

# muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 5, No 3 May 2009

## Unseen Works from the Shire Collection 15th May to 21 June 2009

For the first time ever, the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre is bringing to the public, the unseen works from the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection. What this exhibition constitutes is most of the remaining works from the old Denman Shire Art Collection and some of the more obscure sections of the Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection. These works have not been exhibited at all in recent years and some have not been exhibited (particularly the Denman Shire Art Collection) since they were first exhibited and then ushered into the Denman Shire Art Collection. A lot of information concerning these works was lost over time with the disbanding of the Denman Arts & Crafts Group and most of the core members of the group moved away from the area. Meanwhile the works in the Denman Shire Art Collection languished unseen and unappreciated until the works were relocated to the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre in 1989, following the amalgamation of the two shires. There, they have remained in storage.

Recently they were "rediscovered" during the Centre's ongoing task to photograph the entire Collection. It was then decided that having been unpacked that it was perhaps worthy of forming the kernel of an exhibition centred around these rarely seen objects and images that are now in the Shire Collection.

As the process of planning an exhibition began to formulate around this notion, a number of gems that have not had their deserved "day in the sun" have been selected. The works in this exhibition have many sources in terms of their entry into the collection, either as second or equal first prizes as in the case of Ian Johnstone's *Androgenes* (or *Androgynous: The Shared Act Of Creativity*) in the Open & Local Art Prizes in their various forms, purchases from those prizes, as was the case with Garrie Collins' *Composition No 2* way back in 1960 or donations such as the six Garry Philp's works donated in 2008, to complement the other two works by Garry (a deceased local artist) which were in the Denman Shire Art Collection. This exhibition also offers the public the chance to perhaps identify a number of items from the old Denman Shire Art Collection for which no artists names have been recorded, and we would be particularly grateful for any forthcoming information, including biographical information from the public in this vein.



Nicola Purcell *Teapot* 1979  
porcelain & cane handle  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection



Betty Gleeson *The Three Bathers* undated terracotta  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection

# The Paper Trail - Opening Night



**Robert Gowing & Muscle Creek artist Rani Broun**



**Opening the exhibition:  
Cr Martin Rush  
Mayor  
Muswellbrook  
Shire**



**Alba Loredo,  
Muswellbrook  
artist**



**Girls Night Out: Carolin O'Brien, Tammy McGann,  
Amanda Hobbs-Haigh & Karilyn Hobbs**



**Local artist Christine Downes,  
Martindale artist Marion Woolley &  
June Curry enjoy Miniatures XIII**



**Muswellbrook  
Citizen of the Year  
Bruce James  
inspects  
Signs Of Tension**



**Jean Mitchelhill,  
Muscle Creek ceramicist**



**Rebecca & Andrew  
Roberts  
Muswellbrook  
photographer**

# 1 + 1 = 1

## selected works from the Max Watters Collection

A special feature of this choice of works is the fact that each work is composed of two separate but mutually dependant images which present as a single whole. In some cases the relationship is quite subtle and the two joining elements merge seamlessly to present the total image as seen in *View* by Stephen Earle and *River Crossing* by Michael Taylor. Other pieces use an alliteration device to reinforce, through duplication, the duality for instance in Dorothy Burns' *Coconut Forms (2 pieces)* and Bob Jenyns' *At the Risk of a Fine*. In Bridgid McLean's *Car Painting*, the repetition is seen through twin works portrayed in the same picture field confines. Complete changes in the chosen support for the work, accompanied by contradictory stylistic and painting techniques, like magnetic fields which attract rather than repel, is evident in Peter Poulet's *Untitled*. The presentation of the flip side, yin yang qualities of the subject matter in Patricia Moylan's *Night and Day, Day and Night* create the gestalt. Unity is also achieved simply by aligning the two different but mutually dependent elements of a passage of text or label with an identifiable traditional seascape painting as evident in Imants Tillers' *Displacement No 15*. On display in the Max Watters Gallery from 15th May to June 21 2009.



Michael Taylor  
*River Crossing*  
1968  
Mixed media on canvas  
(diptych)  
The Max Watters Collection  
Image used courtesy of the  
artist

## *Favourite Object*



*Jeffrey The Horse* by Leanne Ward  
Mosaic Image used courtesy of the artist

There has been a tradition of special theme invited artists shows held at the Arts Centre for a number of years and this time round we will be looking at a theme which should prove to be quite exciting and challenging for both artists and the public alike. These exhibitions have generated much enthusiasm and provide a strong sense of camaraderie, allowing for a wide representation of mediums and because of the thematic guidelines, an assured and cohesive exhibition.

