



□ Looking forward: Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery owners Ian and Colleen Farlow look forward to the year ahead at their Byabarra business.

Global interest in Blue Poles

BLUE Poles Cafe and Gallery will adopt an Indonesian feel when school students exhibit their artwork in March.

The exhibition will bring together a collection of Byabarra Public School students' artwork with an Indonesian influence as the popular cafe and gallery gears up for the year ahead.

It has been 12 months since Ian and Colleen Farlow bought the business from Deb Collins and Miranda Mills.

Mr Farlow brings his creative

cooking and marketing skills to Blue Poles, while Mrs Farlow adds her artistic flair to the business at Byabarra, 44km south-west of Port Macquarie.

"The customers have given us a huge thumbs up," Mrs Farlow said.

The Farlows gave the business a "spring clean" in the past 12 months including clearing privet and lantana from the property.

An arborist removed dead and dying branches from around the cafe building.

Mrs Farlow said the "amazingly

popular" bed and breakfast had attracted visitors from Dubai, Bolivia, Hong Kong, England and across Australia.

"Essentially, this is a people business," she said.

"If you are lovely to people, first of all, they are happy, and you give them great food and they are happier still, and then we have the view to die for.

"People absolutely love the food, the view and the service, and it's very hard to beat that combination."



FROM: PORT MACQUARIE NEWS
Monday, January 19 2009
P 9

HASTINGS LIBRARY
WAUCHOPE BRANCH

LSVF - Art Galleries
- Blue Poles - 27

what's on

big screen at byabarra

THE world's largest film festival will be in Byabarra for one night only this month. Sony Tropfest 2007 attracted an audience of more than 150,000 people around Australia, earlier this year, but do not worry if you missed it.

Hastings residents have a chance to catch some of the finalist entries to the popular competition at Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery on July 28.

This year first place went to Queenslander Steve Baker (right) for his film *An Imaginary Life*.

Baker said the triumph was something he had worked towards for a long time.

"As a director, it means so much for your career to be recognised at a high level such as Sony Tropfest," he said.

"And to have your film seen by literally hundreds of thousands of people, there is nothing else like it."

Audiences were transfixed as the 16 finalist films were beamed live via satellite to venues in Sydney,

Melbourne, Canberra, Perth, Hobart and Brisbane, plus eight new regional locations around Australia.

To catch some of the films that were screened around the country head out to Byabarra on July 28.

WHO: Trop Fest 2007
WHEN: Saturday, July 28, show only \$22 films from 7.30pm
WHERE: Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery, Byabarra



From:
The Hastings
Happenings
18/7/07.

25



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MID NORTH COAST BRANCH



LSVF-ART
GALLERIES &
COLLECTIONS -
Blue Poles - 25



You are warmly invited to the exhibition opening
of paintings by

Frith Peters

at

Blue Poles
Gallery Cafe

Byabarra village on the road to Comboyne.

This diverse collection of paintings include
memories of country life out west as well as
images from ancient Egypt and Rome.

Official opening at 5pm Saturday 29th September 2001.

This exhibition is on show until Sunday 28th October 2001
Gallery hours: 9 am — 5 pm Thursday to Sunday ph 65 871167

(please note that Blue Poles is closed during September
to reopen at 9am for preview on the day of this exhibition)



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-Blue Poles - 24

HASTINGS LIBRARY
WAUCHOPE BRANCH

Art Exhibition
VF 2

decade of evolving art

Blue Poles at Byabarra will host a Big Birthday Show to mark 10 years in operation. Celebrations will include a group exhibition by local artists who have been with Blue Poles since it began, including Margrit Richenbach and Claude Teyssier. These two artists bring the rich wildlife of their adopted home inside, with kangaroo, galah, cockatoo, turtles and goanna portraits all having joined the party at Blue Poles.

Margrit and Claude are also responsible for the ever-changing paddock sculpture which is visible from the verandah at Blue Poles and continue to delight all with their creativity.

The birthday bash will also be followed by a dinner. Bookings are recommended. The café and gallery will open from 5pm, with dinner at 6pm.

