



MRAGM Cocktail Party



Frank Terenzini, Judy Henry and Angie Sinclair

MRAGM hosted their Christmas Party Friday 26 November at the Central Park Café located at the Visitor Information Centre in High Street.

Organised by Louise Middlebrook the former MRAG President and current Secretary the party went off without a hitch. All those present indulged in food prepared by Brian Bourke the proprietor and service was lovely.

Like last year the weather was threatening but at least the power remained on and the weather did improve for a nice cool evening. The music was provided for by classical guitarist Kay Wonderly who is also a volunteer at MRAG.

The MRAGM Patron and local state member for parliament Mr Frank Terenzini was present for the festivities and spoke about how important the members, and volunteer groups in general are to non profit organisations such as Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

During the evening there were a number of raffles held to raise further funds for the members with donations from Ted and Jan Arneson, MRAG and Marleen Murphy. Many members help with selling raffle tickets, managing 'the door' and generally just playing host.

The wine for the evening was kindly donated by Louise Middlebrook. Overall it was a lovely evening which was very much enjoyed by all.

Education

Maitland Regional Art Gallery is running a special pilot program at all 4 Maitland libraries during January.

The art workshop program, called Pipsqueak! will feature as a children and families exhibition tour program in the new MRAG. Pipsqueak! Is a special program created for kids up to six years of age. In this special program for little ones, kids work together with their carers, parents or grandparent, and learn about selected artworks from MRAG's collection. During the January School holidays, our focus will be on Birds, and children can create their own quirky, cute and colourful kid-sized wings before flying away home. All materials are provided. Call the corresponding library to book your place.



Pipsqueak!

a special art program for toddlers and young children

When: 15th, 16th, 22nd & 23rd January 11.00am - 12.00pm

Who: Kids aged 6 and under, parents are encouraged to assist their little ones

Where: Rutherford Library 15th January

East Maitland Library 16th January

Thornton Library 22nd January

Maitland Library 23rd January

Cost: \$5.00 per child (all materials supplied) Bookings required

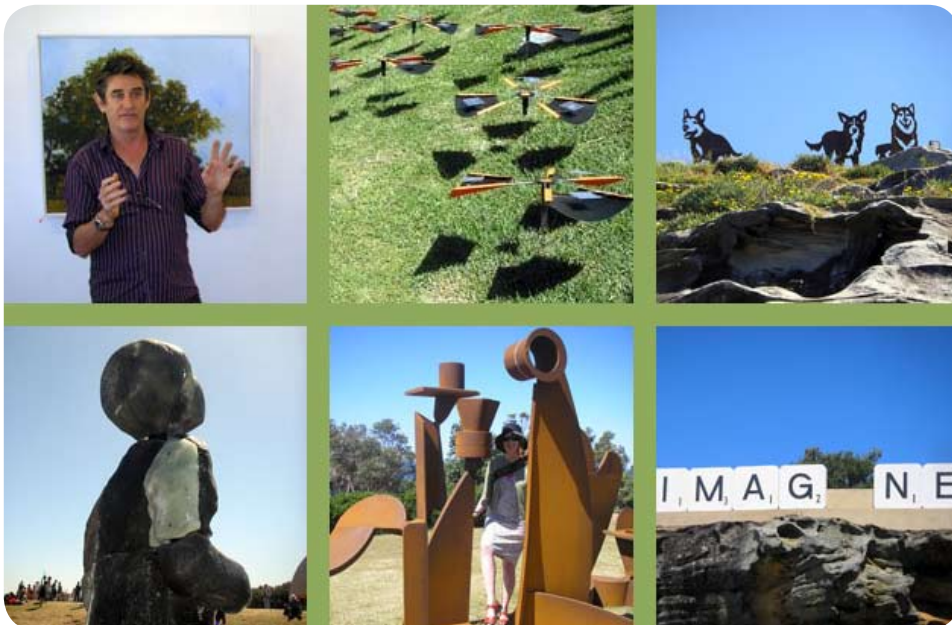


Sculpture by the Sea Coach Trip 25 october 2008

30 art lovers attended the members Sculpture by the Sea on saturday 25 october 2008. We were lucky enough to have a perfect sunny day for our annual sculptural excursion. On the way to Bondi we stopped at Legge Gallery in Redfern to view landscapes by Neil Evans and abstract work by John Smith. We were treated to some champagne and nibbles and a very interesting talk from artist and manager of Legge Gallery Neil Evans (pictured below). We arrived at Bondi around lunchtime and had a bite to eat before we embarked on the 2km of stunning coastline and viewed the array of sculptural delights. We had our usual raffles on the bus which raised funds for education programs at the art gallery.

A big thank you to Gail Goddard for donating her beautiful handmade bag, Cressida Goddard and Craig Wilson for their donations, and MRAG for donating art books for the raffles on the bus.

Lastly, enormous thanks go to Judy Henry (MRAGM Vice Chairperson), for her flawless organisation of the trip.



MRAGM Committee

On Wednesday November 12 MRAGM held the annual general meeting as required because of the change of council in September.

