



August 2015

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COMING EVENTS AND DATE CLAIMERS

- ◆ 18th August:
Daffodil Day
Morning Tea
- ◆ 29th August:
Escalators playing at
Kingstudio, Maclean.
More info:
kingstudio.com.au
- ◆ 8th October:
Brisbane Craft &
Quilt Fair bus trip

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Arty Facts Editor

Alison Merrin

ARTY FACTS

Newsletter of the Lower Clarence Arts and Crafts Association,
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Fine Artist Michael Taylor in his Studio at Kyogle sharing his working techniques during a recent bus tour organised by the art group.

President's Report General Meeting 14 August 2015 –Busy Bees

It has been two months since we met in a General meeting. The Executive held a short meeting to approve some new Members in July and we had a very enjoyable Exhibition wash-up discussion at the home of Allan and Evol King on 25 July. We all needed some time to re-gather after the frantic success of this year's Exhibition, but it is now time to send in the acquittal form to Council and look to the next items in the Association diary.

That isn't to say the Association has been asleep. We are in the middle of negotiations to bid for assistance from the Federal Government to improve the Old Tea Room building at the Showground in Maclean, in partnership with The Clarence Valley Council, the Show Society and the Maclean and District Pipe Band. We hope to create a space that is cool enough in summer and warm enough in winter and with sufficient light to make a year round resource for workshops and exhibitions and perhaps a resource library for arts and crafts.

In early August we were able to gather enough assistance from Members to have, not one, but two, working bees to clean out and tidy store rooms both at the Showground and at Ferry Park and to clear work away so the back display gallery could be painted. After that we reorganised and there is now a fresh look to the Gallery with jewellery stands glinting at the front and a spacious and welcoming back room.

This week the Art Group organised a bus trip (driven by our patron, Ian Tiley) to the Kyogle home and gallery of well known artist Michael Taylor and his wife Bett. Next Tuesday is Daffodil Day at the Patchwork & Quilters, you are all invited. And the embroiderers have organised the annual bus trip to the Brisbane Craft and Quilting Fair on 8 October, all invited, but you need to book your seat NOW. AND it is already time to think about your entry to the Phyllis Austin excellence award competition in November, this year being organised by Julie McKenzie. Remember you do not have to be an Exhibitor to enter and entries are welcomed from all our Members.

We are such busy bees....

Jenny Thomas

It is with great sadness we announce that four of our members have passed away recently, Winifred Wilmore-Gibson, Lesley Beale, Kath Goodrich and Betty Harris. Rest in peace

Creative Needlework

What a wonderfully successful Exhibition in July. Certainly the best yet. I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to all those wonderful ladies who helped me not only for the 3 days we were open to the public but days in advance of opening. I certainly could not have done it without you all.

Susan Porter had a wonderfully successful trip to the Koala Convention in Brisbane while the Exhibition was on but Sue will be back to our F/P group on Saturday 15th August.

We had so much positive feedback for all sections of the Exhibition it was very pleasing. The display of clothing depicting the Golden Years was enjoyed by all. Many comments about particular items that really stood alone, but overall, everyone loved it.

I wish to inform everyone I will not be getting involved in the 2016 Exhibition. I've been talking to various people about taking it on but to no avail as yet.

My reasons for not continuing are personal & I know I'll miss it after all the years I've built it up, but it's very necessary I stop now. I sincerely hope someone with a broad knowledge of Embroidery will pick up this section of the show, I recommend that 2-3 people share the job as it's a lot of work for just one person.

If I can offer any information, please contact me.

Pam Le Couteur. 66451766. (Evening)

Patchwork & Quilters

There were a large number of entries in the Patchwork & Quilting section of the Exhibition this year and congratulations go to all of our members who won prizes.

We have three new members who have joined Maclean Patchwork & Quilters. Welcome to Helen Granleese, Maxine Davidson & Veronica McCartin.

We had a Fibre Bowl workshop with Marion Brown on 1st August at the Tea Pavillion at the showground. It was a lovely creative day enjoyed by all with stunning results.

We have had several in house mono workshops. Colleen Brighton demonstrated machine embroidery using wash away solvy. This came in very handy for our Fibre Bowls.

Fay Farnham & Wilga Bolton demonstrated some older interesting techniques such as Seminole patchwork and using a pleater for an added dimension in patchwork.

