



ARTEL

SPRING 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

mragm
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY MEMBERS

MEET

MRAG VOLUNTEER

Jean-Paul Ruellé

MRAG Volunteer Co-ordinator



AGE: 64

OCCUPATION: International Hospitality Management (Retired)

RESIDE: Mallabulla (Tilligerry Peninsula)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AN MRAG VOLUNTEER?
6 years

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN INVOLVEMENT?

I coordinate the volunteers. Initially, I run the inductions and then try to match their skills with opportunities within the gallery. Some volunteers are art student interns and they follow a rotation process to gain expertise in all facets of art gallery functions ie installations, education, curating.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO VOLUNTEERING AT MRAG?

It is a lovely environment and I enjoy the art and the spaces within the gallery. MRAG is the closest established gallery to where I live that offered a range of opportunities. It has a soothing atmosphere and attracts interesting people from a range of backgrounds. I've been coming here since before the expansion and I have enjoyed the progression.

GENERAL COMMENTS: I am involved with the Members' Committee and have direct involvement with the staff and how the gallery functions. I also help coordinate the bus trips that occur regularly throughout the year.

MEET

MRAG MEMBER

Heather Mann



AGE: 60-65

OCCUPATION: Retired Nurse

RESIDE: Hinton

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER? 7 years

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE GALLERY?

I regularly come to the gallery to take my great-nephew to Pipsqueak classes on Thursdays. I try and attend most openings and visit the café regularly.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT MRAG?

It's innovative and has interesting programs. The gallery is never static and extends itself – always changing. Everyone is very friendly. I have enjoyed the bus trips and look forward to going to Wollombi in November.

ANY IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS?

No real changes needed

GENERAL COMMENTS: The children's activities are wonderful – Belle and Joy do a fantastic job. The Art Bazaar is also wonderful and great fun.



ARTEL

SPRING 2013

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

BY ROSEMARY KEEGAN



Spring is here and MRAG has opened its doors to the wonderful *Op shop* exhibition. I hope you get the chance to visit this colourful array of second-hand items reconfigured into works of art. You will be amazed and surprised by the clever designs.

The Members are very excited about the upcoming trip to MONA (October 17-20) and the opportunity of sharing this adventure. I encourage all who can join this trip, to commit by the middle of September and secure their place. We look forward to meeting new art-lovers and making new friends.

The MRAG Members Committee has worked hard over the last year with fundraising supporting the educational programs in the gallery. The success of these activities is wonderful recognition of the efforts of staff and volunteers, who together keep the children happy and inspired. The ongoing fundraising will help to plan activities and replenish resources for future classes.

Please take note that the AGM is coming up on October 24th at 6pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

(above) Fiona Hall, *The Price Is Right*, 1994, tupperware, mixed media, dimensions variable, Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), purchased 1995.



**FOR TEENAGERS
ART THURSDAYS**

4.00 - 5.30 pm

THE OP SHOP PASSPORT

BY JOE EISENBERG



The *Opportunity shop* exhibition is one of the MRAG achievements of which I am truly proud and eager to promote. Fiona Davies has helped fill MRAG with outstanding art, demonstrating the limitless opportunities that can link artists and familiar objects. The component of this exhibition which I want to pursue here, however, is the Passport activity related to *Opportunity shop*.

The Passport came from an activity Janis and I experienced in San Francisco in 2010. It was an event that had been operating for three years and which still runs very successfully today. In San Francisco you get to have your passport stamped during six hours in the one day. Our 'take off' activity is in operation for one month and so, at the time you read this, you will still have time to participate in and enjoy this experience.

There are nine op shops in Maitland and in each one there is a different rubber stamp designed by a Lower Hunter artist. Staff within each op shop are waiting to press the stamp onto a page in your passport. The passport booklet can be purchased at any op shop or at MRAG. When acquiring your passport you will also obtain a map that will enable you to find all the locations. You are encouraged to visit all nine op shops and to get nine stamped pages in your passport. If you want to see the art-stamps you'll be collecting, the original art works are on display at MRAG.

