

# muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 4 No 7 November 2008

*Wishing you all the best of the season and a happy new year*



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

### Official Opening of the 21st Muswellbrook Photographic Award

The 21st Muswellbrook Photographic Award opened in front of a record crowd on Saturday October 11 2008, Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Martin Rush addressed the crowd and among his remarks Martin indicated that the " Muswellbrook Photographic Award, which turns 21 tonight, is a testament to the support of the Arts Centre by the Muswellbrook and Districts Camera Club and has enabled the Centre to build an important collection of photographs through the acquisitive nature of the Award. This collection would not exist except for the generous contribution of Coal & Allied who have been the major sponsor since its inception". Antony Bijok, General Manager Studies Rio Tinto of Coal and Allied Mt Pleasant Project also spoke addressing the notions of art making and the importance to Coal & Allied of being involved with cultural development in the region. Rose Peel, former Senior Conservator of Works on Paper at the Art Gallery of NSW and the adjudicator of the 2008 Photographic Award, made a very considered approach to the adjudication spending about many hours before making her final selection of the winning work "Mind Field" by Anthony Mravivic. Anthony's work has proved somewhat controversial in that it is an unfixed gelatin silver print which will grow darker and darker over time as it is exposed to light. Rose said in her address "This is a transient image that questions our understanding of what a photograph is, and what it is for. The work is about seeing and not seeing, about touch and not touching; two of the most important aspects of a work of art for both the creator and the viewer". The Regional Arts Centre is also pleased to announce a 108% increase in entries in 2008 and are hoping for another increase in 2010 when the next award will be staged.



Anthony Mravivic *Mind Field* 2006-08  
unfixed gelatin silver print  
Muswellbrook Shire Art Collection  
Image courtesy of the artist



Muswellbrook Mayor Martin Rush speaking at the official opening.



Rose Peel, adjudicator of the 2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award.



Antony Bijok General Manager Studies, Coal & Allied Mt Pleasant Project addresses the crowd at the official opening.

# Opening Night

## 2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award & Muswellbrook Local Art Awards: Opening Night at the Arts Centre, Saturday 11 October 2008



**John Morris, Amanda Morris,  
Edwina Casey, Ben Leece &  
Shenae Leece**



**John & Carol Dyson**



**Lyn Robinson, Cindy Terrace,  
Kim Reagan & Yvonne Taylor**



**Murrurundi Artists  
Rodney Swansborough &  
Gillian Paterson**



**Adam Esteves & Toni Collison**



**Trevor, Andrew & Marion Woolley  
Martindale artist**



**Jane Sullivan from Haydon  
Hall Gallery Murrurundi**



**Artists Stephanie MacFarlane  
of Muswellbrook & Roberta  
Wiseman of Scone**



**Otis Bottomley from Denman  
enjoying the fun & food at  
the opening.**

# 2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award & Muswellbrook Local Art Awards

## Results

Adjudicators, Rose Peel, former Senior Conservator of Works on Paper Art Gallery of NSW (photography) and Sandra McMahon, Director of Tamworth Regional Gallery (local art, ceramics & youth) made their decisions on Saturday 11 October 2008, as follows:

### Muswellbrook Photographic Award:-

First Prize (acquisitive) – Anthony Mravicic, *Mind Field*  
Highly Commended – Elizabeth Wallis, *Melancholy Sunday*  
Highly Commended – Rhonda Thwaite, *Paul Livingston*  
Highly Commended – Bonnie Seville, *Meat Market*  
Highly Commended – Andrew Roberts, *Ripples*  
Highly Commended – Sophie King, *Couldn't Think of Anything More Cool*  
Highly Commended – Hayden Jones, *Cinque Terre, Italy*  
Highly Commended – Christine Adams, *Dark Matter # 2*



Sophie King

### Muswellbrook Local Art Awards:-

#### Local Art Prize

First Prize – Teresa Byrne, *Upper Hunter Landscape*  
Second Prize – Lynette Nash, *Little Beach*  
Viola Bromley Encouragement Prize – Rani Broun, *The Farmer*  
Highly Commended – Gilbert Hermon, *Extinct*  
Highly Commended – Winsome Brown, *Sheep Country*  
Highly Commended – Ros Jacobs, *Pomegranate*  
Highly Commended – Jean May, *A Quiet Place*  
Highly Commended – Peter Norvill, *Father Paul*  
Highly Commended – Rodney Swansborough, *Googie Withers*  
Highly Commended – Roberta Wiseman, *Celebratory Landscape*



