



MRAGm Newsletter

August / September 2007

Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members' (MRAGm) primary role is to promote public awareness of Maitland Regional Art Gallery and its activities. MRAGm is recognised by the Art Gallery as a vital ingredient to the growth of the Cultural Precinct.



At MRAG over the next two months

Exhibition Program

Opening 10 August 6.00pm

Joe Furlonger Circus

Robert Callander Circus of Lost Soles

Egg Face an MRAG education initiative.

Nougat performing 25 August 2007

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mrage education

Kids Programs, school visits, adult workshops.

mrage education is looking for artists young and old practicing in all mediums for paid projects.

Visit <http://www.mrage.org.au/education.html> or phone mrage on 49349859

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To be involved in the **Winter School Holiday Workshops** is a privilege! I had two superb days. The groups were delightful, focused, creative and congenial. The interaction and imagination of the young artists justify the program's concepts.

**Ken O'Regan's "Plastic Puppet's" and Olivia Parsonage's "Designer Creatures"** delighted, entertained, instructed and awakened the artist, in all those children, between six and twelve, who attended. Under Ken's tutelage, each child used six plastic bags, moulded, created and slowly each took on the identity of vampires, footballers, super models, princesses, fairies, and assorted characters. Then another challenge for the young artists! Creating the persona from recyclable material. Slowly their puppets took shape and their enthusiasm never waned. After lunch it was time to breathe life into

the head and limbs. Using garden stakes and string attached to the puppets and with the amazing dexterity of young hands, they manipulated five strings on each puppet, to allow dancing, acrobatics, boxing and sword fighting displaying the amazing creativity and imagination Ken O'Regan had awakened in these children. Divided into two large consultative groups, each took on the creative process of a play script based on all the character puppets. The pleasurable and educational day was finalised with carefully scripted plays as each group presented their performance of puppet theatre.

Monster creatures creation was the focus of the Friday Soft Toy Workshop. Again the young artists excelled and enjoyed. The results were unique and superbly imaginative.

As MRAG members, we raise money to support the Educational Program of The Gallery. An outstanding \$7000 was transferred from members' efforts to the Education Program in 2006-2007. As a volunteer I gained enormous pleasure and had a fun day by being involved with these young artists, enjoying their creativity. I can recommend it to you. It is another way we can support The Gallery and fulfil our aims and objectives of being. I know the imagination, the focus of the kids, their diligence, their uniqueness and profound statements made it a memorable and enjoyable day.

*A Volunteer*

For **submissions** to the October / November MRAGm Newsletter email your contribution or suggestions to [m\\_b\\_tindall@tpg.com.au](mailto:m_b_tindall@tpg.com.au) or drop it into the front office addressed to MRAGm Newsletter. We will endeavour to include your input in the next edition. Contributions may be edited.  
**Next Newsletter Deadline: 4:00pm Friday 7th September 2007**

## New Patron for MRAGM

Interesting, informative, enlightening and passionate! These words spring to mind when one speaks to our new Patron for MRAGM. *Mr Frank Terezini The Honourable Member for Maitland in the NSW Legislative Assembly.*

Recently I became acquainted with our new Patron. I found a man who was passionate about law and of being the elected representative for Maitland. Enlightening as I found a man with a congenial rapport who was quite humbled by both the task before him, and in the knowledge that the majority of the voting public had given him their trust and future.

Interesting! Certainly! Ancient Roman History, in particular Julius Caesar, has always held my interest and ensured that I read every available book on the topic. Frank Terezini's Italian heritage becomes obvious, as his name is Francesco, his mother's name Angela, and his father, Guiseppe, although Frank was born and raised in the Hunter Valley. He spoke fondly of a wonderful childhood, of loving parents and brother. His family is rich in cultural heritage. For hundreds of years his family home was in the little Medieval town of Lettopalina. Great art works, both painting and sculpture adorn the buildings of the town, although on a smaller scale, are on an equal par with those of Rome.

