

## THIS XMAS EDITION:

- **Welcome**
- **Merry Christmas!**
- **Out of 2008 and into 2009... how it's looking**
- **Starting 2009 with – Mwarre Anthurre- Good One! March 7-22**
- **We are open throughout the summer...**
- **Thankyou.**



**Welcome to Artitja's latest newsletter a review of the year and looking forward to the next...**

### Merry Christmas !

I thought Christmas was yesterday, but no, it's next week. Another year has absolutely flown by and I'm sure we all feel the madness at this time of the year and wonder why. Personally, I approach Christmas each year with a little of that childhood excitement which, for some reason, I never lost. I am very lucky to have had wonderful Christmases with my very small family – my sister and our beautiful parents Mary and Rocky, Greek immigrants who loved Perth and the four F's – family, food, friends and fun! I've inherited all those traits!



For all of you who do celebrate Christmas, Arthur and I would like to wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and good health and happiness in 2009.

### Out of 2008 and into 2009... how it's looking

As a home based gallery, around this time of the year when we sit down to 'review' the year, Arthur and I almost always get surprised at how much we have, in fact, achieved. In 2008 we held our very successful

**Cultural Connections** exhibition where we showcased the works of the Mowanjum artists from the Kimberley, as their Perth representatives. Several artists including Senior lawman and Chairman of the Art Centre Donny Woolagoodja (*below left gifting Noel Nannup after welcome to country*) and the delightfully talented and highly energetic artist Leah Umbagai were present and all parties were



very pleased with the result. That exhibition was also previewed a week earlier at a **private function at Woodside** in the city at which 150 invited guests were introduced to the works, some for the very first time.

*Photographs below*



Of course another very important feature of that show was the **cross cultural collaboration** between weavers Janine McAullay Bott and our special guest, from Kyoto Head of the Kawashima Textile school Seiji Konishi.

Janine and Seiji Konishi wove the wonderful Samurai costume using their chosen mediums – Janine using Palm Fronds and Seiji Konishi using Madagascan raffia. Both artists paid so much attention to detail – as can be seen below with the woven footwear!



L: Janine McAullay Bott and Seiji Konishi wearing the woven Samurai costume. Mr Konishi came from a Samurai heritage

We are delighted to continue to represent Janine, whose weaves always have a connection to her close family ties and Nyoongah culture. Janine has also had a busy year conducting workshops as requests for her skills and knowledge increases.

A workshop which was a great success mid year, was the **Emerging Women's lunchtime forum** held for female staff at Mallesons Stephen Jaques law firm in Perth – at which I also participated and got the thumbs up from Janine - *secretly I was convinced I couldn't weave - who insists as weaving is part of my Greek cultural heritage, of course I could weave!!*



Above is a photo taken by Joanne Livanos from the law firm on the day.

Two more exhibitions followed – in July we tried out a **new venue** in South Terrace, South Fremantle (below) which worked really well. This was at *Earlywork* which is run by graphic designer Kate and husband Ken, creators of the fresh produce *Spice* magazine. *Earlywork* is the part of their business which offers a service of printing children's art onto canvas.



It was great having an exhibition so close to our home gallery where we could walk to work and also get exposed to a whole new audience, who loved the 'new art gallery' in their suburb. It was pleasing to see many of our existing clients there also. We will be returning to *Earlywork* in 2009.

**Atwell Gallery** where we held the Mowanjum exhibition was a new venue for us also, and that turned out to be a surprisingly fabulous venue – well equipped – fabulous people – a real community feel, and how appropriate to run a primarily art centre show at a local community art centre!

Which is exactly what we did with our **Desert Stories** exhibition held in October showing artists works from Ikuntji, Yeundumu, Papunya Tula and Utopia. That was a great show and young emerging artist Benissa Marks from Ikuntji Art Centre was



delighted when we sent her this photo to show her how beautiful her work looked hanging in a clients home!

Two **home shows** later (one in May, one in December), two client visits to **Melbourne**, one to **Sydney**, attendance at both the Indigenous NATSIAA **Telstra art awards** in Darwin in August and **Desert mob** in Alice Springs, two visits to Mowanjum, two to the central desert, and heavens! No wonder we need to breath out! I can't believe we have achieved so much and in the current difficult economic climate, we feel like we are going from strength to strength, and that we must be doing something right.

The **highlights** of course have been the interaction with the artists, and the positive feedback from the artists, if not directly, then through their representative art centres or agents and the time out bush – which is always an honour and a privilege – and then bringing the art and the cultural experience and knowledge that we gain each time to you, the art lover.

**Starting 2009 with:**  
**Mwarre Anthurre – Good One!**  
**7-22 March 2009**

Our first show for the year will open on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> and continue until Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, and it will be held at Earlywork in South Fremantle.

The title *Mwarre Anthurre* – is an Anmatyarre language (from Utopia) phrase meaning 'good one' or 'brilliant' or 'excellent!'. The show will feature works from Utopia and Mt Liebig in the central desert. **Diarise now!**

The **rest of the year** is still in planning and promises to be as challenging as it is exciting. Our enthusiasm for Indigenous art continues to grow, and we embrace the changes in the movement, the younger and emerging artists who are the new wave of artists, who may need to work harder to maintain the interest of a market which is enamoured with the older artists' works.

We see shining lights on the horizon – and look forward to presenting new, vibrant and contemporary art in amongst the established artists we already show and will continue to do so throughout 2009.

We look forward to you sharing the journey with us.



Photographs Clockwise from top left Desert Mob Symposium, Alice Springs – the boomerang makers; with Polly Ngale, with the artists from Haasts Bluff, Ikuntji artists.

**We are open throughout the summer break..**

We are **fully stocked** with a wide range of art and will be available by appointment throughout the summer. We also have in stock the following:

- Better World Cushion Covers
- McCullochs revised and updated Contemporary Aboriginal art book
- Vivien Johnston's new book on Papunya Tula artists
- Blank diaries, card gift sets and more.

**Thankyou...**

To cap it all off, Arthur's return to good health after major surgery earlier this year and the significant achievements of Artitja are both cause for celebration.

We would like to thank all our clients and friends for your support through 2008 and we look forward to seeing you in 2009.



**Anna Kanaris & Arthur Clarke**