marianne McKinnon-Kidd's mother viewing Mariannes' exhibition at Muru Mittigar (Aboriginal Education & Cultural Centre)

# Marianne McKinnon - Kidd

## 'Drawn Threads - Peggy's Legacy'

is an exhibition by Aboriginal artist Marianne McKinnon-Kidd, who lives on Wonnarua Country. The exhibition reflects the life of Marianne's fourth Great Grandmother, 'Peggy' also known as Margaret Goldspink.

The wife of pioneer Jonathan Goldspink, whose time at Bago, on the upper Murray, predates 1836. Margaret was an intelligent, capable and educated woman with remarkable history and considerable social influence.

On show is the culmination of years of shared research by the artist and family members involved in the genealogical investigation of their ancestor Margaret Read. Fellow researchers are Olive Eves, Lyn Goldspink, Eileen Keye, Chris Nobilia and Carol Shaw (nee Goldspink).

The artworks aim to reflect slices of Peggy/Margaret's life, as she lived on Dharruk (Sydney), Wolgalu (Bago) and Ngunnawal (Yass) Countries from the years 1813-1898. This historical account is a cross-cultural story of survival and reflects, in part, the collaborative relationship between a woman from the 'Worlds' Oldest Surviving Culture' and a man of European heritage who was first called 'convict', then 'Settler', then Alderman. There are twelve large portrait drawings and two sculptural pieces in the show along with a selection of historical maps of significance to the content of the exhibition, depicting that region.

**Opening Night: 6pm Friday 26 June 2009**

Marianne's exhibition will continue till Sunday 9 August 2009

# Dot



# Dash



# Stripe



Grace Cossington Smith, *Design in Bush*  
oil on canvasboard, 1953.

## Selected works from the Max Watters Collection

This suite of artworks addresses some of the more obvious decorative techniques employed by artists to reinforce both a sense of space and the representation of movement on the picture surface. The intensity of colours, repetition of similarly sized brushstrokes within a block and the direction of the brushstrokes are all devices used to achieve this result. It is interesting to note that such design elements also feature in the decorative aspects of traditional indigenous art making practices. The areas define shape and serve to emphasize the components of the artwork.

Dots are clearly employed in *Painting '87-28* by Vivienne Binns and David Rankin's *Tessai*. This repeat motif serves to unify the surface as well as enliven it to produce an all over pattern.

Conversely, it is the blocks of textured brush strokes applied in fractured lines within a selected area, which feature in the works of Grace Cossington Smith *Design in Bush*, John Peart *Coloured Stripes*, Elizabeth Coates *Growing Painting Series D-1* and Wally Barda's *Woronora 2*.

Other examples draw quite literally on the stripe motif as is clearly evident in Richard Larter's *Mirror Painting No. 2* and Ron Lambert's *Hybrid*. Further still we can observe the more spontaneous calligraphic, textural linear surfaces of John Peart's *Abstract* and the dribbled splotches and runs on the *Autumn Vase* by Mark Jones succinctly balanced by the more formal but still spontaneous mark making on the surfaces of Ray Taylor's *Bowl* and *Sphere*.

*Dirt, Feathers and Grass Seeds – Bush Abstract 4* by Maeve Woods brings it all together with a carefully orchestrated composition of exuberant and rhythmic forms contrasted with a simple repeat linear background pattern reminiscent of grass.

**Opening night 6pm Friday 26 June 2009**

The exhibition will continue till Thursday 6 August 2009

# YouthSnaps

**YouthSnaps** is the current exhibition of photography gracing the Community Room of the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre.

**YouthSnaps** is a series of photographic workshops for young people, held as part of Youth Week celebrations in March and April. This years **YouthSnaps** was completed by 8 participants aged 12 – 16 yrs. The participants were: Rachel Angus, Chloe Carter, Emma Dewhirst, Jarod Haegel, Rosemary Howard, Tarleia Mackellar, Laura Sykes and Clyde Vaughan. This year is the forth such Youth Snaps exhibition.

**YouthSnaps** workshops were facilitated by local photographer, Roger Skinner. This involved a tutorial session, a field trip to Davis Creek Rd., Rouchel, and an assessment and reflection session from which the current exhibition was selected. Roger has been involved in previous **YouthSnaps** events, but considers this one to be very special and is very impressed by the works produced. A visit to the exhibition is highly recommended.

