

BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL President's Report 2018

“70 and Online!”

Series of Farewells :

Sadly our year has seen the loss of several significant arts' initiators and supporters . **Jill Langston** who with former president husband Tom started the original Burnie Festival that subsequently “morphed” into *Burnie Shines in October* and **Dorothy Cunningham OAM**, the long serving joint secretary with husband Barry of the Burnie City Eisteddfod Society. In March our beloved Life Member and stalwart of our organisation for many, many years, **Joan Hiscutt** died in Penguin and young artist **Michael Hiller** son of Kit and Eric has his creative life cut short in December. On a national scale the world lost **Richard Gill OAM** Music Educator extraordinaire and we remember fondly the time he joined a “Q&A” session for us here in the Gallery.

Welcome:

On a brighter note January saw the introduction of Dawn Oelrich as our new Burnie Regional Art Gallery Director. Arriving here from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland with a lifetime involvement and great expertise as an arts administrator, curator and researcher, Dawn immediately endeared herself to us with her energy, enthusiasm and charisma as she set about setting and working towards her goals for BRAG. Janine Morris as Project Officer, has joined the stalwart team of Randolph, Mary and Brad to whom we offer our sincere thanks for their commitment and generosity as they perform their roles in the successful BRAG administration.

Administrative Changes:

In April we were invited to attend a meeting with Regional Arts Australia to explain our thoughts and needs post TRA disbandment and look at the larger national picture. On that day we also met the incoming National President from Hobart. In June Vice-President Lyndal attended a *Creative Partnerships Australia* in Hobart bringing back significant information and ideas. At an official occasion attended by Her Excellency Governor Kate Warner in November the Womens' Art Prize (formally *Material Girl Competition*) was launched. Subsequently it was announced that RANT (Kitty Taylor and Nathan Tucker) has been appointed to manage the Regional Arts Fund (previously handled by TRA and subsequently Arts Tas.)

Burnie City Council:

It was decided that BAC needed to be more pro-active in its contact with Burnie City Council so an application was made that the Executive be invited to present our Arts Case to the Aldermen at a Workshop Forum. Lead by the innovative Lyndal whose demonstration with mixed lollies will I'm sure be remembered by all in attendance, we put our case for the need to update the city's profile and potential as an Arts Centre. Whilst the response at the meeting was not overwhelming there were subsequent developments that were attuned to our pitch. At Rodney Greene's suggestion, Ten Days on the Island (TDOTI) was invited to assist with this mission resulting in a remarkable event at Burnie Arts and Function Centre as part of *Burnie Shines 2018*. Over 100 community members attended a Forum with Saul Eslake, Lindy Hume, Professor Kate Darian-Smith and Community Artist from MSW, Vic McEwan to discuss *The Place of Art in the Art of Place*. Follow – up discussions have been ongoing since as BAC, through Lyndal's expert management, have involved meetings in Ulverstone, Burnie and Wynyard. As I type TDOTI is organising another session as part of the 2019 Festival which will offer another opportunity to discuss that topic with more Festival artists and streamline a way forward with our original mission. (PS Whilst all this is happening we still continue a presence at the monthly public Council Meetings.)

“Not just Talking”

2018 was a *Paper on Skin*” year. A biennial event this outstanding Wearable Paper Art Competition held for the fourth time in June attracted international, interstate, Tasmanian and local entrants. Hosted by Burnie Regional Art Gallery with generous local sponsors (Betta Milk, Friends of the Gallery, Cocoon Designs, RACT ,Burnie City Council) enabling the event to reach the highest standards in design and artistry in this genre. Secretary Pam is to be congratulated for her continued vision and drive for its ongoing development as a unique Australian event.

Not to be outdone, our very busy Vice-President, Lyndal launched her own simultaneous Handmade Paper National Event. This involved the internationally renowned artist New York based *Aimee Lee* travelling to Burnie to conduct a paper making weekend of such significance that that places were limited to 15 (with a waiting list), cost \$250 per person and attracted artists from NZ, interstate, intrastate and our local paper artists. *Aimee Lee's* travel was supported by a Regional Arts Fund grant whilst UTAS Cradle Coast sponsored the Seminar/Workshop in its Creative Paper Studio as well as 2 nights of her accommodation. It was an outstanding success and added another layer to Burnie's reputation as a continuing Centre of Excellence for

Paper Making in the modern age.

