m u s w e l l b r o o k
r e g i o n a l a r t s c a r n i v a l e

Newsletter Vol 5 , No 6 September 2009

muswellbrook carnivale ...in spring

Andrew Antoniou

Andrew Antoniou ***Heaven's Playhouse*** 2008 charcoal & conte on paper 108 x 142cm
image courtesy of the artist

'A Rolling Narrative'

Andrew Antoniou - A Rolling Narrative

19th September - 18th October 2009

"The dream world of the subconscious is the locus of Andrew Antoniou's art. He draws upon memory and imagination to create his images, rather than using direct observation and working from life. Like many surrealist artists, his process of forming compositions uses principles of collage – that is, a bringing together of disparate elements, often developed previously in preparatory drawings using different poses or costumes, together in a final composition. Unlike much surrealist art, however, Antontiou's work presents images that have a strangely convincing quality, defying their absurdity, through the unified quality of his drawing and sense of calm normalcy that his subjects project. His work has moved beyond the randomness of surrealism into a realm of fantasy imagination that is carefully considered and quite deliberate."

Anne Ryan, curator, Australian Prints Art Gallery of NSW, April 2008.

"Andrew Antoniou is a rare artist who has created a fantastic and absurd world which he has populated with strange, whimsical and slightly displaced figures. They seem to create their own reality with their own sense of logic, where their actions appear as deliberate, yet lacking in purpose. Antoniou is an artist whose work possesses an authentic visionary quality."

Sasha Grishin - Canberra Times Arts Review

Andrew Antoniou
Image courtesy of www.antoniou.com.au

TAMBURLAINE
ORGANIC WINES

Thank you to Tamburlaine Organic Wines of Pokolbin for sponsoring the Jan Vincent & Dorothee Heibel exhibition opening night.

Self Rising

19th September- 18th October 2009

Craig Flemming self portrait
Digital Output Print 2009

Perhaps the ultimate challenge to any and all artists... this is the place where they either lay bare the soul or clam up. This is the playground they all enter at some stage or another to think about the self, this place holds the slippery dip, the swings, the see saw or perhaps the monkey bars of life! for all to play on. This serious challenge was laid at the feet of the members of the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club by Peter Gill the Curator at Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre way back in September of 2008 and constitutes the first invitation for the club to participate in a group exhibition at the Arts Centre since 2004, and while we are in the mood for statistics the staging of this show marks the twentieth anniversary of Chiaroscuro The Dramatic Study of Light, the very first exhibition, by the club, in the Arts Centre as an invited artists exhibition. So twenty years ago.. the club members rose to the challenge as they have done on this occasion proving yet again that they are capable of meeting the challenge set them with a diverse, interesting, and sometimes illuminating glimpse through the dark glass, to themselves.

An Exhibition of Self Portraits by members of the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club

Muswellbrook

Local Art Awards 2009

bhpbilliton
resourcing the future

Mt Arthur Coal

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 $4000.**
This years Adjudicator is Virginia Mitchell, Director Cessnock Regional Art Gallery. Entries close on Friday 15 October so contact the Arts Centre soon for your entry form. Exhibition dates 25 October - 29 November 2009

Thanks to this years sponsors: The Viola Bromley Bequest Muswellbrook, Ceramics Group Inc (The Pot House), Max Watters OAM, Muswellbrook RSL Snooker Club, Muswellbrook & District Workers Club, The Estate of Isabel Esther Bellis, Scone ADFAS Inc. Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club, Berry & French Pharmacy, Matthews Jewellers, Muswellbrook Eye-care, McDonalds Family Restaurant Muswellbrook & major sponsor Mt Arthur Coal.

Steel

Selected 3-D works from The Max Watters Collection

19th September - 18th October 2009

Richard Stankiewicz
Australia No 8

This suite of small sculptures looks at a number of ways in which contemporary sculptors have utilised the many possibilities and qualities of steel as a means of artistic expression. It is a relatively recent medium and, because of its myriad of features, artists have been able to extend and, in some cases, transcend many of the more traditional mediums employed in this discipline over the millennia.

