is VA your KLA?

maitland regional art gallery

information for teachers term 3 2009

MRAG creates Education Advisory Team
Exhibitions: international, indigenous, children’s installations and more
NEW drawing challenge for high school students
Upcoming school holidays programs

mrag opening
15 august 2009

IS VA YOUR KLA? is a maitland regional art gallery publication newsletter for early childhood, primary & secondary teachers
from the director

If you drive by the art gallery today, you can see our fresh new entry, with glass windows all around, and if you peek through the windows you can see the spaces for MRAG’s new café and improved gallery shop. Excitement is beginning to grow, and we look forward to seeing you all once more when the art gallery reopens.

On the front of this newsletter, and above, you can see depictions of the new additions to the art gallery and we proudly announce that Maitland Regional Art Gallery is now officially one of the largest regional art galleries in NSW.

When the art gallery re-opens, our first few months will showcase excellent educational stimuli, particularly two exhibitions curated from private collections of contemporary art. Different Tracks: The Agapitos / Wilson Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, features an amazing selection of contemporary indigenous paintings by artists including Emily Kame Kngwarreye. The exhibition, Collecting Lines: Selected works from the Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth Collection, presents works by Australian and international artists such as Lucian Freud, Sidney Nolan and Tracey Emin. Both these exhibitions are absolutely fantastic, and showcase amazing diversity in contemporary art.

These are only two of the exhibitions which myself and staff at MRAG have secured for the grand opening. There are three others, one of which will be exhibited in the Art Factory, MRAG’s children’s art space and the only one of its kind in the Hunter region. You know how it works; just give the art gallery a call for more information or to discuss educational visit options for students of any age.

Just before I go, make sure you lock the date of our grand opening into your personal diaries, and gorge yourself on the intellectual and inspirational nourishment we’ll have on display.

Regards,
Joe Eisenberg | Cultural Director
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
MRAG has invited a small group of school principals and early childhood centre directors in the immediate area around the art gallery to become the first members of the newly established Education Advisory Team (EAT).

The EAT was a concept raised first at Regional Conversations, held in August 2008, a research project involving 14 discussion sessions with key demographics in the region, including educators, the elderly, children, parents and people with special needs. Each and every group, regardless of their age or demographic, described children and education as vitally important aspects of a quality gallery. One of the key outcomes from the research was the need to initiate an education reference group.

The EAT will meet 3-4 times per year to discuss issues and actions with the aim of increasing MRAG’s accessibility and relevance and consists of secondary and primary school principals and early childhood centre directors, and the Education Coordinator. The team establishes goals which are reported to the Gallery Director who can then assist with funding and other opportunities.

In its initial year, MRAG has opted to target schools and early childhood centres in the immediate local region, that is, schools with a postcode of 2320. Approximately equal numbers of early childhood centres, primary schools and high schools were contacted. In time, the reach of the EAT will encompass the Maitland area, and invitations will extend out to all schools.

‘This new art gallery should be crammed with kids – every day – and we aim to make that happen’ says Joe Eisenberg, Gallery Director. ‘The two main issues I see, is cost and transport, and with the help of those on the EAT in 2009, we are aiming to get rid of those issues. In plain English, FREE transport and FREE visits, are what we aim to provide.’

In addition to cost and transport, the inaugural meeting of the EAT will also address issues such as risk assessments, relevance to curriculum and other matters raised by the Team.

‘The EAT won’t be focusing on the obstacles, we just want to talk about what can be done.’ Joe says.

MRAG has a range of education visit options and many of them are FREE OF CHARGE.

Call 4934 9858 to enquire about visiting the art gallery.

Ensure Is VA your KLA gets into your inbox
Sign up for the email newsletter today by sending an email with the words: TEACHERS NEWSLETTER in the subject line to artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au.
upcoming education events for children, families and teenagers

Information is free for use in school newsletters as information for parents and carers

**pipsqueak! a special program for little ones for toddlers and young kids aged 2-6**

**cost:** $5 per child. caregivers can accompany up to three children. all materials supplied. call the corresponding library to book your place.