Last week Liz Imrie gave us a very informative workshop on Colour.

Claudette Hough

Maclean Spinners and Weavers

Our exchange scarves etc. have now been sent to Perth and we will receive our own wool back early in October, hopefully structured into something beautiful.

Our members have been very pleased to have Evol join our group, also two visitors here on holiday for the winter have been coming, 1 from Victoria, a spinner and another from South Australia, a weaver.

Nita

ClayWorx

It is a very quiet hello from ClayWorx this month. Life is constantly rearranging our members this year.

We plan to put out some flyers by September, inviting people to come and join us:- It would include a project to start everyone off i.e. "A fun beach lady". Debbie Barnes and Tina best are working on a prototype which we hope will entice interest. We think the warmer will bring people out and about and looking for a creative activity.

Meanwhile some work is being done and we will have a new collection of works to show later in the year.

Debbie Barnes has had ye old gas kiln up and firing a couple of times with successful results so onwards we roll.

At the present we have a whole new batch of Aussie critters to fire with the addition of some new animals to show.

The future looks bright in spite of the ebb and flow of seasons and people.

Tina best

Contacts

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Ordinary members can join in too!

If you are a member of one of our Associated Groups, say a potter, an embroiderer, an artist, a spinner and weaver or a patchworker and quilter, you are a Member of this Association and entitled to participate in any of its activities that are not specially designated for exhibitors.

You can be as involved or uninvolved in assisting as you like, and you are still welcome to take advantage of the bus trips and fundraisers and other events that we hold from time to time. Our aim is to make this a wonderful Association for all of us, with many opportunities for support and companionship as well as skill development and fun.

With this in mind, for instance, each year we try to allocate funds to our craft and art groups to run workshops and exhibitions to encourage greater satisfaction for all our members in belonging to LCACA.

Community Art Space

Members can now take the initiative to encourage talented people in our local arts and crafts community to exhibit in our community art space in the Members' room. Conditions apply, and spaces need to be booked (see the notice on the wall above the calendar in the Office), but this is an opportunity for you to talent spot - including young people or Indigenous people you may know who need some exposure.

CELEBRATING LCACA'S JUBILEE YEAR

2016 is our fiftieth year as an Association.

We date our existence from April 1966 when our first Constitution was approved.

Members are invited to submit ideas as to how we might celebrate this important year.

Decisions to date:

- ◆ Proceed with an 8x8 competition in 2016 in conjunction with the Plunge festival in April
- ◆ Organise an afternoon High Tea for foundation and other early members in April in conjunction with the 8x8.
- ◆ Work with the Grafton Regional Gallery to exhibit through the year its complete collection of artworks from the LCACA, in two separate exhibitions
- ◆ Separately display a selection of these at the Council Chambers in Maclean
- ◆ With the GRG, conduct a curated three month Exhibition of art and craft by current LCACA members, using the theme of "Landscapes of the Lower Clarence".
- ◆ Adjust our publicity plan to create appropriate flyers and coverage for our Jubilee Year events.
- ◆ Create an historical display of photographs, reminiscences etc.
- ◆ Theme the Annual Exhibition in July to pick up the Jubilee year.

Even if you do nothing else in 2016 we would encourage you to prepare some work to be entered in the Grafton Regional Gallery exhibition of current LCACA members' works. It needs to be ready by mid April. Because this is a curated Exhibition there is no guarantee of hanging or display, but this is an unparalleled opportunity to try your hand at having your best work displayed in the respected GRG. Group leaders are asked to encourage as many entries as possible.

Art

Our bus tour to Fine Artist Michael Taylor's Studio and Gallery this week was a 'wonder full' experience. Michael guided us through his working techniques in his studio and graciously revealed his passion and inner thoughts that are worked into his paintings we saw in his gallery. A picturesque gallery set in beautiful gardens. Bett Taylor, Michael's wife provided a lovely home cooked morning tea and invited us to wander through their beautiful historic home which was a Station Masters cottage. Then Bett and lady friends laid a sumptuous spread for lunch, such a feast that she invited us to take some home with us. Michael gave good time to review some artworks that Pam, Barbara and Jenny took along. On the way home we had a few minutes to look at the Roxy Art Gallery in Kyogle. We thank our driver, Dr Ian Tiley for such a comfortable and enjoyable trip.

