



**ARTS CENTRE INFORMATION**  
PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS  
CENTRE  
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JULY 2020



### **“HAPPY DAYS, COVID-SAFE**

Soon the Art Centre will open for member’s group activities and it will be wonderful to be back, catching up with our friends, creating and learning together again.

We know the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet and that we must not become complacent about maintaining social distancing and practising strict hygiene. This is what has worked so well and kept most of us safe so far.

We’re all in this together!

Your President, Carolyn “

### **MEMBERS INFORMATION**

Many thank s to all those members who paid their annual membership by direct deposit.

For the convenience of those who do not have this facility, your Board will open the sales desk for the purpose of accepting membership renewals. Please note the schedule Colleen has attached informing you of dates and times.

### **OUR NEW LIFE**

It’s a new life, with tourism being encouraged and many visiting our area, the need for us to be ever diligent in our responsibility to adhere to Government restrictions are most important. It is not the time to relax especially in regard to social distancing, our members health and wellbeing is paramount.

Fingers crossed that in the near future a vaccine will be found to eliminate this dreaded virus and we will all be free again. I have no doubt that one will be found, it’s just when.

### **PRELIMINARY ADVICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR OUR GENERAL & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

#### General Meeting

To be held on: 8th September 2020,

Commencing: 11am

Where: Westralia Room at our Arts Centre

Motions: are to be in writing and forwarded to the Secretary by the 17th August.

Annual General Meeting will follow the General Meeting

#### Annual General Meeting

To be held on: 8th September 2020

Commencing: following the General Meeting

Where: Westralia Room at our Arts Centre

Nominations will open: on the 28th July

Nominations will close: on the 21st August

There will be two board positions open for a three year period, Noelene Fraser is finishing her current three year tenure and David Tompkins resigned his position.

There will also be the election of the executive committee.

**IT MUST BE NOTED** that due to Covid restrictions your Board will need to make the decision prior to the meetings if members will/will not be able to attend in person, should this happen both meetings will be conducted by proxy vote.

MEETING NOTICES WILL BE PLACED ON THE BOM NOTICE BOARD IN THE OUTER OFFICE ON THE 24TH AUGUST

Thanking you

Robyn (Secretary)

## W.H&S REPORT

During the last few weeks all the electrical appliances in the Centre and the Pottery Barn have been tested for safety. The majority of tested items passed, but we did find a few that failed and were tagged accordingly. These items will be removed. Greg Cumberland, who is qualified to do the testing, and a member of the Woodies, and I have opened and peered in all cupboards and drawers, we have been amazed at the amount of extension cords that needed to be tested. I wish I had invented them I would be a very wealthy woman now.

The electrical items that passed the test and deemed as safe for use, were then tagged with a green coloured tag. Please **do not** remove this tag. Members are still permitted to bring in their own electrical appliances such as sewing machines to their craft day, but please, then take them home again...

Thank you Colleen Sessions

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please be advised that a **Board Member will be manning the gallery sales desk, 10.30am - 1.30pm** on the days listed below for the purpose of accepting membership renewals only.

- |   |           |           |   |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| • | Wednesday | 1st July  | • | Thursday  | 2nd July  |
| • | Friday    | 3rd July  | • | Monday    | 6th July  |
| • | Tuesday   | 7th July  | • | Wednesday | 8th July  |
| • | Thursday  | 9th July  | • | Friday    | 10th July |
| • | Monday    | 13th July | • | Tuesday   | 14th July |
| • | Wednesday | 15th July | • | Thursday  | 16th July |
| • | Friday    | 17th July |   |           |           |

The desk will not be opened on Saturdays or Sundays

Payment is by Eftpos preferably, or if paying with cash. Please have the correct amount.

Membership forms will be available at the desk.

Payment can still be paid online using the Centres banking details

ANZ Bank BSB 012767 account 188244145

Please feel free to contact me if you need further assistance.

Cheers Colleen-Mob. 0447559849

## GALLERY MANAGER INFORMATION

It's wonderful to be back in our art centre, and meet with familiar faces again. You will notice that our gallery spaces are looking quite naked at present. As well as awaiting an opening date, we are planning alterations to the main craft room, and need to keep that clear until these are complete.

Once we have a definite date for re-opening the gallery, your display organisers will get to work and produce some interesting displays from the new items that so many members have been busily creating while we've been apart. It will be quite an effort to achieve this, as I would like as much new stock as possible. Once this is arranged, any gaps will be filled with stock that's previously been displayed. So now is the time to ensure you have sufficient sales tags for your items.

