

It's been more than a year since our last newsletter, so herewith a brief account of the intervening months and some of the works completed during that time.

Exhibitions

The major collection of 27 landscape paintings from the last decade, curated by Helen Kedgley and opened at Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures in Porirua during September 2011, was a gratifying success, with over 90,000 attending before the exhibition closed in February 2012. Helen and her colleagues did a beautiful job, promoted the show well, and I was honoured by the respect afforded the work by the local Maori community, who seemed to appreciate my connection with Place. A PDF of the exhibition catalogue is available on our website (click on About / Newsletter).

Smaller shows of my photographs have been held at Diversion Gallery, Picton, Whangarei Art Museum, Artis Gallery in Auckland, and during the Rugby World Cup at Dunedin Airport terminal.



'The Road South, Maniototo'. 920mm x 1220mm.

Private Collection, Canterbury



'Roll Cage Mary II'. Personal Collection

Lectures

In May I drove to Invercargill to address the Photographic Society of NZ Conference, where I'm sure my views left a few toes bruised. Others, fortunately, seemed inordinately grateful to have heard them. In October this year I delivered the Otago University's Michael King Memorial Lecture. Entitled *Regionalism Forever: Reflections on my Backyard*, the talk was dedicated to the memory of my artist friend Don Binney, and more than 250 brave Dunedin souls turned up in support. Both lectures are available via the website.

Lithographs and Photographs

Just a few of the stone lithographs, drawn and printed in Melbourne, remain available. The Central Otago Limited Edition photographs, released to coincide with the launch of my new book (see over), have also been popular with some editions already sold out. See the website (Works for Sale) for more details on both.



'Rural Delivery'. 710mm x 1120mm Private Collection, Southland

Recent Works

Thanks to my Fiona's dedicated and unquestioning support, making it so much easier for me to get to the studio and work without distraction, I've been very pleased with the paintings produced this last year. All oils on linen, these new works have found homes in Canterbury, Southland, Auckland, London, Australia and Hong Kong. Given the current economic climate, I feel particularly privileged to continue to enjoy such strong support from existing and new clients, both here and overseas.

If you are interested in joining the client list, or wish to see newly completed paintings, please contact us at grahame@grahamesydney.com

Henderson Arts Trust

I continue to enjoy my role on the Board of Henderson Arts Trust in Alexandra (a trust set up to reward established artists). Writer Kevin Ireland completed his tenure in summer and the outstanding photographer Laurence Aberhart and his wife Greta took up residency soon after.

Filming

Circumstances have precluded my devoting much time to my on-going documentary projects – I have four separate films at various stages of completion – but my mind is never far from them, and I hope to see two (the Brian Turner and Tony Bishop monographs) heading towards final form shortly.

In addition I have high hopes that the Central Otago story which began life as 'Dreaming of El Dorado' will be finished soon and released to the new boutique cinema opening soon in Alexandra.

Project Hayes

There was great relief and satisfaction for those of us in the small Save Central group when Meridian Energy finally decided that their massive wind farm proposed for the Outstanding Natural Landscape of the Lammermoor Range was, after all, not a viable proposition. Common sense prevailed, and the group's efforts were rewarded. We are immensely grateful to those who supported us and helped protect this irreplaceable Otago landscape from industrial mutilation. Sadly, new inappropriate schemes keep appearing, and the environmental defence efforts never rest.



'Kane's Pond'. 1110mm x 760mm Personal Collection

Book Launch

October 2011 was also the month in which Penguin NZ published *Grahame Sydney's Central Otago*, my third book for them, this time a collection of photographs from close to home gathered over several years living here at Cambrian Valley. The book was favourably reviewed, and was included in *North & South Magazine's* 'Best Books of 2011', the *NZ Listener's* '100 Top Reads of 2011' and the *Sunday Star Times* 'Best of 2011'. We have released a number of photographs from the book as signed, numbered Limited Editions of 10, printed to 700mm wide on archival paper. Smaller scale unlimited prints are also available, printed to 460mm wide (see our website).

Family

On a personal note, last month I was an immensely proud father when my gorgeous daughter Melissa married Canadian Dale Sturrock in a lovely ceremony at Orchard Garden near Clyde. It was a beautiful, tepid Spring day, and the event was everything we all hoped, much enjoyed by our close friends and family. Lissy and Dale currently live in Melbourne.

I've also enjoyed and been stimulated by the recent company of artist friends John Walsh, Simon Richardson, Dick Frizzell and Jeffrey Harris amongst others, and my writer mates Brian Turner, Owen Marshall and Roger Hall, who continue to prove the value of deep friendship. The recent death of Don Binney was a sad blow to us all: I admired Don in so many ways, and hugely enjoyed his company. His legacy is both powerful and permanent.

With my best wishes to you all for the coming summer, and continued thanks for your interest and support.

GCS



'The Road South, Maniototo'. 920mm x 1220mm.

Private Collection, Canterbury