June Alexander

Publicity Report

It's been a welcome relief to have had a quiet month after all the work for the exhibition with just the artist of the month and Daffodil Day with the Maclean Patchwork & Quilters to publicise. The morning tea is next Tuesday and everybody is welcome to come along to the Uniting Church Hall, Maclean from 9.30 to 12.30.

Members who are due to be artist of the month are not getting their profiles to me, I continually have to chase people for this, it is very time consuming and frustrating. Artist of the month contracts will be updated to reflect the requirement of an artist statement prior to their application being accepted.

Alison Merrin

Get ready. Phyllis Austin is coming!

It's time to get your thinking cap on and focus on your exhibit for this year's Phyllis Austin entry. Details to follow

Maclean Picture Framing.

Annual Exhibition Sponsor,

Offers discount framing to all LCACA members

Ferry Park Gallery

Gallery Coordinators' Report

Barbara Briers, one of our very talented artists, has a wonderful display for artist of the month. There are many changes in the gallery after our working bee, with the tall jewellery cabinets together at the front. The back room is looking very spacious with the arrangement of the boxes in the centre which can accommodate at least four exhibitors. The newly painted walls give the room a fresh clean look and the main part of the gallery is our next challenge.

Sonia Stanton & Marcia Rutledge

Exhibiting members are reminded of their contractual commitment to donate one item per year for the monthly raffle. Sonia & Marcia are now organising the raffles. Thanks to Chris Snee for her help.

Sales trends at Ferry Park Gallery

Gloria has been doing some research to see whether we are increasing our sales from year to year, staying about the same, or losing ground. The good news is that the first six months of this year have showed a distinct increase in sales over the same period last year....

Visitor numbers for July

(2014) 4492 (2015) 4468

Exhibitor Representatives' Report

Congratulations to all who entered the 50th Annual Exhibition and a big Thank You to everyone who was able completed their contractual duties by working at the exhibition. Those who were unable to work at the exhibition are asked to give a day in lieu.

While it is 2 months since we had a meeting, members will notice that lots has been done at Ferry Park Gallery. Thank you to those members who helped to clear and clean the rear of the gallery, who cleaned out the storeroom, who organised the exhibition storage space at FPG, who reorganised the Showground store and who helped to "put the gallery back together." All in all an enormous amount of work was done and it shows!

What an exciting class Rhondella holds each Wednesday in the Community Art Space. This class breathes life into the gallery, with such an organised and keen group, proud of what they achieve with their tutor. It's what our association is all about!

With the exhibition over, members are reminded that the Phyllis Austin Award is fast approaching. This members' only award is for works of excellence and is open to all members of LCACA, not just exhibiting members. Thank you to Julie McKenzie who has taken on the role of curating the PAA.

Penny and Suz

In the last month, LCACA has lost two of its favourite stalwarts. Not only much-loved and admired in our organization, but both outstanding activists for our community and the natural environment. Both sadly missed by all.

Winifred Gibson, Ashby, passed away in July after a prolonged illness. Win was a competent sculptor and painter. During her time as the President of LCACA, Win's many and varying fundraising efforts were truly memorable - especially her popular Lamington drives. Win recognized the urgent need to build a healthy bank-balance if we were ever to attract Government grants to build an art/craft centre. Her energy and enthusiasm added greatly to our pleasure and success.

Kathleen Goodrich, Maclean, in her 97th year. Mid 1970's, Kath joined the Grafton Art Club hoping to learn to paint, and became the President there for many years in order to get that club up and running successfully. She became well recognized for her contribution to the arts in the Clarence Valley. In 1979, Kath returned to Maclean where she became an active member of LCACA. Naturally she was also an exhibiting and working artist in Ferry Park Gallery when it opened in 1993. Kath was a painter, but her forte was bark art. As well as bark paintings, Kath also made beautiful notebooks and compendiums with bark covers stitched with leather. Kath had been an Honorary Member of LCACA since 2003.

MEETING TIMES REMINDER

The General meetings of the LCACA are held on the second Friday of each month, at 9.30 am. All Members are welcome to attend and indeed - to meet our constitutional obligations - should try to attend at least three meetings a year.

Next general meeting: Friday 11th September