

BLUE Mountains*life*

INCLUDING THE CENTRAL WEST & THE HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

APR-MAY 2018

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Tracy Ponich at her studio with Jasper.

TRACY PONICH

SHOOTING A PORTRAIT BECOMES A YEAR-LONG PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT AT EVERGLADES



PEOPLE



Vegetable Patch, Misty Spring Sunday



Tranquil Autumn Morning, Winding Passage



Sorensen's Pumphouse in the Valley

In 2016, Tracy Ponich photographed Scott Pollock, a portrait at his Wentworth Falls studio.

Scott, now Manager of Retford Park in Bowral, was at that time Manager of Everglades Historic House and Gardens in Leura.

Both are heritage-listed, National Trust of Australia (NSW) properties.

It was the perfect coming together, the right person in front of her lens. A week later she began a year-long project at Everglades, called 'Transitions'. The exhibition is this May at the Everglades Gallery.

Tracy captured Everglades in all seasons and weather conditions.

She says: "Transitions began as an opportunity to photograph the Blue Mountains' four seasons in a single, beautiful location. Over the year it became so much more, an extensive body of work, wonderful new opportunities and friendships."

She photographed grand vistas, quiet pathways and art deco structures of the 1930's, as well as Paul Sorensen's own tools, the creator of the gardens.

Tracy also scaled the escarpment to shoot a little-known pumphouse deep in the Jamison valley – a Sorensen plan for an independent water source – now hidden in bushland.

Transitions is also about continuity and change as far back as Everglades' construction in the 1930's.

On one wall, archival photographs, passages and notes from Sorensen's work diaries accompany Tracy's images. There is also a book available. Scott Pollock, who wrote the book's forward, notes:

"Each image manages to communicate the personality of the property itself," she says. "In some images, the wonderful aesthetics and design dominate, in others, Tracy manages to convey what it feels like to stand alone amongst its eighty year history; to experience the first rays of sun throwing shadows across the long, manicured lawns, or to watch the gardens disappear into the darkness at the end of the day."

Searching through archives took Tracy back to another time in her life.

She studied art history at the University of Toronto in Canada. Her specialisation in late Renaissance painting meant research in libraries, museums and archives in North America, Italy and other European cities.

For Transitions, the materials were close at hand: Everglades, the Blue Mountains City Council Local Studies Collection, and the National Trust Head Office in Sydney.

Tracy's garden scenes are often black and white images. Some find this a surprise.

She says: "Most photographers I look to for inspiration work in black and white. There is a gravity, and a focus that entices the viewer to see the image in a different way."

Her favourites of the Everglades series are

black and whites shot on misty mornings – soft, atmospheric, with structure defined by stone walls and towering trees.

Tracy was born in Edmonton Canada, moving to Toronto later to attend the country's largest university.

She lived abroad on several occasions, in Europe and Asia, finding opportunities through study and work.

In 2002 she migrated to Australia, where eventually she decided to pursue her love of photography more seriously.

She started exhibiting works regularly while living on Scotland Island in Pittwater (2009-2014).

Boat-access-only Scotland Island is 30 km north of Sydney's CBD, and, like the mountains, has a strong arts community. Tracy became a member of an offshore artist cooperative gallery at Church Point.

She also participated in a project at the Eramboo Artist Environment. Located within Pittwater bushland, Eramboo is an intriguing place to exhibit. Her photographs hung from trees around artists' studios and the gallery.

Eramboo resulted in an invitation from the Avalon Palm Beach Business Chamber to join an art-in-public spaces event in early 2015.

Shortly after Tracy relocated to Katoomba. Free of the boat commute, and the challenges of hauling gear across water, she soon started new projects.

She exhibited new work with local artists in 2016 and 2017. Moving to the mountains, travelling by road not water – and the opportune portrait of Scott – meant the time was perfect for a commitment like *Transitions*.

One that meant returning over and again, often spur of the moment based on weather and light. It's the kind of photography she loves, telling a multi-faceted story.

Tracy's newest project takes her further afield to the Southern Highlands. She's working on a collaboration at Retford Park in Bowral.

