

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed River Art Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 30 November 2011

Venue:

Tweed River Art Gallery

Time:

6.00pm

Present:

Cr Joan van Lieshout (Chair), Shirley Kennedy, Judith Sutton, Susi Muddiman (Gallery Director), Anne Schardin (Assistant Gallery Director).

Cr Joan van Lieshout was asked to Chair the meeting.

Apologies:

Ray Watson, Cr Warren Polglase, Lyn Stewart (Friends' President), John Opit, Josie Flett.

Correspondence In: Email 10 November 2011 from Max Boyd tendering his resignation from the committee due to other commitments.

Correspondence Out: Thank you letter to Gary Corbett written by Judith Sutton

Judith has offered to write a letter to thank Max Boyd thanking him for his years of commitment and dedication to the Gallery, and his membership of the committee.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Shirley Kennedy

Seconded: Judith Sutton

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed River Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held 17 August 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

Susi Muddiman reported that the position of Manager of CCS will be advertised in early 2012.

Gallery Director's Report

Moved: Judith Sutton

Seconded: Shirley Kennedy

Susi Muddiman reported a record attendance of 28,563 visitors to the *Archibald Prize 2011* exhibition.

Minutes

The ANZ Bank sponsored People's Choice Award and the Ben Quilty evening were very popular events. The Gallery's Education and Audience Development Officer Robyn Sweaney instigated a Gallery Guide Program to train guides for the *Archibald* exhibition. The program will be extended for the New Acquisitions to the Collection exhibition opening in March 2012.

24 new artworks have been accessioned to the Gallery's Collection including a lovely drawing by Jon Molvig donated by the Tweed River Art Gallery Foundation and a beautiful drawing by William Dobell ***Study for Dame Mary Gilmore***, a preliminary work to the well known Archibald winning ***Portrait of Dame Mary Gilmore***.

The offer of the Margret Olley Trust to donate \$1 million to re-create three of the rooms of Margaret Olley's home has been presented to Council. The Report will be presented to Council at the meeting of 13/12/11. A DA for Stage 3 will need to be submitted. Parking space currently complies with planning requirements.

Judith Sutton enquired if it was possible to investigate the possibility of additional parking for special events.

Susi Muddiman reported that the Friends of the Gallery will be holding their first Christmas Artisan Market on Saturday 3 December and it is hoped that the event will be popular and well supported. On 11 December the ***Surface Tension: the art of Euan Macleod*** touring exhibition will finish at the University of Queensland Art Museum and the artworks will be returned to their owners. Dr Nancy Underhill will give an illustrated talk and open the ***Bessie Gibson: an artistic life*** exhibition on 16 December at 5pm.

General Business:

Nil.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed River Art Gallery Advisory Committee will be held at Tweed River Art Gallery on Wednesday 8 February at 5.30pm.

2012 Meetings (Quarterly 2nd Wed)

8 February 2012

9 May 2012

8 August 2012

14 November 2012

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.

Phone (02) 6570 2790 | Fax (02) 6672 7585
PO Box 516 Murwillumbah NSW 2484 | ABN 90 178 732 495
tweedart@tweed.nsw.gov.au | www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/artgallery
The Gallery and Cafe is open from Wednesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm (EST)



Report of the Art Gallery Director submitted to the Art Gallery Advisory Committee
Wednesday 30 November 2011

Subject: Officer's Report

Author: Susi Muddiman

Director: David Oxenham, Director Community and Natural Resources

Recommendation:

That the report by the Art Gallery Director be received for information.

VISITORS TO THE ART GALLERY

Recommendation: For information

This report will cover the exhibition Friday 5 August – 11 September 2011.

ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2011: NSW REGIONAL TOUR

Since the inception of the Archibald Prize in 1921, this exhibition has fostered the art of portraiture. Now almost a century on, the Prize is still regarded as one of Australia's most prestigious art awards. An Art Gallery of New South Wales exhibition toured by Museums and Galleries NSW.

ALSO ON EXHIBITION

The tertium quid: case study: showcases a series of sculptures by **Brendan McCumstie**. The tertium quid is defined as 'the third thing' that explodes into being from the joining of two other unrelated things. An outcome of the Tweed River Art Gallery's Community Access Exhibitions Program, on display until Sunday 18 September.

Seven Little Australians: the 1994 centennial edition of the classic novel *Seven Little Australians* is brought to life with the visually stunning illustrations of **John Lennox**. This exhibition showcases the original paintings of those illustrations, which faithfully portray the period of 1894 when the first edition was written. A Dromkeen travelling exhibition, on display from 12 August 2011.

