

BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL President's Report 2016

Congratulations on another substantial year of arts activities for our Burnie community.

- *Paper on Skin III Friday June 3rd*

Thanks to Betta Milk sponsoring again (\$5000), and support from Burnie City Council (BCC) this was another great success both artistically and socially. Organiser Pam was joined by new member Lyndal and brother Stuart to add to the Thorne family team: they did a great job!. She acknowledges the wonderful support received from Geoff, Birgitta and Gallery staff through preparation and staging procedures. Pam is to be congratulated on her industry, commitment and endless vision for its future. A successful community grant application to BCC now gives us the opportunity to establish a *Paper on Skin* website aimed at spreading the word further for entries in 2018.

- *Michelangelo Exhibition*

Although not a BAC event several members assisted with volunteer support that enabled not only BRAG to make a substantial profit but also gain the award of "Community Event of the Year" at the 2016 Australia Day Awards.

- *Burnie City Eisteddfod*

Again we presented our *Muriel Browning Memorial Award* for the U18 Shakespearean Recital and many Stringalong ensembles as well as the Cradle Coast Orchestra competed in the Music Section.

- *Kaleidoscope in the Gallery*

Birgitta organised and curated another very successful primary schools' art event at which Romaine Park Primary Stringalong ensemble performed during the Opening.

- *Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra visit*

In addition to the full orchestra concert (*Baroque Favourites*) for which the orchestra management donated 15 free tickets for Stringalong players, the *Mini TSO* made very successful visits to Romaine Park Primary (RPP) and Parklands High Schools. The concert at RPP was presented to all classes whilst the PHS session comprised of sectional/instrumental workshops for SAL and Emusicians.

- *Webinar Workshop*

In August TRA officer Kitty Taylor conducted an internet workshop on the potential of this internet connectivity. Amongst others our newest member Lyndal attended and we have given her the responsibility of bringing us into the modern world! (I understand BAC now has a Facebook Page)

- *Helen Denise Jones Bursary*

All the administrative and legal requirements have now been finalised thanks to the Bursary Manager treasurer Lyn and we thank her for all her painstaking work for completion. A broad publicity net resulted in 5 applications for the second award and after interviews by the selection panel (Geoff Dobson, Susan McCarther and Robert Bentley), the 2017 winner was Nicholas von Bibra. He was presented with his \$500 from Bursary Fund plus another \$500 personal cheque from Helen at a very successful Fundraising Concert held on Nov. 27th the traditional HJ and Friends Christmas event date. \$630 was added to the Bursary Fund as a result of that concert.

- *Partnership with UTAS Conservatorium*

Peter Tanfield in his role as Outreach Co-ordinator continues to give great support to our community musical activities. Two orchestral workshop visits (including private lessons for violin students) plus a concert recital with pianist Shan Deng have all assisted with consolidation of our Cradle Coast orchestral scene. Peter donated the takings from the concert to BAC for SAL use.

- *Combined Derwent Symphony and Cradle Coast Orchestra concert.*

Included in the BAFC Subscription Programme and run under the BAC banner this event was an outstanding success both musically and socially. Plans are in place for a return visit by CCO in December 2017.

- *Waterlines*

In May TRA announced this major project and invited all branches to submit concepts for visual

artists to interpret the theme which was linked to a Tiwi Island activity involving water/liquid ideas. Our artists Pam and new member Janine Morris duly began the creative process which ultimately was accepted by the TRA selection panel, involved grants available to employ Stephanie Finn and film-maker Andy Del Vecchio a week long community workshop in the Plaza Arcade (as part of Burnie Shines 2016) and the construction of paper figure installation featured in *Waterlines Exhibition* in the Courtyard at TMAG. Congratulations to everyone involved. The installation and film are lasting legacies of this successful project.

- *Three Short Plays*

On Sunday September 25th BAC hosted and promoted this touring drama from “Arts on a Limb” at the UTAS Domestic Arts Building and whilst a clash with Hellyer Choir limited the audience to 20 (the venue has an intimate capacity anyway) all those present were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the quality of the plays and the outstanding performers.

- *Ten Days on the Island (TDITO)*

The future of TDITO post the 2017 Event is unknown owing to changed state funding allocations. Jane Haley (CEO) visited Burnie in December and met with BAC members Eleanor, Pam, Lyn, Viktor, Jo Shugg and myself to listen to our thoughts regarding future directions. We all felt it was very worthwhile and look forward to continuing discussions.

- *Youngs Vegie Shed*

Wendy continues to co-ordinate the wall Gallery space with school artworks from a variety of students. It is an extremely successful programme and the quality of the artwork is always impressive. A very worthwhile project.

- *Tasmanian Community Fund Grant Round 31*

The two year funding for the establishment of the Burnie Stringalong Orchestra has six months to go till it expires. The ensemble is now well established, receiving requests for public performances and held in high regard by the parents. Players' skill development is accelerated each year by attendance at the Annual Summer String Camp and once again BAC presented 4x\$100 to assist students with their first time attendance. A total of 13 members benefited from the extraordinary experience this programme offered.

- *Monthly reports*

At each meeting we are updated with news of activities in which members are involved: Jazz (Viktor), BRAG and Friends (Pam and Noelene), Burnie Concert Band (John), Hellyer Choir (Lyn), Cradle Coast Orchestra and Stringalong (Lynne), Coastal Art Group (Wendy, Eleanor) BCC meetings (Lyndal, Pam), general community arts activities (Janine, Pam)

It's been a busy year but one in which BAC has more than justified its existence. Thanks to Eleanor, Pam and Lyn for their executive roles and auditor Tony Moore for his continued interest in our affairs. It is important to recognise the invaluable support we receive from Geoff, Birgitta, Randolph and Mary at the Gallery. Always cheerful, encouraging and generous with their time and ideas our small but loyal band of committee members Viktor, Noelene, Lyndal, Wendy, Janine, John, Leonie,, Sandra (with Life Members Hugh and Joan always available for counsel) is able to maintain a vigorous and substantial profile for the arts in Burnie.

Sincere thanks to you all.

Post Script: Tasmanian Regional Arts

Towards the end of the year it became increasingly apparent that the survival of TRA was under substantial stress. We received regular briefings from Pam via organisational messages which were confirmed by Eleanor our resident Board member. We reluctantly support the inevitable action taken to close Tasmanian Regional Arts confident that ultimately a new body will emerge reshaped to serve our regional arts communities in a manner that can survive in the current and future funding landscapes.