Newsletter # 32



NEWS ... WINTER SOLSTICE EXHIBITION WINNERS

Congratulations to all the entrants and winners of the Winter Solstice Exhibition. It was an outstanding show with many fine and varied pieces. The winners were:

> First Prize, Open Section Fiona Bilbrough for "Fejoas" First Prize, Junior Section Liv Richie for "Lunar Winter" People's Choice Winner Ellen Hubble for "Solstice" and Honourable Mention to Susan Hall for "Bass Coast Hills, Kilcunda", and Honourable Mention to Adrian Johnson for "Sunlit Dunes".

> > Well done to you all.

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

24 Jul to 3 Sep Open Exhibition – OPEN TO ALL ARTISTS

4 Sep to 15 Oct **ARTS-PRINT** Opening Sun 9th Sep, 2-4pm

16 Oct to 26 Nov 3D EXTRADIMENSIONAL <image><image>

Open Fri, Sat, Sun 10am - 4pm Winter Sat, Sun

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SCULPTURE PARK ONE STEP CLOSER ... THANKS TO JOHN MUTSAERS

Now - I don't want anyone taking offence here. But I want you in a couple of words to describe how you think others describe Wonthaggi. 'Shopping hub' is possibly one of the kinder descriptions but my guess is many of you will have heard of 'Beachside Moe' aligning us with a town that has its own identity problems. Admit it – when asked by people you meet do you mutter Wonthaggi indistinctly (if at all) before you proudly say Bass Coast? Or possibly if you do say you are from Wonthaggi, you receive blank looks that mean you have go through a geography lesson when you finally hit on Phillip Island before there is a hint of recognition.



And how frustrating for those of you, as I have with the recent fashion exhibition "Classic Cream, Beautiful Black", tried to get the many event websites to list your event. Unanimously the response (if you get one at all) is that we are too far from Melbourne. This is despite the fact that equivalent distances from Melbourne that are to the north or south west get listings.

Well John Mutsaers means to change that. His vision is to transform the image of Wonthaggi so that it becomes a destination point for art.

Our recent history of course is as a coal mining town. Strikes and a diminishing need for coal provided a bleak future. Many believed there would be little chance of a new beginning once the mines are closed. Other employment opportunities were required – and certainly art is not foremost in anyone's mind. There is certainly little if any funding and locals are pretty sceptical about making the town an art destination.

If you think I am referring to only Wonthaggi – think again. Because in fact there are parallels with Yorkshire in England. Only 40 years ago they also had a bleak history but they also had a passion, as John does, about art. With only a £1,000 grant they commenced the creation of a sculpture park which has now outranked The Tate Gallery and others to be the Best Museum in Great Britain. Henry Moore's hulking bronzes stud the rolling fields and the park had close to 400,000 visitors last year.

John has a vision that such a park will exist in Wonthaggi. John was part of the ArtSpace Committee responsible for the successful application to turn the Centennial Centre into a space for art as well as the information. In that capacity he witnessed the disappointment that a disenfranchised Rotary had in investing its time and money into a Centre that the Council was potentially to walk away from.



He decided that the answer was to work with Rotary and spring board off the fact that they are an international organisation to garner support from not just Australia but the world for his dream. He formed a Sculpture Park Committee which has formalised his dream into two parts. The first is to use the Rotary International network to engage international sculptors to work on their sculpture in situ in Wonthaggi. A number will be asked to submit concepts of their proposed sculptures. Three finalists will be chosen who will then be asked to produce marquettes (small scale models) from which the winner will be chosen. The concept is for the artist to be billeted out in Wonthaggi and for their completed sculpture to remain in place for two years. After two years the process starts again with the original sculpture being relocated to another site within Wonthaggi.

The second is to emulate the Fourth Plinth of Trafalgar Square in London. Trafalgar Square's central feature is of course Nelson's column – but at each of its corners lies a plinth – three of them replete with war heroes on rampant horses. But the fourth plinth has remained empty due to insufficient funds to pop another war hero in place. For over 150 years the fate of the plinth was debated and then finally it was decided to provide a rolling programme of temporary artworks rather than settling permanently on one figure or idea to commemorate.

And this is precisely what the Sculpture Park Committee wants to do with both ideas enabling Wonthaggi to become an art destination.

But of course in order to do so they need money. They have just received a grant from the Bass Coast Shire to help in garnering sponsorship to develop the idea. They are going to use the money to develop a promotional video prospectus to attract philanthropists to engage in the project. John is cautiously optimistic that it will proceed – but recognises he still has a long way to go.

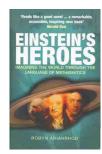
But it a passion that he wants to be realised. At times he is frustrated but he holds on to his theme: public art – identity – meaning – attachment – belonging

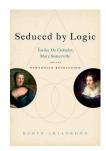


MEET OUR FEATURED ARTIST ... ROBYN ARIANRHOD

There is a fantastic article on the ArtSpace website about author Robyn Arianrhod. Robyn's books reflect her passion for mathematics and science. Make sure to read Liane Arno's fascinating story of Robyn's journey.

http://artspacewonthaggi.com.au/index.php/events/





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YOU ARE INVITED TO A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE ARTIST at the GOODS SHED (Rear of Big W Car Park-Wonthaggi)

Everyone is welcome, so come along, bring your friends, and enjoy a relaxing "Sunday Afternoon with the Artist"

Entry \$5.00, Afternoon tea provided, Time 1.30 - 3.30/4.00 p.m. Put these dates in your diary and join us for a lovely Sunday afternoon at the Goods Shed





August 19

Susan Hall

Charcoal Drawing

Barb Cumming - Demonstration & Workshop Co-Ordinator. Email : barbjcumming@bigpond.com) Phone: 0404 067 045

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