

# ArtSpace

W o n t h a g g i

Newsletter #17

May 2016

## News

Wonderful, beautiful May might have started with storms but there is so much to see and do this month that the weather will hardly be discussed at all!

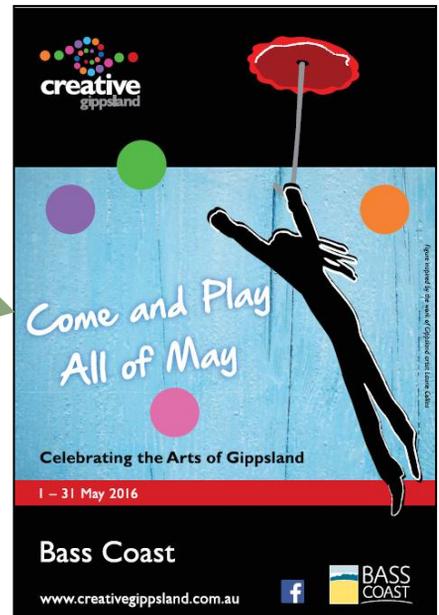
May is Creative Gippsland Month – time for everyone to *Come and Play All of May*...as the sign says!

If you go to the website at:

<http://www.creativegippsland.com.au/>

you will find lots of information about the events featured throughout Gippsland.

At ArtSpace we are holding an exhibition and Artist's Talk by Mandy Gunn and a Poetry reading and book signing by Pauline Mackinnon. Our Events and Exhibition section below has all the details....



## Events and Exhibitions

### May: Creative Gippsland

- 5 - 30 May Mandy Gunn at ArtSpace Gallery – *'Once Was Now Is Exhibition'*
- 14 & 21 May Ursula and Werner Theinert Open Studio 11am to 4pm – at the end of Campbell St Wonthaggi.
- 15 May Mandy Gunn - Exhibition Opening and Artist's Talk – ArtSpace 2-4p.m.
- 21 & 29 May John Mutsaers Open Studio 10am to 4:30pm. 9 Churchill Crs, Inverloch
- 20 -21 May **#too many words** - a live collaborative performance of two dimensional art. Clifford Room at West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul. Bec Vandyk, Sue Acheson and Russell Lilford - pg 7
- 28 May Susan Hall - **Polychromatic workshop - screen printing on fabric. \$65 11am to 4pm Meeniyen Gallery** Meg Viney Bell. Ph. 5664243
- 29 May Reading, Author Talk/Discussion and Book Signing by Pauline Mackinnon - *'Treasures from the Tide'* ArtSpace **Other Creative Gippsland events – TBA**
- 31 May to 27 June: **Winter Solstice** Exhibition and Competition at ArtSpace Gallery more information on page 5. **Opening Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – 2pm to 4pm.....**
- 11 – 19 June San Remo/Phillip Island Art Trail 2016 – more info on page 8**
- 20 Sep–17 Oct: Arts-Print – Print Exhibition at ArtSpace Gallery more info to come...**

## Featured Artist – Mandy Gunn

A thin naked man, with blue painted finger nails and a skin so white that it was almost luminescent sat before 16 year old Mandy Gunn. He called everyone, “Darling”. Mandy’s first life drawing class at the Bromley Art School was not what she had expected. She was to learn that the model was none other than Quentin Crisp who famously said that being a model in life drawing classes, “was like being a civil servant except that you’re naked”.

Coming from a fairly conservative background Mandy used to thrill in getting pens and pencils each birthday with which to draw. One of her first drawings was in blue biro of a ballerina with ever so pointy legs and an ‘x’ for the ballet shoes. She gave it to her aunt who kept it for many years and recently returned it to her. And then there was the neighbour who used to design stamps who encouraged her to try painting with oils. She tried her first - an abstract design at 11 years of age. Attractively Bohemian though the Art School was at the time she was completing her A levels in art, she decided to follow her other great interest and become a physical education teacher instead. But then, true to her artistic nature, she specialised in creative dance and drama.

*Mandy in her studio...*



Like so many who had been through the deprivations of post war Britain she decided to emigrate as one of the £10 POMS. She left a country where, in the not too distant past, she had experienced such ‘hoo hah’ when bananas made it to the shops, where egg powder was a poor replacement for eggs and where she needed to have a coupon to purchase lollies. Her first port of call was in Sydney where she eventually met her now husband, Ian. Ian was a veterinarian who amongst other things worked pro bono overseas in such places as Timor and Sudan. Mandy would have loved to join him but as they started to have children she wasn’t in a position to go. Instead, when her first child was six months old she learnt to weave.