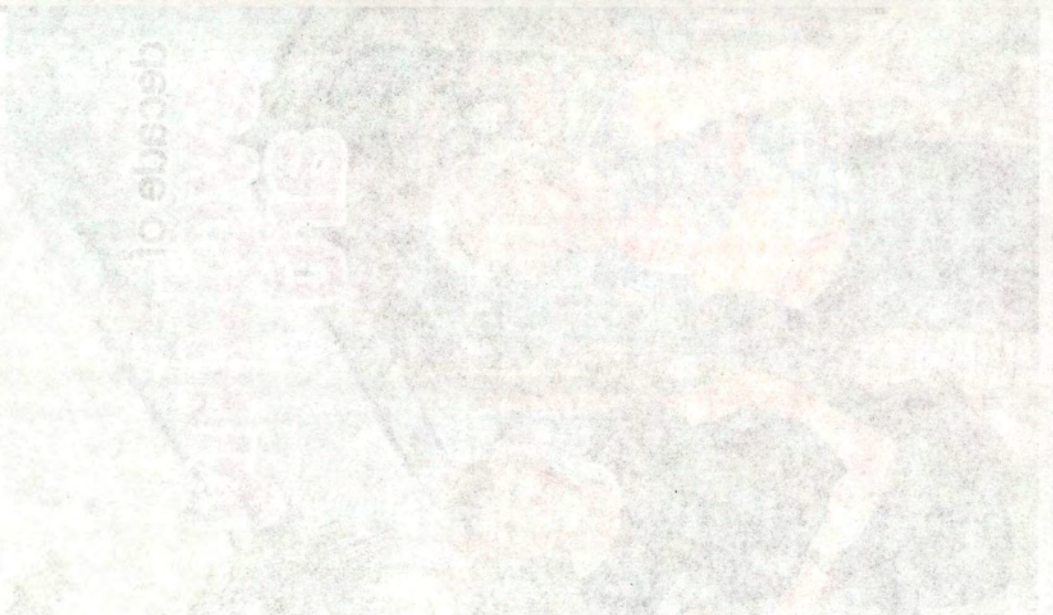
For more information call 6587 1167.

WHAT: Blue Poles 10th birthday
WHERE: Blue Poles Café and Gallery, Byabarra
WHEN: Saturday, May 19 from 5pm

From:
Hastings Happenings
9 may 2007



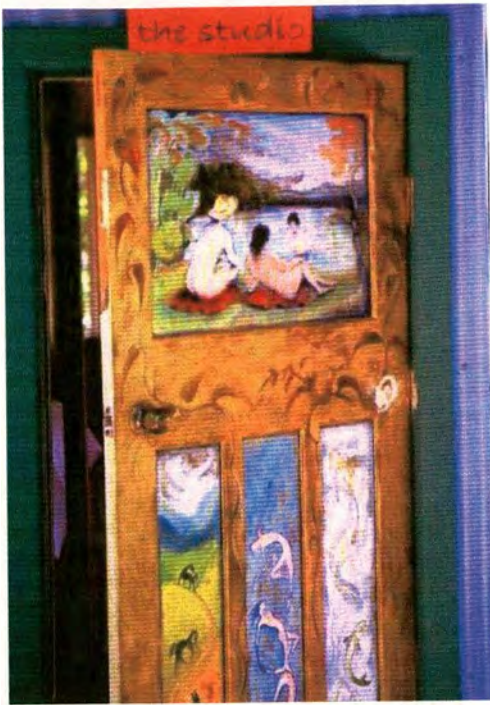
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LSVF-ART

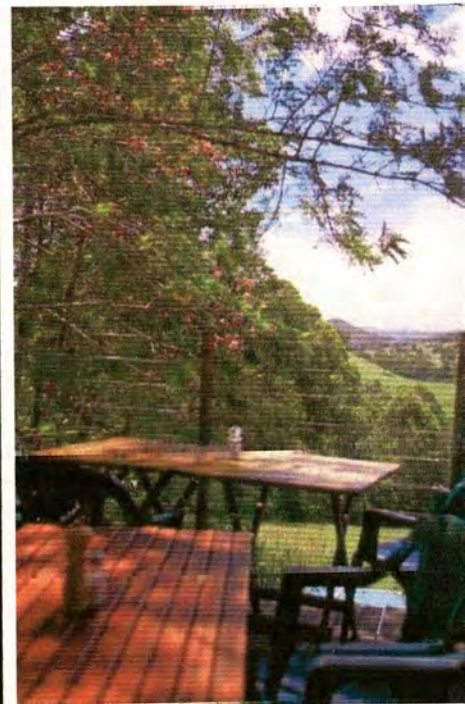
GALLERIES-Blue

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BLUE POLES

In Byabarra, a village that sees a handful of cars a day, this cosmopolitan cafe, gallery and studio is a revelation. Make the trip for scenes of undulating hills, and enjoy a light lunch or settle in for the afternoon (they're licensed). Offerings range from sandwiches on Turkish through to fragrant chicken curry or a special of local beef fillet with baked mushrooms and caramelised leek. Desserts like the cumquat and ginger tartlet are amazing. Call ahead for details on jazz and theatre dinners. 1086 Comboyne Rd, Byabarra, (02) 6587 1167.



From Delicious Magazine,
March 2007. p48—53





Once an artist's residence, the studio at Blue Poles is ideal for a romantic retreat.

LSVF - Art
Gallery - Blue
Poles - 20

There's so much more to enjoy at Blue Poles Cafe & Art Gallery.



blue poles cafe

This special venue is constantly offering an eclectic mix of contemporary art, music and mouth watering cuisine.