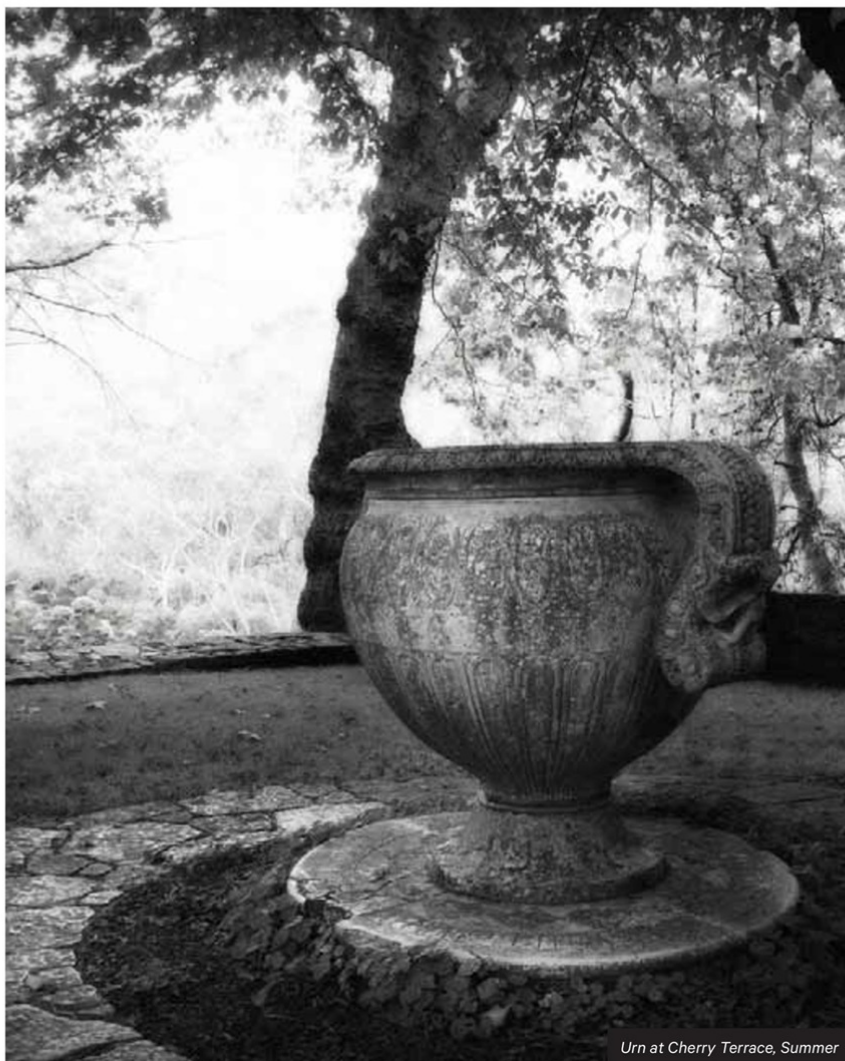
There will be an exhibition of several artists in November at the property. Retford Park is the estate of the late James Fairfax, left after his death in 2017 to the National Trust. **BMI**



FEATHERMARK STUDIO

Tracy's photographic practice is called Feathermark. She manages every aspect of an image, from taking the shot, to post capture and printing at her studio. She ensures that all processes are sustainable, saying everything has a footprint. She points to printing and framing processes, the transport to and from locations, and the electricity used during an event's run as examples.

Tracy offsets her carbon footprint with certified carbon credits supporting forestry and clean energy projects. As a separate action, she donates to Trees For Life, a non-profit organisation focussed on reforestation. The latter is over and above her footprint; it's her effort to help habitat conservation and biodiversity in a managed way. Tracy plants trees for each exhibition, each new project such as the exhibition's book, and for each work sold. *Transitions* is a carbon neutral event. Find out more about the process on Tracy's website: www.feathermark.com.au/footprint.



Urn at Cherry Terrace, Summer

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Transitions will be on at the gallery in Everglades Historic House & Gardens
Opening: Saturday 5 May 2018, 2-4pm (free entrance to Everglades at the opening)
 Everglades Gallery from 5-27 May 2018, Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-3pm

Location: 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura

Contact: 02 4784 1938

The book is available at the exhibition and from the photographer: www.feathermark.com.au. *Transitions* is part of the Australian Heritage Festival and Sydney's Head On Photo Festival 2018.



