

The Gresford News

News of the communities of the Paterson and Allyn River Valleys
November 2018



'Nothin' but Sky' by Braddon Snape, Photograph by David Oliver

Nothin' but Sky

Braddon Snape has won the acquisitive Sculpture on the Farm 2018 prize for his sculpture *Nothin' but Sky*. **Sculpture on the Farm**, the vision of Fosterton sculptor Philippa Graham became a reality when the first guests arrived for the inaugural Gala Opening on Friday 28 September and the crowds continued to arrive until noon on Monday 1 October.

More than 2000 people, families, young and old, were able to see the collection of 100 works at the beautiful setting of 'Fosterton' the Williams River Valley. Works by 51 sculptors, including by some of Australia's foremost sculptors ranged from small indoor works to monumental paddock works. (Liz Jones, Secretary, Sculpture on the Farm Inc.)

Story and pics see Culture Vulture inside...

Culture Vulture

by Robyn Werkhoven

Greetings Culture Vulture readers. One of the rewarding art events this year was the exhibition "What's My Scene?" by Dungog by Design – artisan collective, held in their gallery at 224 Dowling Street, Dungog.

The official opening was held on the Sept – Oct long weekend, during the fun filled Dungog Festival. The exhibition drew a large crowd of art lovers and visitors to Dungog.

It was my pleasure to support, exhibit and enjoy the splendid exhibition, a celebration of the Arts that enriches our lives. The exhibition included all genres of the visual arts – painting, sculpture, ceramics, metal work, felting, fashion and weaving.

Artists expressed and interpreted ideas of *what's their scene* from inspiring landscapes of the rural Hunter Valley, sensitive portrayals of wild life, colourful and zany ceramics, and unique wearable fashion creations. We can look forward to Dungog by Designs next themed exhibition in 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS to ceramic artist Natalie Duncan for winning the Local



Natalie Duncan beside her winning ceramic vessel

Art Prize at Sculpture on the Farm 2018. Natalie's work is available at Dungog by Design Gallery.

ART NEWS:

CONCERNING PEACE Exhibition runs till 25th November at Maitland Regional Art Gallery. Twenty seven artists were

invited to express and explore their belief for world peace.

The official opening of the exhibition in September attracted 500 guests and since then there has been over 7,500 visitors to the gallery with fabulous public appreciation and great individual response to the powerful and inspiring *Concerning Peace* exhibition. Well worth a visit to Maitland Regional Art Gallery, at 230 High Street, Maitland.

The establishment of *SCULPTURE ON THE FARM EXHIBITION AND ART PRIZE* held at Dungog on the Sept - Oct long weekend, has reinforced Dungog's position as a major regional art centre. We can look forward to forthcoming events held by Sculpture on The Farm Inc. in 2019. Keep up to date at: www.sculptureonthefarm.com

Philippa Graham, Chair and founder of Sculpture on the Farm said –

The initial inspiration for Sculpture on the Farm came from two directions: the desire to be involved in a community-based project in Dungog and the need to immerse myself in the creative realm. Hence Sculpture on the Farm came into being.



Visitors to Sculpture on the Farm

Once John and I agreed that we could stage such a dream on our 160 acre farm 'Fosterton' at Dungog, I spoke with several people in the art world, including several gallery directors and owners, sculptors and a publisher, I learned how to build a website from my daughter,

produced a Save the Date flyer and we were away.

In truth the work didn't really begin until I had gathered 3 wonderful community minded people from the Dungog Shire and with John we formed



'Frollic' winner 'Peoples' Choice Award' by Felicity Cavanough, Photograph by Jane Stevenson

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Culture Vulture ...continued

a committee with clearly articulated goals and before we knew it we were incorporated as a not-for-profit entity.

Eight months later the inaugural Sculpture on the Farm was in full swing.