As Members of MRAG I encourage you to take part in this first Passport activity in Maitland. I hope that there will be more in the future, linked to other essential industries and activities in Maitland.

The event this year focuses on Op Shop Week (25 August to 1 September) and I encourage you to visit the Maitland op shops and enjoy, partake, purchase and have fun.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Maitland op shops, their managers, the volunteer staff and all the people who have assisted MRAG with the op shop exercise. We chose op shops as the central theme as Maitland is op shop heaven: there are so many shops per capita that the inveterate shopper can get a high with little trouble. All you want is available and cheap, just ask the artists who are exhibiting their art at MRAG, but that is another story!

I have been visiting op shops for as long as I can remember. I have clothed myself and my family; I have furnished a number of homes and other houses; I have purchased art, decked a car or two and even decorated several gardens in several cities. It is fun, enjoyable, oh so cheap and you help a worthwhile charity. Please visit our op shops, get your passports stamped and walk all over Maitland. It will be a wonderful way in which to explore your city and make new discoveries that will enlarge the scope of your knowledge of Maitland. You may discover the best way to traverse the sprawling Maitland suburbs, or rediscover central Maitland in High Street.

Please enjoy the task we have set and visit our op shops. Don't forget to purchase your passport and ensure that you get it stamped. The art of the stamps will be an added bonus to the enjoyment I am sure you will gain. As Members I ask you to take part and do let me know what has transpired in visiting the Maitland op shops.

HERE IS A LIST OF OP SHOPS AND THE ARTISTS STAMPS THEY EACH HAVE.

NELL

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High Street, Maitland

AHN WELLS

St Vincent De Paul Society, 196 High St, Maitland

MITCH STORCK

Father Riley's Op Shop, 250 High St, Maitland

MICHAEL BELL

Paraphernalia, 248 High Street, Maitland

ANNA BUXTON SOLDAL

Red Cross Shop, 386 High St, Maitland

CLARE HODGINS

Presbyterian Op Shop, 501 High St, Maitland

BEN MITCHELL

St Vincent De Paul Society, 99 High St, East Maitland

MELISSA SO

Lifeline Shop, 385 High Street, Maitland

CARLO DELOS SANTOS

Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee Linen Service, Shop 28 East Mall, Rutherford

MARTIN WILSON

The Salvation Army, Greenhills, Shop 4 & 5, The Village, 1 Garnet Road, East Maitland



Alternatively, you can purchase the passport in the Opportunity Shop catalogue pack. The pack contains: a passport, ten passport artists' postcards, exhibition catalogue and a poster with a map detailing the location of the participating stamp op shops. The packs come in three different colours - pink, blue and green - and they cost \$17.

Also, if you've recently seen an exhibition at MRAG and didn't purchase the catalogue at the time but would still like to own it, we have a number of past catalogues available in the shop.

Free
ART SUNDAYS

EVERY SUNDAY 11 AM - 1 PM
For kids* ALL AGES and their families

*Adult supervision is required.

MRAG WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION TO MONOPRINTING WITH TONY AMENEIRO

BY BARRY MAITLAND

This workshop was held in conjunction with the exhibition of Tony Ameneiro's work on display in the gallery. Tony began by taking the group on a tour of the exhibition, providing insights into his techniques, materials and concepts. We then went to the workshop where he took us through the process of monoprinting and its two formats, *contact* and *trace*.

Monoprints or monotypes are a hybrid form between printmaking and painting and drawing. Generally, only one or two prints are taken from an inked and worked plate.

Tony began the class with the *contact* form, in which a soaked and blotted sheet of heavy (at least 250gsm) paper is laid onto a glass plate. This plate has been coated with a layer of oil-based printing ink, thinned with plate oil. An image is then worked into the paper with scraper, fingers, brushes, cotton buds or any other tool. The paper is then rolled on to the ink with a hand-roller and the image, reversed, is transferred onto the paper. A second, or ghost print can also be made, much fainter than the first, by repeating the process on the plate.

