



# Wollondilly Arts Group Inc NEWS Winter 2020

## **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT RESIGN THEIR POSTS.**

After many years of dedicated service, Pam Berrell has sadly resigned as President of WAG, shortly followed by our Vice President Natalia Rudnicki. Also departing from the Committee is long term member Julie Phillips whose attention to detail was always admired. Betty Peachy who is currently time poor and Doreen Lyon will be missed as well. We thank all for their years of service in the committee.

A meeting was held with the remaining Committee members on the 24th June and executive positions were accepted by all those present. The new Committee is as follows:

President.....Rob Dalton  
Vice President..... Edla Arzey  
Treasurer ..... Marjorie Kay  
Secretary.....Janet Dalton  
Public Officer.....Janet Dalton  
Website/Newsletter.....Rob Dalton  
Minutes Secretary .Sue Southwood.

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

The last thing I expected to be is President of WAG but as they say, you never know what's around the next corner.

WAG has been in existence for 16 years and my wish is that the group grows and continues to serve the arts & crafts community of the Shire.

The current situation with COVID-19 has interrupted our function as a group and put even more stress upon us. My position is that the members (many in their 70s) not be put at risk in any way, therefore most social functions and workshops organised by WAG are on hold until we have the confidence to



*Above, scenery back drop for the Picton Thetare Group's production of 'Fawley Towers' set painting by WAGs Pam, Roswitha, and Trish.*

recommence activities. That could be some time!

Wollondilly Shire Council wisely cancelled The 2020 Illuminate Festival of Light. WAG auspices the art exhibition and artisan market as part of the festival. An offer was made to WAG to instead, hold the illuminate art exhibition and artisan market at the old Picton Post Office on September 19th. The offer was accepted by the Committee at the time but on reflection not such a good idea, due to the risk involved to the organisers and the public as the virus gains pace.

The Annual Member's Art Exhibition will possibly not proceed this year. We are currently investigating the wisdom and cost of setting up a virtual gallery. The group (and the Community) has lost the use of the Shire gallery art spaces as the new precinct area is developed and Council and their offices are moved

into the Shire Hall. The new space indicated on the precinct plan is inadequate as gallery space.

Although we were initially consulted about the Cultural Precinct Grant plans and also submitted feedback about the needs of WAG and cultural groups, we feel that the outcome is so far not addressing the needs of WAG or the cultural community in general. We are looking forward to discussing this at a planned meeting with Williams Ross Architects in the near future.

The Annual General Meeting is also on hold until it is safe to proceed.

So Stay safe, observe distancing and hygiene. Wear a mask! Keep busy!

Regards

Rob Dalton  
President, Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.

## **EXISTING MEMBER FEE DEFERMENT (For members who have already paid 2020-2021 or who were financial members in 2019-2020)**

Due to the lack of activity as a result of COVID-19, it was agreed by the committee that all membership fees for 2020 be deferred until April 2021. If members have already paid, they will not have to pay fees for the 2021 – 2022 WAG financial year which runs from April 1st., 2021, to March 31st 2022.

## **COVID-19**

### **What our Members are achieving during the pandemic!**

As mentioned in our Autumn News, we can no longer guarantee the timing nor venue for our Creative Get Togethers and Workshops. This included the Ceramics Workshop originally planned for May 23rd.

All we (as a group) can achieve, is to continue being creative and act as though all our creative events will occur as scheduled in the hope of a solution to the pandemic.

The best we can do is keep our web site and Facebook page regularly updated to keep you informed.

We were hoping that the current Winter and Spring would be less stressful and more calming than last years Spring and the disastrous Summer and Autumn – it does not appear to be getting better as yet. This virus will not disappear even with an effective antivirus solution in place. We have to accept social distancing, washing hands and wearing a mask as normal practice.

So back to creativity, here are a few gems from talented WAG members, past President Pam Berrell, Tony Walsh, Doreen Lyon, Tony Milroy, Betty Peachy, and Leanne Perry.

Pam reflects on her pandemic break: “It was interesting to come to my painting some time into the pandemic but I went to a friend’s farm for nearly four weeks at the start and picked quinces and made jam and paste... crocheted with string garlic and chilli bags to hang in kitchen... collected sheep bones in long walks to make my first sculpture... experimented with besan flour... handled fluent light and soft sheep fleeces as a ‘roust about’... collected plants, flowers, did some observation drawing and painting. All based in a small stone cottage, alone, on the farm, only the length of the driveway from the main house. How very calming... a wonderful awareness of the embracing quiet and the passage of time.” Pam



*‘Agapanthas’ a photo of a painting by Pam Berrell with props in the foreground.*

Below, Ceramic Artist Tony Walsh has been busy, as well as purchasing one of Roswitha Giersch’s excellent hand spun hats that will warm him through the remains of winter (and many to follow). Tony produced a ceramic picture of a Mt. Kosciuszko chalet from the 30s. With early European skiers. Created at the



kitchen table during lock down. Painted on a white earthenware clay tile with underglazes and clear glaze on top fired to 1,120°C. with lots of coffee, cake, patience and isolation. Cheers from Tony Walsh.



Doreen Lyon relates the following story over the past months in isolation:

“When I realised we were in for an enforced period at home I enrolled in an online workshop with ‘Fibre Arts Take Two’ and artist Tara Axford in mixed media. Titled ‘Inspired by Nature’, we received ideas and instructions by video and as print media and communicated via our own Facebook page. Tara is talented in many artforms so we have explored observations of our local area, photography, printmaking,



mono printing, collage and watercolour as mediums and artist books and book art in addition. It has been fun swapping examples and ideas with artists from across Australia as well as UK, Canada, New Zealand the Netherlands and

Arizona! I have discovered the fun and possibilities in collage and have attached one example of a rock in Thirlmere Lakes National Park!"

Kind regards  
Doreen

Tony Milroy has been very productive during the lockdown and supplied the following works.

"I don't know whether the fact that the Corona Lockdown came so close to the bush fires influenced my art, but I started drawing in charcoal, I've also included a painting in oil called Tempest!"

Regards  
Tony Milroy



Betty Peachy sent in a collection of the shires local birdlife as observed in her isolation.



Below, Leanne Perry sent in some of her work in isolation also featuring bold renditions of the pandemic plus her image of Mermaid Pools, Thanks Leanne.



## WHAT'S ON CREATIVE GET TOGETHERS, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS etc:

**WASTE TO ART  
2 DAY FREE WORKSHOP  
with Al Phemister  
Saturday 8th August  
& Sunday 9th August  
10am - 4pm**

**Wollondilly Community  
Nursery Wonga Rd, Picton**

Al Phemister works with people of all ages and abilities, encouraging their involvement – enabling them to bring out their inner creativity and finish with skills – artworks that they can take home and enjoy. Hone your creative skills and prepare your entry for the **Illuminate Waste to Art Exhibition** with prize money of \$2,600. Entries are open until Friday

28th August 2020. Visit the STA website for entry and further details. When: 28 Sept. to 2 Oct. Where: Old Post Office, Argyle St., Picton. For more information or to book your place contact Caitlan at Southern Tablelands Arts: 4823 4407 [ao@southernlandarts.com.au](mailto:ao@southernlandarts.com.au) <https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/home/events/waste-to-art-2020/>

### WAG Executive Committee

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#### 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>



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To submit an article please  
contact Rob Dalton  
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**"Life is short,  
Art is long."**  
*Hippocrates*