It was held over the October long weekend and was a resounding success. Over 2,000 people came through the gate at 'Fosterton' to view the 100 sculptures by 51 sculptors over the four days of the exhibition. Sculptors came from Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. Six had been exhibited at Sculpture by the Sea. Twelve of the sculptors were members of The Sculptors Society.

We gathered volunteers who enthusiastically embraced the many roles required; catering for the Gala Opening, making morning teas and lunches, writing articles for the papers, managing the social media presence, managing the parking and providing traffic control, welcoming visitors and even cleaning the toilets, not to mention preparing grant applications and development consent documents, sourcing signs and sound systems. All these roles were fulfilled by volunteers, and with a smile.



Brigette Uren, Braddon Snape, Philippa Graham, Paul Selwood & John Graham.

The atmosphere at the Gala Opening on Friday 28 September was exhilarating as 220 guests arrived in daylight to be welcomed by the Sculpture on the Farm Volunteers who treated them to canapes and wines from Boydell's Winery. Guests then explored the sculptures in the gardens and paddocks of 'Fosterton' on the Williams River, and then as dusk

descended and the light dropped the exhibition spaces indoors, which displayed 50 works, were the highlight.

As night fell Brigette Uren, Director of the Maitland Regional Art Gallery officially opened the exhibition, while standing adjacent to *Summer Solstice* by the late Inge King.

Brigette was one of the three judges who selected the winning work for the Sculpture on the Farm Acquisitive Prize. The other judges with a strong commitment to the arts and regional communities were Paul Selwood, an eminent sculptor and Coralie Nichols, General Manager of the Dungog Shire Council. These three leaders in their respective fields, awarded this prize unanimously to Braddon Snape for his work *Nothin' but Sky*. Sculpture on the Farm Inc will donate this work to further its aims of raising awareness, engagement and participation in the arts, in particular sculpture.

Nothin' but Sky will be displayed in the Dungog Shire in the public domain for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. The selection of the site for this work is being made in consultation with representatives from the Dungog Shire Council, the sculptor Braddon Snape and of course the Sculpture on the Farm Committee. Dungog excitedly awaits the installation of this work for all to enjoy.

We attracted sponsorship from local businesses as well as other generous benefactors, including Crawford's Casting who transported several large works to

and from the farm. The NSW State Government provided an Incubator Grant of \$20,000 for a new event which assisted enormously in our ability to advertise more broadly and provide assistance for the transport of large works and create a very professional presence.

The generosity of the following businesses, individuals and institutions ensured that we, in our inaugural year, could award the following prizes.

Sculpture on the Farm Prize Winners: *Nothin' but Sky* by Braddon Snape won the acquisitive Sculpture on the Farm 2018.

Inside the Mirror 1/3 by Peter Tilley was the recipient of the RUPIO prize for Metallurgical Excellence, donated by Sir Rupert Myers.

Moulds by Carolyn Rendle was the recipient of the Bloomfield Prize for Artistic Excellence, donated by The Bloomfield Group.

Trust by Philippa Graham was the recipient of The Sculptors Society Prize for an Indoor Work, donated by the Sculptors Society.

Arimna by Natalie Duncan was the

recipient of the Dungog Shire Local Artist Prize donated by Norco Rural.

Frolic by Felicity Cavanough was the recipient of the People's Choice Award donated by Sculpture on the Farm Inc.

The many letters and emails of appreciation acknowledge the tireless work of the wonderful volunteers who ensured that the mission of Sculpture on the Farm was realised.

"Sculpture on the Farm Inc. will engage with sculptors, the local community of Dungog and the broader community to encourage participation in and understanding of the arts, in particular sculpture. An exhibition of sculpture and other events may be held from time to time in the Dungog region to raise awareness of public sculpture and to raise funds to further the association's objects, including the possible purchase of public sculpture for the community."

Thank you to the talented and committed sculptors who supported SOF 2018 by exhibiting their wonderful works.

-Philippa Graham © 2018.
Chair, Sculpture on the Farm Inc.



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