

MEET THE MAKER

BY ASHLEY GRANT

East End Shop Hop

Celebrate Mothers Day in Style



Shop • Socialise • Save

At Maitland's most fashionable destinations

5 - 9 pm Thursday 7 May 2015

Secure your tickets today!

mrag
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

CEWT JERI
hair & body

hush
boutique

M&P

twig & moss

As always there is much happening in the Gallery Shop this Autumn. We are introducing new artisans, gorgeous work from our existing makers and celebrating with some of our neighbouring businesses.

Sharing what is wonderful about local business and local artisans is the focus for the Gallery Shop in our upcoming event, *The East End Shop Hop**. Mothers, daughters and girlfriends alike are invited to spend some quality time together, enjoy a glass of bubbly and make the most of incredible savings across five of Maitland's boutique retailers. It is happening just in time for Mothers Day, between 5 and 9pm on Thursday the 7th May. In addition to 20% discount storewide for ticketholders on the night the Gallery Shop will be introducing you to Joanne Herbert in our very first *Meet the Maker* experience.

Joanne is a local jeweller who balances the running of her small business with teaching and motherhood. The passion she has for her craft is immeasurable and her desire to make her pieces inspirational and affordable, without compromising on quality, is at the forefront of her practice. Illustration is a constant in Joanne's work, linking her two expertises beautifully while imparting on her work the intricate detail of the many things she sees and enjoys. It will be wonderful to have Joanne here to share with us all she has learnt in her 33 years of making and exhibiting.

It is looking to be another fabulous evening celebrating what is great about Maitland and its boutique retailers.

**The East End Shop Hop is being held on Thursday the 7th of May between the hours of 5-9pm. Ticketholders are entitled to 20% discount storewide at:*

- ▶ Hush Boutique,
- ▶ Marmook & Poom Poom's (1 main meal only),
- ▶ Sekt
- ▶ Twig & Moss.

Tickets are \$20 each. Please contact MRAG on (02) 4934 9859 for more information or to purchase tickets.

ARTEL | **mr**agm

MEET OUR MEMBER ARTIST

BY CATHERINE KINGSMILL



(above) Image courtesy of Cath Bowen, *The Maitland Mercury*

Rachel Milne is a figurative oil painter who is rapidly making a name for herself on the Hunter art scene. From the moment I met her and saw her work, I knew I was in the presence of a prodigious talent. Rachel captures everyday vignettes and imbues them through her palette of light and colour with a sense of the exquisite. The work of Wendy Sharpe is recalled, as well as that of Maitland's Shona Trescott. Rachel was trained in an era where the "Young British Artists" reigned supreme but she shunned their conceptual style and opted for a more painterly and traditional approach which is certainly paying off. Also skilled in drawing, her training in drafting is evident in her work. Rachel's preferred subjects are domestic interiors, abandoned and historic architecture and portraiture. Rachel has reflected Newcastle's retail and community history through her series of interiors of the abandoned David Jones building in her latest series, *"The Renewal of Mr Jones"*.

Rachel attained her degree in Fine Art at Cardiff University in Wales and moved to Australia with her husband only 2 years ago. Her

energy is evidenced in the huge body of work she has produced since then. In 2014 she was a finalist in the Kilgour Prize, Calleen and University of Newcastle Acquisitive Prizes. She has held 2 solo exhibitions in Newcastle, participated in a number of group shows and painted many commissions. MRAG was very honoured to host Rachel for her artist residency last year wherein she painted a self-portrait every day for 2 weeks as part of the ABOUT FACE exhibition. During this time Rachel was generous in sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm to hundreds of MRAG visitors. As part of the FREE ART JANUARY program, her lessons in portraiture for all ages were extremely popular and instructive.

Rachel's current major work is a portrait of our very own Cultural Director, Joe Eisenberg, to commemorate his retirement this year. After much encouragement, Rachel is considering entering his portrait in the 2015 Archibald Prize, which the MRAG members will be visiting on Saturday 15 August. Wouldn't it be lovely if this year's winner was home-grown!