

Bouddi News

March 2010

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The Bouddi Society presents

An AFTERNOON with BILL LEAK “The High and Low Arts—Confessions of a Painter & Cartoonist”

Saturday March 13 at the Wagstaffe Hall at 2pm



Bill & Gus at Hardys Bay

Celebrated artist and cartoonist and Killcare resident Bill Leak will give an illustrated talk about his life and times painting and drawing Australian politicians and identities.

A familiar sight walking the streets of Killcare with his beloved dog Gus, Bill is an accomplished and entertaining speaker. He describes himself as “a bad musician, a passable painter and a good cartoonist.”

As one of Australia’s best satirists, he is inclined not to take himself too seriously. His biographic notes include: “Having fully expected to be born in Madrid, Bill Leak suffered his first attack of culture shock when his birth took place in Adelaide in 1956. According to the medical record, ‘the poor little chap was terribly confused.’”

His Curriculum Vitae adds: “Seventeen years later he astonished his parents, who had spent a large part of their small fortune on his music lessons, by telling them he intended to study art and become a painter.”

Bill’s early years were in the bush, initially in Goroke, Western Victoria and then in Condobolin in New South Wales - but at the age of ten he moved with his family to Sydney. After a stint at the Julian Ashton Art School he took off for a year in a panel van to ‘paint Australia’. He had visions of painting sweeping landscapes in the mould of Fred Williams, but ended up financing his trip by doing caricatures of the locals he met in the pubs of the outback.

He then set off for Europe, spending a year in London before moving to Germany where he established himself as a portrait painter. However, four years later, a visit to Sydney and a night-on-the-town with Brett Whitely persuaded him to stay in Australia and he cancelled his return ticket back to Germany.

A then unknown benefactor, who had seen and admired his work, offered to pay the rent on a studio for him while he established himself as a painter.

Despite a critically acclaimed one-man show, the sales of his paintings did not cover his expenses. He started producing and selling cartoons to fund his painting “habit”.

He became the daily editorial cartoonist on The Australian Newspaper, with politicians particularly fair game.

He comments: “For me, the most artistically liberating thing I ever did was start working as a cartoonist, because it means I can paint whatever I like, and it doesn’t matter if I don’t sell my paintings.”



An Afternoon with Bill Leak (Continued)

Bill Leak has received 19 Stanley Awards from the Australian Cartoonists Association, 8 Walkley Awards and, having been a finalist twelve times, can confidently claim to have lost The Archibald Prize more consistently than almost any other Australian painter. Two of his entries, former prime minister Bob Hawke and author and art critic Robert Hughes, appear below.

He has published two books of cartoons: *Drawing Blood* (Allen & Unwin, 1998), *Moments of Truth* (Scribe Publishing, Melbourne, 2005) and one novel, *Heart Cancer* (ABC Books, 2005), of which, he says, "unpulped copies are increasing in rarity and decreasing in value."



Entrance : Adults \$15, Society Members \$12, Students \$5. (Refreshments included.)

The BOUDDI SOCIETY

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society at Wagstaffe Hall on February 24 the following office bearers were re-elected:

President & Treasurer: *Phil Donnelly*

Vice-Presidents: *David Dufty ,
Robyn Warburton*

Secretary: *Mike Chitty*

Membership: *Dianne Lewis*

Committee: *Lee Casey , Margaret
Crane.*

Website: bouddisociety.org.au

Editor Bouddi News: *Lee Casey
0416 179 451, lcasey@smatchat.net.au*

Contributions welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

**A reminder that subscriptions for the
calendar year 2010 are now due.**

Individual \$10, Family \$15

*Mail cheques to: The Secretary , Bouddi
Society PO Box 4081 Wagstaffe 2257*

HISTORY PROJECT

The CD-ROM '*Bouddi Stories: Bouddi Bios*', which was released last year as a Work in Progress, is being revised, added to and made into an official publication for sale and for distribution to local, state and national libraries. Anyone with revisions or corrections or additional material should contact Robyn Warburton (4360 1709) or David Dufty (4360 1650) as soon as possible.

A film entitled '*Bouddi Peninsula: a Time Tour*' is also well under way thanks to a Gosford City Council cultural grant. It's planned to release the film as a DVD together with the revised CD-ROM in June.

The production of a quality hard cover book based on the material gathered for the CR-ROM is also under way with a target publication date the beginning of December.

WAGSTAFFE HALL Saturday March 6 at 7:30 for 8 pm

To acknowledge **International Women's Day** the Pretty Beach Public School P&C is screening "**The Garden at the End of the World**", a documentary by award-winning film maker Gary Caganoff, who will be attending and speaking on the night.

Tickets \$20 available from the Wagstaffe Store, Moochinside and The Bouddi Gallery, Killcare.