Rolling hills embrace this award winning and unique bush café only 35 minutes from Port Macquarie. Ideal for a generous breakfast, rich mellow coffee, a long lunch, or dinner and a show. Want to stay?

Our large treetop studio apartment offers a luxurious retreat so close to home. Chef Jenni Jones boasts an exceptional culinary background and uses the freshest local produce. Blue Poles is fully licenced available for weddings, birthdays and private functions.

1086 Comboyne Road, Byabarra
Ph: 6587 1167 www.bluepoles.com.au



Jenni, Deb & Miranda

open: Cafe Hours Wed-Sun (from 27th Dec-end of Jan) Closed during February, Re-open March 1 (thurs-sun)
mains from: \$10.90

From "Focus" Magazine January 2007



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LSVF-Art

Gallery - Blue

Poles Gallery - 19

From "Poles" Magazine January 2007

Lucinda Peters playing at Blue Poles

Lucinda Peters has a voice of starry substance. She has an original approach to well-known jazz repertoire as well as her own material, creating an ambience with class. She produces quality vocal music in the jazz style ranging from early Ella Fitzgerald, Edith Piaf, Sarah Vaughan, Duke Ellington and other jazz greats.

Lucinda Peters has been described as "luxurious magic... a talent possessing profound originality and an extremely well developed ability to articulate that talent" (Craig N Pearce Drum Media).

Her most recent CD is quoted as being

"one of the finest musical documents of this or any year".

In this solo performance of double bass accompaniment, local audiences will be delighted by Peters. Lucinda returns to Blue Poles on Saturday 20th January 2007 for a solo show of exceptional jazz and original interpretations. With her remarkable voice and her double bass, Lucinda's music is mesmerizing. For this very soothing summer show and fabulous two course dinner, individuals only \$48, groups of 6 \$45, or for just the show \$24. The show starts at 6.30pm, for bookings call (02) 6587 1167.



article from "focus" magazine january 2007



LSVF - Art
Gallery - Blue
Poles - 18



king curly

where: Blue Poles Art Gallery

when: 26th August

info: Ph: 6587 1167

King Curly plays at Blue Poles Gallery
- Combine contemporary Australian
songwriting, highly loose original and
sparse instrumentation, unusual hand
wrought instruments and an electrifying
young band of jazz cats and you get
Steve Appel's invention King Curly. \$46
dinner and show/ \$42 groups of 6/ \$22
show only. Mini bus transport available.
Bookings are essential on 6587 1167.

mer

LSVF-Art

Gallery - Blue

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

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where were you



cold front

nigel gillespie

blue poles gallery

july 28 - september 3

2006 Exhibition

LSVF

Art Gallery -

Blue Poles - 16



blue poles

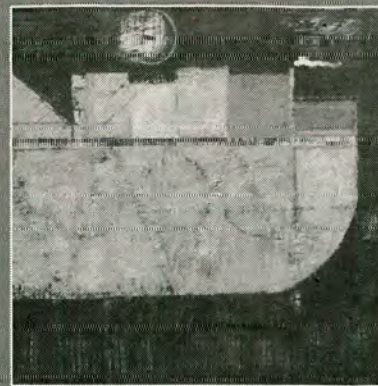
café, gallery and studio

Ph: 6587-1167 info@bluepoles.com.au

Café Open : Fri-Sun 9.30-4pm

Open for Dinner Sat JULY 29

Show + Dinner Sat AUGUST 26



Nigel Gillespie

"For me painting is the fulfilment, contentment, satisfaction of leaving the tarmac... my aim is to lessen the distance of the runway and to fly more often"

Art Opening Saturday July 29

Nigel Gillespie's painting are contemporary works rich in colour and texture. He is primarily influenced by the landscape, and the emotive response to the nooks, crannies and broad open spaces of rural life.. This is Nigel's first show at Blue Poles and in our region.

The Opening of this impressive work from a highly regarded artist is on Saturday 29th July from 5pm. After the opening there will be a fabulous dinner (menu by Nathan Sheehan) for those who would like to stay on and enjoy Blue Poles by night. Everyone is welcome to join us. So please do .

Hello and Goodbye

A big goodbye and heartfelt thanks to Lynda and Nathan who stepped in to care-take Blue Poles in February for 6 months while the owners Miranda and Deb completed their preparation for the expansion of Blue Poles into an Arts and Wellbeing Retreat Centre. We could not have done this important work without their support and their tremendous care and love of Blue Poles. I am sure you will all agree that the food has leapt up the scale towards the sublime ! Rest assured that the menu shall continue to surprise and delight you in the months to come. This month we welcome Jenni Jones to our team... a fantastic chef and a local from Comboyne. To say goodbye to Lynda and Nathan please join us on the night of Saturday July 29th.

