



# Wollondilly Arts Group Inc

# NEWS

## Autumn 2023

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Summer wasn't a normal Summer in 2022/23, the weather patterns have altered and Summer appears to have moved to Autumn judging by the confusion plant life is showing. Not a lot occurred in the holiday period, however in WagWorld, planning for ARTS events continued for the year ahead.

COVID is still with us – as our Government of all flavours appear not too concerned about it – I guess no one really is! Here is a link to the State COVID case results: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-local.aspx> Influenza is also making a comeback so I'm told, as the use of masks becomes a rarity.

Inflation, the Cost of Living and the State election are replacing the media headlines from the invasion of Ukraine, the war being a root cause of our ongoing economic and social problems along with the pandemic.

As a result of the above, social interaction and interest in volunteering has waned – the demand on the services of Charitable Organisations (COs) and Not for Profits (NFPs) is compounding. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of volunteering through an organisation or group in Australia fell sharply from 29.5% in 2019 to 24.8% in 2020. A survey\* on the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering found that only **slightly more than half (56.4%) of those who stopped volunteering in 2020 resumed in the 12 months leading up to April 2021, despite the easing of lock downs and social distancing restrictions in many jurisdictions in Australia at that time.**



*Prop set up by Janet for WAGs MARCH 'Creative Get Together' Draw, Paint or Photograph at your leisure at Buxtons Historic School of Arts Community Hall.*

According to the 2021 'Pulse of the For-Purpose Sector' survey, 31% of organisations that engage volunteers indicated that they had fewer volunteers than six months prior. A similar rate was found in the 2020 survey. When asked, the vast majority of NFPs & COs that engage volunteers indicated that they needed volunteers (84%), and that they were experiencing a demand for volunteer-led services (59%).

\* <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA-Key-Volunteering-Statistics-2022-Update.pdf>

The ARTS, in all forms can take your mind away from depression and isolation. Volunteering for the community is beneficial to your mental and physical wellbeing. There is a lot on offer in Wollondilly – the Arts, Community Gardening, Lions, Rotary, Men's Shed, Sport, Walking Groups, Amateur Theatre or CWA – whatever your choice,

volunteer work repays you in learning new skills, social interaction and networking those skills. Your social contacts will improve as does, your overall health and wellbeing in general. **Visit the 'Wollondilly Community Living Expo' on April 23rd from 11:00am until 3:00pm at the Tahmoor Uniting Church Gardens where you can see what's on offer to the world of volunteering in the Shire.**

Being a biased supporter of the ARTS, I would encourage anyone with creative skills to share them within the local community – or if you want to brush up and learn a few things, we may be able to point you in a direction that suits you. Come along to a **WAG 'Creative Get Together' and network with WAG from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on the second Saturday of each month (except January)** at The Historic Buxton School of Arts Community Hall & Community



A Callistemon from the Community Garden was the subject for the November 'Get Together'. Janet's quick rendition in pastel above was produced in around 5 minutes.

Gardens. The Hall is freshly painted inside and out, air conditioned, updated kitchen and toilet block – and for hire at reasonable rates!

**Also this Saturday, March 25th and April 2nd is a Mosaic Workshop**, 'An introduction to Mosaics' with Sonia O'Shea. Details are available at the [WAG Website](http://www.wollondillyartsgroup.com.au). There may be a few spots left if you are interested, email me or call now.

The first **Wollondilly Arts Exhibition in the Buxton Hall** will occur on the 6th and 7th of May in conjunction with Buxton Community Association (BCA) MARKET DAY on Sunday MAY 7th. 'Conditions of Entry' and 'Entry Forms' including 'On-line Entry' are available at the WAG website now. Display space and Hanging space is limited so entry is restricted to residents of Wollondilly Shire and/or Financial Members of WAG. Entries close Friday, March 31st. **10% of sales being donated to BCA for upkeep of the hall.**

Artisans who wish to book a table at the BCA Market Day Garden on Sunday MAY 7th should email BCA directly at: [buxtoncamarkets@gmail.com](mailto:buxtoncamarkets@gmail.com) to secure a table in the garden.

Oh! almost forgot, We stumbled upon the illuminate Festival website and discovered that the Festival will be held in September this year.

Due to the shortage of volunteers WAG are considering a \$10 hanging fee for the illuminate Art Exhibition – along with a 10% commission on sales to cover WAGs costs.

Stay Safe!  
Rob Dalton  
President,  
Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.

## WHAT'S ON

### CREATIVE GET TOGETHERS, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS etc:

#### WAG Creative Get Togethers

Every second Saturday of the month except January at the Historic Buxton School of Arts Community Hall

1:00pm – 4:00pm  
24 West Parade, Buxton  
(parking available opposite the hall near the rail line)

#### An 'Introduction to Mosaics' with Sonia O'Shea

This Mosaic Workshop runs over two days

**DAY 1 – Saturday, 25th MARCH 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

**DAY 2 – Sunday, 2nd APRIL 1.00pm – 4.00pm at the Historic Buxton School of Arts Community Hall**

**Financial WAG Members \$35  
Non members \$50  
details at the WAG website**

**Wollondilly Arts Exhibition  
Historic Buxton Hall  
MAY 6 to MAY 7**

**Entry restricted to residents of Wollondilly Shire and/or Financial Members of WAG.**

**In conjunction with the Buxton Community Association  
SUNDAY MARKET DAY  
ON MAY 7th  
Details available at the WAG website**

## WAG Executive Committee

President.....Rob Dalton  
Vice President.....Sue Southwood  
Acting Treasurer .....Rob Dalton  
Acting Secretary .....Janet Dalton  
Public Officer.....Janet Dalton  
Website/Newsletter.....Rob Dalton  
Minutes Secretary ..Sue Southwood  
Committee Member .....Marjorie Kay

### Visit Our Web Site!

Wollondilly Arts Group welcomes your feedback. Go to:  
[www.wollondillyartsgroup.com.au](http://www.wollondillyartsgroup.com.au)  
and the WAG 'what is on' page.



or visit us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WollondillyArtsGroup>



We are supported by  
Southern Tablelands Arts  
and Wollondilly Shire Council

**To submit an article please contact Rob Dalton**  
[dalton@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dalton@bigpond.net.au)



Address all correspondence to:  
The Secretary,  
Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.  
PO Box 799  
Picton NSW 2571

or  
email: Janet Dalton  
[dcre8ive@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dcre8ive@bigpond.net.au)

**"Creativity  
is inventing,  
experimenting,  
growing,  
taking risks,  
breaking rules,  
making mistakes,  
and having fun!"**

Mary Lou Cook