Teresa Byrne

#### Local Ceramic Prize

First Prize – Irene Esteves, *My Support Group*  
Second Prize – Craig Dunn, *Mojo*  
Max Watters Encouragement Prize – Lyn Nash, *What Came First*  
Highly Commended – Irene Esteves, *Monday is Washing Day is Everybody Happy?*



Craig Dunn

#### Esther Bellis Youth Encouragement Prize

First Prize – Amelia Hobbs-Haigh, *Cordial I*  
Second Prize – Phillip Tickle, *Image of Play*  
Scone ADFAS Encouragement Prize – Ben Pittman, *The Last Shave*  
Highly Commended – Edwina Casey, *Florence*  
Highly Commended – Jordanna Dowell, *Identity*  
Highly Commended – Savannah Morrison, *Pippin*  
Highly Commended – Kate Pickham, *Flowers*  
Highly Commended – Nikki Whyburn, *An Apple a Day*  
Highly Commended – Hamish White, *City*



Amelia Hobbs-Haigh



Phillip Tickle

#### Local Photography Prize

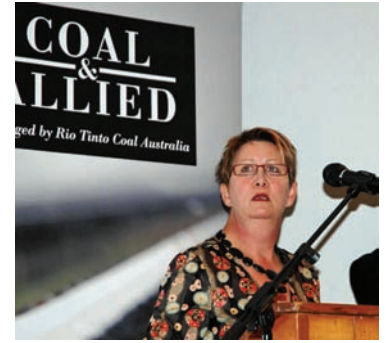
First Prize – Roger Skinner, *She Came in the Night*  
Second Prize – Bryan Scott, *Wild Flower*  
Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club Encouragement Prize – John Hodges, *Rockscape*  
Highly Commended – Sophie King, *The Look*  
Highly Commended – Roger Skinner, *Coming to Italy*  
Highly Commended – Amelia Hobbs-Haigh, *Self Portrait*



John Hodges

## The 2008 Local Art Awards, The Fantastic Voyage and the Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club 50 Years Exhibition

October 11th also saw the official opening of the Muswellbrook Local Art Awards, adjudicated for 2008 by Sandra Mc Mahon, Director of Tamworth Regional Gallery. Ms McMahon commented on the diversity and variety of work submitted to the awards and made particular note of the strength of the youth section in the Esther Bellis Youth Encouragement Prize. Ms McMahon said the final choices were extremely difficult due to the high standard of work.



Ms Sandra Mc Mahon announces her adjudication at the official opening

**Thanks again to our wonderful sponsors without whose support these Awards would not be possible:**

Coal & Allied, Baybrook Motor Inn & Apartments, Muswellbrook & Districts Camera Club, The Estate of Isabel Esther Bellis, Max Watters OAM, Muswellbrook Ceramic Group (The Pot House), Muswellbrook & District Workers Club, Viola Bromley Bequest, Muswellbrook RSL Snooker Club, Berry & French Pharmacy, Matthews Jewellers, Muswellbrook Eyecare, Scone ADFAS Inc.

## Coal & Allied Localises Arts Centre

Local Aboriginal artwork will now be available to view at Muswellbrook's Regional Arts Centre thanks to a donation from Coal & Allied's Mount Pleasant Project. Coal & Allied has donated an original artwork entitled "Singleton Bats" to the gallery created by local Aboriginal artist, Denise Hedges. Coal & Allied General Manager Studies, Antony Bijok, said he was pleased to offer support to Denise and other local Aboriginal artists to help them achieve greater exposure for their work within the community. The Coal & Allied Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee has been strongly supportive of Denise as an Indigenous artist in the local area. We have funded her business plan, which included the recent Upper Hunter Valley Wupa@Wanaruah art exhibition which showcased work by Denise and another local Indigenous artist. We have also purchased several of her artworks, one of which is used as the emblem for the Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee. "We hope our recent donation to the arts centre will not only provide Denise with greater exposure but encourage other aspiring artists within the local Aboriginal community." Denise said she was delighted to know her artwork is appreciated and now would be available to the wider community to view. "I hope my artwork offers people an opportunity to reflect on the importance of our rich and vibrant Aboriginal culture," Ms Hedges said. "Our Aboriginal culture is very important to us and I would like to thank Coal & Allied for its support." The Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre Manager, Brad Franks, said the art centre houses the Upper Hunter region art collection, which includes contemporary Australian paintings, photography, works on paper, ceramics and the Max Watters Collection. "Thanks to Coal & Allied's generous donation we are now honoured to say the centre also houses artwork from a Singleton based local Aboriginal artist," Mr Franks said. Art centre volunteer Roger Skinner has also donated an original artwork by Ms Hedges to the centre. Mr Skinner purchased the artwork "Hunting Party" at last month's Muswellbrook Police and Community Youth Club and Challenge Disabilities Services charity auction which was also supported by Coal & Allied.