King Curly is coming our way

Combine..contemporary Australian songwriting, highly original loose and sparse instrumentation, unusual hand wrought instruments and an electrifying young band of jazz cats and you get Steve Appel's invention King Curly

They recently supported Cat Empire on their Australian Tour and Paul Kelly had this to say about King Curly...

"It seems to me a crying shame that two of the most extraordinary Australian records released in recent years have gone largely unheralded in this country KING CURLY's new album Lullaby and their 2002 debut album Family Man blend joy, melancholy and wonder in songs of haunting beauty. King Curly's name should be shouted from the roof-tops"

\$46 dinner, coffee and show.....6.30pm start

\$42 groups of 6 or concession price

\$22 show only.....7.30pm start

...mini bus transport is available from Port or W'hope

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL > 6587-1167 or info@bluepoles.com.au

Sat 26th August



What's On in July-August '06



LSVF

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

BYABARRA, NSW Lee Atkinson

TO CALL it a town would be misleading. Even the term "village" is perhaps overstating it a little, but the collection of houses called Byabarra, perched on a ridge overlooking the Thone River Valley, is my favourite small country town.

The place I escape to between researching travel stories and living on the road.

Hidden on a back road halfway between **Wauchope** and Comboyne in the NSW midnorth- coast hinterland, it's one of those blink-and-you'll-miss-it places ˆ a two-roomed primary school, a church, ancient School of the Arts hall, a public telephone booth and a fabulous cafe and art gallery.

Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery (www.bluepoles.com.au) is one of those almost mythic places you all too occasionally stumble across in country NSW ˆ an outof- the-way place that really does serve good coffee, and light lunches, heavenly cakes and local wine ˆ served on a large deck with sweeping views over the valley. Inside is a large gallery with changing monthly exhibitions by well-known contemporary Australian artists.

There's also a stylish studio apartment out the back for B&B accommodation.

Head up the road a little, winding your way through towering tree ferns, and you'll burst out of the rainforest atop a high plateau of lush dairy farms, criss-crossed with old stone fences and views all the way to the coast. Turn right and you'll find yourself at Boorgana Nature Reserve, one of the oldest reserves in NSW, full of old-growth cedar, dense rainforest and pristine waterfalls. Turn left and you're at Ellenborough Falls, the largest single drop of water in the southern hemisphere. Fifteen minutes down the hill from Byabarra and you're at **Wauchope** where, on the fourth Saturday of every month, the locals from Byabarra and surrounding villages gather to swap gossip at the farmer's market and sell whatever's ripe.

Ten more minutes and you can take your pick of any of Port Macquarie's 15 beaches. Smalltown life at its finest.

Lee Atkinson is the author of On the Road: 40 Great Driving Holidays in Australia. She lives in Byabarra

Title: "Small is bountiful"

Source: The Melbourne Age
27/5/2006



"Autumn Bloomers"

*Blue Poles Gallery
& Cafe, Byabarra*

May 3rd- 17th

Official opening

11am Sunday May 3rd

You may not know these women but you will know
some other autumn bloomers.

Resilient, courageous and inspiring older women with
many stories to tell. Join us in this audio visual
celebration of their lives.

*Brought to you by Wauchope Community
Arts Council*

*with assistance from the Arts Council of
NSW*





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VAUCHOPE BRANCH



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LIBRARIES

LSVF
Art Gallery
Blue Poles-13

Hastings Gazette
7/1/99 p. 6.

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH



Gallery hosts works of Arthur McNeil

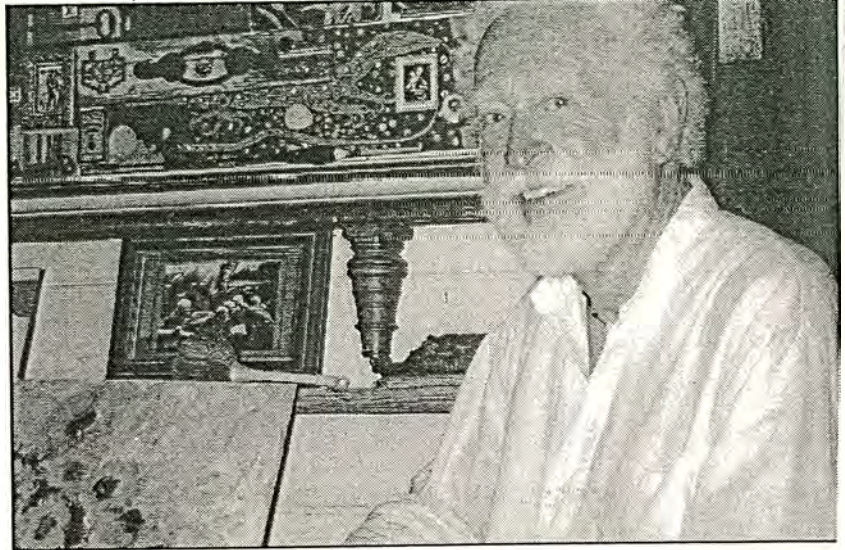
FROM his early Women's Weekly story illustrations to his sketch-books of India, Arthur McNeil has drawn and painted for 50 years. A complete show of this fascinating man's life's work (a retrospective) will be on show at Blue Poles Cafe Gallery during January and February.