The second type of print – *trace* or transfer monotypes – can be made with a much lighter paper, as in our case, a Japanese Kozo paper. This is laid onto the blank inked plate and an image drawn or pressed directly onto the paper, picking up ink on the reverse side from the pressure of contact.

I was particularly fascinated by this technique because it was used by Paul Klee and later Sidney Nolan in works that I had always assumed were lithographs or etchings.



(above) Artwork produced by Barry Maitland during monoprint workshop

The workshop was inspiring in its introduction to these fascinating and flexible print techniques. A sample from the workshop is shown here inspired by the archway within the Margaret Sivyer Room, Maitland Regional Art Gallery.



LOOK!

THE GALLERY
SHOP

Looking for something interesting, unique, beautiful, quirky or locally crafted? We invite you to explore our Gallery Shop where you will find the perfect gift.

SUPPORTING ART AND CULTURE IN MAITLAND

BY KIM BLUNT



(above) Art and Dementia Program

Cultural activities in Maitland and particularly Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) are supported in a number of ways, both financially and in kind. As a part of Maitland City Council (MCC), MRAG continues to be supported and funded by the Council. Additional funding is also received from the NSW Government and the Department of Trade Investment and the Arts as well as other one-off grants from philanthropic groups, such as the Thyne Reid Foundation.

MRAG has also been the recipient of a number of small grants from Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members (MRAGM), primarily for education programs such as the Art Sunday and also for collection acquisitions. In the past the Members have also sponsored infrastructure improvements such as installing air conditioning in the Art Factory.

It is well known that MCC and MRAG have enjoyed the support of many volunteers both past and present. Without this support many MRAG programs could not take place, or at least, not without a greater cost to the general community.

MRAG is fortunate to have the support of a number of sponsors such as Tyrrell's Wines which supply the wine enjoyed at opening events and functions; Quest Maitland Apartments where MRAG guests stay and funds from Farrow Wyatt Chartered Accountants which go towards the cost of an annual exhibition. This year the Farrow Wyatt Chartered Accountants annual exhibition is *Op Shop* which was officially opened by The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, in front of a large and enthusiastic audience on Saturday 17 August.

Financial support for MRAG has also been obtained from a number of private donors for specific programs like the Art and Dementia

classes, TAFE internships for students studying Certificate IV in Museum Studies and other educational initiatives.

MRAG also enjoys the support of its Partners and Patrons. MRAG has 15 Partners and in general terms their patronage assists MRAG with 'opening doors' and are an adjunct to the Patrons. The gallery has two Patrons, Ray Wilson OAM and Pat Corrigan AM and they help ensure that financial and other forms of support are attracted to MRAG. However, both Patrons also help financially or with 'in kind' support. They have helped with accessing private art collections and also regularly donate art to the MRAG collection. Ray Wilson assisted with the *Wilson Agapitos Annual Event* and Pat Corrigan recently provided funds to install a new sound system in the art gallery. Importantly, both Patrons support the MRAG staff by attending MRAG events and orchestrating important contacts for MRAG in the art world. They are both good friends to the city of Maitland.

This is not a complete list of the people who have helped to position MRAG so well into the community of Maitland. The gallery benefits from over 60 volunteers who come and support MRAG at regular intervals. The almost one thousand financial Members provide support and assistance through their fees and by frequenting the MRAG shop and café.

Finally, MRAG is very grateful to have the significant ongoing support of Maitland City Council. Allied with other government and private organisations, individuals and local groups, that all combines to ensure MRAG continues to have a positive impact on the cultural landscape of Maitland and the Lower Hunter.

