



Wollondilly Arts Group Inc

NEWS

Autumn 2020

COMING SOON
Ceramics
Workshop

OUR PRESIDENTS REPORT

Summer seems to have gone, a time not to rest and recuperate as anticipated but of great stress for many. Everybody in the Shire and surrounding areas were involved with the angst of fire, more fire, smoke and fear. For some of our Art Group, too close for comfort – we are so relieved to see you come out of it safely and with amazing stories to tell – I think some of our 2020 theme 'Perception' will evolve in powerful recalled images of the drama and colour and might of fire.

Our first Creative Get Together for 2020 was the second Saturday in February at which we spoke about our chosen theme for the year and how we as individuals see and respond. We did a still life exercise, in our own chosen media, and completed it in an hour. We then lay all work out and did a critique and discussion on each, based on how we see and respond when basically looking at the same thing. Hopefully this year we can take turns in doing short exercises within the group as part of our ongoing learning.

January, despite all the interaction with fire and smoke, included our Committee meeting at TAARA village hall which saw Marjorie Kay accept the Treasurer vacancy and Vice President Natalia Rudnicki include Secretary into her responsibilities. Also our theme for the year 'Perceptions' was selected. Els Dirickx as Project Manager of our Warragamba Project gave her progress report. The Country Art Support Program (CASP) grant update and Picton Precinct Project information was also included plus several mentions on other items of interest.

Edla Arzey and I attended an



Above, WAG members attend the successful Curating and Exhibition Workshop at The Campbelltown Arts Centre 20th February. See Natalia's review on page 2.

'Interested Peoples' invitation at a meeting with Council regarding the progress of the Architects plan for the Precinct Project. This was followed by us spending an hour over coffee at the Picton Bowling Club, putting together a requested response. We met again in early February for a follow up meeting with the Architect, again Edla and I returned to the Club to put forward another requested response. We await on behalf of WAG and other Shire creatives for further movement on this project.

In early February Natalia Rudnicki and I had our first meeting with Adam Porter at Campbelltown Arts Centre to set up our Curating and Exhibition workshop. The workshop was paid for by our successful CASP grant application. The workshop was held on 20th February at the Arts Centre and attended by 16 WAG

and other interested persons. I met with Tegan Clift of Community Links and Vickie Tierney from Wollondilly Shire Council to plan for International Women's Day on Friday 6th March. As in past years, WAG and other artists were invited to put up an Art Show. This communication with the community has been a great success at creating inter-action with many of the guests. Finally, on Friday 28th February, Doreen and Ben Lyon invited me to travel with them to the farewell celebration in Goulburn for Susan Conroy of Southern Tablelands Arts. Susan, over the past five years has used her role as Executive Director to great success. She has now moved to Lismore to continue aiding and supporting the art fraternity.

All the best for a good year ahead
Pam Berrell,
President, Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.

WAG VICE PRESIDENT NATALIA RUDNICKI REVIEWS 'CURATING AN EXHIBITION' WORKSHOP

On Thursday February 20th, 16 interested participants with many WAG members, gathered at Campbelltown Gallery for a workshop based on 'Curating an Exhibition', which was funded by a CASP Grant.

The day began with Adam Porter, Curator, giving all a short summary of what the day will entail. He then gave us a rundown of how the gallery works the different staff, their duties and how they all tie into the running of the gallery.

We then had a more detailed talk about curating an exhibition and how Adam performed his task of curator. Adam then introduced Hannah James as collections officer who discussed how the Fisher's Ghost Exhibition was put together from inception to the final showing.

The other members media, finance and tech staff were featured in short talks again relating to the Fisher's Ghost Exhibition, giving us all great continuity in the process' involved.

After morning tea we had Garry Jones, guest artist, speak about his work as an Artist and lecturer at Wollongong University and how his journey from making to exhibiting evolved. Khaled Sabsabi, Artist and the instrumental person behind the Illuminate projections also spoke about the methodology behind his art processes and exhibiting.

After lunch we split up into groups with Garry, Hannah, Khaled and Adam leading groups in discussion of why, how and what to do when putting together an exhibition. This was an enriching and inspiring session that tied all the previous knowledge together for the whole day. Adam kept the whole day on task and time.

Several members who attended this day found the need to start early in sourcing sponsors, artists, locations and volunteers a helpful suggestion

for our exhibitions.

One of the split sessions pooled ideas on creating an exhibition to explain the uniqueness of 'Wollondilly'. This could be a great project for future exhibitions and is similar to the 'collaborative' process WAG is embarking on with regards to Warragamba Dam.

Some other members also found inspiration in how individuals can go about planning their theme for a solo exhibition.