Frank Terezini is second generation Australian. His parents actually come from Lettopalina, a little town in the centre mountain region of Abruzzo, in Italy. To quote our Patron, "one the tourist buses will never pass through".

To know the history of the man is to know what molded him and gave him the values he lives by. WW1 impacted on his family and to try and comprehend this impact and the evil of war is to quote from Frank's inaugural speech in State Parliament:

"The village, which was built in medieval times, was so small it could never be found on a map. As fate would have it, however, it became located directly in the firing line of two opposing sides in the Second World War. In October 1943 In October 1943 destruction of the village was swift and complete, when all the inhabitants were ordered to leave within two hours. My father was aged 13 and my mother was aged 3. The village was razed to the ground. What then took place in the many months of confusion and mayhem that followed was a perilous struggle to survive. My mother was taken away to safety with her family. My father was not so lucky—he was on his own. His family had scattered and was nowhere to be seen. At that tender age he, like many others, had witnessed and experienced first hand the abhorrent nature of a cruel environment, that being wartime in no man's land. I can only imagine what he went through as a 13-year-old boy fending for himself whilst avoiding being taken in by the authorities. In fact, he was rounded up and captured twice, and he escaped both times. After months of looking death squarely in the eye on a daily basis, he was ultimately taken in by friends and family. Of course, the fact that he survived to that point was amazing. Obviously that great authority on high had other plans for him."

Source: Hansard

His love and respect of the two people who nurtured him and molded him is evident as we read further on from the record of his inaugural speech in Hansard, he says of his father:

"He proffered some advice to me that I have never forgotten. He told me that we were living in a great country and opportunities would come my way and I was not to waste them. Of course, that did not mean a great deal to me as a 16-year-old who had just left school. I had spent years dealing with the normal, typical playground racial banter. I did not anticipate many opportunities coming my way, but of course he was correct."

His mum was a House mum, and is still living, and his father was a labourer, and he talks of both parents with love, respect and admiration.

Last year he traveled to Lettopalina and while in Europe, he spent time at the Louvre in Paris, remembers the beauty of the "Mona Lisa" or "La Gioconda" and the temptation of wanting to take a photograph, but the number of guards precludes everyone from the temptation. He has a fondness for Botacelli, and the great Italian Masters of the Renaissance. He spoke of the pleasure he can derive from Art. Not just pleasure in his own enjoyment and his appreciation of art; but he also derives pleasure in watching the sense of achievement of artists and others in Art. He is a performing artist, playing and being part of a musical group and has a love of music.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a patron as one whose countenance protects or gives influential support to a cause. In this particular instance our new Patron has stated his willingness to give his support to MRAGM and The Art Gallery. He stated that as The State Member he can give influential support to Grant Applications, fund raising, etc. Frank, also has Family Membership, for himself, wife Sue and their two daughters. He has also stated that he will be present at the AGM on the 8th August, so that he can meet members, attend a meeting and acquaint himself with our aims.

He has an interest in and an awareness of the cultural implications of art, agrees that art encompasses many mediums. He absolutely agreed that art is a record and reflection of the times and that the Australian population's attitude to art is changing. Hence its understanding of, and tolerance of, art is changing.

Our conversation eventually moved around to MRAGM and our role in The Art Gallery. He has a very real awareness of how much the community relies on volunteers and realises the role of volunteers within the Maitland community and sees these people as the very real backbone of the organization which they support. Australia has over two million volunteers!

He had an awareness of the volunteer work of MRAGM to financially support art and the pursuit of art, to provide curatorial skills, office skills, to assist in the running of The Gallery Shop, to assist with children's workshops, provide adult workshops and to allow art to be more readily accessible across the community, while volunteers also gain immense satisfaction from promoting The Art Gallery, and in supporting the Gallery Staff. Our patron has already spoken of the dedication and large numbers of volunteers in our community. He is very aware of the role they play in achieving a better life and opening up opportunities for all. He is very supportive of MRAGM and its aim of raising money to support The Gallery and to widen the educational parameters for students. We spoke of the need to find ways of raising money and he was very quick to offer support by searching out someone who could advise us. He is also keen to see MRAGM apply for Grants for The Gallery in our own right. While we spoke, both of us wrote. Frank Terezini making a list of questions I had posed, including helping us to find a person whose forte is raising money, one who can direct us with fund raising ideas.