Do take the time to enjoy our current "We've All Been on a Journey" display in the hallway. Thank you to all the members who have contributed to this interesting array of works – the variety of media, and the talent of the creators, is an example of the great strengths in our membership.

Please also take a moment to add your COVID-19 comments to our graffiti board at the end of this display. I would like our Exhibition Calendar for 2020 to resume as per the original plan. This will of course need to be negotiated with those groups and featured artists involved. Further updates will be advised as appropriate. Di Adamson

## FUSION REPORT

While the art centre has been closed to members, we have held our weekly Fusion-in-the-Park gatherings at Dutchies Beach. The weather hasn't always been kind to us, but having the opportunity to talk and see what everyone else has been creating has been fantastic.

With the new social distancing regulations, Wednesday ladies have decided to form two separate groups to attend the centre every second week. Those not at the centre on a particular Wednesday will continue to meet in the park. Hopefully this situation will not need to continue for too long, and we'll once again be able to gather as a single group.

Our 1st Saturday group will remain as is – there is still sufficient space in Manoora room to accommodate us all.

Sheila Francis & Di Adamson

**THE SPINNERS AND WEAVERS** have been keeping in regular contact through their emailed "News for Ewes", sharing a joke or two and admiring one another's spun, woven or knitted creations. We have also been meeting regularly at Dutchies Beach and enjoyed spinning in public, which has created a lot of interest amongst the joggers, walkers and beach goers. This week, since it was likely to be our last outdoor adventure for a while, we decided to have a bit of a fashion parade to model our latest creations. It was a bit of fun with only a small audience of a couple of dog walkers.

Thanks

Melanie Delaney



## PAINTERS GROUPS Update to Activities

The agreed times and venues for the Painters sessions are currently as follows:

Group Name	Group Leader	Email address	Venue	Start/End time
Monday am Painters (Weekly)	Stafford Bennet	<a href="mailto:valstaff1943@dodo.com.au">mailto:valstaff1943@dodo.com.au</a>	Westralia Room	9:30am – 12:30pm
Monday pm Acrylic Ptrs (Weekly)	Marianne Newton	<a href="mailto:mariannenewton@hotmail.com">mariannenewton@hotmail.com</a>	Westralia Room	1pm – 3:30pm
Monday pm W/Col Ptrs (Weekly)	Nada Yonge	<a href="mailto:nada4art2@gmail.com">nada4art2@gmail.com</a>	Manoora Room	1pm – 3:30pm
Saturday am Painters (Twice monthly)	Nikki Waters	<a href="mailto:nikkiwaters@westnet.com.au">nikkiwaters@westnet.com.au</a>	Westralia Room	9:30am- 12:30pm
Wednesday Pastel Ptrs (Twice monthly)	Christine Leaming	<a href="mailto:christine.a.leaming@gmail.com">christine.a.leaming@gmail.com</a>	Westralia Room	10am – 3pm

## MONDAYPAINTERS

Hi Everyone. Where did last month go? I'm sure we're all happy with the news of the Centre reopening on 1 July with painters resuming on Monday 6 July. At this stage leaders are still receiving requests to join the various groups and it's evident that many members are taking the opportunity to attend different session times. As numbers are limited in the different areas, it would be wise to contact the group leader with your requests as soon as you can. In the meantime, sharpen those pencils, top up the paints and get ready to enjoy the Centre once more. Be aware that there will be a few Covid19 safety requirements in place as required by the regulations. Look forward to seeing you all again

Regards. Stafford

## SELF-ART CHALLENGE

This on-line Self-Art Challenge is continuing at present on a 2 Weekly basis.

As we all get back to painting with our groups and you may find all your time is taken up, so if you want your name to be taken off my list totally for this Challenge please send me an email at [nikkiwaters@westnet.com.au](mailto:nikkiwaters@westnet.com.au) otherwise you will continue to receive notifications. If you want to join us again in the future again you will be very welcome. Just contact me by email again.

Thank you to those who have already notified me of their leaving, thank you for contributing to the success of this Challenge over the last 12 weeks with 435 fantastic paintings submitted to date.



Nikki Waters Self-Art Challenge Coordinator



## TUESDAY POTTERS

It seemed a bit surreal upon hearing the news of our Art centre's closure. I am aware that many of my potty pals have been quite industrious during their isolation, especially those who own a wheel & or kiln. Some planning has been necessary to assist our brains to be creative without any guidance from others therefore the internet was a thoughtful & thankful provider.

