



WOLLONDILLY ARTS GROUP NEWSLETTER

November, December, 2010

P.O. Box 799
Picton 2571

Acting President's Report

This past month has been quite eventful with confirmation of our gallery space being leased and the generous offer of yet another premises for a gallery by our kind benefactor, Kevin Morris. It is not far up the road - the old Post Office at 19 Oaks St Thirlmere.

With the subsequent collection by our members of their art works in quick time, followed by the BIG MOVE by the 'regular workers' of our group who pitched in with moving, cleaning and setting up the new gallery - finishing on Melbourne Cup Day.

All of the relocating was paused briefly for our wonderful market day at the Picton Music and Harvest Festival. Most participants agreed that our location, whilst not central, was a fabulous 'set-up' being out of the sun and constantly serenaded by the best singing and musical talent of the district.

Adding to our equipment this month are two WAG banners, one already put to good use as a backdrop to our stall.

Thanks to all our hard working WAG members.

Acting President
Julie Hodges.

From the Committee

We have encountered some problems with the new gallery and with members generally getting into a 'Christmas mode' we have decided not to open the Gallery to the public for the remainder of the year.

It has been suggested that we hold our Creative Get Togethers at the premises next year.

Wollondilly Arts Group is supported by
Southern Tablelands Arts (STARTS)



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What's been going on.....

The River Project.

By Tony Barnett

Friday the 17th of September was notable for two things.

First, spring had arrived at the Wollondilly and the day was an absolute 'pearler'.

Secondly, the Art Escapade crew attended 'The River Project' - an exhibition of art at the Campbelltown Arts Centre. The exhibition consisted of works by 20 artists from Australia, The Philippines, China, Vietnam Papua New Guinea, India, Korea and communities from the Sepik, Papua New Guinea. Work were comprised of various forms of art including abstract, installations, photographs, traditional tribal images sculpture and film. The common thread of the exhibition was the story of 'the river' in each artist's community and what destructive effects mankind was having on that river.

The works that had the 'wow' factor for me were the portraits by Jeffery Feeger of PNG, the animal icons by Nanius Maira and the abstract works by Tiffant Chug. Works that had a narrative for me was by Bonito Ely. This work was comprised by a series of photographs documenting the permanent destruction of the Georges River by long-wall mining.

Another group of works made up of fixed slides in large light boxes was also confronting in its honesty. The scenes were from life in a village forced to live over and by the side of a river whose shores were made up of rotting garbage. The river still provides their water supply, food, ablutions and a playground for the children. From my travels this situation is so common.

One of the films that stood out for it's quality of production was 'Body Tree'.

The theme of the exhibition became even more pertinent in the light of accusations that long-wall mining may be responsible for the demise of the Thirlmere Lakes. For me, knowing the destruction that long wall mining is having in New South Wales, and

the destruction of river systems in Papua New Guinea by mining companies the narrative could have been much harsher.

The catalogue for the exhibition was the size of an Agatha Christie novel and would take about the same time to read. Unfortunately it was needed to put the works into context effectively. However it was still very engaging.

'Plein Air' Art at the Thirlmere Lakes.

Friday 20th October was a dismal day. Grey skies threatening to rain and a cool breeze with it kept many artists in their cosy beds.

Julie and I braved the weather and managed to do a number of works before the cold front moved in and we abandoned ship.

The Southern Highlands Art Trail 6th and 7th November.

Roswitha, Julie and I went on the Northern aspect of the Southern Highlands Art Trail on Saturday, 6th November and were well rewarded for our efforts.

We began with hot coffee at The Milk Factory gallery where Richard Morecroft had an exhibition of his photographs. It consisted of extraordinary views of Australia and the quality was excellent.

Next stop was Heidigarden Art with works by Heidi McGeoch and Sam Larwill. Their works were displayed within their delightful garden. Sam dealt with metal work making story gates, and figures from junk metal among other things. Heidi did a lot of ceramics including beautiful bright red and white mushrooms of various sizes that were fantastic among the grass. She had made some wonderful ceramic fountains that were so relaxing to listen to and looked sensational in the garden.

Studio 24 was the next destination to look at works by Sarah Willard Gray. Her work was mainly abstract and I found it to be impressive.