Brad Franks Arts Centre Manager, Antony Bijok General Manager Studies Rio Tinto, Denise Hedges Wanaruah Artist and Roger Skinner Arts Centre Volunteer at the official handover

# Susana Enriquez - Molto Vivace



Susana Enriquez  
*Theme and  
Variation (one of  
one hundred  
paintings)* 2003  
spp on canvas  
image courtesy  
of the artist

The artworks in this exhibition relate directly to the body of work produced for the artist's PhD and consist of a range of different mediums and disciplines including drawings and oil and acrylic paintings. The works are based around the theme of Sound and Colour and they examine the interrelationships between painting and music via a personal colour code in order to translate the sounds into painting. While residing in Newcastle in the Hunter Valley "Being born and raised in Mexico City has brought an intrinsic Latin American intensity that is readily apparent. Her studies with important Mexican artists and her constant exposure to Mexican art, both past and present, have been important in her creative process" (Gregorio Fritz, MA –Montecasino, Mexico. October 2005).

The exhibition will be mounted in the School of Arts Gallery at the Arts Centre and will include a number of lyrical works on paper presented as wall mounted "scrolls" which represent the musical score with the pertinent words being "gesture" and "performance". A selection of central hanging oil paintings on acetate film will create a double sided viewing experience for the audience as they pass in and around the suspended pieces. In addition, there will be a suite of 100 abstract "colour coded" paintings which will encircle the walls, arranged by the Arts Centre Curator, Peter Gill, in a completely personal and interpretative sequence according to the ideas suggested by listening to the music of Manuel Enriquez (the artist's late husband) and Arvo Part.

**Susana Enriquez's Molto Vivace will open at 6.00pm on Friday 28 November with special guest speaker Mrs. Aggie Maisano, President of the Brandenburg Friends, and continue until Sunday 21 December 2008.**



Susana Enriquez photographed by Elsie Montiel 2004

## 40th Muswellbrook Open Art Prize February 2009

for information contact the Arts Centre

**The Muswellbrook Open Art Prize for two  
dimensional artworks in any medium  
(except photography) and ceramics.**

**An acquisitive prize since 1958.**



Hanna Kay *Habitat* 2005  
Oil on canvas  
winner of the 2007 MOAP



Proudly sponsored by Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited

The works selected for this small suite of landscape based artworks demonstrate some of the ways in which artists can be inspired by particular features of the landscape. The means of communicating their responses range from a traditional or representational image, through to a more selective or abstract interpretation where a particular feature is given prominence by the use of a number of artistic devices e.g. the inclusion of a decorative or pattern making element which sums up the mood or presence of the subject, or the use of repetitive formats some of which present multiple viewpoints of a single subject. Sometimes by honing in on a detail of the landscape, identifying its key aspects and generalising its field, an artist is able to include the viewer into the much wider field giving a similar experience to the one which initially inspired the artist. Of course there are also examples where there is a combination of a number of these aspects in the one work with the result that a more inclusive experience is achieved.