**YouthSnaps** is coordinated by Upper Hunter Community Services Youth Development Project, in partnership with the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, with financial assistance from Muswellbrook Shire Council's Youth Week funding.

Previous **YouthSnaps** were conducted using disposable cameras. This year, due to the generous loan by Muswellbrook PCYC of their cameras, **YouthSnaps** was able to explore digital photography. Thank you to the Muswellbrook PCYC and thank you to all the participants.

**YouthSnaps** will return in 2010.



YouthSnaps participant  
Rosemary Howard, &  
her mum Mandy Howard



Craig Singleton, Tarleia Mackella, Rachel Angus, Chloe Carter, Emma Dewhirst,  
Laura Sykes and Clyde Vaughan.

# Opening Night - HAYDoN HALL

Maree Kelly's exhibition *My Landscape*, opened at Haydon Hall Art Gallery on Friday the June 5th as a hardy group of people braved the cold to attend. Charlotte Drake Brockman, well known Murrurundi artist gave the opening address and commented on the light in Maree's paintings and added that, when you drive across the Breeza Plains you could just see her paintings and that being at the exhibition, was like being in the landscape and experiencing it directly. The function was well attended and of course the guests were treated to the wonderful hospitality of Jane and Peter's hospitality.

Haydon Hall is situated 66 Mayne St, Murrurundi, Ph:6546 6969



## Raffle

### Andrew Davis

**This month the arts centre is fortunate to have another generous donation from local artist Andrew Davis entitled:**

***-Muscle Creek-***

*pastel & wax on coloured card*

*"Drawn in early 2008 from a photograph. I was inspired by the dynamics of the rolling hills that back up to this small township. I used pastel and wax because I felt their textures would best capture these dynamics. The colours I chose for this work express how Muscle Creek made me feel."*

**Tickets: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00**

## what's on at the arts centre

### 27 June - 9 august 2009

NSW 2008 Indigenous Art Prize Winners  
Naidoc Week Local Aboriginal Artists Group Show  
Marianne McKinnon Kid  
Opening 6pm Friday 26 June

### 15 August - 13 September 2009

Jan Vincent - Watercolours  
Dorothee Heibel Paintings - The Lovers' Series  
Opening 6pm Friday 14 August

### 19 September— 18 October 2009

Andrew Antoniou Drawings  
Self Rising Self Portraits by Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club  
Opening 6pm Friday September 2009

## ART happenings in the Upper Hunter

**20 - 21 June - Miniatures/Watercolour workshop with Madelaine Syzmanski** This is a two day workshop being held at the Scone Arts & Crafts, Kingdom St, Scone. Limited spaces .... Betty Lambley 6543 7160.

**26 June Singleton Art Prize - entries close**  
\$10 000 prize....Opening Night 17.07.09  
More information Brian Ellis 0408 600 096

**26 June Murrurundi Keddies Pastoral Photographic Prize \$10,000.....**  
**closing day for CD submissions 26 June.**  
[www.murrurundiphotographicprize.com.au](http://www.murrurundiphotographicprize.com.au)

David Mahoney Art Gallery is seeking sculptors & artists to be part of the creation of a sculpture park in Sandy Hol-low.....6547 4533.



**Celebrating 50years of the Muswellbrook Shire Collection. A detailed, lushly illustrated & informative catalogue by Katrina Rumley for sale.**

**Only \$25**

## ART CLASSES WITH MAX WATTERS

All ages welcome

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

- 4 - 6pm - Muswellbrook PCYC :45411434

### Thursday

- 2 - 5pm - McCully's Gap Art Group  
The Pot House
- 6 - 8.15pm - The Pot House, Muswellbrook  
Contact Max: 02 6543 2875

### Friday

- 2.30- 6pm - Scone Youth Art Group  
Susan Street

### Saturday

- 1.30 - 4pm - Aberdeen Art Group  
Community Centre

**Any enquires please contact Max Watters 6543 2875**

## Scone ADFAS

**June 23 'The Delight of all Persons of Reputation and Taste' Vauxhall Gardens (1661-1859).** A lecture by Mr David Coke NADFAS

**July 14 'William James Neatby: The Master of Harrods Meat Hall'.** A lecture by Dr Scott Anderson, ASFAV, NADFAS

Lectures begin promptly at 6.30pm

**Scone Arts & Craft Hall**

**Enquiries: 6545 0471**

**\$20 includes lecture & supper**

## muswellbrook regional arts centre

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Email: [artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artscentre@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au) Web: [www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](http://www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)

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

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