Arthur trained as a graphic artist at East Sydney Technical College (as it was then known) after the war then became a copy boy for Women's Weekly then Woman's Day magazines and worked alongside

Australia's top illustrators of the 1950s and 1960s. He also did freelance book illustrations, however with the coming of TV artwork dried up and he returned to East Sydney Technical College teaching at diploma level. He has taught at most metropolitan colleges.

During the years 1962 to 1974 he travelled twice a year to Papua New Guinea to experience and draw the local colours and cultures. Some works from these travels will be in the exhibition.

The exhibition continues until the end of February. Gallery hours are 9am to 5pm Wednesday to Sunday.



ON DISPLAY: Arthur McNeil has opened his exhibition at Blue Poles Gallery at Byabarra. The exhibition continues till the end of February.

LCVF
Art Gallery
Blue Poles -12

LCVF
Art Gallery
Blue Poles -12



HASTINGS LIBRARY
WAUCHOPE BRANCH

Blue Poles' play a real thriller

WITH full house for the six nights of drama at Blue Poles Cafe Gallery, hosts Frith and Allan Peters are thrilled to be able to provide an obviously much-needed venue.

Murder in the Gallery, a play written specifically for Blue Poles, was performed by a newly formed drama group, Death by Drama Ink. Nine actors led the audience a merry chase to discover "who dun it".

Though most of the actors, such as Lance Thompson, Robyn Curtain, Michelle Gorton, Oshun Burrows, are old stagers and the others have had a variety of experience, there were many surprises. In fact some even stuck to the

script!

Writer/director Angela McPherson, who has recently resettled in Byabarra from distant studies, has many plans at foot. Stay tuned.

Running parallel to the night-time drama, the important exhibition opening of Art Alliance on Saturday, May 1 brought around 150 people. The seven artists, Sue Bell, Julia Lock, Joanne Burns, Daryl Davis, Ali McCudden, Kerry-Anne Holloway and Zoe Jackson, present the fruits of their "Small Stories".



A GALLERY MURDER: Murder in the Gallery, directed by Angela Macpherson and the Drama Ink Theatre Group features, from left, Robyn Curtain, Ron Lindsay and Allan Peters.

Hastings Gazette
13th May, 1999
p. 5.





LCVF
Art Gallery
Blue Poles -11

Blues Poles exhibition

A VERY successful exhibition is in full swing at Blue Poles Cafe Gallery at Byabarra.

The exhibition is of three local artists' work, Judy Jelsma's colourful

paintings, Kerry Wheeldon's classical pottery and Sheree Munday's unique ceramics, and is open for sale until December 28.

More than 100 people

celebrated the opening of the exhibition and many more have since journeyed to Byabarra to enjoy the display and to purchase the ideal Christmas gift.

Gallery Cafe owner Mrs Frith Peters says she is delighted to present such delightful works of art so close to Christmas.

Blue Poles has become a relaxing spot for locals and visitors to enjoy lunch whilst perusing quality works of art and individual gifts.

The valley views are particularly green, this season being such a good one, and the Cafe Gallery now boasts a popular outside deck overlooking the valley.

Gallery hours are 9am to 5pm, closed Monday and Tuesday though open every day over the Christmas holidays.



ON EXHIBITION: Kerry Wheeldon, Judy Jelsma and Sheree Munday are exhibiting their works at Blue Poles Cafe Gallery at Byabarra.

Hastings Gazette
10th December 1998

LCVF

Art Gallery

Blue Poles-10

Blue Poles a first for Byabarra

BYABARRA's Blue Poles Gallery and cafe will officially open next week.

The venture is being undertaken by Frith and Allan Peters who have operated the town's general store for the past four years.

Mrs Peters, with her two decades of art background, believes the time is right for her to expand into a gallery and cafe to cater for the many tourists and coastal people who pass through Byabarra.

Over the past 18 months she has expanded the premises to include a

first-class gallery area and another two rooms that comprise gallery and cafe.

Advice on lighting has been received from the regional gallery in Taree.

Mrs Peters said the premises also offered spectacular views over the valley and Thorne River.

Thirteen local artists will comprise the gallery's first exhibition, which will be opened by Blue Mountains artist Hugh Spiers, who was one of Mrs Peter's first art teachers.

"I am hoping to make this a fun

place with live music as well as the gallery and cafe.

"The aim is to make it an interesting and exciting place to visit, and we have two hectares of gardens people can look through as well."

Mrs Peters is part of a diverse group of contemporary artists who meet regularly at Byabarra and who will provide works for the first exhibition at the new Blue Poles which opens on December 13.

