

Orange Gecko Art News



Your Network. Your Needs. Your Art.

Gecko's Points of Interest:

- 2007 – The Year that Was!
- Join Orange Gecko Art Network
- Orange Gecko Member Features
- UTAS Postgraduate Study Opportunity
- About Orange Gecko Art Network
- Information for Professional Artists.

2007 – The Year that Was for Orange Gecko Artnetwork!

2007 certainly has been a busy year for **Orange Gecko Art Network**, we embraced a new name, curated 9 exhibitions locally, promoted the opportunity of Post-Graduate Visual Arts UNI study to be delivered in Mackay 2008, had our name & logo promoted in the River to Reef Festival for all the advertising of the Artz Markets and had many advocacy battles and opportunities to promote the arts and artists of this region.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS:

We also had the opportunity to have 'our voices' heard for a number of industry consultations for future arts growth and planning. We currently have 18 financial members and with 2008 renewal notices sent out and due for renewal by 20th December 2007, I hope that you all consider renewing your 2008 memberships and support the concept, aims and mission statement of this pro-active network of professional artists in the region - remember that 'United we stand with a voice to make changes' !!

We had six great exhibitions at the **Ambassador Hotel - Bridges Gallery** during the 2007 year. Many artists featured held their first solo exhibitions during this period.

In **MARCH** we featured the *'The Works of LeBoutillier'* by **Bronwen LeBoutillier**.

JUNE enabled the first solo by **Juanita Connolly** an exhibition titled *'Love Letters'*.

SEPTEMBER we featured **Jenni Kirkwood & Ann Fitzgerald** with their *'Tropical Dreaming'* Exhibition This was Jenni's first art exhibition and a huge success for her with many sales taking place.

NOVEMBER sees **Rosanne Lawton** presenting her exhibition titled *'Interludes into Abstraction'*. Opening night was **Friday 23rd November at 6pm** and exhibition continues until **26th January 2008**.

In June we were offered the opportunity to coordinate the **CQU Library Showcase** display, which of course we jumped at. This now gives us the opportunity to feature and coordinate **3-D works** at the Central Queensland University library every 2-3 months. We also have been given the opportunity to curate and coordinated all the future 'visual arts' around the CQU Mackay campus. Head of Campus Dr Trevor Davison and Library Manager Pauline McNee are fully supportive of Orange Gecko Art Network's collaborative involvement with CQU. We have held three **CQU Library showcase** exhibitions since June. They were:

'Artefacts'- Found Object's. Featured visual artists: **Jenny De Thomas & Tracey Johnson**.

'Fabulous Glass' - Works by Central Queensland Institute of TAFE [Mackay] Visual Arts & Contemporary Crafts current students Works by: **Shelley, Grace, Ingrid, Doreen & Dan**.

'Bobs and Bits' - a collaborative venture between **Orange Gecko Art Network** members and **UTAS Visual Arts** post-graduate students. Featured visual artists: **Jenny De Thomas, Ann Williams-Fitzgerald & Tracey Johnson**.



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UTAS Post Graduate Study Opportunity

Celebrate our/your Successes:

We identified a huge need for professional local regional artists to be able to complete their post-graduate studies without having to relocate away from this region to undertake that study. We were therefore instrumental in persuading the University of Tasmania's School of Visual and Performing Arts, Head of School **Professor Vincent McGrath** to travel to Mackay in June with the view of offering post-graduate studies in the Mackay region from 2008.

This visit proved highly successful and we now are happy to announce that we have 12 regional artists commencing their **Master of Contemporary Arts [MCA]** studies in 2008. The artists are

based in Yeppoon, Mackay, Sarina, Proserpine and Bowen.