Marilyn Dawes

## PASTEL GROUP

The Pastel Group will now run every second and fourth Wednesday commencing 8 July 10am - 3pm. Each day we plan to feature a tutorial to build up our skills using pastel, followed by free time to create masterpieces!

Christine Leaming

## PAPER CRAFT GROUP

We are very much looking forward to returning to our group sessions on Monday 6th July.

For the next several months we will be dividing into two groups: a Monday morning group and a Monday afternoon group in order to observe social distancing protocols.

During June we have been meeting at Little Beach each Monday for a get-together so that we can share some of our new work and our ideas. We will continue to meet at a park for a picnic lunch on the last Monday of each month for as long as social distancing is an issue.

Our Monthly Challenge will be shared at these gatherings.

The Paper Craft Group would like to thank all of the people who have been working so hard behind the scenes in order that we can return to our various Craft Groups at the Centre as soon as possible. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Helen McNamara

## **GARDENING**

We are hoping to establish a succulent wall. If you have any small succulent pieces or small cactus could you please leave near the garden seat and we will endeavour to get our idea up and planted. Take a wander through our garden and you will enjoy the hard work that has been done by the boys during the lockdown. Thanks Wayne and a Frank for your enthusiasm.

Yvonne Hill

## **THURSDAY POTTERS**

Hi All,

I guess we're all eager for the Arts Centre Re-opening. I have my tent ready so I can be first in the queue for Thursday pottery on July 2nd. In the pottery world loads of interesting activities have been taking place by Hollywood stars. Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio have been making ceramics. With Seth Rogen and James Franco creating ceramic sewer-pipe sculptures in Arizona.

Meanwhile in Nelson Bay, a much talented and knowledgeable potter, also a very sweet Lady, Carole Driver is recovering from surgery she had before "lockdown". Carole, who has a Master's Degree in Ceramics, regularly holds exhibitions of her stunning works. We are so fortunate to have Carole as a member of our Thursday Pottery Group. Another of our potters, Colleen Sessions has been doing some pinch pots and slab work while in isolation.

Cheers,

Dave Briskham...Group Leader

Some of our **PAINTING GROUP LEADERS** got together to discuss all group sessions starting at centre the first week in July. All agreed how great it will be to be able to get back and paint together as a group again and spend time with all our friends.

Nada



**THE BONSAI GROUP** can meet again from 1st July. If you want to attend please contact Liz Weiss as numbers are limited due to maintaining social distancing.

TIPS: If you have many deciduous trees you can start repotting trees that have gone into dormancy. Ensure the roots and soil is not overwatered to avoid root rot. Look out for curl grubs around the roots while repotting. They can be drowned by submerging the tree in water for an hour. Take care when wiring as branches are more brittle this time of year. Reduce the stress on the newly potted trees by watering with a seaweed solution.

Till next time Happy Bonsaiing

Carol

## **GROUP LEADERS**

I would like to say Thank You to all our Group Leaders. During the last few weeks Group Leaders have been helping in preparing for the reopening of Craft Activities throughout the Centre and Potters Barn. With the limits placed upon us from Social Distancing, we are forced to add restrictions to the number of people in each room. The Group Leaders have been contacting all their group members, to organise a fair system so everyone, who wishes, can resume doing their chosen craft.

Once we have returned to our activities, your G.L. will be ensuring that the required distance is being observed, and health guidelines are being followed.

Our Group Leaders do a fabulous job in keeping our Centre running, as smoothly as it does.

Thank you

Colleen Sessions

**DESK DUTY ROSTER**

All people on the desk duty roster would have received an email or phone call a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to those who have replied indicating their intentions re the roster. There are still a number of people I have not had a reply from so it would be appreciated if those desk duty members who I have been unable to contact would contact me on 0407 246 278 as I am working on the desk duty roster in preparation for when we open the gallery in the near future (date yet to be determined).

Please advise if you still,

wish to do desk duty

wish to stay on the same day

wish to be taken off the roster

wish to be taken off the roster for a nominated period of time.

I await your reply.

Margaret

**BY SPECIAL REQUEST,**

Could all members please bring their own bottles of hand sterilizer to use at the centre.

Could all members please use only the number chairs that are now placed around the work areas.

Thank you

**The state of calm and peace that has resulted from social distancing has enabled many of our members to refresh their creativity. We hope that the coming together within your groups will result in a burst of energy and creations.**