Mrs Peters also believes the gallery and cafe will be popular with travellers and visitors.

4th December, 1997.

P5



□ Allan and Frith Peters eagerly await the opening of their gallery and cafe.

Byabarra's Blue Poles

THE masterpieces of 13 local artists will be exhibited this weekend at the official opening of Byabarra's Blue Poles Gallery and Cafe.

An exciting contemporary art exhibition, entitled 'The Shape We're In' - a celebration of nudes, will be opened by Blue Mountains artist Hugh Spiers on Saturday at the gallery, which overlooks the valley and Thorne River.

The unique exhibition of paintings, sculptures and 3D art will give visitors just a taste of the artwork owners Frith and Allan Peters intend to showcase.

The couple has operated Byabarra's

general store for the past four years and, after 18 months expanding the premises to include the first-class gallery area, Allan and Frith are excited about their new venture which was a labour of love.

With two decades of art background, Mrs Peters believes the time is right to expand the gallery and cafe to cater for the many tourists and locals who pass through the area.

"I am hoping to make this a fun place with live music as well as the gallery and cafe," she said.

Blue Poles Gallery and Cafe is open Wednesdays to Sundays.

11th December 1997

p.3



LCVF

Art Gallery

Blue Poles -9



Hastings Gazette

23rd December, 1997

P. 5.

Blue Poles attracts crowd

Byabarra's new tourist attraction

A much better than expected crowd attended the opening of Byabarra's Blue Poles Cafe Gallery last week.

More than 200 people made their way to the area's newest tourist attraction to see an exciting exhibition titled "The Shape We're In" - a celebration of the nude which will continue for six weeks.

Guests were inspired by the very different design and colour scheme of the building and they applauded a wonderful addition to the many attractions of the Hastings area.

Owner-builders Frith and Allan Peters have spent the past 18 months designing and building the Cafe Gallery.

Blue Poles will offer light lunches and refreshments with views through the wide windows down



Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery owner Frith Peters with Henry Fields at the official opening of Byabarra's latest tourist attraction.

the tranquil river valley.

Frith Peters said she was overwhelmed by the response to the "christen-

ing" of Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery which is now open from Wednesdays to Sundays.

Blue Poles exhibition at Byabarra

BLUE Poles Gallery of Byabarra will host an exhibition of bright, landscape abstract paintings opening 3pm Saturday, May 23.

The paintings are by Sue Day, formerly of Sydney and London and now a resident of the Hastings.

A full show of abstract work is a first for rural Hastings Valley and gallery owner Frith Peters said,

"This work will be enjoyable to viewers who appreciate abstract painting and also for those who have not had the opportunity to become familiar with this form of art. It is cheerful, bright and decorative."

Blue Poles is fast becoming a landmark for cultural experiences, with recent features being the

Autumn Bloomers celebration put on by the Wauchope Arts Council, then last Saturday night's sellout recital by cellist Helen Byrne and pianist Irina Klamka.

The audience thrilled to the music of this international duo in an intimate, rural setting.

The exhibition will continue for eight weeks.

From:

The Hastings Gazette

21/5/98 p.5

LCVF

Art Gallery

Blue Poles - 8

Exciting abstracts at Blue Poles

THE Blues Poles Gallery and Cafe at Byabarra is hosting a new exhibition which features 'bright and exciting' abstract art.

Gallery owner Frith Peters said she is thrilled to have the work of Sue Day on display until the end of July.

Frith said she was honoured to have such a high standard of work on view for people in the country to enjoy or to become familiar with for the first time.

The exhibition can be viewed any day except Mondays and Tuesdays when the cafe gallery is closed.

Abstract artist Sue Day moved to the Hastings 12 months ago from Sydney, having studied art in the city and in London.

She was an artist-in-residence at Bundanoon, Arthur Boyd's property on the Shoalhaven River.

Some works are of that place while others are



Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery owner Frith Peters with artist Sue Day who will be exhibiting her work until the end of July.

from around Sydney and there are some very recent works from the Hastings Valley.

According to Frith

Peters, Ms Day's work is recommended viewing, especially as an introduction to abstract art, because it is colourful and

pleasing even to the viewer who may not have had the opportunity to understand and appreciate abstract art.

From:
The Hastings Gazette.
2/7/98, p 8

From: The Hastings
Gazette
1/7/99
p 7

Gallery exhibition continues until July

BLUE Poles Gallery of Byabarra is hosting an exhibition of bright, landscape abstract paintings.

The paintings are by Sue Day, formerly of Sydney and London and now a resident of the Hastings.

A full show of abstract work is a first for rural Hastings Valley and gallery owner Frith Peters said the work will be enjoyable to viewers who appreciate abstract painting and also for those who have not had the opportunity to become familiar with this form of art.