*Scroll Yellow Pages woven length 10mx60cm*

She started to learn what would be her life long passion at a Melbourne University Summer School, experimenting with weaving all sorts of different materials and went on to TAFE to further study her craft. Thirty years after starting her Diploma of Education, Mandy then started a Bachelor of Fine Art at Monash University in Painting and Tapestry. And wanting to broaden her art education she went on to a Graduate Diploma in Painting at the Victorian College of the Arts and then ultimately a Master of Fine Art. Among other things she became excited at the idea of weaving the common place (and often discarded) to make unusual things such as the two bibles that she wove together into a long scroll. She tells me that as she cut up the tomes she couldn’t help but read the passages and concluded that in fact much of the Old Testament was in fact instructions for living.

## Featured Artist – Mandy Gunn

And who would have thought that the Yellow Pages could create a 10 metre long scroll? She sent this work to a Triennial in Poland where only three Australian artists were invited to participate. You will note that I referred to her sending her work there – because unless there was a slow boat going to Poland – she wasn't going to get there. There are very few occasions where Mandy can be persuaded to step on board an aircraft. Instead she prefers the experience of living on a container ship for weeks to get to her destination. She likens travelling on a container ship to being in a desert. One has to be resourceful – and punctual! Don't be like Mandy who was 20 minutes late getting back to the dock to find the ship had sailed without her. If you do – make sure you find the shipping agent damn quickly as well as the pilot ship and be prepared to climb 40 metres or so up the side of a moving sea going vessel.



*Unnatural History Series emu eggs, tacks, enamel*

Despite this scare she went on to take a boat to the Antarctic travelling via the sub Antarctic Islands to get close to Mawson's Hut. She recounts how they couldn't walk the whole of the 9km ice sheet required to reach the hut because to do so would take too long and there was always the potential of severe weather changes and so they returned. Not so the travellers on the same ship just 12 months later. You will remember the expedition that got stuck a couple of years ago for more than two weeks trapping 74 people.

It really says it all about Mandy; she takes the slow boat to travel and the slow method to produce her art. Mandy finds the whole repetitive process of weaving or cutting and piecing together quite meditative. She says she goes into an almost semi-conscious state as she weaves whatever material she is using. She says that, "there is repetition in almost everything that I do."

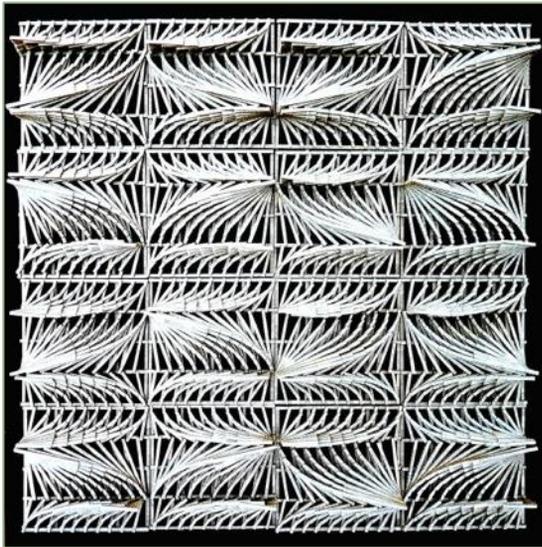
*Australian Story [For the term of His Natural Life]  
shredded book pages on collage construction,  
shredded and woven book pages*



## Featured Artist – Mandy Gunn

Painting is of course another media that Mandy uses and says it is her, “antidote for the slow stuff.” With weaving she knows what the outcome will be – but with painting she never knows.

So how is it you ask that Mandy came to live on the South Gippsland Coast? She really has Susan Hall to thank for it. They knew each other in Lilydale and Mandy and Ian decided they wanted to live in a smaller community. Even though Susan had recommended this area, Mandy and Ian spent many an exciting weekend searching for a new home. Of course the hopeful criteria was for a wonderful, welcoming community as well as enough land to provide space for a huge studio. They found such a place along the old Tarwin Lower/Walkerville sand dunes of Cape Liptrap, and built their quite sculptural looking home with the help of architects and local builder Gil Trease. Even though no longer teaching in an institution, once the studio was built Mandy started up a now well attended art group - she just can't seem to stop wanting to teach.



