



Wollondilly Arts Group Inc

NEWS Autumn 2021

The WAG 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM will be held on **Sunday 23rd of May**, beginning with a

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE for FINANCIAL MEMBERS

This is a COVID SAFE event. at **The Historic Buxton School Of Arts & Community Hall** – **12:30pm until 3:30pm**. You can renew your membership [online](#) or download an application form. **You must be a financial member to vote.**

Please send your executive committee nominations via email to our Secretary, Janet Dalton.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

G'day Members and Friends. I hope you are all well as we progress through the fifth month of COVID 2021, another year of being different. WAG turns 17 this year – We would all like it to make 18 in 2022.

Picton Precinct Progress

WAG Vice President Edla Arzey, Secretary Janet Dalton and myself participated in two Zoom meetings (August and October 2020. Janet and I in another in April 2021) with representatives of Wollondilly Shire Council, their Architects and Town Planners. Obviously we are interested in their approach to the ARTS in Wollondilly and appreciate WAGs involvement and overview in the process.

The really good news is that the current library building will be converted into a Community Art Workshop and Gallery space. The not so good news is timing. It is currently last on the list for action with a completion date of 2030 – the new library building will



Our Ceramics Workshop: Six subjects and dishes ready for the final firing in Timm's kiln. Each one on the same theme – each one with its own character.

be completed then, nine years from now!

Comment

The current commitment to an ARTS space by the Shire Council is indeed a giant step in the acknowledgment of the importance of Creative ARTS in the Community.

WAG members will have use of the shared Community ARTS space and gallery in 2030. So, what do members do in the meantime?

We have made arrangements with the Buxton Community Association to use their **Historic Buxton School Of Arts & Community Hall** for which we are indeed grateful. The Hall is well lit, air conditioned with a well equipped kitchen. WAG are welcome to use the Hall as their home base. If used regularly our cost will be a gold coin donation per attendee, paid to the association monthly. If used occasionally by WAG the cost

will be \$12 per hour. The Hall is registered for COVID Safe events. With all this in mind, we can now hold more Creative Get Togethers and Workshops in relative comfort. Your thoughts on any or all the above would be appreciated.

WAG Creative Get Togethers will commence at the Buxton School of Arts Community Hall on Saturday July 10th from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

Why The ARTS are Important to Australia

In 2018 the creative ARTS made a major contribution to the Australian economy, employing 194,000 Australians and directly **contributing \$14.7 billion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. In fact, **the creative and performing ARTS employ four times as many people as coal mining** or the finance industry Australia wide.

In addition to their direct economic contribution, **the ARTS contribute to our happiness and mental health.** Related 'cultural and creative' activities are a part of industries as varied as manufacturing, sales, education, design and professional services.

The creative ARTS also make an outsized contribution to life in regional Australia, including making ARTS accessible for those in regional areas and providing regional creatives with access and exposure to larger markets.

“The provision of suitable, well-functioning arts infrastructure to support local arts and culture is (or should be) a major interest of any decision maker in a regional and rural area who wants vitality, growth and sustainability in their community.”

(Art reach, 'Buildings Matter' Rachel Vincent, Autumn 2006,6).

In 2004 a questionnaire was circulated stating WAGs vision for the ARTS in Wollondilly and our role within the community. Results indicated that having a dedicated ARTS facility was a highly desirable priority.

WAG incorporated in 2004 and had use of the Thirlmere Station Masters Cottage (The Old Whistle Stop Cafe) as a gallery and meeting place. We were removed from there when the contractors for the then State Government Multi Million Dollar TRAINWORKS project needed a site office. Since then WAG has been offered, accepted and moved at least four or more times over the past 17 years. Various State and Local politicians of all varieties, have indicated (usually just before elections) that the cavalry has arrived – it has never eventuated!

The group was offered Noonamena, (a small property near Bargo River Road in Tahmoor for a nominal rent by Council). The WAG committee decided that the property was too small for our needs of storage,



Our little friends and their dishes before colouring, after the first firing in the kiln.

working space and access.

There has been an identified need for a community arts venue in Wollondilly for the last 25 years. Prior to the formation of WAG other Art Groups had formed and disbanded (in particular 'Creative Arts Network' (CAN). It operated for approximately 5 years. The primary cause for their transience was the lack of a dedicated, accessible and affordable arts facility.

