

BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL
President's Report 2019
“Mustering Forces”

2019 has seen both activity over these 12 months as well as major preparations for events in 2020.

POS (Design Eye Creative *paper on skin*)

Now preparing for its fifth and biggest event yet, a specific committee was formed in March. Driven by Lyndal it includes: Kym Bywater, Rita Power, Scott Campbell, Russell Steers (BCC) and Secretary Pam. An allocation of \$10,000 by Burnie City Council (BCC) has enabled many extra components to be added to the whole event on June 19th. *Design Eye Creative* (Michael Canon) has become the Major Sponsor and naming rights partner for this event. Grant Wells Photo and En Vogue Modelling Academy will continue their involvement. A new partnership with North West Support Services allows *paper on skin* to provide an opportunity for an experienced technical and design team to mentor and train clients throughout the development and production of the event. Once again a “Papermaking Weekend” is an added extension to this major event, thanks to a successful *Artsbridge* (Arts Tas) funding application for Professor Mary Hark to come from Wisconsin for a weekend Papermaking workshop as well as a *RAF* grant - “Broadening Engagement and Building Partnerships” - for Mary to present a lunchtime lecture (in conjunction with UTAS) and free community workshop at BRAG on the Monday. The whole event encapsulates Burnie continuing as a City of Papermakers.

It is important to note that it became necessary to enter the world of online financial transactions to cater for the current system for transferring money both in and out of our accounts. Sincere thanks to Lyndal and Lyn (respectively) for driving and accommodating this change

UTAS

Whenever possible collaborations with UTAS Cradle Coast are welcomed. This year included the highly successful community event *Maker X* at which BAC had a very artistic stall. (thank you Pam) and plans are in hand for significant activity in conjunction with the *Take Off!* Tasmanian Paper Plane Festival project.

TDOTI Festival 2019 – Pursuit of Venus/Shorewell Presents

2019 saw the 10th *Ten Days on the Island Festival* with renowned Artistic Director Lindy Hume at the helm supported by CEO Jane Haley. A successful major change was initiated by labelling the event “10 days over 3 weekends”: Northwest/NorthEast/South enabling Festival followers to enjoy a few days recovery between each programme. Burnie hosted *The Pursuit of Venus* a major art installation at the APPM Building, *Shorewell Presents, Out of Chaos*, as well as regionally BighART'S ever popular *Acoustic Life of Sheds*. The Northwest Programme was apparently the most successful in terms of patronage.

BCC

Burnie City Council continues to support the arts in our community in its own way. The aforementioned \$10,000 allocated to the *paper on skin* event was fantastic news and we thank the Councillors most sincerely for that however the news that the Burnie Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) was to close for a winter period (announced without any consultation) was a considerable blow to the arts community. A letter of protest from BAC received a minimal reply from Mayor Kons – we hope the 2020 Gallery Programme will not be subject to what we see as a short-sighted measure. Members of the executive continue to attend the monthly meetings to ensure nothing else “passes under the radar”!

10th Anniversary of Mill Closure

Our October meeting was made aware of this significant event and acknowledged the fact that a substantial exhibition is planned for BRAG and the Regional Museum. During discussion we decided that it would be good if something “active” could be programmed too. Immediately the idea of a Paper Plane Project “flew in” and this concept has gathered momentum at an amazing rate.

BANK OF US/USEFUL IDEAS: “Take Off” PAPER PLANES

Almost simultaneously *the Bank of Us* announced a new programme to identify ideas from the community worthy of its' financial support. To be known as the *Bank of Useful Ideas*, the Bank Management set up a two-day community consultation process to which BAC was invited as a major organisation it wished to target. This highly successful event (which Lyndal, Scott and I attended) identified 5 key areas* of focus to which community bodies were invited to present submissions worthy of Bank of Us sponsorship.

Instantly Lyndal put together 3 wonderful ideas in an application, the main one being around the Paper Plane concept. We have since heard this was successful and \$10,000 in two instalments will support our activities. A separate committee has been established to plan and oversee the whole project to be known as *Take Off* which is gathering momentum at an amazing rate. Saturday May 9th is the date around which many activities will happen.