Valley of the Tweed: the magnificent work "Valley of the Tweed" by **Elioth Gruner**, on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW, is the centrepiece of this exhibition, which is drawn from the Gallery's collection of historical and contemporary landscapes. A Tweed River Art Gallery initiative.

The Australian Character: works from the collection – until **18 October 2011**: an exhibition of selected works that explore the stereotypes surrounding our perception of the 'typical' Australian and the diversity inherent in today's Australian population.

ATTENDANCES

Exhibition period open to the public for **30 days** (*The tertium quid: case study* ONLY = 35 days)

Opening Function **218**

Community Groups **1160**

Terrys Tours (21), Tweed Tourism (15), Spiritus Respite Care (14), Tweed Trippers (12), Byron Community Group (15), Friends of the Lismore Regional Gallery (51), Runaway Bay Village (29), Gold Coast City Art Gallery Society (60), Tour Group (18), Elanora Probus Club (21), Bupa Aged Care (16), Royal Old Art Society (17), Friendship Force (14), Pine Lake Retirement Village (16), Northern Rivers UA3 (28), Alstonville Probus Club (28), Tweed Probus Club (10), Coolangatta Tweed Probus Club (10), Alstonville Art Group (52), Kingscliff TAFE (20), Gold Coast Tweed Probus Club (80), Curumbin Happy Group (50), Brians Bus Charter (42), Friends of Gold Coast City Art Gallery (40), Golden Crest Manors (22), Spiritus Respite Care (18), Yurara Art Group (60), UTA Art Group

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COLLECTION NEW ACQUISITIONS

Reg No	Accession No	Artist	First Name	Title	Date	Medium	Credit Line
782	2011/33	PEEBLES	Graeme	Remember	2010	acrylic 2015	Gift of the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery, 2011
783	2011/34	DEAN	Tamara	Damen Skipper	2011	photograph, post signed print	Acquired as the Winner of the Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture, 2011
784	2011/35	BUDGEON	Chris	Art	2010	photograph digital pigment ink	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery
785	2011/38	BELETICH	Dean	Francois	2010	photograph silver gelatin	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery
788	2011/37	FIELDING	Petronella	In the race	2010	photograph glass print	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery
787	2011/38	HUBBARD	Aileen	My yard	2010	Photograph digital	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery
788	2011/39	MCMASTER	Cheryl	Siblings	2010	Photograph digital	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery
788	2011/40	YOUNG	David	Tom	2011	Photograph digital	Acquired through Olive Cotton Award 2011 as Director's Choice Purchase Awards funded by the Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery

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Reg No	Accession No	Artist	First Name	Title	Date	Medium	Credit Line
770	2011/41	WARNER	Edward Albert (Ernest)	On the creek	1924	acrylic 1075	Gift of Noelle Turner, 2011
771	2011/42	CUSACK	Michael	Southbank	2004	oil, pencil and collage	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2011
772	2011/43	CUSACK	Michael	Lido	2005	Oil and pencil	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2011
773	2011/44	CUSACK	Michael	Ormond	2008	Oil, collage and pencil	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2011
774	2011/45	CUSACK	Michael	Archive (13) Curragh	2008	oil and pencil	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2011
775	2011/46	MCKENZIE	Alexander	Andrew Upton	2010	oil	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2011
776	2011/47	MORLEY	Lewis	Noole Kidman	c1900	silver gelatin	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Corrigan AM, 2011
777	2011/48	MORLEY	Lewis	Barry Humphries at The Establishment London 1962	c1960	silver gelatin	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Corrigan AM, 2011
778	2011/49	MORLEY	Lewis	Christo	undated	silver gelatin	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Corrigan AM, 2011

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Reg No	Accession No	Artist	First Name	Title	Date	Medium	Credit Line
779	2011/50	MORLEY	Levine	Salvador Dali photographed in Fleur Cowles flat London 1981	1981	silver gelatin	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Cormier AM, 2011
780	2011/51	MORLEY	Lewis	Untitled	c1880	silver gelatin	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Patrick Cormier AM, 2011
781	2011/52	TRELBICO	Reg	Lesnegar (pic)		pen & wash	Gift of Gary Smith in memory of Kathleen Ellen Smith (nee Dymally) born Mitchellville 1914
782	2011/53	MOLVIC	Jan	Maryke with bent knee	1957	charcoal	Acquired through the Tweed River Art Gallery donations fund, 2011
783	2011/54	DOBELL	William	Study for Dame Mary Barmore	c1855-5	pastels	Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Jeannette Sharpe, 2011
784	2011/55	TEXTAQUEEN	Aileen	The true history of the Kelly Gang	2010	Etching 12/15	Acquired through the Tweed River Art Gallery donations fund, 2011
785	2011/56	SHAKESPEARE	Hussell	Michael Zavros	2008	Photograph digital	Acquired through the Tweed River Art Gallery donations fund, 2011