**Favourite Object** singles out an object which continually reoccurs in the artist's oeuvre. It may be something as simple or mundane as a cup, book or chair on the one hand or, conversely, a precious possession such as a piece of jewellery or a family heirloom. Nevertheless, it will appear time and time again as a feature in the artwork. For this exhibition it is proposed that both the object and the resultant artwork, prominently featuring an image which depicts it, will be displayed together in the Gallery space. It is hoped that this exercise will give greater insight into the methods employed by artists when expressing their impression. By limiting entries to two per artist, an opportunity is also presented for theme and variation aspects to be explored.

The works on display will include paintings, drawings, ceramics, embroidery and photography all specially produced for this Exhibition.

# All New Stuff - featuring Ian Henderson

Recently Mr Ian Henderson an artist from Nimmitabel NSW began the process of divesting his large collection of work to the NSW and Qld Regional Galleries.

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre were contacted and an arrangement was made for him to donate some of his work to the Centre. Ian's pedigree in the arts world is extensive beginning in England in 1962 where he lived prior to arriving in Australia in 1971. Since his arrival he has had numerous shows and his work is in a number of Australian collections. Ian's works that have been acquired by MRAC have strong connections with the industrial landscape of Newcastle and make a statement about the cramped chaotic and congested landscape. Other works include pastoral scenes and portraits relating to the Upper Hunter and New England Regions.



Ian Henderson *All Our Journeys* 2008 mixed media on canvas.  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection Image used courtesy of the artist

## Max Watters - the Man in the Picture



Recently David McBride visited the Arts Centre and dropped in his painting of Max Watters. David a former local artist and art teacher at Scone High School painted the portrait of Max Watters as an entry in the Archibald Prize. Unfortunately the painting was damaged whilst being unpacked and so was never entered. Council had made the decision to acquire the work from David when he had had it repaired. With repairs being completed recently the Arts Centre contacted Max who arrived in order to see the painting arrive. Our photo shows Max and David with the painting. Photo by Kellie Tym

## *YouthSnaps* photographs by local young people

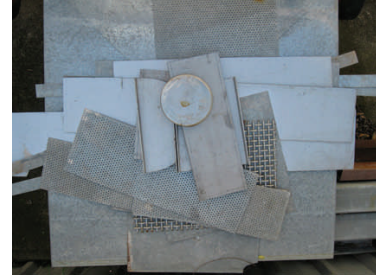
The Fourth **YouthSnaps Exhibition** will be staged in the **Arts Centre's Community Room from the 15th May**. This exhibition will be made up of works from a group of local young people who participated in the workshops held in partnership with Upper Hunter Community Services Inc. UHCS hired local photographer Roger Skinner to tutor the participants and then a number of field trips to locations in town and up at Rouchel Brook were staged from which an exhibition has been curated. The participants have produced some stunning and thought provoking works and the group really excelled in their approach to photography.



Photographs from  
YouthSnaps  
participants  
Rachel Angus &  
Emma Dewhirst



Upper Hunter Community Services



## Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club

The Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club held their April meeting at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre where a practical exercise was staged. The club built a small studio space with studio lighting and arranged for model and camera club member Sofie King, to pose for the rest of the membership. The practical night was arranged for the club's assignment for that night "Glamour". The idea behind the practical session was to give club members experience in shooting under studio conditions and combining that with some lecture notes from Roger Skinner on the Dream Glow technique. These two exercises then coming together and enabling the membership to exhibit their work, having applied the technique. Interestingly enough, Andrew Roberts shot some images, during the prac session, downloaded them onto his laptop at the meeting and made the first electronic submission to the clubs competition - Well done Andrew!!

The re-establishment of a long standing relationship with the Arts Centre bodes well for the future of the camera club particularly in light of the upcoming exhibition by the membership titled Self Rising which is a thematic exhibition in which the club will explore the self portrait.



Sophie King photographed by the Muswellbrook Camera Club

Photo by Mark Southcombe

## Mt Arthur Coal Major Sponsor

The Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club were successful in their negotiations with BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal with regard to securing sponsorship for the local photographic award held each year in October-November. Mt Arthur Coal has contributed \$1,000 dollars in sponsorship and the annual photography prize will now be named the Mt Arthur Coal Photography Prize which will be staged in conjunction with the Muswellbrook Local Art Awards. This long will provide a long awaited boost to the local photography scene, and all the districts photographers should keep an eye out for the entry forms when they become available.



Mt Arthur Coal



Brad Franks Arts Centre Manager, Roger Skinner Secretary of Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club & Sarah Withell Mt Arthur Coal BHP Billiton Environment & External Affairs Manager

photo by Rebecca Erskine

## Miniatures XIII

The miniatures exhibition which is open until 10th May has seen excellent sales as one would expect with the local artists producing affordable work to be snapped up by the local collectors and artists alike. The show which is an annual event has seen increased input from local artists has become a very popular event to which the sales of over 20% of exhibited works sold, attest. Thanks to the artists and the buying public.

### Community Room - Pieces from the Bruce Webber Collection

The Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre would like to thank Bruce Webber for his generosity. We were able to exhibit part of his military collection for ANZAC Day. Bruce gave his time on the day to explain and guide people through his extensive collection.