Blue Poles is fast becoming a landmark for cultural experiences, with recent features being the Autumn Bloomers celebration put on by the Wauchope Arts Council, then a recent sellout recital by cellist Helen Byrne and pianist Irma Klamka.

The audience thrilled to the music of this international duo in an intimate, rural setting.

The current exhibition continues until mid-July.

Local artist exhibits her work

Art lovers across Hastings will have the opportunity to see for themselves when Ms Lloyd's work goes on exhibition at Blue Poles Gallery and Café on Thursday, July 1.

BYABARRA artist Sharni Lloyd may investigate the human condition but her greatest inspiration comes from the bush.

"I suppose it's a contradiction really that I gain inspiration from the bush

The official opening, which is open to the public, will take place on Saturday, July 3. The exhibition will continue until Sunday, August 29.

Works on display will include large, colourful canvases, charcoal drawings and mixed media works on paper.

"I've included some very small studies which show basic development of the subject matter," Ms Lloyd said.

As well as teaching art at Wauchope, Kempsey and Port Macquarie TAFE colleges, Ms Lloyd has an extensive exhibition history that includes major solo and group displays in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

Blue Poles patrons should note the gallery will have new opening times after July 1.

The Byabarra gallery will be open from 9am until 5pm from Thursday until Sunday and all public holidays.



ON SHOW: Byabarra artist Sharni Lloyd will put her work on show at Blue Poles Gallery and Café this month.

From: The Hastings Gazette,
28/5/98, p 6.

LSVF-ART GALLERIES-
Blue Poles - 7



□ The Autumn Bloomers, from left to right, Merle Glasson, Nancy-Lee Short, Hazel Sutters, Winifred Godfrey and Dolly O'Brien

'Blooming' beautiful

THE Autumn Bloomers are the first to admit they have plenty to be thankful for.

After living through two world wars and the Great Depression they still lead rich and active lives.

Despite their newfound celebrity status the Autumn Bloomers - Hazel Sutters, Winifred Godfrey, Dolly O'Brien, Nancy-Lee Short and Merle Glasson - don't understand what all the fuss is about.

The subject of a special exhibition at Byabarra's Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery, the Autumn Bloomers are so named because they are resilient, courageous, and

inspiring older women.

Between them the "autumn bloomers" have raised 20 children in the years before washing machines, hot running water and electric stoves. They have all spent half a century supporting husbands in their careers and looking after others. And they are still giving, each active in the community in a different way.

What started as a project by Wauchope Community Arts Council president Krissa Wilkinson, turned into a celebration of five special women and other Autumn Bloomers across the country.

"Mostly they go unnoticed but this country has

developed due to the generous spirits of generations of women like them, who've laboured long hours for little or no pay.

"One of the aims of this project is to take them from their invisibility and put them under the spotlight, honour the contribution they have

made and continue to make. They are the glue that holds this country together," she said.

The Autumn Bloomers exhibition, which features portraits of the women, was officially opened by Hastings mayor Frank Harrison on Sunday.

It continues at the Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery until May 17.

Hastings Gazette

7th May 1998

P-1.

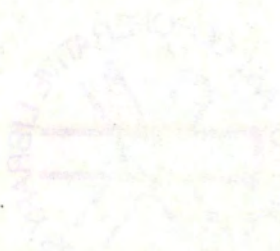
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WAUCHOPE BRANCH



LCVF

Art Gallery

Blue Poles-6





Hastings Gazette
26th February 1998
p. 4.



□ Local artist, Tarpie Watts works on one of her creations in readiness for the opening of her retrospective exhibition this weekend.

Renowned artist opens exhibition at Blue Poles Gallery

TREAT yourself to a full retrospective of the exquisite artwork of Tarpie Watts this weekend at Blue Poles Gallery in Byabarra.

Tarpie, who lives at Bagnoo, is an inspiration to other artists and her original works have been sought after and enjoyed wherever they've been shown.

The pieces she creates often echo the shapes of nature using various natural materials; fine wood carvings and fascinating fibre sculptures incorporating elements such as feathers, leather, metal, bone and horn.

As well as samples of her natural creations Tarpie will present lino cut prints, etchings and drawings in her new exhibition which opens at Blue Poles Cafe Gallery, Byabarra, on Sunday at 4.30pm. The local artist's work will be on show until the end of April.

Gallery hours are 10am till 5pm Mondays and Tuesdays.

For further details phone Blue Poles Gallery on 6587 1167.



LCVF

Art Gallery

Blue Poles ~5



the nature of things

where: Blue Poles Art Gallery

when: Sat 18th

Info: www.bluepoles.com.au

Installations and paintings by local artist Sue Bell. Exhibition opens at 5pm on the 18th. Everyone welcome. Dinner to be served after the opening. Blue Poles is now licensed. The café /gallery open Fri-Sun 9.30am to 4.00pm and Wed-Sun in the school holidays.