Steel can be cast, welded, cut, folded, bent, drilled and bolted. It has great strength and durability. Surface finishes can be incorporated into the structure of metal itself (Richard Stankiewicz's intentional 'rusty finish' for *Australia No. 8*) or they can be applied as a painted finish as a final embellishment (David Teer's polychrome surface treatment in *Lessgo* and Noel Hutchinson's industrial enamelled paint in *Over and Under*.

Steels inherent qualities allow for the whole gamut from the finest detailing to grand scale works of considerable monumentality to be produced. Some of the pieces in the selection are maquettes for much larger public art works (Tony Coleing's *Pipe Sculpture* and *Park Sculpture*) and other simply exist as studies in their own right (John E Hughes' *Ant*).

An added bonus of this exciting material is the fact that it can reflect key elements of our current place in history, giving a sense of place which is readily identifiable. Aleksander Danko's C*hromium May*, a calendar page for the month of May in chromed steel and heavy wooden components , and the two works by Robert Parr, *Dig*, which illustrates a typical Australian outback scene and another *Suburban Landscape* contains the all too familiar shopping trolley parked against a paling fence with attendant overhanging gum tree.

Perhaps the most pertinent example in the exhibition, which embodies a number of the above mentioned aspects, is Oliffe Richmond's *Temple*, which, although being quite small in size, displays a sense of considerable monumentality and grandeur, evoking such icons from antiquity as the Lion Gate of Mycenae, the Porta Augusta in Perugia, Italy and the great sculptures of the seated Ramesses II from the temple of Abu Simbel. The subtle application of a transparent blue stain film on selected surfaces serves to heighten the sense of mass and solidity.

Friends and Staff of the Arts Centre would like to extend our heart felt condolences to local Muswellbrook artist Craig Dunn on the sad and unexpected passing of his beautiful wife Debbie..... .you are in our thoughts

Craig Dunn earthenware sculpture 2007

Upstairs Art

artists from the Upper Hunter

19th September - 18th October 2009

Upstairs Art Studios and Gallery in Murrurundi will be featuring art works created by some 25 of the students from the studio who have attended classes each week. Many of the students have been attending Upstairs Art for over 18 months. The student's art reflects a diversity of styles, media and composition, although a great love of the bush and rural life and the characters who populate the region is a feature of their work. Rodney Swansborough, the teacher and artist-in-residence with his partner, artist Pearl Moon will also be exhibiting their own art work at the Upstairs Art Exhibition in the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre from September 18th till October 16th.
Opening at 6.00pm Friday 18 September.

Stuart Dawson *Cattle Droving* 2009 pastel on paper
image courtesy of the artist

Congratulations to
Guides & Brownies of Muswellbrook
Celebrating 60 years in 2009

Photo by K Tym

Congratulations to
local Aberdeen artist
Marie Lunney
on a successful exhibition at
Haydon Hall Arts Gallery
in Murrurundi during August
2009

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre has updated the website
www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
You can now access the Art Centre's current & future exhibitions, permanent collection information, Artist's competition calendar, colour photos of the Arts Centre's Competition winners, all gallery newsletters since October 2005 and much more....

Opera - The Shrewd Maid

A New Work from Director Scott Blick

Pianist Vincent Parmenter, Dermod Kavanagh, Scott Blick & The Shrewd Maid, Samantha Cobcroft

The Arts Centre presented the two act opera ***The Shrewd Maid*** on 22 August to a full house of excited opera lovers. They enjoyed a contemporary translation of one of the most recognisable themes in this genre which centres on a quick witted maid, Dorilla, who tricks her mistress' suitor, Balazone, into marrying her instead of her wealthy mistress. The original opera, *La sorella amante*, by the 18th century German composer, Johann Adolph Hasse, was first performed in Naples 280 years ago. It is widely acknowledged that Hasse was a pivotal figure in the development of *opera seria* and 18th century music. Scott Blick, the Director of this production, has set the piece in 1930's Australia and, in keeping with his company Blue Bottle Productions of other operas, has used colloquial English to make it more accessible for a wider audience. It follows another opera from Blue Bottle Productions which was performed in Muswellbrook last year and, if all goes to plan, will not be the last we see from this innovative and inspiring company.

The Main gallery space was transformed from an exhibition space into a theatre. The lighting and acoustics, not to mention the flexibility of reconfiguration of the suspended wall hanging system, further demonstrates the uniqueness of the Arts Centre.