As a result a new committee was voted in

Chairperson	Dr Craig Wilson
Vice Chairperson	Mrs Judy Henry
Secretary	Mrs Louise Middlebrook
Treasurer	Ms Helen Lowe

MRAG and MRAGM would like to welcome this new committee and we can all look forward to what new and exciting ideas this committee will bring to the meetings.

Please remember that all MRAGM meetings happen on the second Wednesday of each month in the Paterson Room of the Town Hall and 4pm (3.45pm for afternoon tea)

All members are welcome and encourages to attend. Please stay tuned for featured articles about each of the committee members in a 'Get to know your MRAGM Committee' section of the MRAGM newsletter.

What's on

Ruth Chapman: Comfort Creatures Greenway Gallery Until 14 December, Morpeth

Artist Ruth Chapman has described her solo exhibition Comfort Creatures as having "evolved from my lifetime love of drawing and creatures great and small. Rather than creating a photographic likenesses I have continued my aim of creating the essence of the creature and the fleeting moment. I draw upon creatures from my immediate environment and some of those I come upon in my travels. The mediums I use range from graphite and charcoal to oil paint. I find great pleasure and solace in both the creatures and the creating." At Greenway Gallery, 166 Swan St Morpeth. Tel 02 4934 6411

Dungog Film Festival

We're now calling for entries for Dungog '09. Completed shorts, features, documentaries, animations on film and digital are accepted. Contact Peter Castaldi for details. Email peter@dungogfilmfestival.org Website www.dungogfilmfestival.org
Closing 31 March

Country Arts Support Program (CASP)

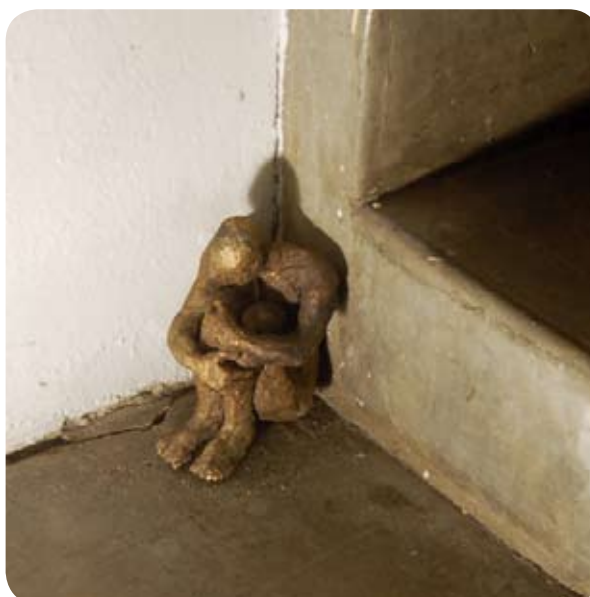
NOW OPEN. Closing 13 February 2009 Small grants up to \$3,000 for arts and cultural projects in regional NSW. Closing date is 13 February 2009 for projects between 10 April 2009 and the 9 April 2010.

CASP is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW. Contact Ben Sibson, Funding Officer Tel 02 9270 2501 email fundingofficer@regionalartsnsw.com.au

MRAGM featured artist Cheryl Farrell

Cheryl has been working at Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) since May 2007 as a Gallery Assistant, sharing the position in a job share arrangement with Heather Morris-Pryer. During the time Cheryl has worked at MRAG she has also been completing her Bachelor of Fine Art degree at Newcastle University and she will graduate early next year.

Cheryl is currently exhibiting her latest sculpture at Watt Space, Newcastle as a part of the graduating show Say My Name featuring artworks by selected 3rd year Bachelor of Fine Art graduating students. Cheryl's sculpture is a small bronze figure titled *Is That It?*. This figure represents Cheryl's general art practice which involves describing the world through her own life and experiences. Cheryl enjoys the traditional techniques of bronze casting and feels that it is important to use the medium to emphasise meaning in a work. The bronze figure, *Is That It?*, is heavy, which emphasises the weight of the question and resulting emotions. The sculpture was intentionally left raw and unpolished, basically reflecting Cheryl's feelings about finishing her art degree. It also asks the big question, that most of us seem to come to at certain stages in our own lives, "is that all there is?"



Cheryl Farrell *Is That It?* 2008 bronze

Joe's Road to Recovery

As many members would be aware, our Cultural Director, Joe Eisenberg has been suffering from a back ailment for well over a year now.

Joe recently underwent surgery to have the problem fixed. The procedure went well and saw Joe up and bravely walking the very next day. Joe is now at home and working hard to improve his condition. He is literally taking things step by step, one day at a time.

Joe sends his thanks to all for the many good wishes he has received during this trying time for him. Joe is itching to get well and return to work and prepare for the opening of the new MRAG facility. We hope to see him back on deck and cracking the whip in the early part of 2009.



**merry christmas to all mr ag members
see you all again in the new year....**

MRAG enquiries

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web www.mrag.org.au

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

**MRAGM PATRON - Mr Frank Terenzini
Member for Maitland in the NSW
Legislative Assembly**