ART EDUCATION AT MRAG

BY ANNE MCLAUGHLIN,
MICHELLE MAARTENSZ



(above) Free Art Sunday Program

One of the fun opportunities available to all who visit Maitland Regional Art Gallery is to drop in on a Sunday around 11am and join the Art Sunday program in the Art Factory which is sponsored by MRAG Members.

For two hours every Sunday throughout the year, Art Sundays run as a family-friendly free art workshop. Our extremely talented Art Tutors devise a variety of creative and fun art-making activities that can engage and inspire anyone from 2 to 72. Our front desk staff assist by directing our Sunday visitors to the Art Factory so that they can join in for thirty minutes or an hour or for whatever time they have available.

One of the delightful things about Art Sundays is that they are informal and welcoming to family groups of all ages. Anyone can join in around the workspace helping each other, responding and interpreting the activity in their own way.

As a regional gallery responding to the needs of the local community, MRAG offers events and activities that support and enhance our exhibitions and extend the experiences of our gallery

audience. It is also important to be able to offer free events that encourage initial visitation to the gallery and enable access to all. MRAG Members are the major sponsor of Art Sundays. Their support ensures a quality program that is accessible to all in the community.

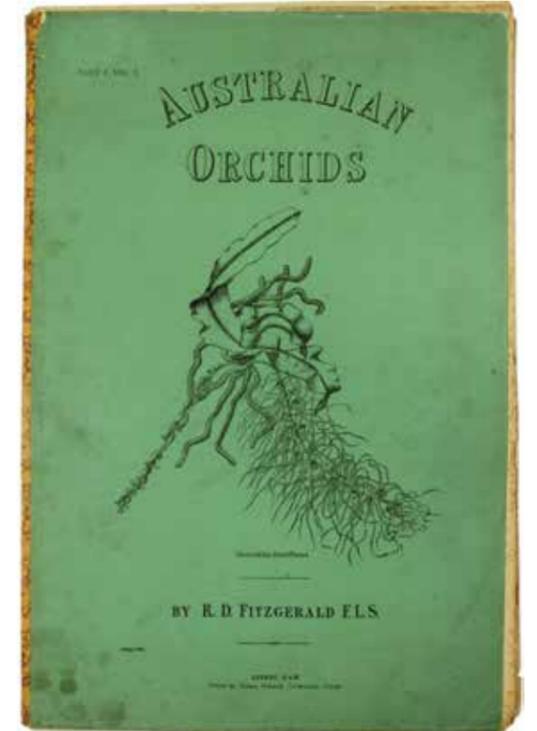
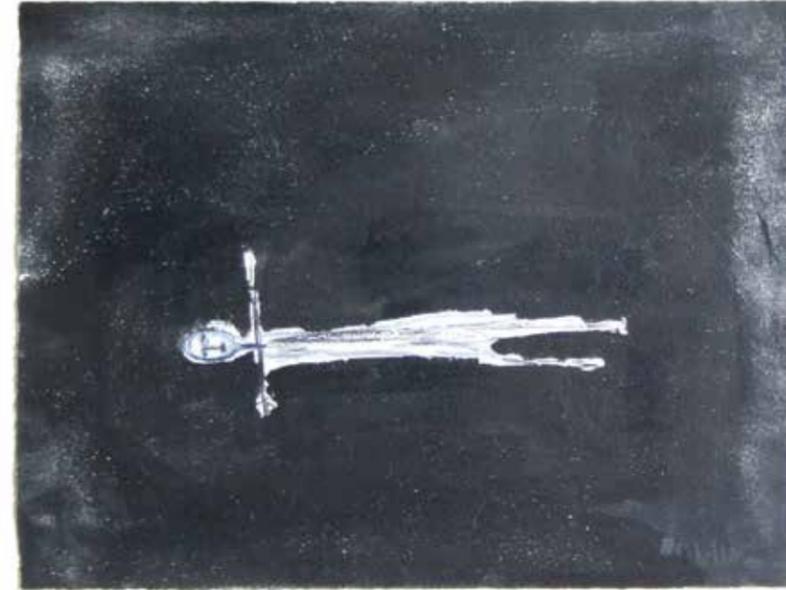
By holding Art Sundays in the Art Factory the unique nature of this facility as a dedicated children's space is also reinforced. MRAGM also support the Art Factory by an annual grant for books and materials. This maintains and improves the resources within the space, ensuring many exciting and dynamic workshops and art events.