***Sunset from Mount Vincent***, by John Montefiore, is a pastiche of realistic and closely observed features of an easily identifiable subject built up using design elements which reflect more than a working knowledge of Eastern (the stylized clouds in the sky) and Western (the traditional tonal rendering of the foreground rocks) traditions combined with contemporary theories of optical colour mixing in the dots and dashes to define the space. The profile of the mountain behind the township of ***Kyogle*** by David van Nunen further explores this aspect of combining the familiar and easily recognisable with a more adventurous and expressionistic method of execution in the bold brushwork shapes which make up the image. Pattern making, where vigorous brushwork is accompanied by the effects of bold and complimentary colour relationships, certainly increases the sense of space in David van Nunen's ***Midday Botanical Gardens***. This is also the guiding force behind Stephen Earle's large highly coloured and spontaneous painting ***View***. Maeve Woods' intimate study of ***Dirt, Feathers and Grass Seeds – Bush Abstract 4***, is quite subtle. It also depends very much on the all over repeat motif to suggest both a particular point in time and a notion that the view continues far beyond the confines of the picture surface boundary. The use of an aerial viewpoint in the aspect of the landscape of ***Rouchel Brook*** by David McBride sees the watercourse and its surrounding forestation morphed into a sinuous study of rhythmic lines and accompanying shapes reminiscent of copperplate writing and calligraphy exercises combined with the key principles of the Art Nouveau movement.

Multiple viewpoints of a particular scene within the same artwork allow for an expanded portrayal. The viewer, like the artist, is compelled into assessing the subject from another direction. Not only does the picture plane oscillate from left to right, but it also moves along its vertical axis. The two major aspects of ***Marrickville Town Hall*** by Frank Littler are contained within the one artwork. The kaleidoscopic six part assemblage which makes up ***Through Alison's Looking Glass***, by Alison Hodges, also uses this multiple viewpoint technique. The repeated ***Five Different Sized Houses*** by Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa), where similar shapes of varying scale houses are included in the landscape, accentuate the sense of perspective and space.

Another way of bringing a different aspect to the traditional full frontal view is to introduce an element of the unexpected into what, on the surface appears to be a fairly mundane and safe approach to the subject. ***Kangerigars in the New England Tableland***, by Ken Searle, is dotted with a number of flying creatures which are half budgerigar and half kangaroo. A fighter jet passing through the centre of the artwork adds to the sense of the unreal. Likewise, ***A Lovely View*** by Margot Hutcheson seems to be based on a very ordinary and boring snapshot of a group of tourist at a favourite tourist pit stop. The series of four different sized canvases, arranged at staggered heights, presents an interrupted and unexpected view different to the usual approach employed by landscape artists.

**Another Point of View will open at 6.00pm on Friday 28 November and continue until Sunday 21 December 2008.**

## Featured artists:

Stephen Earle  
Alison Hodges  
Margot Hutcheson  
Frank Littler  
David McBride  
John Montefiore  
Ken Searle  
David van Nunen  
Maeve Woods



Stephen Earle  
b. 1942  
*View* 1969  
oil on canvas  
Max Watters Collection  
Image courtesy of the artist

## Christmas 2008 Local Artist's Selling Show

Wollemi Gallery

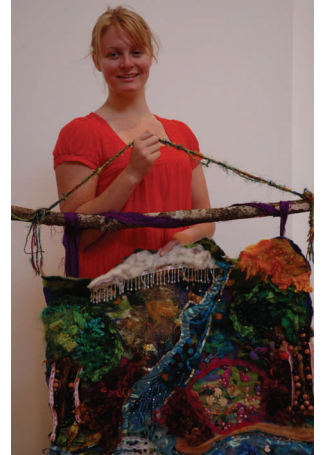
It is that time of year again when our thoughts turn to giving and what could be better to give than an artwork by one of the wonderful artists of the Upper Hunter Region. All the works in this show are priced below \$200.00, are sized for a domestic setting and may be removed from the Arts Centre as soon as you have purchased the work. A great opportunity to spread the joy of Christmas locally for both a loved one and an artist or perhaps the chance to collect a work of art for your own private collection at a special price.

**The Christmas 2008 Local Artists Selling Show opens at 6.00pm on Friday 28 November and continues until Sunday 21 December 2008.**

**Felting Our Future** is an exhibition of felting and collage by the Year One and Two students (5 & 6 year olds) from Muswellbrook's St. James' Primary School which examine the environment and human-kind's effect upon it. The works are witty, fun and demonstrate the joy that children find in expressing themselves creatively.