(20), Heritage Lodge (16), Galleon Gardens RSL (13), The Channon Seniors (11), Wommin Bay Retirement Village (8), Cypress Retirement Village (21), Yamba Historical Society (50), Redcliffe Art Gallery volunteers (65), Lady Small Haven (18), Broadbeach Seniors Bowls Club (50), Urunga Retirement Village (20), Heritage Lodge (16), Day Trippers (23), Nerang Retirement Village (20), Fairways (30).

Education Groups 755

Teachers Preview (30), Richmond Christian College (12), Lismore TAFE (20), Trinity College – Lismore (42), Xavier Catholic College (23), Ocean Shores Public School (110), BCS Maranoa (15), Hillcrest Christian College (47), Macintyre High School (11), Tyalgum Public School (17), Murwillumbah TAFE (13), Byron Bay High School (58), Kingscliff TAFE (8), Murwillumbah East Public School (16), Mullumbimby High School (50), Ball State University – Indiana USA (23), Somerset College (56), Goonengerry Public School (21), Bilambil Primary School (88), Pacific Coast Christian School (80), Tunttable Falls Public School (35).

Total Attendances: 28,563 (*The tertium quid: case study ONLY = 29,341*)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- On **Friday 5 August** the Tweed River Art Gallery Foundation held an **exhibition preview** and fundraising event with special guest, Archibald Finalist, **Ken Done AM**. The evening catered for **92** guests who paid \$30 each to attend. Many guests remarked on their pleasure in attending the entertaining and generous presentation by Done.
- On **Saturday 6 August** the **official opening** events were held, with preview talk by Ken Done at 4.00pm, prior to the official speeches, attracted **140** attendees and again there was much praise for his engaging delivery. The opening event at 5.30pm had **218** people in attendance. Brendan McCumstie "opened" his exhibition *The tertium quid: case study* with a highly amusing "talk" using flashcards only, then Ken Done officially opened the *Archibald Prize 2011: NSW Regional Tour*.
- On **Saturday 13 August**, to compliment the Archibald Prize, artist **Michelle Dawson** held two introduction-to-portrait-drawing workshops in the Gallery foyer at **10.30** and **11.30am** with a total attendance of **24** adults. At 2pm, to celebrate the Tweed Valley Banana Festival and Harvest Week, *Banana Splits* engaged **13** children in circus skills with **Michele Thomas**.
- On **Sunday 28 August**, Archibald Finalist **Angus McDonald** delivered a floortalk on his entry, a portrait of Ann Lewis AO, to an audience of **100**.
- On **Friday 2 September** at **6.30pm** the Gallery hosted a special evening event featuring **Archibald 2011** winner, **Ben Quilty** in conversation with **Art Gallery of SA Director, Nick Mitevich**. This was a Friends of the Gallery fundraising event which easily achieved the maximum number of 130 guests at \$30 per ticket. Total attendance including complimentary tickets was **140**.
- On **Wednesday 7 September** at **11.00am**, the final Archibald Prize event was held when Coordinator of Access Programs at the Art Gallery of NSW, **Danielle Gullota** presented a detailed floortalk to over **80** Gallery visitors.
- On **Sunday 11 September**, exhibitor **Brendan McCumstie** conducted an artist-in-residence (demonstration) day. Visitors were very intrigued with his subject matter and methods. He spoke to many of the **hundreds** of people who engaged with his display over the course of this day.

EDUCATION

Guided Tours

- **Information day at the Art Gallery of NSW:** two Gallery staff members (Anouk Beck and Robyn Sweaney) and two volunteers (Bob and Noelene Harris) flew to Sydney on **15 June 2011** to attend a guided tour and information sessions on the Archibald Prize and associated education programs, presented by AGNSW staff.
- **Volunteer Training:** 3 x 2 hour training sessions for volunteer guides were conducted by the Gallery's Education Officer prior to the opening of the exhibition on the **21, 28 July and 4 August**. Areas of study included: the history of the prize, 6 focus works, gaining an understanding of the artist, the sitter, technique and style of the work and any other symbols in the paintings. Before commencing the tours the guides were given direction on how to engage with an audience, voice projection and methods of presentation.
- **Volunteer Guided tours:** two tours were run at the Gallery on each Wednesday and Sunday during the 6-week exhibition period (total of **22 sessions**). All tours were well attended and audiences appreciated the

knowledge of the Volunteer Guides. The majority of community groups were also given a guided tour of the exhibition by available staff as requested prior to their visit.