MRAGM is to be congratulated on its continuing support of Art Education at the gallery.

Come and visit Art Sunday soon, everyone is welcome.

FROM THE COLLECTION

BY CHERYL FARRELL



(above left) Davida Allen, *Death of my Father*, 1982, mixed media on paper, 24.1 x 32 cm, donated through the Australian Governments Cultural Gifts Program by Dennis Savill, 2009. © the artist. (above right) *Australian Orchids*, Part 1, Volume 2, 1884, Robert David Fitzgerald (1830-1892).

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my work as MRAG Collection Curator is to curate exhibitions from our collection. This is an opportunity to introduce to our audience, artworks that have been recently acquired and particularly, works generously donated to MRAG by our benefactors. We can also revisit artworks from the collection and enjoy them in a new context.

I am currently working towards three exhibitions from our collection for later this year.

The first to be on show is a large exhibition titled *The Dark Edges of the Collection*. This exhibition will run from 18th October until the 17th November. As the title suggests, this exhibition will include works from the collection that have that darker element, either in subject matter or imagery. There will be works from artists both from Australia and internationally including Davida Allen, Anne Ferran, James Gleeson, Don Francisco Goya, Louise Hearman, Adrian Lockhardt, Laith McGregor, Brett Whiteley and nell.

There are also two exhibitions opening in December that complement two incoming touring exhibitions and both are being co-curated with our current interns from the University of Newcastle and Newcastle Art School (TAFE).

Orchids from the Collection will highlight a new acquisition to the MRAG collection, the R. D. Fitzgerald books, which document the many species of Australian orchids. Robert David Fitzgerald was an

orchid enthusiast who between 1875 and 1894 produced seven volumes of drawings and information about the many and varied Australian orchid species. The exhibition will feature many of the beautifully detailed hand-coloured lithographs from some of those books. This exhibition will be on display adjacent to the Australian Museum touring exhibition, *Beauty from Nature: art of the Scott Sisters*. Both exhibitions will run from 13th December to 23rd February 2014.

The other hallway exhibition is yet to be titled but will draw inspiration from the exhibition *Masterpieces from the Peter Elliott Collection*. *The Peter Elliott Collection* showcases the private collection of Peter Elliott and includes some wonderful artworks by Australian Masters of Art from the 20th century. Works will be selected that tell the story of those artists from an MRAG collection perspective. Both exhibitions will open mid-December and finish on 9th February 2014.

I am also preparing for this year's annual print sale, presented as a fundraising event by Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members (MRAGM). This exhibition always opens with a great event - this is the night you have the first pick of a work on paper to take home and love, while also contributing to MRAGM's fundraising goals. A great way to feel good all round. The opening night this year is Friday, 22nd November with the sale exhibition continuing until December 8th, 2013.

FROM THE GALLERY SHOP

BY JUDY HENRY



Come into the Maitland Regional Art Gallery and explore our **Shop More** shop. Here you can purchase jewellery, brooches, bags, cards and Limited Edition prints from the following artists who are represented in the current *Op shop* Exhibition at Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

THEY ARE:

NICHOLE BARAKAT who has transformed once-loved fabric treasures from op shops into Tote bags and tea towels, Suffolk Puff brooches and handmade stitched cards, utilising hessian and embroidered linen. (see photo - right lower)

KIRI MORCOMBE and her recreated doilies, that are separated and dyed in beautiful colours - blue, yellow and red and transformed into rings and brooches called Doily Jewellery. (see photo - right top)

