



Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

Locally-owned and independent – going out monthly to: Araluen, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Cooma Road, Fernleigh, Greenleigh, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Majors Creek, Mongarlowe, Queanbeyan plazas, The Ridgeway, Royalla, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin and Weetalaba

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Arts on a historic Gundaroo property

GUNDAROO artist Helen Thomas is opening her garden this month for a joint exhibition with seven other artists. Helen, a jeweller, and her husband Ian are long-time Gundaroo residents and enjoy a house that was built around 1900 as the new manager's house on 'Bowylie'. (*As an aside, Dick and Pip Smith bought 'Bowylie' in 1995 and Dick Smith now houses his aviation collection at this property.*)

Seen here is a painting by Anneke Saunders. This Murrumbateman artist has been working on paintings which suggest stories and dreams, some of which include personal and historical themes often set in an Australian background. We suggest that anyone who has been to a local fundraiser or a community dinner might relate to this colourful depiction of an Australian scene!

> All about the exhibition **p10**

Global support for home of peaches, wombats

by Maria Taylor

THE ARALUEN Valley's most famous resident, author Jackie French, has been overwhelmed by the response to her electronic SOS for help.

French sent out the call after tracking down the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Cortona Resources Dargues Reef gold mine near the village of Majors Creek (and above Araluen). She found there was only a week left to respond and started looking for some technical support.

Pretty soon, copies of submissions and emails of support poured in from across the State, nation and internationally.

"They're just starting to come in from the United States," she marvelled when the *Bulletin* caught up with her at the end of October. At that time she had already received 1,000 emails and was feeling a tad overwhelmed. "I didn't expect anything like this," she said, noting wryly that her email alert must have "gone viral".

Among others "I've received emails from libraries and from schools that say they are studying this assessment and will be sending in a submission of what they find".

Her children's classic 'Diary of a Wombat' was on the New York Times best seller list. That story and her novel 'A Year in the Valley' are both set in the picturesque Araluen Valley. Part of her appeal for help to answer the Environmental Assessment (EA) was to remind people that the wombat is a real wombat and he makes his home in the valley too. In fact, as French says, "right under the mine site".

Asked what the general message was from the outpouring of support, French said: "Many people who will never come to the Araluen Valley still treasure it as a concept. They want to preserve this valley. They value its peaches, and also its wildlife. As one boy said "Wombats are worth more than gold."

What is the problem?
 French emphasizes that she is not against a mine per se. But the "technical" problem that she sees, as does the Araluen Progress Association that represents local orchardists and others, is a lack of data on the downstream impact of the mine's water use. That is on water quality and quantity, particularly of ground water, beyond two kilometres from the mine site.

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Cleanseeds – where Bungendore's farmers shop



Adult Formula



Regional arts in a Gundaroo garden

Cont'd from p1

JEWELLER Helen Thomas, of Gundaroo, has held exhibitions to promote her work and initially invited her cousin, Robyn Gosbell, to exhibit her paintings at the same time; the combination proved winning. Besides Helen, *Exhibition in a Country Garden* involves three sculptors, three painters and a mixed-media montagist.

Helen Thomas' jewellery is handcrafted in gold and sterling silver using traditional tools and methods and includes diamonds, pearls and other precious and semi-precious stones. Re-modelling old or pre-loved jewellery has become a major part of her work.

Robyn Gosbell is a Sydney artist and has won many awards. She works in acrylics, oils and pastels and does some print making. Her recent works have been inspired by trips to Kakadu National Park and Florence, Italy. She thinks there is a paradigm shift occurring in

Australian home-decorating with less demand for traditional landscapes and a move toward more abstract work.

John Topfer lives on a rural property on the Murrumbidgee River. Several years ago his wife enrolled him in an evening sculpture class hoping that he would create an interesting letterbox for their property. John is now passionate about sculpture and sculpting. His welded-steel constructions are inspired by the human form and natural elements. Unfortunately, the letterbox has not yet materialised.