School and Community Groups

- **Teachers Preview Thursday 4 August 5.00-7.00pm: 30** primary, secondary and tertiary teachers attended an evening hosted by the Gallery. Archibald Education Kits were distributed to teachers and Archibald finalist, **Angus McDonald delivered a floortalk** on his Archibald entry and some of the other works on exhibition
- **Group visits:** all schools and community groups were contacted prior to their visit to discuss any special needs, and if requested which type of guided tour, and education resources were required. All schools were given a general introductory talk on the exhibition, including the history of the prize as well as a discussion on 6 focus works. Worksheets and drawings were then completed by the students.
- **School groups: 755** students from 6 primary schools, 8 secondary schools and 6 tertiary institutions, visited the exhibition.

Education Resources

- **Education Kits: 40** hard copies of the Archibald Education Kit, prepared and provided by the AGNSW, were distributed to teachers and volunteer guides. The Kit was also made available as a downloadable PDF from the Gallery's website.
- **Education Resources:** the Gallery's Education Officer prepared, distributed and/or printed a wide range of education resources to volunteers, teachers, and primary and secondary students:
 1. ABOUT – information on the Archibald Prize (for teachers and volunteer guides)
 2. Guide Notes - on the 40 finalist's artwork (teaching resource for guide training)
 3. PRAC Look and See - portraiture sheet with questions and activities (for upper primary)
 4. PRAC Portraiture Sheet - Practical notes on drawing a portrait. Resource and activity (secondary level)
 5. PRAC Art Detective - (junior primary)
 6. PRAC Frame sheet - draw your favorite portrait (junior primary)

CATALOGUES and MERCHANDISE

Archibald Prize 2011: NSW Regional Tour – during the exhibition period 5 August – 11 September 2011, visitors purchased the merchandise below, sourced from the AGNSW. The small amount of remaining stock continues to sell well.

- **550** x catalogues at the rp. of \$16.00 (w'sale \$9.60) with a Gallery profit of \$3,520.
 - **1218** x postcards at the rp. of \$1.75 (w'sale \$0.89) with a Gallery profit of \$1047.48.
- Total retail sales = \$10,931.50 Total Gallery profit = \$4567.48**

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

A total of **4313** votes were cast in the People's Choice Award, which ran from 6 August to close of business on Sunday 4 September. The work that received the **most public votes was artist Adam Chang's portrait John Coetzee**. The Prize was drawn by Ben Goulding of the Murwillumbah Branch of ANZ and the winner of the prize pack from ANZ was Janice Edwards of Pottsville. Of the 4313 votes cast, **1467** visitors indicated that they would like to receive more information on the Tweed River Art Gallery and its programs. These visitors have subsequently received a promotional package from the Gallery. The People's Choice Award was a wonderful tool for the Gallery in terms of audience development, but it did require an enormous amount of work in terms of data entry and vote counting. The majority of this work was undertaken by Betty Hutchinson, a dedicated Gallery volunteer.

PROMOTION and PUBLICITY

Television Advertisement – The Friends of the Tweed River Art Gallery contributed \$2,500 towards the production and broadcast of a television advertisement on NBN TV. The total cost being \$2,750. The 30second advertisement was screened 111 times on NBN to areas covering South Brisbane, Northern Rivers, Grafton, Tweed and Tenterfield. A total of 42 free advertisements were included in the number above but many more free spots were added.

Invitations – 2,000 copies – 1300 distributed to the Friends of the Gallery mail list, with additional copies distributed to touring body mail lists, exhibiting artists, local media, education and tourism facilities and Gallery visitors.

Gallery Exhibition Program – 5,000 distributed to Friends of the Gallery mail list, arts and media organisations, schools, tourism operators and Gallery visitors.

Print media – National periodicals (eg: Imprint, Art Gallery Guide, Art Monthly), local newspapers (eg: Daily News, Gold Coast Bulletin, Northern Star), free publications (eg: Tweed Sun, The Weekly, Tweed Shire and Byron Echo,) and the Tweed Shire Council newsletter (Tweed Link) distributed to all shire households.

