



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre
Working Group Inc.
PO Box 398, Batemans Bay, NSW 2536

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

October 1 2007

Feasibility Study

Our major goal over the next six to nine months is to hire a consultant to undertake a Feasibility Study into the business case for a Performance and Exhibition Centre and, if a case does exist as we believe, how such a Centre might be established and operate.

This study, based on experience elsewhere, is estimated to cost around \$50,000. An application has now been made to the Commonwealth Government's Regional Partners Program for a grant of \$25,000. We believe that, with the letters of support from a number of our members and their organisations, and from Gary Nairn, Joanna Gash and Andrew Constance, as well as the contact we have had with the officials for the SE region, this application will be successful.

Also, following representation to the Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Council has agreed to give us a grant of \$5,000 for the Study. The grant is conditional upon our application being successful and Council has also indicated support by committing staff to assist with selecting the appropriate consultant, developing the brief of the feasibility study and the business modelling.

However you may have seen some comments in the local press about Council's discussion of the request. The mayor was said to have commented that the Centre was "off the radar"; this is merely repeating the fact that the Council itself is not planning to fund the building of such a centre for 15 to 20 years; a public/private partnership is obviously an option. Also mention was made of the proposed establishment of a Regional Cultural

Centre in Moruya. Our mission was only to establish a facility in Batemans Bay, for the residents of the Bay as there is no suitable venue. However, as the State Government has declared Batemans Bay to be a 'Major Regional Centre', it is reasonable to assume that as such, it may become a regional performance and exhibition centre.



Senator Brandis visit

You should all now be aware that Senator Brandis (Commonwealth Minister for the Arts), together with Joanna Gash, are scheduled to attend a morning tea on Friday 5th October at 10.00am at the Batemans Bay Community Centre.

The purpose of this function from our point of view is to show these two politicians how much the people in Batemans Bay feel the need for a Performance Centre. So the more people there the better; please make every effort to attend.



Fundraising

In order to conduct the Feasibility Study, even with the grants we hope to receive, we still need to raise around \$19,500 by the end of the year.

We are therefore having a major fund raising event on Saturday 17th November, 7pm, at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club. Called "One PerfEx Night", this will be an evening of food,

dance, variety show, raffles and auctions; dress will be Black and White.

For this event to be a success **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**

We would like all of you to not only attend but also with your friends put together a table of up to eight people; we are guaranteeing a great night. We'd also be grateful if you could assist in other ways, donating auction items, or assisting on the night. Please contact any of the Committee Members if you feel you can help.

The MC for the evening will be Allan Baptist. Allan was the person who worked to establish the case for the Major Performance Centre being built in Nowra, to get the Shoalhaven Council onside, and he was also involved with its final design. He is now in much demand around Australia from Councils and local groups seeking to establish such centres themselves. Luckily he is a "local" as he lives at Bawley Point; he has already been of assistance to us and has promised his further support.

Tax Deductibility

We have recently started the process of obtaining tax deductibility for donations to PerfEx.

To achieve this we have sent in an application to the Commonwealth Register of Cultural Organisations to be put on its list. This would result in the ATO automatically giving us that status.

In the literature put out by ROCO one example provided is of an organisation seeking to build a cultural centre; so our case must be considered quite strong (this is also the method by which St Cecilia Music Scholarships obtained its tax deductibility). (I must note though that Membership fees cannot be tax deductible, only donations.)



You will see below that one of our original Committee members, Joyleen Kitto, is no longer on the Committee. Joyleen, a past president of the Batemans Bay Arts and Crafts Association, was forced to resign for personal reasons. If you would like to become a Committee Member please contact me.

Hoping to see you at both the Morning Tea and "One PerfEx Night".

Jean Brewer
President



Our Committee consists of : -

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Please feel free to contact any of us if you would like to assist or have any questions.