Anneke Saunders is a painter from Murrumbateman. Her work suggests stories and dreams and includes both personal and historical themes. Recently, she produced illustrations for thirty stories published by local author Ron Jenz in his book, *Australian Fables*.

Al Phemister is a self-taught sculptor who focuses on using reclaimed materials to produce works of art. He has developed his art to the stage where it is now a full-time occupation. He is particularly noted for his *Pears of Shoes*; a welded sculpture in the form of a pear made from used horseshoes.

Lisa Fuller from Yass is inspired by the world of childhood, fairytales and domesticity interwoven with memories and symbols. She employs paint, pastel, metallic pigments and gold leaf to transform a diverse canvas of paper collage, textile, expressive stitching and found objects.

Steven Deronne is a Frenchman from Brittany who studied fine arts at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Rennes and later in Sydney. Steven has won a number of awards for his sculpture and has exhibited in Sydney and locally. He lives in Yass and recently became

John Topfer's wife enrolled him in a sculpture class so he might make an interesting letterbox for the property. He hasn't made a letterbox but his interest in welded steel sculpture took off - (on left) his work entitled Redhead.



a father. He says, "I want my work to provoke thought about slowing our hectic ways of life, learning to do a bit more star gazing and appreciating and looking after the universe we exist in."

Sara Phemister, Al's wife, is a painter. Her highly personal and emotive art reflects family and domestic surroundings. Found objects and ephemera are an integral part of

her art form. In 2004 Sara and Al hosted the inaugural *Paper Dolls* exhibition by a group of friends of varying artistic persuasions at their home in Yass.

Exhibition:
10am-5.30pm Sunday 28 November
at 3797 Sutton Road, Gundaroo (1km on Canberra side of Gundaroo village)



50 years of Susan Dorothea White

by Heike Hahner

SINCE OPENING in 2005, Braidwood's boutique FyreGallery has specialised in works on paper and textiles. It provides a venue for artists who are frequently overlooked by mainstream art galleries, which generally prefer to focus on painting, sculpture or ceramics.

The current show celebrates 50 years of the work of Susan Dorothea White with a unique survey of her prints from 1960-2010.

White, born in 1941, is an Australian artist who has created as a sculptor, painter and printmaker. The Braidwood show is the first time that prints from all decades of her career will be shown together. It offers an opportunity to gain a better understanding of this exceptional Australian artist.

White's works mostly are concerned with social and political issues such as women's rights and Aboriginal land rights. Some prints such as *Goose Camp Kakadu* (shown above)

are evocative of the work of Kaethe Kollwitz, a German artist who was greatly affected by the suffering of the workers during the Great Depression.

White has said she enjoys the printmaking process, the freedom and versatility it provides, and will layer up to 15 colours. This gives the images a rich density and beauty, that contrasts and highlights the harshness of the topics she portrays.

Since the 1980s, White's prints have represented Australia in many international biennales and exhibitions in countries such as the UK, USA, France and Germany. The National Gallery of Australia collection holds many of her prints from 1960 onwards.

Art quilt prize

The exhibition will coincide with the Annual Airing of the Quilts in Braidwood. To celebrate the event, FyreGallery is offering a \$1,000 acquisition prize for an art quilt that specifically celebrates the work of Susan Dorothea White. Suitable quilts of any size submitted to the Braidwood Quilt Event in 2010 can nominate for the FyreGallery 2010 "Magic Pudding" Art Quilt Prize.

Exhibition: 12 November to 20 December,
FyreGallery, 84 Wallace St, Braidwood.
Contact Cheryl Hannah 4842 1142 for more information about the quilt competition.

LAKE GEORGE HOTEL

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WHAT'S ON

Monday to Thursday	Happy Hour 5pm to 6pm
Monday & Tuesday	Schooner Draw - Drawn @ 6pm
Wednesday	Pool Comp 7pm Cash prizes
Thursday	Key Ring Cash (jackpots if not won)
Friday	Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm (jackpots if not won) Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late
Saturday	Every 2 nd Sat NPL Poker Tournaments from 4pm Cash prizes

*(Refer to Gig Guide for line up)

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