Study in the Master of Contemporary Arts (MCA) is undertaken through the highly prestigious Academy of the Arts at the Launceston campus. This challenging and creative program provides professional studio/workplace-oriented experiences that will extend your understanding and appreciation of arts-related concepts, propositions and contemporary professional practices, assisting in new opportunities for work in the creative industries. The Master of Contemporary Arts will help you enhance the following skills and attributes:

1. Problem-solving and critical thinking within the contemporary arts (**Visual arts, gallery practices, Digital design and Theatre**) disciplines

2. In-depth knowledge of your chosen field of study within the contemporary arts and the ability to apply this in practice

3. Analytical and research skills

4. Effective communication across a range of contexts, through practical, written and oral presentations

5. Development of local and global perspective's within the disciplines of contemporary arts

6. Appreciation of the impact of social, ethical and environmental change particularly how it impacts on, and is predicated by the visual arts, theatre, gallery practices, digital design and contemporary music

7. Learn and practise correct occupational health and safety procedures that apply to owner/operator arts businesses and group workplace environments.

Postgraduate Studies Starting in 2008

Interested artists wishing to explore pathways for entry into the MCA degree. The School of Visual & Performing Arts from the University of Tasmania announces a unique opportunity to develop your creative talents in a dynamic arts environment through postgraduate study. We are now offering places in our postgraduate course 'Master of Contemporary Arts' to the Mackay region (The Mackay Region is defined as: Shires of Sarina, Broomsound, Mackay, Mirani, Nebo, Belyando, Whitsunday & Bowen) in 2008, so artists do not have to relocate to undertake study.

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If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact: Ann Williams-Fitzgerald on 4957 7505

or annwf@optusnet.com.au.

For further information on the School of Visual and Performing Arts visit our website at:

<http://www.acadarts.utas.edu.au>

or Ph: (03) 6324 4400.

Academy of the Arts - Developing Creative Intelligence



Orange Gecko Art Network News...

Congratulations to all our members who have had **commercial successes** with on-going sales of their artworks:

- Jenni Kirkwood
- Jenny De Thomas
- Rosanne Lawton
- Ann Williams-Fitzgerald
- Lily Halton
- Denise Neville
- Juanita Connolly
- Tracey Johnson

Mackay RADF Committee has two Orange Gecko Members sitting on the current RADF committee:

- Ann Williams-Fitzgerald
- Denise Neville

The Orange Gecko Art network would like to welcome three new art members to the network. They are:-

- Lee Hutton
- Martin Francis
- May Britt Mosshammer

We wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2007. It has been a busy and successful year for us all, 2008 brings upon a new and exciting art world for the Orange Gecko Art Network!

For all existing members, 2008 Orange Gecko Art Network membership renewals are due on or before 20th November 2007.



Join the Popular Orange Gecko Art Network



ORANGE GECKO Art Network

We are a membership-based network of professional artists. We offer connection and support for visual artists, craftspeople, photographers, film-makers and the culturally aware! We provide access to a range of services such as information, networking, training and professional development and advocacy.

Mission Statement

To promote & facilitate the continuing development of professional emerging and established visual artists in/from the Mackay/Whitsunday Region

AIMS

To assist in bridging the gap for Visual Artists from formal training to commercial viability and provide access to a range of services such as information, networking, training and professional development and advocacy.

In achieving this vision through:

- Promoting local artists and their artworks
- Facilitating ongoing Professional Development opportunities

- Committed to maintaining open and inclusive communication with all stakeholders
- Committed to creating an active and creative learning environment for all
- Supports creativity, industry innovation, excellence and best practice

Recognising the substantial gap that existed between completion of formal training and commercial viability for local artists, ORANGE GECKO was formed to assist in bridging that gap. In many ways it is a 'self-help' collective of artists offering many and varied forms of assistance to local emerging artists. ORANGE GECKO wishes formally to acknowledge the assistance and support given by the Ambassador and, in particular, for the development of Bridges Gallery as an exhibition venue for the artists.

Visit us at our Website:

www.angelfire.com/planet/orangegecko/

Reminder for the **2008 renewals** for our **current members** is due on or before **20th December 2007**. If current members are not going to renew their membership then they need to:

1. Resign in writing and also return the following items.
 - * Name Badge & Membership Card for Orange Gecko Network.
 - * Membership Privilege Card for Ambassador Hotel

Contact Us...



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