*Architext, shredded book pages on collage construction*



*Unnatural History Series, echidna quills woven on fireline*

Mandy says that creativity comes from doing. She doesn't wait for the magic word 'inspiration'. She will 'muck about', find out things that work, and then keep at it. There are no one-offs for her. She creates a whole body of work, at the end of which, the problems of the piece are solved. “Art,” she says, “should say something about life and the context that we live in.” Her challenge is to make use of the things around her – anything from shopping bags to train and tram tickets, even echidna quills. And what she has now discovered is the joy that her friends have in collecting for her. I, for one, will be looking around me in a different way to see what I can collect for Mandy as I walk the trails of Bass Coast.

*Liane Arno*

Mandy Gunn's latest exhibition at ArtSpace and part of Creative Gippsland will be '**Once was Now is**' from 5 May - 30 May 2016. She will be sharing an Artist's Talk on Sunday 15 May 2016 from 2-4p.m



**31 May - 27 June**

After our successful Winter Solstice Exhibition last year ArtSpace will again bring light into Gippsland's cold winter. The Winter Solstice Exhibition is for all artists, from young artists aged between 13-18 and professionals over 18 in painting and drawing.

More details and an application form can be found on our website at [www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au](http://www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au)

Please ensure that you read the terms and conditions of the competition, including ensuring that entries are submitted on time. Enquiries can be directed to John Mutsaers [artpacevents@gmail.com](mailto:artpacevents@gmail.com) or 0402 392 799.

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## ***MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE***

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Remember, it's membership renewal time of year..... Your membership entitles you to

- Newsletter,
- Exhibition invitations,
- 10% discount on Wayne Foenander Courier Service
- 10% discount on bottles of Mallani Wine and
- 20% discount on a case of wine
- An invitation to Annual Event

The annual dues of \$10 need to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> June to continue your membership for another 12 months. You can pay when you next visit the gallery – Thursday to Monday 10am to 4pm. Or if you prefer direct deposit our bank details are:

BSB: 633000  
A/c No: 153496120  
a/c Name: Wonthaggi Community Gallery  
*Please add your name as a reference*

Cheques made payable to ArtSpace Wonthaggi can be mailed to: 5-7 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi 3995

# CREATIVE GIPPSLAND EXHIBITION

**ONCE WAS NOW IS**

**MANDY GUNN**



**ARTSPACE WONTHAGGI**

5-7MCBRIDE AVENUE  
WONTHAGGI  
5672 1415

OPEN THURS-MON 10-4

**ARTIST TALK AND OPENING SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2-4PM**

Join us for a glass of wine and a walk around talk with Mandy who will discuss her creative processes with the various recycled materials used in her works.

## ***VOLUNTEERS***

*Just to let our current volunteers (and any potential volunteers....?) know that our inaugural gathering is coming up on **19 June from 1pm to 4:30pm**...more information will be emailed directly to you soon.*

*Stay tuned.....*

**ArtSpace Wonthaggi Gallery – 5-7 McBride St, Wonthaggi Vic 3995**  
**[www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au](http://www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au)**

**Three artists. Two days. One Big Canvas.**  
Conducting a visual dialogue of the painted image, a collaboration of three artists will offer viewers direct insight into the seldom seen process of the creation of fine art in a public arena.



To help support this project, visit  
[www.australianculturalfund.org.au](http://www.australianculturalfund.org.au)

Visit the performance on 20 & 21 May in the Clifford Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul.

Artists: Sue Acheson, Bec Vandyk, Russell Lilford.

## ***SAN REMO/PHILLIP ISLAND ART TRAIL 2016***

**PHILLIP ISLAND TOURISM & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (PITBA)**

In association with

**PHILLIP ISLAND RSL (PIRSL)**

**SAN REMO DISTRICT TOURISM & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (SRDTB)**

and

**ARTISTS' SOCIETY OF PHILLIP ISLAND INC. (ASPI)**

Experienced Bass Coast visual artists are invited to submit a **maximum of 2 works** for selection for display in local businesses during the Queens Birthday weekend and until the end of the following weekend:

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

**Entries close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Enquiries:** Maxine Sando, PIRSL: 59521004

Lois Green, ASPI: [edlo@westnet.com.au](mailto:edlo@westnet.com.au)

## ***LAST WORD...***

An interesting article to have a look at online....

***How to Really, Truly Appreciate a Work of Art***

[http://www.artspace.com/magazine/art\\_101/collecting-101/how-to-appreciate-a-work-of-art-53688](http://www.artspace.com/magazine/art_101/collecting-101/how-to-appreciate-a-work-of-art-53688)

***ArtSpace Wonthaggi Gallery – 5-7 McBride St, Wonthaggi Vic 3995***

***www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au***