



Welcome to the First Edition of Glasshouse News

Our first edition of Glasshouse News has been timed to let you know that our new fully automated online booking service launches on Monday 3 March 2008 - coinciding with the commencement of single ticket sales for the 2008 Glasshouse Spring Season program.

You may recall that when we launched the 2008 program on 6 December last year on Town Green, we also launched our new website - www.glasshouse.org.au and a dedicated telephone line for the Glasshouse Box Office (Tel 6581 8888) to process subscriptions, ticket sales and venue hire.

Subscription ticket sales opened that evening at the conclusion of the launch and within 36 hours, the first performance of *Madame Butterfly* had sold out.

[Visit the Glasshouse website](#)



High Notes for the Hastings

The good news is that, as a result of this tremendous display of enthusiasm by audiences in the Hastings, Opera Australia's Oz Opera has offered the Glasshouse a second performance of *Madame Butterfly*. When making the announcement, **Jennifer Kerr**, Manager of OzOpera, said:

"Opera Australia's Oz Opera can't wait to return to Port Macquarie in 2008 and are eagerly anticipating the inaugural operatic performance of *Madame Butterfly* at the new Glasshouse.

While Oz Opera performs in both traditional and non-traditional venues across Australia, from aircraft hangars to haysheds, it is always a pleasure to perform in a fully-equipped theatre that is designed with both performers and audiences in mind.

We are thrilled to be able to stage a second performance of the world's favourite opera, *Madame Butterfly*, and share the magic of opera with even more of the Port Macquarie-Hastings community."

The additional performance of *Madame Butterfly* will ensure that all three and four show subscribers to the 2008 Glasshouse Spring Season program will have the opportunity to upgrade their subscription to include a ticket to *Madame Butterfly*. The special offer to existing subscribers closes on Friday 22 February 2008



Glasshouse Bookings Strong

Centre Director, **Agris Celinskis** is very pleased with progress at the Box Office - both for subscriptions and venue hire. "75% of available tickets to the 2008 Spring Season On Tour program sold within six weeks and apart from one or two weekends in November, every weekend to the end of 2008 is booked, as are many weekdays. The response from touring companies and local hirers alike has been incredible."

Performing Arts Director, **Robyn Birrell** reports that "bookings are very strong from community groups. We have choral festivals, graduation ceremonies, sales meetings, industry presentations, concerts, eisteddfods and children's holiday shows all on the calendar. There is also strong interest from conference organisers for 2009 and 2010, highlighting the versatility of the building with its various

meeting rooms and 606 seat theatre".



Community Minded Box Office

If you are organising a local event or activity, please keep in mind that the Glasshouse Box Office is set up to assist organisers of various professional, commercial and community events with their ticketing and marketing requirements. For example, ticketing has just opened for the forthcoming 'Shakespeare in the Vines' at Cassegrain Winery on 16 March 2008. Call the Glasshouse Box Office on 6581 8888 and if you have an event coming up, let us know if we can help you.



Glasshouse Takes Shape

The Glasshouse is literally taking shape before our eyes. Site tours are fully booked until mid April but Port Central's balcony, overlooking Clarence Street, affords an intriguing view of the Glasshouse construction site. The basement level, ground floor and mezzanine level concrete slabs have all been poured with foundations for level three on the way. At the same time, services in the basement (hydraulics, electrical, mechanical) are being progressively installed with a staggering 10 km of wiring already in place.

Clearly visible on the site now are the areas that will make up the Glasshouse - ground level foyer, locations of archaeological display, bathrooms, lift shafts, understage area, flytower, theatre, studio, regional gallery, workshops and the cafe-bar. The glass facade and roof will appear shortly.

The precast theatre walls are in position and inside the theatre area you can identify the orchestra pit, stage and technical box, providing a sense of the size of the theatre which will be able to present many performances without additional amplification, a huge plus for performers. The acoustic design for the Glasshouse theatre has been planned by Andrew Nicholl from Arup, a leading international company currently engaged in the refit of the Sydney Opera House to improve its acoustic delivery.

The formwork for the Glasshouse site is complex, with each area purpose built. For example, the studio is acoustically isolated from the rest of the building and is built like a 'room within a room'. When the Glasshouse opens, an orchestra will be able to perform in the theatre at the same time as a dance performance in the studio, and there will be no sound transfer between the two areas.

According to construction crews, the view from level three is breathtaking, stretching from the mountains to the sea. It's on this level, that the local timber flooring, sponsored by Forests NSW and Australian Solar Timbers (AST), will be put in place to showcase the natural timbers of the region.



A Big Thank You to Sponsors

Although the first performance at the Glasshouse is not until September, there is already a committed band of sponsors on board. **Margret Meagher**, who manages Business Development and Marketing Communications for the Glasshouse, is enthusiastic about the way the business partnerships are evolving. "We are seeking two-way partnerships with sponsors so that we can assist their business objectives while they help the Glasshouse to develop as a valuable community asset. Supporting the Glasshouse in these early stages ensures maximum opportunities for sponsors in the exciting lead up to our opening. I'd be delighted to provide information about the range of sponsorship packages that are available. Just call 6581.8888 or email margret@glasshouse.org.au." In coming editions of the *Glasshouse News*, we will profile individual sponsors but, for now, a big thank you to all our business partners.

Gallery Hosts first 2008 Exhibition

At the Port Macquarie Hastings Regional Gallery (in its temporary home in the



PeachTree Walk Arcade at 80 Horton Street), Director **Sharni Lloyd** and Public Program and Audience Development Officer **Skye Frost** have been busy opening their first show for the year - *Beyond the Aperture*, featuring 4 photographers Annabel McClure, Jade Thorning, Phil Wadsworth and Malcolm Wallace. The exhibition is on show until 23 March 2008 and all works are for sale. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm and Saturday to Sunday 10.00pm to 2.00pm.

Image Credit: MALCOLM WALLACE, Oroborus Series, 2007, (detail). Digital photographic print. Copyright of the artist 2007

New Arrival

With the Glasshouse calendar filling rapidly, the recent arrival of **Belinda Gibson** as Venue Operations Manager for the Glasshouse is very timely. Belinda comes to the Glasshouse with extensive production and back-of-house experience. Her last role was with Legs on the Wall in Sydney. We welcome Belinda to the Glasshouse Team and look forward to introducing her to all our patrons.



Next Edition of Glasshouse News

The next Glasshouse email newsletter will come to you at the end of February when we will give you more details about single ticket sales which commence on Monday 3 March and reveal more good news about extra shows in the Glasshouse 2008 Spring Season program.

Until next time - best wishes from The Glasshouse Team

About the Glasshouse News

This is a newsletter provided by the Glasshouse team to keep you in touch with the latest Glasshouse news.

If you do not wish to subscribe to this newsletter any longer please unsubscribe by clicking on the 'unsubscribe' button at the top of this newsletter. Or reply to this message with 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.

Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council website, please use the link provided below.

[Subscribe to the Glasshouse News](#)

Address. Cnr Clarence and Hay Street Port Macquarie NSW
Postal Address. PO BOX 84 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Contact. **T** 6581 8888 **F** 6581 8107 **E** info@glasshouse.org.au