Everybody came away with a very positive experience.

From my perspective it was a highly successful day, creating new insights, new information and connections.

This workshop was a good matrix for preparation of the up coming Illuminate Exhibition.

Natalia Rudnicki

INTERNATIONAL WOMANS DAY IN WOLLONDILLY

WAG has in recent years taken part in IWD, putting together an art show which includes the work of local artists. This year we had thirty two entries and the art works attracted many of the women who came for breakfast, local invited speakers and enjoyable activities to browse and share in some art talk and enquiry.

The guest speakers were local very amazing women....Barbara Jolley, the 2020 Wollondilly citizen of the year, a paediatric nurse of many years and an active rural firefighter who spent endless days and very little sleep in the recent fires. Wendy Illistom also a rural fire fighter spent days and nights relentlessly working with her team in the rescue of injured and stranded animals in the bush. Who amongst those in the audience were not truly impressed and inspired.

Activities included: Message stones; badge making; henna tattoos; macrame key rings; making toiletries bags; taro readings; hand massage.

A happy morning for local ladies, those who visited and those who helped to organise and run it.



WAG MEMBER LOOSES HOUSE IN BALMORAL FIRE STORM

One of our members, Elizabeth Atkin, lost her house in the Balmoral Fire. Her White Waratah studio pictured overleaf was also damaged. Elizabeth's bushland surroundings were completely burnt out by the fire storm.

Many Wollondilly Arts Group members will have fond memories of a WAG Christmas Party and workshops in Elizabeth's studio.

Elizabeth is a social worker, educator, community development specialist and director of White Waratah Workshops, specialising in creative book binding and print making. Elizabeth has been working extremely hard since the fires as an advocate and representative for the people of Balmoral in negotiations with government on improving the future outcomes for Balmoral residents, if and when another fire disaster occurs.

Perhaps down the track we can help support Elizabeth in some way.

We send her our sincere regrets at the loss of her home and bush land environment.

Hopefully Elizabeth will get back into her art sooner than later.



Elizabeth Atkin's White Waratah Studio in better times.

CORONAVIRUS PLACES QUESTION MARK ON SCHEDULED AND FUTURE EVENTS

With the advent of the COVID-19 virus and in the knowledge it will eventually reach our Shire, we can no longer guarantee the timing nor venue for our Creative Get Togethers and Workshops. This includes the Ceramics Workshop planned for Saturday May 23rd.

The Creative Get Togethers are usually held at TAARA Retirement Village Hall the second Saturday of each month.

In question also is the Wollondilly Shire Illuminate Art Exhibition and Artisan Market scheduled for the middle of May.

All we (as a group) can achieve, is to carry on being creative and act as though all our creative events will occur as scheduled.

The best we can do is keep our web site and Facebook page updated regularly as to What's On at WAG to keep you informed.

We live in the hope that our Autumn and Winter will be less stressful and more calming than last years Spring and the disastrous Summer.



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

Wollondilly Arts Group Creative Get Together

**Saturday 14th March
TAARA Gardens Hall
25 Estonian Rd, Thirlmere
10.00pm – 1.00pm**

Please join us for creative endeavours, fun and chats. Work on your own project or be mentored by our established members. New members most welcome. Morning tea provided. \$3. Members, \$5 non members. Contact Pam: 4655 4510

WASTE TO ART 2 DAY FREE WORKSHOP with Al Phemister Saturday 21st March & Saturday 4th April 10am – 4pm Wollondilly Community Nursery Wonga Rd, Picton NSW

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. For more information or to book your place contact Caitlan at Southern Tablelands Arts: 4823 4407 ao@southerntablelandsarts.com.au or go to: <https://www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au/featured/waste-to-art-workshop/>

CERAMICS WORKSHOP Saturday 23rd May 9am - 4pm Venue: TAARA Gardens Retirement Village Hall

Presenter: Timm O'Regan
Ceramic Artist

The workshop will focus on hand building techniques. More information and details to follow on WAG web site and Facebook page.

WAG Executive Committee

President..... Pam Berrell
Vice President..... Natalia Rudnicki
Treasurer Marjorie Kay
Secretary..... Natalia Rudnicki
Publicity..... Natalia Rudnicki
Public Officer..... Janet Dalton
Website/Newsletter..... Rob Dalton

Ordinary Committee Members

Edla Arzey; Janet Dalton;
Rob Dalton; Doreen Lyon;
Betty Peachey; Julie Phillips;
Sue Southwood.

Visit Our Web Site!

Wollondilly Arts Group welcomes your feedback. Go to: 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



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“No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If they did, they would cease to be an artist”

Oscar Wilde