NOSTALGIA – IT'S NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE!

An exhibition on show at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery in Windsor until May 20 looks at nostalgia, that wistful desire to return in thought or in fact to a former time in one's life; that sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time.

Confirmed artists are Jane Brown, Phil James, Guy Maestri, Izabela Pluta, Ben Quilty, Niomi Sands and Luke Temby, with Alan Constable, Joan Ross, and Martin Wilson to be confirmed. Each of the artists in the exhibition uses nostalgia; either visually or conceptually, to question, to unsettle, to provoke.

Alongside the main exhibition the Gallery will be showing a selection of works by local artist Jochen Letsch. Jochen studied visual arts in Germany before migrating to Australia in 1997. He creates visually intriguing images which blur and explore the boundaries between photography, painting and print making.



BANJO PATERSON CONTEST

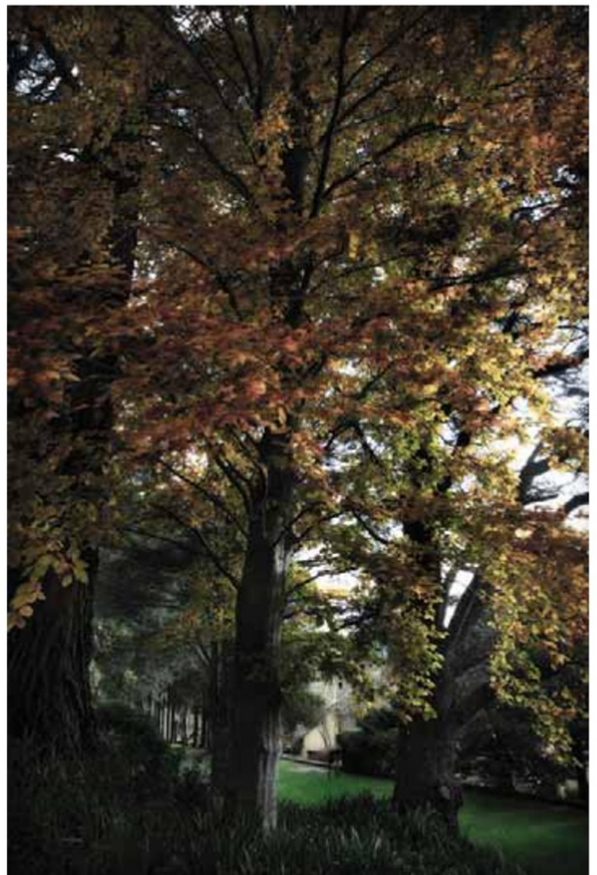
Organisers have doubled the prize money to be won for this year's Banjo Paterson Writing competition. One of a number of changes being made this year's the long-running contest, the prizes for the Short Story and Contemporary Poetry categories increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Orange Mayor Cr Reg Kidd has welcomed the new approach.

"Established in 1991, these awards aim to honour Banjo Paterson, a great Australian writer and favourite son of Orange, with a competition to encourage short story or poetry writing with Australian content," Cr Reg Kidd said.

"I'm pleased the organisers have made some changes to keep the competition fresh and engaging for the community."

The competition closes on April 20 and winners will be contacted by phone on July 6.



TRACY PONICH

'Transitions' is an exhibition about Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Leura. It tells a story of the gardens, buildings, and people, a vital part of the Blue Mountains' cultural heritage. Tracy Ponich has photographed Everglades in all seasons, and woven historical materials into the exhibition.

Transitions flows inside and outside the gallery walls. Located right there it resonates compellingly. Inside the gallery see Everglades at its most evocative: the vegetable garden shrouded in mist; the magnificent Cherry Terrace in bloom; The Glades in autumnal glory; and a forgotten pumphouse concealed deep in the Jamison Valley. Inside and out, Date: May 5-27. Venue: Everglades Gallery. Contact: 02 4784 1938.