Workshops were also held in conjunction with the opera to develop and integrate acting and movement skills with singing exercises and games. They were enthusiastically received by the participating students.

The performance was a joint exercise between the Arts Centre and the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod Committee. It was part of Muswellbrook Carnivale and was sponsored by Regional Arts New South Wales, Coal & Allied and Bengalla.

Director of The Shrewd Maid Scott Blick & the Eisteddfod's Susie Troon

Christine Rodgers, President of the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod

Opening Night Jan Vincent 14 August 2009

The Journey

Dorothee Heibel

The Lovers' Series

Exhibiting artist Jan Vincent and friend Brian came from Canberra for the opening

Exhibiting Lovedale based artist Dorothee Heibel and friend Noreen enjoying Dorothee's Lovers

Local artist Roberta Wiseman
Having some fun with Dorothee Heibel's High Tea Lovers

Local artist Stephanie McFarlane & Bruce McFarlane pictured with Gary Sheads' Nymphs in the Max Watters Gallery

Gail & Robin Bragg happy to be at the Arts Centre

Dorothy Bridge & David Barr admiring Jan Vincent's' watercolour painting "On the way to Mt Caputar"

Pamela Curtain with Arts Centre Volunteer Lorraine Harris

Steve Bottomley & Ingrid Suijkerbuijk Of Roseglen Estate & Juul Wines, Denman

Opening night guest speaker Margaret Sivyer OAM & Virginia Mitchell Director of the new Cessnock Regional Art Gallery

We welcome Nerida Wales-Brown, Muswellbrook Shire Council's new Community Grants Officer

CARNIVALE AT THE ARTS CENTRE

19 September— 18 October 2009

Andrew Antoniou - A Rolling Narrative

Self Rising - Self Portraits
by Muswellbrook& Districts Camera Club

Opening 6pm Friday September 2009

Saturday 26 September 2009

Tastes of the Hunter

at 2pm sample & buy local gourmet produce & enjoy the art

25 October - 29 November 2009

2009 Muswellbrook Local Art Awards
$4,000 prize money

Charles Blandford - Upper Hunter Abstractionist, a retrospective

Opening 6pm Saturday 24 October 2009

Raffle

The latest local artwork the Arts Centre offers you is -*Muscle Creek*-
pastel & wax on coloured card by **Andrew Davis**
Tickets: $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00

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

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

ArT

happenings in the Upper Hunter

19th September -

The Last Night of the Proms
The Upper Hunter Conservatorium Orchestra and Choir Muswellbrook High School, Enquiries 6541 4888.

25th September -

Keddies Pastoral Photographic Prize
Opening Night commencing at 6.30pm
RSL Hall, Mayne St Murrurundi Enquiries 6546 6262.

Opening of Story .Art. History. Place
An exhibition curated by **Les Elvin**, exploring and illustrating the symbols found on animal skins, barks and trees of this region. Opening Night 6-8pm
Cessnock Regional Art Gallery Enquires: 4991 6619

3rd October -

"Smoking at the Pot House"
Presented by the Muswellbrook Ceramics Group with pots and glazes available for purchase. The Pot House, Lower Brook St. Muswellbrook. Enquires Scott Cooper : 0427 101 697

24th October -

Upper Hunter Collectors Fair
Displaying historical, educational and interesting items and artefacts. Denman Town Hall, Ogilvie

Scone ADFAS

15th September

Gloriana: Queen Elizabeth I, Woman & Icon
Miss Terry Pearson BA (Hons) MA DipEd NADFAS
Scone RSL

6th October

The Architecture & Music of Kings College Chapel, Cambridge
Mrs Elizabeth Gordon NADFAS
Scone Arts & Crafts Hall
Lectures begin **promptly** at **6.30pm Scone Arts & Craft Hall Enquires: 6545 0471 $20 includes lecture & supper**

muswellbrook shire council

muswellbrook regional arts centre
Corner of Bridge & Market Streets
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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
(closed Mondays and public holidays)
muswellbrook regional arts centre is a non-profit facility and resource servicing the Upper Hunter, owned and operated by Muswellbrook Shire Council