**Felting Our Future will be on display in the Community Room at the Arts Centre from 28 November to 21 December 2008.**

Heather Brockwell, teacher & exhibition organiser from St James' Primary holding a piece from the exhibition



## 50+ Catalogue For Sale

Celebrating 50 years of the Muswellbrook Shire Collection detailed, illustrated & informative Catalogue for Sale: \$25.00 This richly illustrated book by Katrina Rumley takes the reader on a thematic journey through selected works from the Muswellbrook Shire Collection built over the last fifty years. A worthy investment for any library and a terrific Christmas gift.

50+ is proudly sponsored by Mt Arthur Coal



## Raffle With A Difference.. A Win Win

### An Appeal to Local Artists.

For some time now the Arts Centre have staged raffles of various local artists work, including Max Watters and Bruce Tindale. If you are a local artist who is interested in donating a work to be raffled you should see the Arts Centre staff and they will organise for a suitable display and publicity of your donation. These raffles are a vital way of earning subsidiary funds used exclusively for the purchase of artworks for the collection and all donations would be most gratefully received. Accordingly the Centre see this as a way for you to get some kudos around the donation and display of your work and the Arts Centre to obtain direct contributions to the purchase fund.

Roger Skinner & Kathleen Bray, Kathleen was the winner of the raffle for Roger's Architectural Chords II



**2009**

at the arts centre:



**29 November – 21 December 2008**

- \* Susana Enriquez - Molto Vivace
- \* Christmas 2008 Local Artists
- \* Another Point of View

Opening 6.00pm Friday 28 November 2008

**NB: The Arts Centre will be closed over Christmas from 21 December 2008 - 6 January 2009**

**6 January - 8 February 2009**

- \* Recent Acquisitions 2006 - 2008
- \* Leica/CCP Documentary Photography

**22 February - 29 March 2009**

- \* Muswellbrook Open Art Prize

Opening 6.00pm Saturday 21 February 2009

**4 April - 10 May 2009**

- \* War Memorial Icons & Archive
- \* Miniatures
- \* Bruce Webber Collection

Opening 6pm Friday 3 April 2009

**16 May - 21 June 2009**

- \* Favourite Object
- \* Unseen Works from the Collections

Opening 6pm Friday 15 May 2009

**27 June - 9 August 2009**

- \* NSW Indigenous Art Prize Winners
- \* Naidoc Week Local Aboriginal Show
- \* Maryanne McKinnon Kidd

Opening 6pm Friday 26 June 2009

**15 August - 13 September 2009**

- \* Dorothee Heibel
- \* Jan Vincent

Opening 6pm Friday 14 August 2009

**19 September - 18 October 2009**

- \* Andrew Antoniou
- \* Self Rising with MDCC

Opening 6pm Friday 18 September 2009

**25 October - 29 November 2009**

- \* Muswellbrook Local Art Awards
- \* Charles Blandford Retrospective

Opening 6pm Saturday 24 October 2009

**8 December - 20 December 2009**

- \* Red Cross Christmas Trees
- \* Local Artist's Selling Show

Opening 6pm Friday 7 December 2009

## Regional Art Happenings

*Turning The Pages* Revisited

Haydon Hall Murrurundi

Opens 6.30pm Friday 21 November 2008

Guest Speakers: Patrice Newell and Jennifer Turpin.

Exhibition dates 19 - 30 November 2008

**CONGRATULATIONS! - Hanna Kay**



winner of the 2008 Norvill Art Prize

Hanna Kay  
& Peter Norvill

## ART CLASSES WITH MAX WATTERS

### Monday

- 12.30 - 2pm Challenge, Muswellbrook  
2.30 - 5pm Hunter Park Family Centre  
Contact Janelle: 02 6543 566  
6 - 8pm Wybong Community Hall

### Tuesday

4 - 6pm Muswellbrook PCYC :45411434

### Thursday

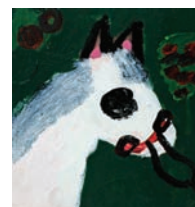
- 2 - 5pm McCully's Gap Art Group held at The Pot House  
6 - 8.15pm The Pot House, Muswellbrook  
Contact Max: 02 6543 2875

### Friday

2.30 - 6pm Scone Youth Art Group

### Saturday

1.30 - 4pm Aberdeen Art Group



### muswellbrook regional arts centre

Corner of Bridge & William Streets

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Tel: 02-6549 3880 Fax: 02-6549 3886

e-mail: 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 Region owned and operated by Muswellbrook Shire Council