Radio – North Coast / Gold Coast ABC, Gold Coast FM and all radio stations in Lismore, Tweed and Gold Coast areas

Website – <http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/artgallery> - includes general information on the Gallery's exhibition schedule and other specific exhibition related material eg: education resources.

Print Advertisements

Art Monthly	#242 August 2011
Tweed Border Mail	19/08/11
Tweed Valley Weekly	31/07/11, 07/08/11, 21/08/11, 04/09/11
Tweed Coast Weekly	05/08/11, 02/09/11
Tweed Link	02/08/11, 09/08/11, 23/08/11
Byron Shire Echo (colour)	02/08/11, 09/08/11,
Tweed Shire Echo (colour)	11/08/11, 18/08/11, 25/08/11, 30/08/11, 10/09/11

Media log

Date	Media	Contact	Story
23/7/11 8.50am	ABC Radio Gold Coast	Presenter / Interview: Peter Scott	Interview re: Olive Cotton Award and upcoming Archibald Prize
27/7/11	ABC Radio Gold Coast	Presenter / Interview: Sarah	Interview re: Margaret Olley passing and Archibald Prize coming to TRAG
27/7/11	Tweed Daily News	Interview with Lois Ph: 0755236211	Interview re: Margaret Olley passing and Archibald Prize coming to TRAG.
1/8/11	Gold Coast Bulletin	Interview on phone with journalist Elisha Pugliese Ph: 0755842377	Interview re: Margaret Olley and Archibald Prize 2011
4/8/11	ABC Gold Coast Radio news	Interview with Charmaine Kane via live radio interview	Interview re: Archibald Prize opening at TRAG
4/8/11	Radio Metro	Tamara Bow	Interview re: Archibald Prize
4/8/11	NBN TV News	Catherine (reporter) and Tony (cameraman)	Interview re: Archibald Prize
5/8/11	Prime TV News	Christine 0428 463 353	Interview re: Archibald Prize
10/8/11	The Tweed Daily News	Marie 07 6523 6249	Interview re: Olley painting going to State Memorial Service – dates
11/8/11	4CRB Community Radio Gold Coast 89.3	Lyn Neuendorf	Interview re: Archibald Prize and upcoming public programs
25/11/11	ABC North Coast	Jeanti St Clair, arts reviewer, local stories. jeanti.stclair@gmail.com 0414 481 753	Archibald exhibition
7/9/11	ABC North Coast radio	Eloise Farrow-Smith (02) 6627 2031	Archibald Prize visitor numbers / comparison to usual exhibition numbers / volunteer guides / favourite works in exhibition / People's Choice Award
9/9/11	ABC Radio Gold Coast	Nicki	Interview on last weekend of Archibald Prize 2011 and expected huge crowds.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Newspaper coverage

Archibald Prize makes its return after five years	Tweed Link	26/07/11
One last visit for Northern Rivers legend	Tweed Coast Weekly	29/07/11
Farewell Margaret Olley	Daily News	28/07/11
Margaret Olley had soft spot for Tweed	Daily News	26/07/11
Remembering Margaret	Gold Coast Bulletin	30/07/11
Archibald works coming to the Tweed	Tweed Valley Weekly	31/07/11
Huge week for Art Gallery	Inside Out (TSC newsletter)	August 11
Coup for Tweed as it lands exhibition of stellar Archibald entries	Gold Coast Bulletin	04/08/11
Archibald showing a fitting tribute to Margaret Olley	Tweed Sun	04/08/11
Ken Done to open Archibald Prize	Tweed Shire Echo	04/08/11
Archibald Prize back in Tweed after 5 years	Tweed Border Mail	04/08/11
Archibald exhibition has arrived	Tweed Valley Weekly	07/08/11
Tweed Valley	Byron Shire Echo	09/08/11
Archibald to draw big crowd	Tweed Border Mail	11/08/11
Done to make his mark	Tweed Border Mail	11/08/11
The Arts – Tweed Gallery	Tweed Shire Echo	11/08/11
Olley painting goes south	Daily News	12/08/11
Night with Archibald and Ken	Daily News	15/08/11
Olley portrait returns to Sydney – but only briefly	Tweed Link	16/08/11
Margaret's portrait to be at memorial service	Tweed Valley Weekly	21/08/11
Night out at the Archibald Prize	Daily News	14/09/11
Quilty to speak at Gallery	Daily News	19/08/11
Archibald winner to be gallery guest	Tweed Border Mail	25/08/11
Archibald exhibit draws huge crowds	Daily News	27/08/11
Quilty at art gallery	Daily News	27/08/11
Portrait back at Art Gallery	Tweed Link	30/08/11
Archibald artist to visit gallery	Tweed Valley Weekly	04/09/11
Get in quick for Archibald show	Tweed Sun	08/09/11
Archibald winner all praise for Olley	Tweed Shire Echo	08/09/11
People vote for Coetzee	Daily News	08/09/11
Guests turn out for Quilty	Daily News	13/09/11
Archibald a huge hit	Tweed Shire Echo	15/09/11
Seven larger than life Aussies	Tweed Shire Echo	18/08/11
Things to do this weekend	Tweed Daily News	19/08/11