LOUISE SAXTON has the following Limited Edition coloured giclee prints, all signed and numbered:

- *Going to Jackson* (Emu), 2012 after George Raper c1790 (see photo - left)
- *Black Prince* (Cicada), 2012 after Louisa Anne Meredith c1850
- *Laugh out Loud* (Kookaburra), 2012 after Anthony Alder c1890
- *Madeira's Lyre* (Lyrebird), 2010 after John William Lewin c1815

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



(above) Anne Ferran, *Untitled*, ND, photogram, 26.9 x 34.8 cm, Donated through the Australian Governments Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Corrigan, 2009. MRAG Collection.

MARCO LUCCIO: CITIES, STORIES AND LANDSCAPES

18 October - 8 December 2013

1963, PICTURE THAT IN MAITLAND: 50 YEARS

CURATED BY CATH BOWEN

18 October - 8 December 2013

FACE 2013 AN EXHIBITION OF STUDENT PORTRAITS

BY K-10 HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST STUDENTS

18 October - 8 December 2013

GREVILLE WILTON AND TANYA ROBERTSON-CUNINGHAME: WITH LIGHT IN MIND

18 October - 8 December 2013

DEBRA LUCCIO: DANCING THE LINE

24 October - 15 December 2013

MRAGM PRINT SALE

CURATED BY CHERYL FARRELL

22 November - 8 December 2013

THE DARK EDGES OF THE COLLECTION

CURATED BY CHERYL FARRELL

18 October - 17 November 2013

CURRENT EXHIBITION PAGE 12

2013 MRAGM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Rosemary Keegan | **VICE CHAIRPERSON:** Helen Lowe | **SECRETARY:** Gena Parker
TREASURER: Jean-Paul Ruellé | **NEWSLETTER SECRETARY:** Megan Dewsnap
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: Elizabeth McLaughlin, Gail Johnston | **PATRON:** Robyn Parker MP
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Loretta Baker | **MRAG REPRESENTATIVE:** Joe Eisenberg

AGM

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

6 PM, THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2013

Our meetings are brief and are held bi-monthly in a friendly, co-operative atmosphere with the common denominator being that we all love art.

The Art Gallery would love an increased involvement from our members and would support and welcome anyone on board our committee no matter how much or little time you have to give.

ARTEL ON-LINE

If you are interested in getting ARTEL on-line only please contact MRAG reception. You will also receive flyers and brochures regarding exhibition openings, art classes and excursions by email.

Upcoming MRAGM meetings: Thursday 12 September, 24 October (AGM) 14 November, 5 December 2013, at MRAG at 5.00pm. All MRAG members are most welcome. Our meetings are brief and friendly.



OP SHOP

The annual exhibition sponsored by
Farrow Wyatt Chartered Accountants.
Curated by Fiona Davies.

opportunity shop artists

**NICOLE BARAKAT • CATH BOWEN
FIONA DAVIES • SARAH GOFFMAN
FIONA HALL • DONNA MARCUS
KIRI MORCOMBE • LUKE ROBERTS
SURABHI SARAF • LOUISE SAXTON
DAVID SEQUEIRA • MAEVE WOODS
THE MODIFIED TOY ORCHESTRA
RAQS MEDIA COLLECTIVE
TOYDEATH • LEE ROGERS**

[above] Luke Roberts, *Wunderkammer/Kunstkamera* [detail] 1994, found objects with artist's labels, various dimensions, Queensland Art Gallery Collection, purchased 1995 Queensland Art Gallery Foundation, photo by Natasha Harth

EXHIBITION DATES

16 august - 6 october 2013

(IN CELEBRATION OF OP SHOP WEEK: 25 AUG - 1 SEP 2013)

mrag
Maitland Regional Art Gallery

m
Maitland City Council

TYRRELL'S WINES

FARROW WYATT

QUEST

NSW Trade & Investment Arts NSW

MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY