

ARTS TUESDAY

Jane Harper

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DIARY

Cottle's on show

HELEN COTTLE: National Gallery of Victoria tutor Helen Cottle presents a collection of her own pieces at the Glendinning House Gallery, 6 Ryrie St. Cottle uses acrylic and mixed media to transform everyday views into dynamic works.

The exhibition opens on Sunday with a demonstration from 1.30pm to 4pm. The gallery is open 10.30am to 4.30pm from Wednesday to Sunday and on public holidays.

FLOOR TALK: Geelong Gallery in Lt Malop St will present a 20-minute lunchtime floor talk on the Nora Heysen Light and Life exhibit, presented by her nephew Chris Heysen tomorrow at 12.30pm.

EMERGING MUSICIANS: Geelong Grammar School's Emerging Musicians VCE recital takes place on Sunday, September 6, at 3pm in St Paul's Anglican Church, Latrobe Tce.

The recital will feature vocalist Freya Leighton, Alex Newman on clarinet, violinist Nik Gajovic, baritone Hunter Rogers and pianist Taylor Rettke. Tickets cost \$10 at the door, with proceeds for maintenance of heritage listed buildings.

PETER PAN: Geelong College's senior school production, *Peter Pan*, runs at the college's Costa Theatre, in Aphrasia St, Geelong West, from Thursday to Saturday at 7.30pm, with a 2pm Saturday matinee. Tickets are available online at www.trybooking.com/BDZ



ENORMOUS CHALLENGE: Lyn Hughes and Trolley Dolly Cloth Doll Club vice-resident Adrienne Hare with one of the Geelong creations.

Talents inspired by festive feast

JANE HARPER

CHRISTMAS may still be months away, but there is a decidedly festive buzz among Geelong's talented artists. Nearly 200 artists and craftspeople from the nine Geelong groups are putting the final touches to exquisite creations that will feature in Melbourne's popular annual exhibition, Christmas at the Johnston Collection.

The exhibition, held at the Fine and Decorative Arts Museum in East Melbourne, celebrates Christmas by inviting artists from regional Victoria to decorate rooms with their varied crafts. This year, it is Geelong's turn to create the spectacular and beautiful show. "It's an inspiring project for everyone to be involved in and we've been working on our

pieces for over a year now," said Geelong Embroiderers Guild team leader Lyn Hughes said. "There's a great deal of creative talent in our area and it's an enormous challenge to create works based on the story given to us by the Johnston Collection." Groups participating include the Embroiderers' Guild of Victoria (Geelong Branch), Geelong Textile and Fibre

Artists, Trolley Dolly Cloth Doll Club, Country Women's Association, Geelong and District Porcelain Painters, Leopold Lace Makers, the Third Wednesday Group from Bannockburn and Birregurra, Geelong Patchwork and Quilters' Guild, and the Coastal Textile Group. The talented artists and craftworkers have created items ranging from Christmas tree dec-

oration and a nativity scene to quilts, calligraphy, lace and ceramics. *We Three Kings of Orient Are: Christmas at The Johnston Collection* opens on November 4 and runs until February 26. The Johnston Collection House Museum is open Monday to Friday and some Saturdays. To book a tour, call 9416 2515.

Back in running for new award

JANE HARPER

ACCLAIMED Geelong theatre company Back to Back is in the running to add yet another accolade to its string of awards.

The group, made up entirely of professional actors with learning disabilities, has been short-listed for the Kit Denton Fellowship for its new work *Ganesh vs The Third Reich*.

The work, which is in development under artistic director Bruce Gladwin, explores cultural appropriation, such as the theft of symbols, icons, rituals or behaviour. The piece follows a hero's journey via nationalism, globalisation, religion, spirituality and pop culture.

The \$25,000 annual Kit Denton Fellowship was created in 2007 to honour the work and memory of scriptwriter, author, poet and lyricist Kit Denton.

The father of media personality Andrew Denton, Kit was a lifetime member of the Australian Writers' Guild and best known for his novel *The Breaker*.

The Fellowship aims to promote challenging ideas, and reward excellence in performance writing by providing the recipients with material and practical support to develop a new writing project.

The Fellowship will be announced on August 28.

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Helfgott shines in concert

JANE HARPER

ECCENTRIC but entrancing, David Helfgott demonstrated why he is one of the country's best-loved musicians in his performance at Deakin's Costa Hall on Saturday.

The pianist, immortalised in the Oscar-winning film *Shine*, lit the stage as he joyfully made his way through a program of Beethoven, Mozart, Rachmaninov, Liszt and Chopin.

Helfgott greeted the audience's enthusiastic applause for the pieces with a grin and a thumbs up, cutting through the size of the large concert hall to create an intimate atmosphere.

It was an uplifting and engaging performance guaranteed to gladden the heart.

Brilliant Black Dyke shows Man U class

MERV COLLINS

IN retrospect, it seems a weird way of spending a lifetime — puffing air down a piece of brass tubing.

I was born into it, I suppose; being brought up in a Salvo family brings certain expectations.

In migrating to Australia, regretfully I left behind the soccer and world-class brass bands. I replaced Chelsea with the Cats. Nothing replaced the bands.

Just occasionally, I get a fix — I go back home to a contest or a leading English band tours. This year, praise be, it's the Dyke, the Black Dyke Band, the one with the world's most politically incorrect name.



TOP BRASS: The Black Dyke Band.

This fabulous outfit performed at Deakin's Costa Hall on Thursday, joined by Australian brass virtuoso James Morrison.

It started as Black Dyke Mills Band, but when the industry slumped it lost the mills, kept the Black Dyke and

moved on from its working-class roots.

The band has won more championships than you could slide a trombone at. It's the Man U of banding.

In concert, the band displayed all its fabled attributes — unanimity of approach and attack,

stunning sounds loud and soft, unbelievable virtuosity and technique from sidemen and soloists alike and an ability to astonish, inspire and entertain.

Wonderfully led and compered by Dr Nick Childs, it presented original brass music, orchestral transcriptions, ballads and swing interspersed with wit and fun.

Morrison was the icing on the cake, showing yet again his unparalleled mastery of all the brass instruments and his inimitable brand of musical humour.

Morrison was in top form, and like me, obviously relished a night out with the beautiful Black Dyke.