Digital Media coverage

Regional Arts NSW e-news		August 2011
Arts Northern Rivers e-news		August 2011
Visual arts: 2011 Archibald Prize exhibition at the Tweed River Art Gallery		
	www.abc.net.au/local/reviews	31/08/11
Archibald Prize 2011 at Tweed	Gold Coast Artflash	August 2011
*Archibald Prize 2011 at Tweed River Art Gallery	Gold Coast Artflash	September 2011
Archy about to farewell Tweed	schonetsdaily	06/09/11
Tweed votes on its People's Choice Award	www.famouthcoaster.com.au	26/09/11

COMMENTS

- *The Archibald Prize 2011: NSW Regional Tour* drew an unprecedented number of visitors, with the Gallery experiencing approximately 4 x our usual attendance numbers. This obviously provided an enormous boost to the Gallery's profile, particularly within the Brisbane - Gold Coast area.
- With such a large increase in visitor numbers, Gallery staff members were under an enormous amount of pressure. Without the valuable assistance provided by the Friends of the Gallery and volunteers, it would have been impossible to deal with the huge increase in enquiries, administrative duties and Gallery maintenance.

Excerpts from the Gallery Comment Book

Archibald Prize 2011: NSW Regional Tour

- Thank you for bringing such a fabulous event to this area, it is a wonderful collection of works. (Bilinga)
- A wonderful opportunity to see such great artwork in a regional setting. Temfic! (Nunderi)
- Great to see Ben's winning work - go BushBoys! (Mullumbimby)
- Art, love and life, how lucky we are. Congratulations to all and a fond farewell to beautiful, bold, brave Margaret. (Benowa)
- You have made me love Margaret Olley and all other artworks even more! (Gold Coast)
- A truly wonderful exhibition. Congratulations! (Yamba)
- These fabulous works inspire me to do better with my own painting. Thank you. (Bilambil)
- Del Kathryn Barton's "Mother" is utterly incredible. (Byron Bay)
- I love the didactic panels - great explanations. (Doon Doon)
- Absolutely brilliant, magnificent artwork, it is a blessing. (Victoria)
- It is wonderful to see the Archibald Prize in this excellent gallery setting. (Grafton)
- A magnificent exhibition, Congratulations to TRAG for bringing this to art lovers. Fantastic. (Murwillumbah)
- Great to have these outstanding works of Australian art outside of the major city centres. (Southport)
- Fantastic - I have never seen this exhibition in person before. Fascinating to find out about the artists and sitters. (Melbourne)
- It is wonderful to be able to get close, see the technique, then stand back and admire the work. (Chelmer)
- This is my first visit to Tweed RAG, despite having lived in Byron for 12 years. Thank you for getting me up here, and providing the Archies. I certainly won't leave it another 12 years until next visit!! (Byron Bay)
- Outstanding, and a credit to the organisers. (Coolangatta)
- How fortunate I am to be visiting and to have this exquisite privilege. A marvellous exhibition and wonderful gallery. (Footscray)
- Apple Xiu Yin won my vote - but Waleed Aly - I'd marry!! (Burringbar)
- So many great paintings of women - thanks for the great exhibition. (Mermaid Waters)
- I was quite in awe of Tim Storrier's painting, it is so different from the norm. (Brisbane)
- Wonderful - thank you for bringing quality art to the communities of northern NSW. (Gold Coast)
- Thanks for bringing the Archibald to the Tweed, fostering culture and community. (Stokers Siding)
- A wonderful exhibition, Angus McDonald's talk was excellent and the paintings incredible. (Brisbane)
- A fantastic exhibition, enjoyed also by my 100 year old mother, well worth the visit from (Wollongong)
- The Margaret Olley portrait - you feel as if Ms Olley is about to speak to you! (Brisbane)
- Fantastic gallery - Margaret Olley is clearly a winner! (Pottsville)
- A marvellous opportunity, wonderful to see this touring exhibition and being here on such a busy day hasn't spoiled the experience. (Rosebank)
- I just wanted to thank you again for opening the gallery for our Year 9 students on their art excursion last term and particularly for providing them with some background information about the Archibald Prize. All the objectives I had for the day were achieved. The keen art students in the group certainly found all visit stimulating. Hopefully we can do it again next year. (Ross Keefer, Teacher, Somerset College)
- I just wanted to flick you guys an email to "Thank You" soooooo much for asking Ken Done to attend and talk at your gallery. Not only was I breathless after seeing the Archibald exhibition, I got to meet Ken Done (in the same day). When I walked out of your gallery I couldn't wipe the smile off my face. I would like to thank the Tweed River Art Gallery for making this come true and I will remember this event as long as I live. (Shelena Russell)

