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NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | July 2011

It is with pleasure that the Chairman and Directors of the Board of the Newcastle Gallery Foundation send you greetings, both as existing members and those who would like to join in support of the Newcastle Region Art Gallery.

This is an invitation for you to be part of Newcastle's cultural future.

The Newcastle Region Art Gallery has two independent organizations that exist to support its development.

The **Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation** has tax-free status and provides support for acquisitions of new works of art and for the NRAG Redevelopment Fund. Through skilful stewardship of invested funds, it directly acquires works for the collection and underwrites other purchases of works of art. It has a growing reputation as an instrument through which donors may support the Gallery, and gain tax benefits. The Foundation also provides advocacy for the Gallery.

The **Newcastle Art Gallery Society** maintains a strong membership and provides a vibrant program of education and entertainment that enriches the Gallery's program of exhibitions. The Society's successful activities have resulted in

many contributions for acquisitions as well as purchasing additional equipment to assist with the quality of viewing the collection.

As a member of the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation you contribute to the enrichment and cultural development of our city in an era of expanding arts tourism and at a time when the Gallery eagerly anticipates redevelopment. It is an extremely exciting time in the Gallery's life.

Dr Roland Pope, Anne von Bertouch OAM, Dr William Bowmore, AO, OBE, Les Renfrew, Ann Lewis AO, Margaret Olley AC, and Dr Colin Laverty OAM and Elizabeth Laverty are just some of the major benefactors to this Gallery. You, too, could consider yourself to be part of this 'Gallery family'.

Bequests to the Foundation create a legacy for generations to come and help to secure the Gallery's future.

Since its establishment by visionary Novocastrians in 1978, the Foundation has as its objective "to support and benefit the public art gallery known as Newcastle Region Art Gallery." This has been achieved largely to facilitate the acquisition of works of art for the Newcastle Region Art Gallery.



Arthur Streeton *Australian December* (detail) 1887 oil on canvas, 41.0 x 66.5 cm
 Gift of the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation 1993
 Newcastle Region Art Gallery collection

One exception to this has been a recent donation of \$60,000 towards the Gallery's redevelopment and its advocacy continues to help achieve the expansion so clearly needed.

The period of the Foundation's existence has coincided with the expansion of the collection held by the Gallery, on behalf of the citizens of Newcastle, to a point where it is acknowledged as the most significant collection in Australia outside a capital city.

As the Gallery enters a phase of much needed redevelopment, the Foundation is positioned to confirm its role as the pre-eminent fundraising entity, not only assisting to enrich the collection, but materially supporting the redevelopment aspirations.

To achieve this, the Foundation will need an expansion beyond its current operation. Growing the membership and encouraging the concept of continuous giving is paramount. Redefining means by which the Foundation keeps its benefactors close is already underway, but the pace of this and the means by which it can be realized, are important at this time.

Members of the Foundation have special privileges to attend private events and openings. In recent years these have included meetings with the artists such as those involved in the acclaimed Newcastle Chest commission, visits to notable collections in private homes, joint events with the Foundation of the AGNSW, to name a few. There have been exclusive viewings of collections and exhibitions, including our own Japanese ceramics, private wine tastings like that at Peterson's Champagne House, and members only receptions to meet artists, for example, the Newcastle Chest's cabinet maker, Scott Mitchell.



At this time, there is a momentum for much needed redevelopment of the Gallery. The time is appropriate to position the Foundation in ways to best support the Gallery and to attract corporate and individual donors. We would like, with this newsletter, to reconnect with our valued members and to introduce the Foundation to many more supporters of the Gallery. For these reasons, we invite you to share the contents of this newsletter with interested colleagues and friends.

We are pleased to include with this newsletter, your invitation to our next Foundation event and look forward to seeing you then.



The Newcastle Chest

The commissioning of the ambitious Newcastle Chest, a contemporary response to the historic Macquarie Chest, was characteristic of the value of the Gallery Foundation. When the concept was initially mooted, the Foundation Board members were able to promote the involvement of some citizens in a project that stirred imaginations. By underwriting the commission, a number of individuals and families made tax deductible donations that enabled the engagement of nationally recognized artists. The resulting chest will hold special importance within our collection for future generations.

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Above
Philip Wolfhagen *Vanishing point no 1* 1995 oil and beeswax on canvas 143.0 x 231.0 cm
Gift of the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation 2010
Newcastle Region Art Gallery collection

Opposite Page (from top)
Ron Ramsey, Gael Davies and Stephen Gageler, Solicitor General at a Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation function. Photo: Peter Stoop.
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The Newcastle Chest 2010 Australian red cedar (Toona ciliata), NSW rosewood (Dysoxylum fraserianum), River red gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), tartan, glass and brass fittings. Closed: 53.0 x 71.0 x 46.0 cm.
Cabinetmaker: **Scott Mitchell** Artists: **Lionel Bawden, Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Esme Timberry, Louise Weaver and Philip Wolfhagen**
Commissioned by Newcastle Region Art Gallery with the assistance of James and Judy Hart, Robert and Lindy Henderson, Valerie Ryan, Newcastle Art Gallery Society and Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation
Newcastle Region Art Gallery collection