A post script to this activity is the BCC sponsored trip to New Zealand for Jenny Cox and Lyndal plus Pam to witness the 2018 *World of Wearable Art*. It is New Zealand's single largest theatrical production where works created by designers from around the world are brought to life. Inspired by their experience we look forward to extending the scope of *POS* along new tangents.

Ikebana Workshop

Con Rhee initiated and researched a Saturday Workshop in November led by Susie Solomon from Sydney. Well supported and highly valued this event was praised for its excellence. 18 participants attended.

Helen Jones Memorial Bursary

Managed very efficiently by Treasurer Lyn with a healthy bank balance, the 2019 Award was made to Visual Artist Katelyn Geard who plans to develop her arts practice in Hobart and Europe. Prior to this announcement a report from 2018 winner Julia Parker was read outlining the significant experiences she had gained from her first year at Melbourne University. Owing to the unavailability of BRAG the annual Fundraising Concert was held in Burnie Baptist Church – a very appropriate venue given that it was Helen's spiritual home for all her years in Burnie. Whilst the income was down on previous years (crazy pre Christmas musical activity reduced performers) it was agreed the the venue is a lovely one for future music concerts and the Church Management has offered a warm welcome should we wish to use it again.

Celebrating 70 years!:

During the year much discussion took place as to how this milestone should be celebrated. Initially we had hoped to host soprano Emily Burke (Hugh's granddaughter) for an afternoon recital but ultimately that had to be put on hold -hopefully to be rescheduled for 2019. Instead we opted to share the TDOTI event on October 22nd by hosting a reception afterwards in the Theatre Foyer at which we not only acknowledged the birthday milestone but also farewelled and acknowledged our staunch arts supporter and Patron Alderman Sandra French who had been dubbed “Minister for the Arts” during her long years on Burnie City Council and many aligned committees. We wished her well as she moved to Scamander where she and Dexter had made a second home

Annual donations continue to the Burnie Eisteddfod Society (which incidentally is to be congratulated on the successful 51st event following the loss of its secretary) for the Under 18 Shakespearean Recital in memory of our dear friend Muriel Browning and \$100 each to support 4 students attending the Residential Summer String Camp for the first time.

Burnie Stringalong Programme continues to flourish. The weekly school sessions are complimented by extension work with the BSO (Burnie Stringalong Orchestra). The Conservatorium gave \$5000 to support our activities with the North West Christian School – monthly visits by esteemed teacher David Sanzone; the Dept. of Education allocated \$5000 to support the BSO activities and the five state schools all paid for their weekly instruction. Supported by a substantial grant from the Winfred Booth Trust (Launceston) of \$5,520 10 Burnie Stringalong Orchestra players attended the 2019 Residential Summer String Camp at Turners Beach. As always this experience fast tracks their playing skills ready for further extension this year.

The arts are thriving. At our monthly meetings we are kept abreast of Jazz events through stalwart Viktor; Burnie Concert Band (John Duncan) , Burnie Musical Society and Hellyer Choir (Lyn Smith), Domaur Productions (Doug Doherty) and Cradle Coast Orchestra. Whilst Con, Pam and Eleanor (current President of Friends of BRAG) inform us about the visual arts.

Sincere thanks to the hard working and dedicated Executive: Vice Pres. Lyndal , Sec. Pam, Treasurer Lyn and Noelene Hurkett who operates as our Social Convener. Other members who gather each month include Janine Morris when available and our newest members (enticed by the “subscription special offer “at the Birthday event), Stephanie Templeton and Christine Franks.

- **What's next?** The concept of setting up a Philanthropy Circle was initiated and some work commenced. It was ultimately sidelined as other events gathered momentum....”Work in Progress”
- Supporting TDOTI as it gathers pace for Festival 2019 in March.
- *And there will be more!*

2018 was significant in many ways.

Find us on the website and Facebook BAC is 70, alive and kicking!

www.burnieartscouncil.com

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to a very busy year.

Lynne Price (President)