The Anzac Day Exhibition in the Community Room photo by Craig Singleton

## Di Jenkins raffle

Sales of the generously donated Di Jenkins artwork (Muswellbrook Settlers Buildings) has exceeded expectation so if you would like the chance to have this great piece on your wall, time is running out! The raffle will be drawn 15th May on the opening night of the Arts Centre's next group of exhibitions Favourite Objects, Unseen Works From The Collection 1+1=1 & YouthSnaps.

**\$5.00 each of 5 for \$20.00**

## Smokin' At The Pothouse

The **Muswellbrook Pot House** recently held a Raku firing in their clubhouse grounds. Scott Cooper from Scone directed the firing and also produced a number of bisque fired pots for sale for anyone attending to purchase and glaze as an experiment in the Raku firing process. The day began early with the hardiest folks arriving around 8.30am and the day went on until around 3.30pm in the afternoon. Around 20 people turned up at various times willing to have a go at a Raku firing with some wonderful results being produced. This exciting process gives a relatively quick results and a firing which takes place in a thermally lined garbage tin, lasts for approximately 40 minutes. After this initial firing the pots are placed in a reduction chamber where shredded newspaper is added which catches alight due to the heat of the pot, when the flames reach the desired intensity the chamber is closed off using a newspaper that has been previously soaked in water and the final firing of the pot is undertaken in this oxygen reduced atmosphere which leads to all sorts of diverse results. The day proved fun for all those that attended and the Muswellbrook Pot House are to be commended for this hands on activity which

afforded members of the public a rare chance to have a go at the Raku firing process.



Photos shows Jean Mitchelhill & Daisy Robb decorating their pots, Scott Cooper, Carol Southcombe Daisy Robb and Maureen Copland prior to firing their pots, Scott Cooper, Jean Johnstone & Lee Hallett prepares the reduction chambers. Photos by Roger Skinner

## the artist at Mart 'n' Dale's Bizzar -

Greg Wilson's artwork is no longer a secret!

After a number of highly successful and extended exhibitions in Sydney, New York and elsewhere he has sold works around the world, and has a newly opened gallery in Sydney and the Greg Wilson Gallery in the Hunter Valley.

Greg developed his artistic talents along the bumpy road to recovery from an horrific accident. Dubbed "rebel of the Artworld". Greg is also a published author, his book, "My Brush with Depression", tells the story of his road back to happiness. Greg's TV appearances are many and a movie is in the wind.

**Greg will be guest speaker at the Mart'n'Dale's Bizzar**, he will also paint a mural and is hoping to work with parents and children with their paintings.

### Mart'n'Dale's Bizzar

Martindale Community Church Hall

11am 16th May 2009

enquiries welcome phone 6547 3552 or 6547 3567

## what's on at the arts centre

### 16 may - 21 June 2009

Favourite Objects - Local Artist Show  
Unseen Works from the Muswellbrook Collections  
Youth Snaps local kids photography Show  
Opening 6pm Friday 15 May

### 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

## ART happenings in the Upper Hunter

**Greg Wilson Hunter Artist**  
guest speaker at the **Mart'n'Dale's Bizzar**  
**Saturday 16th May 11am - 3pm St Martins**  
**Community Church Hall Martindale via Denman**

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



**Celebrating 50years of the Muswellbrook Shire Collection**  
A detailed, lushly illustrated & informative catalogue by **Katrina Rumley** for sale.  
**Only \$25**

### Photography Tuition By Roger Skinner

From learning how to use your camera, all those confusing little buttons and what they are for ,to carrying out various manipulations to your images in Photoshop. Classes are held weeknights and /or days. Contact Roger on **0407002777**.  
email [rojpix@ipstamail.com.au](mailto:rojpix@ipstamail.com.au)

### Art Classes By Eve Kennedy Special Classes "Explosions Of Colour"

Next term will be very exciting as I will be giving a ten week course on **Colour Theory**  
Commencing Wednesday 29th April you will discover colour is a powerful tool in your art whether you have been painting for years or just starting. Wednesday 29th April 10-.12.30 in the Meeting Room Sowerbey St Muswellbrook  
Friday 1st May 10.00-1.00 Denman RSL Club Contact Eve **0428972605**

## 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 - 6.pm - 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

**May 12** 'What does it take to be an Australian official war artist?'

**Mrs Lola Wilkins**, Head of Art at the Australian War Museum...St Luke Church Hall

**June 23** 'The Delight of all Persons of Reputation and Taste': Vauxhall Gardens 1661-1859. **Mr David Coke** NADFAS..Scone Arts & Crafts Hall.

Lectures begin **promptly at 6.30pm**

**Enquiries: 6545 0471**

**\$20 includes lecture & supper**

## 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 a non-profit facility and resource servicing the Upper Hunter Region owned and operated by Muswellbrook Shire Council