- The art staff of Byron Bay High School would love to thank you all for the very professional and supportive work that you do to assist our Visual Art students. The stunning location and amazing weather topped off the day. The student had a great time and learned a lot. Thanks again, and we look forward to our next visit. (Jessica Eke, Teacher, Byron Bay High School)
- Just a short note on behalf of the teachers and students from Bilambil to say thanks for your talk to the kids yesterday and all of your help in getting this excursion up and running. We were all impressed with the exhibitions and we know the children really took notice of the artworks and other pieces. Our thanks again. (Janet Caruthers, Bilambil Public School)

General comments

- The setting of this lovely gallery has added so much to the enjoyment of viewing the portraits. (Melbourne)
- Oooh, aaahhh – Tweed Gallery is so inspiring... thank you so much. (Kingscliff)
- I love "Gennie" by James Guppy-awesome energy. (Manly, Qld)
- Loved the Gallery design, its windows, which cameo nature, were as good as the art. (Lennox Head)
- Everything was breathtaking, some of the best exhibitions I have ever seen. (Ocean Shores)
- Thank you TRAG, what you bring to the Valley is invaluable. (Bilambil)
- Love it! Proud to have such a great gallery in my home town. (Murwillumbah)
- A jewel in the Northern Rivers crown. (Mullumbimby)
- Brilliant! It may not be an original description, but this gallery is BRILLIANT! (Runaway Bay)
- Fantastic gallery in sublime surrounds. Lyn was a well presented and erudite tour guide. (Fernvale)
- Heather – what a fantastic tour guide! (Brisbane)

Seven Little Australians

- I loved 7 little Australians (Bonnie, aged 8)
- Everything was excellent, but I especially liked Seven Little Australians. (Canberra)
- I loved the Ethel Turner exhibit. (Chillingham)
- I thought the Seven Little Australians was fantastic. (Banora Point)
- Very good – Seven Little Australians – memory hold the door – read it over 60 years ago. (Morriston)

Christmas Art Market

The Gallery will host a Christmas Art Market in the Foyer on Saturday 9 December from 10.00am – 5.00pm. A flyer for this event has been included in the current mail out. I am very pleased that the Friends are supporting this new event, and have been acknowledged on the flyer. From the range of quality handcrafted merchandise submitted for consideration, I am sure that the market will attract much interest. If all goes well, this could well become a regular biannual or annual event for the Friends and the Gallery. Many thanks to Ellie Beck and her partner Sam for working on this project.

Bessie Gibson: an artistic life

This exhibition is coming together very nicely now. I am very pleased to be able to include a number of Bessie's works still owned and loved by her family in the exhibition, and thank the Gibson family for all their support and encouragement. As you may be aware, Bessie's nephew Bob Gibson lives locally and approached me some time ago in regard to his aunt's work. Bob's twin brother Brian, who lives in Brisbane, also has quite a few splendid works in his collection. These family heirlooms will be complemented by works from the University of Queensland Art Museum collection, along with a few privately owned gems. The miniatures are among my favourite works, showing Bessie's exquisite handling of oil when working on such a small scale. Some of the miniatures are painted on French ivory. I encourage you all to attend the Illustrated Talk by Dr. Nancy Underhill at 5.00pm, prior to the Opening. Dr. Underhill curated the first survey touring exhibition of Bessie's work in 1978.