He also made it very clear that he wishes to acquaint himself with our members so that he can realise the needs of our group within his electorate.

I found a man who did not pontificate party politics, but rather a man, passionate about law and his newly elected role to promote and nurture Maitland and allow it to be the focal point of the Hunter. His thoughts of volunteers are already part of Australian recorded History as in Hansard we read:

"The measure of a great community is the extent to which its members perform volunteer work. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to all our volunteers community and welfare groups....."

While he professes to know little about art he does know what he personally likes and says that he gains his greatest pleasure by watching others enjoy and create art in all its forms.

*A Volunteer.*

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### **the gallery shop**

open during art gallery hours  
tuesday - sunday 10am - 5pm

Maitland Regional Art Gallery invites you to explore our Gallery Shop. On display are beautiful glass and ceramic vases, bottles and bowls; jewellery, books, etc.

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Thank you to a new MRAG sponsor ....



**FARROW WYATT**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## Contests, Art Prizes and Exhibitions in our local area:

### AUGUST

26 July – 12 August 2007 **TREESCAPES** Hand Coloured Collographs by **Amanda Davies**. Drinks with the artist  
5-8pm Saturday 4th August GREENWAY GALLERY 166 Swan St, MORPETH 2321-Phone 49 346411

3rd - 31st August - **Charlotte Drake-Brockman** and **Fran Wachtel**. Gloucester Art Gallery - Phone 65583157

10th August – Close of Entries **40th Annual Raymond Terrace Art Show**. Contact Mrs E Gordon 4987 4534 or Mrs J Squires 4987 2573 or The Secretary, Raymond Terrace Art Show, PO Box 123, Raymond Terrace 2324

11th August - 7th October - **Muswellbrook Open Art Prize & Waste as Art**. Phone 6549 3880 or [www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](http://www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)

14th August – Close of **Regional Arts Fund Applications**. Visit <http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au>

25th & 26th August - **40th Annual Raymond Terrace Art Show**, Hunter River High School Assembly Hall, Elkin Ave, Raymond Terrace. Contact Mrs E Gordon, 4987 4534 or Mrs J Squires, 4987 2573 or <http://portstephens.local.nsw.gov.au>

### Members' Diary: August - September 2007

**Annual Meeting MRAGm** : 4:00 pm Wednesday -  
**8th August 2007**. Followed by the August Meeting.

MRAGm meetings are held in The Gallery Workshop with afternoon tea provided. Your input, ideas and suggestions are needed.

Pres. - Emily Rundle, Vice Pres. - Cara Wassell, Treas. - Judy Henry, Sec. - Louise Middlebrook.

**Mark Tindall: Editor**

### SEPTEMBER

14TH September –Entries Close for **Flickerfest**

**17th International Short Film Festival– Newcastle**

Visit: <http://www.flickerfest.com.au/>

Call for Artists and Performers for **Sacred Circle Festival – Newcastle**, to be held 21st September -

Contact Project Officer, Newcastle Community Arts Centre Phone 4961 1696 or [projects@ncac.org.au](mailto:projects@ncac.org.au)

27th September to 1st October – **This Is Not Art 2007 Festival**. Writers, electronic artists, independent music makers and creative researchers from across Australia. Details [www.thisisnotart.org](http://www.thisisnotart.org)

### OCTOBER

12th Oct 2007 Deadline- **Uralla Arts Sculpture Prize**  
3rd – 25th November, 2007 The prize (\$2500) is acquisitive and the winning sculpture will be placed in a public space within the township of Uralla or surrounding parks. Contact [sandra.eady@hotmail.com](mailto:sandra.eady@hotmail.com), 0428 199 044 or visit <http://www.uralla-arts.com/sculpture/terms.html>

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