

**March
2018**

CENTRE NEWS

PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
Cultural Close, off Shoal Bay Rd, Nelson Bay 2315

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018 is off to a flying start in the Arts Centre, with a quite a few workshops and events happening in the next few months. On the weekend of 17-18th March the Fusion Group will be hosting a Circle of Waste Rug making event at the Centre. The Rug is a community project of Upcycling Newcastle and Transitions which aims to encourage more people to reuse, recycle and reduce the massive amount of waste that is generated by the clothing and textile industry. Workshops have been held in various locations around the Hunter area and the rug is now over 3 metres in diameter. All Art Centre members and their families are invited to participate as well as the general community. It should be a fun day.

Thank you to all the Gallery volunteers who helped our visitors fill in the survey in December and January. We had 162 completed surveys and a great many positive comments about the Gallery, our volunteer staff and the quality of the artworks. Briefly, the major means of learning about the Centre given by visitors was our sign on Shoal Bay Rd (43%), and then Word of mouth (28%). A report on the survey results has been circulated to all group leaders. We will probably run it again at different times during the year.

Work is likely to commence on the extension to the Community Woodworkers shed in the next couple of months. This will inevitably cause some parking issues, noise and inconvenience to our members especially the potters and other groups using the Potters Barn. We will try to minimise the disruption but ask for your patience. As the saying goes "You can't make an omelette without breaking some eggs". Regards Carolyn Virgona

GALLERY DIRECTOR

All areas of gallery are looking bright and smart. Thank you to all for freshening up stock and placing white ticketing, with date on the back of items. What a great job our display team did in the hanging of our new exhibition "Dreams & Journeys" a must to see. The Annex also has some very unusual pieces on display in the "Fantasy" Exhibition. Raelene has once again done a fantastic job of the pottery display. The Quilters are all very busy in preparing for their big show, that opens on Thursday, 12th April, with a morning tea at 11:00am, all welcome. The Gallery will be closed all day on Wednesday 11th April, for the set up of the show. All areas must be cleared of all stock etc late on Tuesday, 10th April, that includes Main Gallery, Annex, Hall, Fusion and Spinners & Weavers Room. Westralia Room will be in use from Tuesday, 12th April till late Sunday, 22nd April, the hall will then be rehung Monday the 23rd of April. Please mark your calendar with these dates, all help is welcome.

Thank you Nada Yonge

PAINTING A TO Z WORKSHOP

(\$10 per session)

Monday afternoon painting class by Cory Acorn is open to all. Bring your painting supplies and drawing/sketching material and join our friendly group as we walk (not run) through the Painting process "A to Z" Each Monday 1:00pm to 3:30pm in the Westralia Room

DO YOU HAVE AN OLD CD PLAYER, LAPTOP OR IPOD AT HOME THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE CENTRE? PLEASE PHONE CAROLYN ON 0409747561

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WORDS OF APPRECIATION SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS

I have had so many words of thanks and appreciation this week that I thought I would like to share this one with you all. Nada

From Lisa Gatto, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work & time you put into making the centre run. Your art workshops are invaluable. I feel we are very fortunate to have so many hard working people willing to give up their valuable time. Without your dedication large galleries like this would close. I just wanted you all to know I appreciate this. I would also like to thank other volunteers who also give up their valuable time to keep the centre running smoothly.

My part at the gallery is baking for the coffee shop, which I love to do. Heather and her volunteers are fantastic, I sometimes wonder how they do it, especially Heather.

I can't wait to get back to my art classes with Cory. She is a treasure and her knowledge of art practice is amazing. I love her classes."

A big thank you to the Spinners and Weavers group who go to the Australia Day Awards and set up a stall promoting the Club. Regards Mike Francis Publicity Officer.

PASTEL, INK & DRAWING (non-tutored) Come join us for a fun day of pastel painting or any other medium of your choice. Wednesday 14th March, 9:30am to 3:30 pm and every second Wednesday of the month. Regards Marianne Newton Group Leader

SHOAL BAY TENNIS CLUB

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Our **FRIENDSHIP MORNING TEA** was held on Thursday 22nd. Thirty two ladies enjoyed a wonderful spread provided by the Thursday group. Carolyn Virgona spoke about the Circle of Waste workshop. Wendy Nutt displayed some of her creative up cycled goods using, used tea bags. This was followed by an interesting array of quilts by Bev O'Neill. Both groups are in the throw of preparation for the upcoming Quilt Exhibition. Regards Margaret and Lyn



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POTTERY REPORT.

The Potters are very busy creating lots of beautiful work. We are waiting on new elements for our glaze kiln so expect to see lots of new work on exhibition in the gallery very soon. Welcome to all our new members who have joined us this year. Regards Denise Tucker

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES AS BONSAI

Port Stephens Community Art Centre Inc. will be presenting a small display of Australian Plants as Bonsai, for one week from 14th to 21st March, to coincide with a major exhibition at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

For many years bonsai artists around Australia have been using native plants to create wonderful examples of miniature trees. There has been an increasing interest in using native plant material and our natural environment has inspired a new approach, to try to incorporate a more Australian style, to emulate how these trees appear in the bush.

The display at the Art Centre will include many native species including several types of figs, banksia and bottlebrush. All trees are for sale.

Cheers Melanie Delaney & Marilyn Anderson



WOODWORKERS

Our Christmas Party was held at Horizons Restaurant and was enjoyed by all who attended. Entertainment was provided by our talented members as well as our patron, Frank Future, and his wife, Shakti. Congratulations to Ines Thomas, who was voted club member of the year. Carolyn Virgona announced that the CAC had been granted \$40,000 from the State Government to extend our workshop, as well as a further \$3,000 from the Federal Government for us to fit out the extension. Work will commence shortly.

In November we supported Ines Thomas in the "WomDomNom" annual kayaking event. This event raises money for the "Black Dog Institute" which helps people suffering from depression, bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses. Over 150 kayakers paddled down the Macquarie River from Wellington to Narromine, a distance of 154km over 4 days. Well done Ines and all the other kayakers and support crew.

Graham Miller



On Monday 19th Feb, our artists got together for a light lunch. The room was buzzing with many conversations and it was wonderful to see so many of our artists networking with one another. The highlight of the day was when a few Artists got up and described how they were inspired to create their work and what they particularly enjoyed while creating their work..
 Meryl Millar

CENTRE NEWS IS A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE NELSON BAY.
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