**dates and locations:** begins 11am and runs for approximately 1 hour
mon 13 july | maitland city library (call 4933 6952 for bookings)
tues 14 july | rutherford library (call 4932 8730 for bookings)
mon 20 july | east maitland library (call 4933 7122 for bookings)
tues 21 july | thornton library (call 4964 4468 for bookings)

little ones work together with their parents or carers to create their own cute and quirky art projects inspired by artworks from the mrag collection. this school holidays, we will create sculptural drawings!

**mrag holiday art workshops | for kids aged 6-12**

**cost:** $20 gallery members / $25 non members
**location:** rutherford community centre, arthur st rutherford. all materials supplied. for bookings or inquiries call the art gallery (02) 4934 9859

**dates and times:**
- contemporary australian painting | wed 15 july 10am – 1pm
- 3D paper sculptures | wed 22 july 10am – 1pm

mrag holiday art workshops present artistic techniques in a way that is fun and practical for kids. we use professional materials, and by the end of the workshop, each child will have their own unique artwork to take home.

**term 3 art tuesdays | for kids aged 6-12**

**cost:** $96 members / $144 non members
**location:** to be held in the new art factory! Maitland regional art gallery 230 high st maitland. all materials are supplied. for bookings or inquiries call the art gallery on (02) 4934 9859

**dates and times:** 4:00pm – 5:30pm begins tues 11 august, runs for 8 weeks until 29 september, (note: this term, classes start week 3 of term instead of week 2).

art tuesdays pairs artists with creative kids and professional materials, and by the end of term students will go home with artworks that will become the pride of your living room walls.

term 3 2009
mixed bag is a drawing challenge for high school aged students that aims to encourage better drawing skills. It is held in the style of a life drawing class and directed by artists who will assist teenagers develop and hone their skills. As for the subject matter – you never know what you’re going to get - students could be sketching anything from an Elvis impersonator to a classic 1969 Fairlane.

This school holidays, the drawing challenge will be held at Maitland Regional Art Gallery, giving students the chance to see the space before it has been opened to the public.

The mixed bag drawing challenge will be judged by gallery director Joe Eisenberg. The winning student will receive an 16gb iPod nano courtesy of Dick Smith Maitland.
the art factory
children’s art space
made possible with assistance by the Thyne Reid Foundation

about the art factory

the art factory is a dual exhibition and play space dedicated to children, their families and young adults. exhibitions in the art factory will change four times a year, and are intended to encourage children to get involved with art and creativity by allowing them to learn through interaction and play.

opening 2:00pm 15 august 2009

the art factory | the only exhibition and play space for kids in the hunter region

term 3 2009
Upcoming Exhibitions at mrag
grand opening at mrag 2.00pm saturday 15 august 2009

- **Different Tracks**: The Agapitos / Wilson Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Art
  The Agapitos / Wilson Annual

- **Collecting Lines**: Selected works from the Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth Collection

- Fiona Davies | *Intangible Collection*
  Annual exhibition sponsored by Farrow Wyatt Chartered Accountants

- Jon Pryer | *Off the Leash*: art + play installation in The Art Factory

- Graham Kuo | *Recent Drawings*

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top left Walangkura Napanangka Untitled 2006 acrylic on linen 122 x 107cm
top right Graham Kuo *Black and White with Colour Lines* 2009 ink and pastel on paper 27 x 57cm
bottom left Jon Pryer *The Black Dog* (detail) 2009 cardboard, fibreglass dimensions variable

term 3 2009
opening hours:
mrag is currently closed to the public to allow for renovations and additions. it will re-open 15 august 2009.

admission:
entry is free

location:
230 high street maitland nsw 2320

mrag education and bookings:
mrag offers a diverse range of programs for early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary groups. call mrag to discuss specially designed school visit programs that can be structured around your needs, including round robin workshop visits to mrag, guided exhibition tours and hsc preparation days.

free resources:
go to the education pages at mrag.org.au to find free education kits, and more information on all our education programs and kids events.

subscribe to our email lists
children’s young adult’s and family programs e-list
and
exhibition and event information e-list
go to mrag.org.au and then click on fill out the online forms to be put on one or both of the lists.

education contact:
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e: laurenv@maitland.nsw.gov.au

mailing address:
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general enquiries:
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