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH





LCVF
Art Gallery -
Blue Poles -4

\$100,000 boon for Byabarra cafe

Blue Poles to add a nature retreat

EXPANSION plans for the Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery in Byabarra received a \$100,000 boost thanks to the Australian government.

Lyne MP and deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile will announce the funding today, to assist the Byabarra cafe develop a multi-functional nature-based tourism facility.

Cafe owner Deb Collins said the news was very exciting.

"The money will go towards the conversion of an existing shed on the property, which will expand Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery to a nature-based small retreat facility."

Ms Collins said the shed would be converted into a conference room which could accommodate up to 50 people for day use.

"We are also planning on building another cabin and hope to be able to accommodate



Top spot: Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery.

between 10 to 14 people on the site overnight."

Ms Collins said the new additions to the property would also

hopefully mean longer opening hours for the cafe and gallery.

The Byabarra project is one of 53 innovative tourism projects across Australia offered funding support of almost \$8 million.

The Australian Tourism Development Program provides support for innovative tourism projects and encourages tourism development in regional and rural areas.

"The new facility will complement the award-winning Blue Poles Cafe and Gallery in the hinterland offering high quality arts and health retreats, workshops and events in a beautiful rural setting," Mr Vaile said.

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saturday 7th may @ 5 pm

exhibition runs from friday 6 may to sunday 26 june 2005

Blue Poles

Gallery Café

Comboyne Road

Byabarra

tel: 6587 1167

fax: 6587 1094

www.bluepoles.com.au

Opening hours: 9.30-4 fri-sun
or by appointment

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Keeping the magic alive

BYABARRA is too good to leave, Frith Peters reckons. But at the same time, she believes her biggest disappointment is staying in the same spot for so long, rather than seeking a new adventure.

In the Port Macquarie hinterland, Byabarra is a long way from where Frith and husband Allan began their working lives – Frith as a nurse and Allan in agriculture.

But they have tried their hands at different pursuits along the way, from running wethers near Albury to growing kiwifruit at Byabarra, and now their time is filled with their Blue Poles cafe and art gallery.

"We've done exciting things rather than moneymaking things," Frith says.

"We don't plan ahead because we don't want it to work that way."

They keep their options and their doors open to "keep the magic happening".

They moved to the area 25 years ago, initially farming the land, and at smoko time they would enjoy the unspoilt view across the valley while boiling the billy under the tree where the cafe now stands.

Eight years ago they built a general store, then added Frith's art studio and finally the Blue Poles two years ago. They are now planning to again extend the building with a new studio.

The Peters are still amazed at how they have constructed their "blue heaven" without any training.

The cafe and gallery take their name from Jackson Pollock's (in)famous work for which Gough Whitlam's government paid \$1.4 million for placement in the National Gallery.

At the time there was a roar of public outcry at what was perceived to be a misuse of valuable funds, but the Peters backed the brave show of support for the arts sector in Australia.

"It was more the fact that it was a show of openness, of taking aboard new ideas and breaking new ground," Frith says.

The piece is now valued at more than \$40 million, and although Frith has not yet gained a full appreciation for it, the name has an important symbolism for what she and Allan are doing at Byabarra.

Frith was never encouraged to pursue art as a career path and owning a gallery in the bush has not been easy financially, but she wanted farmers to have the opportunity to view contemporary Australian art.

The cafe keeps them going while the gallery provides exposure for local artists, with exhibitions running for six weeks and booked two years in advance.



TOP: Allan and Frith Peters in their Blue Poles cafe with one of Frith's artworks in the background.

ABOVE: Another of Frith's works.

They are hoping to get more artists from outside the area to broaden the horizons of the local enthusiasts.

The cafe also plays host to amateur theatre groups from the surrounding hills, as well as world class musicians, including classical harpist, Marshall McGuire, and bamboo flautist, Riley Lee.

Frith's love of art began as a child in Wagga Wagga – her mother encouraging her artistic talents by allowing her to paint murals on the walls of their home and to pose as a child model for the local art society.

"It's always been something like breathing, just something we always did," she says.

Her mother also encouraged an appreciation of modern Australian art which still influences Frith's paintings, particularly the works of Russell Drysdale, Robert Dickerman, Brett Whitely and Charles Blackman.

This cultural background placed Allan on a steep learning curve when he met Frith at the age of 19, but she says he now has a fresh and observant way of viewing art, spotting details trained eyes have missed.

"I thought it was from trying to spot flyblown sheep," Allan says dryly.

Like Frith, he still has some desire to try something else and the former NSW Agriculture employee and lecturer at the then Hawkesbury Agricultural College, still holds on to a disappearing dream of owning his own sheep station.

But he is compensated knowing that not too many cockies have followed the unique and interesting path his life has taken.

Indeed, it would be too hard to leave the "magic" at Byabarra.

— MICHAEL THOMSON

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