

Market Eve at the Glassblowers



Hot Glass by Evening Light
Cool Climate Wines
Farmhouse Cheese.
Start your Weekend with Style

Experience master glassblowing by evening light, accompanied by world class Peninsula wines and fine hand crafted cheeses from Red Hill Cheese. 6pm - 8pm on Friday nights preceding the Red Hill Market. Eileen Gordon and Grant Donaldson introduce you to the unforgettable experience of master glassblowing. See the hot glass furnaces up close and experience the excitement of watching beautiful art glass being created, even try your hand at glassblowing! At the evening's end you have the chance to win one of the beautiful pieces that you have seen being created.

Visit www.gordonstudio.com.au/events

ADFAS Mornington Peninsula Art Forum

ADFAS is a decorative and fine arts society providing opportunities to explore the arts through a series of monthly lectures on art related subjects.

The lectures are illustrated and cover a diverse range of subjects such as architecture, painting, sculpture, music, gardens, furniture, glass, ceramics, textiles and art history.

The lecturers, who are authors, curators and exhibitors of world renown, are recognised experts in their field and the majority are selected through



William Eicholtz
Sculpture - Bounty Big

the society's affiliated body in the UK. They are all skilled in presenting informative and stimulating lectures with images and sometimes audio and tactile samples - always with a good dose of humour.

There are 30 Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS) in Australia enabling members to explore the arts whilst meeting others who have similar interests.

"Australian Art - Setting the Trends" is the theme for an Art Forum being held on Saturday 13 October 2007 from 10.30am to 3.30pm at the Peninsula Community Theatre in Mornington.

Five leading artists, painter and digital artist Stephen Hayley, glassmakers Eileen Gordon and Grant Donaldson, sculptor William Eicholtz and artist and weaver Lorraine Connelly-Northey, discuss the direction their fields are taking. Art critic and publisher of the Encyclopedia of Australian Art Susan McCulloch and collector Jan Clark ask "who sets the trends?" Sydney critic and gallery director Michael Reid gives the keynote address on future directions in the Australian art market and chairs a panel discussion.

The forum is being arranged by ADFAS Mornington Peninsula. For information and bookings please ring 03 5974 3691, 9592 5616 or email: adfamp@yahoo.com.au

Joanna Murray-Smith - the Female of the Species

Playwright Joanna Murray-Smith is heading to Broadway again, and this time she's taking Anette Benning with her. Mornington-born Joanna was last there in 1998 with her play Honour; this time it's The Female of the Species that's doing the honours.

Her new play is a fast-moving comedy that delves into the world of feminist mothers and the confusing messages they send their daughters. The main character, played by Benning, is a feminist writer held hostage by a teenage 'fan' in her country home, à la 'Germaine Greer intruder incident 2000'.

The Melbourne Theatre Company performed the play last year, but for Joanna, there's still a lot of work to do. "Production of The Species in America is time consuming," she says. "I've already done two trips back, one was to meet Annette Benning; she wanted to talk before she'd commit, so I went to LA for lunch, and lunch turned into dinner and dinner turned into breakfast, but that's another story," she says, laughing. And yes, Joanna met Benning's husband, Warren Beatty.

Last month she was back in Los Angeles for the first reading with the director, Michael Mayer, (he's just won a Tony for his Broadway musical Spring Awakenings) - but her work's still not complete. She's revising the script, because, although the play is set "nowhere", it needs minor changes to appeal to the American audience. Then, in January, she'll be back in LA for six weeks of rehearsals.

This takes her away from her husband and three children (the eldest is in Year 7), and other mothers might be asking 'how does she do it?'

With her husband working full-time, Joanna is helped by their long-term nanny, Stella. "She would never believe it, but she's been critical to my professional life," says Joanna. "As you get older, what becomes more important is not just the kind of status of 'where your plays end up', but the actual pleasure of the working experience. Particularly once you've got children, you feel that whatever takes you away from the children has to be worth it."

Joanna's own childhood in Mount Eliza was happy, especially when she hit Toorak College after 'loathing' Mount Eliza Primary. She laughs as she recalls how she had red hat envy. "I wanted to be in a nice, cushy private school away from all those nasty savages," she says, in a mock-whiny voice. Her mother Nita, a former Toorak College teacher, still lives in the Kevin Borland-designed house in Mount Eliza that Joanna, her father Stephen Murray-Smith and her older brother and sister lived in.

Leaving the good and bad school years behind her, Joanna has turned Mount Eliza into the inspiration and setting for at least two of her novels: Sunnyside (2005) and Truce (1994).

"With Truce I didn't feel like the recreation of Mount Eliza was at the heart of the story, but with Sunnyside the place was the heart of the story. It was the portrait of that kind of affluent suburban Australian life. Also, I had a very intense period of living in Mount Eliza (eight months in 2003). I was writing Sunnyside while I was there, and I felt Mount Eliza was deeply imbedded in that book. Going back now, I do see it in terms of the novel. When I drive past

the house we lived in - also the house in Sunnyside, this amazing 1950s white weatherboard house with big stone fireplaces - I don't recollect living in it; I recollect the characters living in it.

But for now, Mount Eliza is safe from more stories. London, LA, and a bunch of men in their sixties are calling. "I realised the other day that I've spent the year hanging out with really spunky male sexagenarians: I was working with Bruce Beresford last year, then wining and dining with Warren Beatty, and now working with (Sir) Trevor Nunn, and I just think 60-year old men are where it's at!" she says, laughing.

Joanna's also working on a documentary-style film script about the intense friendship between Heide's Joy Hester and Sunday Reed, and her third on-going project is working with Trevor Nunn, at his request, to adapt Ingmar Bergman's Scenes From a Marriage. They recently had a week to work together while Trevor was in town with King Lear and The Seagull.

"We spent all day talking about Bergman, had dinner and spent the evening talking about Bergman. Trevor got back to his hotel, turned on the TV and Bergman was dead. He died that day. He'd probably heard I was doing the adaptation and that polished him off - 'the woman who wrote Bombshells is not the right woman for this job!'" says Joanna, impersonating Bergman.

One thing's for sure, Joanna picked the right job.



by Jayne D'Arcy