Art Studio Trail stop: Peter Schmid - Potter, 'Hillside', Aylmerton

We were treated to some remarkable portraits by Dave Thomas at Forrest Ridge and the artist himself was most affable. Ofra Messiah had produced some vibrant coloured jewellery from silk, cotton, leather and crystals, which looked stunning. Works by Denise Rankin, Gary Russell and Charles Lewis was also on display. The enormous house and gardens would be worth the visit alone.

By this time the worms were biting so we stopped for lunch at the Sturt Gallery. Again the standard of work on display was outstanding. Much had been done by the students of the gallery and was of the highest order.

It was time to head homeward so we drove via Braemar to visit The Carol Thompson Artist Studio. Carol is a traditional painter whose work of Australia is detailed and captures the spirit of the subject so well. Ann Thompson displayed her textiles and ceramics which also looked beautiful. Shane Kinch had bead jewellery on display, most original and very wearable I think. Our final stop was 'The White Waratah Workshops' where we were treated to some outstanding works by Elizabeth Atkin and Garielle Marlow. Elizabeth also showed some of her book binding which again were truly works of art.

The quality and range of works make the Southern Tablelands Art Studio Trail a 'must see' event in the future.

Visit www.southernhighlands.com.au/WAR_art_studio_trail.pdf for more details on the trail

You can also go on the wine and open garden trail in the same area which is held concurrently. I highly recommend it.

For more information contact Jenny Kena on 48680855 or visit www.southernhighlands.com.au/WAR

From the Wollondilly Heritage Centre

Doreen and Ben Lyons

The new exhibition at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre - *"With the best of Intentions; stories; from Dr. Barnardo's Farm School at Mowbray Park"* was opened on Sunday 7th November with nearly 200 guests by Mary Louise Williams, Director of the National Maritime Museum in Sydney and the Hon. Phillip Costa, member for Wollondilly. The exhibition features the creative use of the collection at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre to illustrate the memories of growing up as a Barnado child and is assisted by a silent movie of the farm in 1934 and contemporary digital stories on DVD. Phil Costa congratulated the team on the exhibition and added that it is important that the Heritage Centre continues to be a *'window on our world to reflect our communities'*.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm every weekend until December 21st but will close over Christmas and reopen for Australia Day 2011.

www.oaksheritagecentre.com

What's about to go on.....

Creative Get Together will be on Saturday, 27th November from 1pm to 3pm.

Bring your usual drawing or painting gear to to the Wollondilly Community Nursery, Wonga Rd. Picton along with \$3.00 for members or \$5.00 for non-members. Contact Ester for further information - phone 46831182 or email ester.k@bigpond.com

The next Art Escapade will be on January 21st at 9.00am at Bargo River on Bargo River Rd. near the railway bridge.

Contact Tony on 46596920, mobile 0429369799 or email tba93968@bigpond.net.au

If anyone wants to do plein air art or visit a gallery let Tony know and he will join you.

Pottery Classes -

Depending on the response Fil Cullum is offering pottery classes at his cottage at Barbour Rd. Thirlmere, commencing at the end of February, 2011. Classes would be 3 hours in the afternoon or evening and cover all the basics of pottery, wheel throwing, hand building, glazing, decorating and firing with both gas and wood. Contact Fil on 46819259.

Check out what's happening.....

Bowral and District Art Society
www.bdasgallery.com

Wollongong City Gallery
www.wollongongcitygallery.com

Primrose Park Arts and Crafts
www.primrose-park.com.au

Casula Powerhouse
www.casulapowerhouse.com/exhibitions/current.aspx

Fairfield City Museum and Gallery
www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov

ARTALMANAC
artalmanac.com.au

ARTWHATSON
artwhatson.com.au

Wollondilly Tourist Office
visitwollondilly.com.au

The Milk Factory
www.milkfactorygallery.com.au

**There will be NO
Creative Get Together
in December.
Instead we will have a
Christmas Get Together
at the
Gallery at the Old P.O.
at Thirlmere
on 11th December
from 1pm onward.**

Please bring your choice of nibbles and drink.



May the cicadas keep trilling,
the grass remain green
and the red trucks stay in their sheds
this summer!

Best wishes for Christmas
and
the coming year.