Scott's “Emerging Artists' Programme”

This time last year Scott Campbell (Contemporary Arts Research) appeared in our midst and since then has been an integral part of our organisation. As well as attending meetings when he is able Scott is on the *paper on skin* Organisation Committee and keeps us well informed with international trends in arts and culture. He opened his *Contemporary Arts Research Function Centre* on View Road as well as partnering with the Ben at Beach Hotel to curate the works of Emerging Artists. Two very successful exhibitions have been held to date.

Jenny Cox

It was with great regret that we learnt of the departure of Jenny (Pocket Rocket) Cox from the position she has held for 16 years as Burnie's Marketing and Events Coordinator. This remarkable woman who spearheaded endless exciting experiences for the whole community and supported many arts activities, resigned from Burnie City Council and, whilst we wanted to initiate a community farewell for her in recognition of the significant contribution she had made over those years, it was not her wish. (A letter in the Advocate had to suffice.) Jenny we thank you for your massive contribution to our Burnie community. We are very sorry to see you go and wish you well in the next chapter of your life.

BRAG

We continue to admire the work of Dawn Oelrich who is totally dedicated to her role as Manager of the Gallery. With her team (Randolf, Janine and Mary) our community is very well served by their combined leadership and expertise. The number of daytime and weekend workshops continue to expand, and attendances have risen substantially. **Friends of BRAG** under the presidency of Eleanor Austin have provided active support throughout the year.

New and exciting developments as the result of a Federal Government grant. are planned for the Gallery and Museum. Ultimately this will spread into the Civic Plaza space and be renamed as *NWMAG*. Very exciting times ahead!

HELEN JONES MEMORIAL BURSARY

Thanks to an unexpected donation of \$5,000 from a NSW couple who remembered Helen with great affection, this account is looking very healthy. The 2020 winner was announced at the Memorial Concert held this year at Burnie Uniting Church when \$1000 cheque was handed to Connor French. Already experienced as a dramatic performer and director, Connor aims to study further in this field. Significantly he was the winner of our Eisteddfod prize "*Under 18 Shakespearean Recital* which we donate in memory of Muriel Browning.

CRADLE COAST STRINGS OUTREACH PROGRAMME continues to thrive. Members are updated with developments in the Stringalong Programme and Burnie Stringalong Orchestra. 2019 saw the generous donation of a \$1600 $\frac{3}{4}$ Double Bass from *East Burnie Lions Club* and \$5,500 subsidy from the *Winifred Booth Trust Fund* to support 10 BSO players to attend the 30th Residential Summer String Camp in January. The management team (Leanne Raw, Josie Riches, Tony Moore and myself) welcomed Vanessa Abbott (late of Queensland) as a double bass tutor. Significant connections were also maintained with the TSO and Tasmanian Youth Orchestra.

On the wider community scene:

- Under Viktor's watchful eye and boundless energy, the Jazz genre continues to flourish.
- Hellyer Choir and Cradle Coast Orchestra had two successful collaborations – *Last Night of the Proms* and *Messiah*. The orchestra also joined forces with the Derwent Symphony Orchestra for a programme as part of the BAFC Subscription Season.
- DoMaur Productions under Doug's guidance continue to present us with many "different" drama experiences and the opportunities he gives young thespians in the area are very significant.
- Burnie Arts and Function Centre staff continue to serve us and the community exceptionally well and we are pleased to support their activities. It was a desire of ours to have opera singer Emily Burke (Hugh's granddaughter) perform for our 70th celebration last year and whilst this was not possible, we're delighted she is now in the 2020 Programme. Thank you to Ben, Karina, Kaye, Toni, Karen and Andrew for their continued interest in BAC activities.
- BAC continues to be a connector for classical ensembles wanting to work with our region (TSO and Van Diemen's Band particularly).
- **Our faithful band of members includes:**

John Duncan, on reaching the age of 90, retired as a playing member of Burnie Concert Band and CCO. We hope he will maintain his link with us (BAC). John was also recently awarded a Lifetime Service Award from the Burnie City Council at a special presentation.

- Thank you to everyone who happily supports our monthly meetings and project management.
- Hard working Vice-President Lyndal leads us often into unknown territory. Secretary Pam often keeps our feet on the ground whilst treasurer Lyn manages our finances with superb efficiency.

I appreciate the solid support I have received this year and look forward with enthusiasm to 2020.

Very best wishes Lynne Price (President) 15/2/20