Opening of Surface Tension: the art of Euan Macleod 1991 – 2009 at UQAM, Brisbane

The exhibition opened at the final venue of the tour on Friday 28 October. I expected the presentation of the 'In Conversation' between the artist Euan Macleod and myself to be moderately well attended. As University semester has finished, I didn't think there would be a large number of students or general

public at the 5.00pm session prior to the Opening at 6.00pm. I was surprised that over 100 people attended the 'In Conversation' session, including University VIPs and members of Brisbane's art industry. Euan Macleod and I have presented similar programs in the past, so this public event was not arduous, and the audience enjoyed our relaxed conversation and Euan's thoughtful (and often witty) responses to my questions regarding his practice. There were many questions posed by the audience members at the conclusion of our program, and it was very pleasing that a good number of these questions related to how the Gallery put the exhibition together – liaison with lenders, funding streams, education resources etc. The exhibition space became so crowded prior to our program that the UQAM Senior Curator approached us as to whether we would consider repeating the program the following evening so as not to disappoint those audience members who were forced to the back of the group due to space restrictions. As a result, Euan and I agreed to present the program again the following evening. The exhibition will be dispersed from UQAM by TRAG staff, who will travel to Brisbane to oversee the packing and labelling of the crates.

Attendance at Regional and Public Galleries Association of NSW (RPGNSW) conference

The Education & Audience Development Officer and myself recently attended the biennial conference of the RPGNSW at The Glasshouse in Port Macquarie. Over two days, commencing Monday 31 October, 55 regional and public gallery affiliated professionals, M&G NSW staff and M&G NSW Board members met in Port Macquarie at the 2011 Regional & Public Galleries NSW conference, titled, *Currency: resilience, relevance, resourcefulness*.

The conference program was structured around the theme of *sustainability*, with a range of presentations intended to provoke thought and generate ideas about tackling issues beyond (but also including) environmental concerns. Birpai Elder, Uncle Bill O'Brien gave a moving Welcome to Country and an inspired set of speakers was led by Lucy Neal, who 'skyped' in from the Outer Hebrides to deliver a key note based on her landmark Sustainable Ability report and Happy Museum project. Jason Smith, Director of Melbourne's Heide Museum of Modern Art spoke about the greening of Heide and his holistic approach to the development of sustainable practices as they relate to his vision and re-imagining of the gallery, its collection, gardens and grounds. Alison Clouston gave an artist's perspective and described a number of projects she has initiated with partner Boyd, including one in response to the destruction (by lightning and fire) of their much treasured studio situated in the Burratorang Valley, between Sydney and Goulburn. Clouston is known for her sculptural installations based on environmental themes, and carbon audits and offsets are an integral part of her practice.

The conference was used as a platform to launch a report commissioned by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (in partnership with RPG NSW) titled: *Lighting and Energy Effectiveness*. This report was produced by the engineering firm Steensen Varming and is soon to be published on the MGSG website. Following its presentation, a lively discussion considered a range of questions towards identifying strategies to achieve sustainability in a gallery/museum context.

Day two centred more on ideas and models for improved audience engagement with delegates being somewhat enthralled by Elizabeth Mead's presentation on the approach Hobart's Museum of Old and New (MONA) has taken to achieving outstanding (and distinctive) success in such a short time, since opening earlier this year. Krista Huebner, most recently employed at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), spoke about the use of social media and artist Jenny Fraser, co-founder of CyberTribe talked about web based and digital applications she has used to promote work by Aboriginal artists.

Belinda Hanrahan, Director of Hazelhurst (and M&G NSW Board member), Tristan Sharp, Assistant Director of Newcastle Art Gallery and Grainne Brunson, representing Arts NSW, spoke about funding in the context of generating partnerships and sponsorships, Federal Government programs and NSW State Government grant initiatives through their Arts Funding Program. Tristan also outlined plans for the \$21m re-development of Newcastle Art Gallery. Work is expected to commence in early 2012.

In the final session, M&G NSW's own Steve Miller spoke about outcomes of the recent *Building Cultural Futures in NSW* summit. He noted that over a long period NSW Aboriginal people had certainly reflected a resilient and resourceful approach to maintaining their languages, heritage and culture, and that the summit had firmly placed their desire for cultural relevance and profile on the agenda. New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) Director, Caroline Downer, gave a fascinating overview of their *Art Alive* initiative, an online education resource based on connecting school audiences with the extensive NERAM collection.

It was agreed by all that the conference was an unqualified success, breathing new life into the collegiate sharing of ideas and experiences across the sector.

Additional publicity

A final article in the series on artworks from the TRAG collection will be featured in *The Weekend Australian* newspaper in the 'Review' magazine. This article will feature our iconic portrait *Bill* by Robert Hannaford. The article will appear in the edition on Saturday 19 November.

Susi Muddiman
Gallery Director
10 November 2011