There is currently no suitable local Community owned facility dedicated for an ARTS venue where workshop equipment can be set up and left (e.g. screen printing, pottery & ceramics equipment, art materials, works in progress). **There is no dedicated Community Art Gallery Space in the Wollondilly Shire.**

I fail to understand why an alternative structure cannot be provided for use before 2030.

There maybe alternatives that the ARTS community are not being made aware of and can be utilised or allocated as a shared space. A lot can happen in 9 years, the probability of Council having a change of heart in that time is real.

Don't forget to join or renew your membership. Stay Safe,

Regards

Rob Dalton

Workshops

An Introduction to Ceramics with Timm O'Regan

The long delayed workshop at the Wollondilly Historical Society and Museum at the Oaks took place over two half days in April and May this year. We ended up with 6 attendees of the 12 on offer which seemed to be enough, judging by the pace Timm set. He is a very good teacher who took us through the now logical steps to produce the final product. Each step in construction was a lesson with the explanation of the question 'why?' being clear and concise. We are yet to see the final product due to Timm's tour of NSW schools during May and June. Thanks to Wollondilly Council for awarding the grant for this event, also to all the staff and volunteers at the Museum. Thanks also to Ingrida Spole who introduced Timm's talent to the group.

Smarter Photography with Very Smart Phones

Photography is an art that can be creatively satisfying. Most people possess a smart phone but have little idea how to use the camera and the features included. Southern Tablelands Arts (STA) think the workshop is a great idea as do the WAG committee. We are applying for a grant with Wollondilly Shire Council this month to host this workshop, hopefully with the award

winning professional photographer Hamish Ta-Mé. I attended a seminar/workshop in February organised by STA in which Hamish was the presenter as part of STAs Papparazzi project. He was most impressive as an educator. There should be around 10 to 15 attendees so if you are interested please [email me](#) with your intent. We will supply more information on Facebook and the WAG website if we are successful with the grant to obtain Hamish as a presenter.



WAGs Marjorie Kay launches her new book.

Congratulations to Marjorie who has been working on her book since the bushfires ripped through Balmoral almost claiming her house. Marjorie's book 'I Know a Safe Place' was inspired by the animals impacted by the bushfires. You can purchase the book 'I Know a Safe Place' at [her website](#) of the same name.

2021 ILLUMINATE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

is now scheduled for September. WAG has been asked to run the Art Exhibition and Artisan Market at the Shire Hall which will be fit for use around August. Council has indicated that prize money has this year's events will be substantially larger than the offerings of past years Exhibitions. Our thanks to Council!

Rotary Garden & Art

Trail is to go ahead on a Saturday in late October. Rotary need Expressions of Interest to join in. Rotary are looking at 5 gardens to visit. No charge for stall sites & you are free to sell of course.

Please contact Janet if you are interested in participating.

EXISTING MEMBER FEE DEFERMENT

(For members who have already paid 2020/21 or who were financial members in 2019/20). Due to a lack of activity as a result of COVID-19, it was agreed by the committee in 2020 that all membership fees for 2020/21 be deferred until April 2021. If a member paid for 2020/21, they do not have to pay fees for the WAG financial year 2021/22. The WAG financial year runs from April 1st., 2021, to March 31st., 2022.

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

The WAG 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Sunday 23rd of May
12:30pm until 3:30pm,
beginning with a**

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE for FINANCIAL MEMBERS and LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

A COVID Safe Event.

**at The Historic Buxton School
of Arts & Community Hall
(now fully air conditioned)
22 West Parade, Buxton
(parking available opposite the
hall near the rail line)**

Renew your membership [online](#) or download an application form. You must be a financial member to vote.

WAG Creative Get Togethers will commence at the Buxton School of Arts Community Hall 22 West Parade, Buxton

(parking available opposite the hall near the rail line)

Our theme this year is 'Perceptions' being a carry over from the lockdown period of 2020. Time to get ready for Illuminate and the WAG Member's Exhibition in November

WAG Executive Committee

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

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



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

or
email: Janet Dalton
dcre8ive@bigpond.net.au

**"Art washes away from the soul
the dust of everyday life"**

Pablo Picasso