



NEWSLETTER NO. 11

CHRISTMAS 2009

'BOREALIS BRASS' from Alaska!

Oh what a week it was!!!

The Borealis Brass musicians arrived in Sydney 8.30 in the morning on Tuesday 1st December and were driven down to Batemans Bay by our Treasurer Bob Kolderie. They were finally delivered to Bomaderry Station early on the morning of Monday 7th for a train journey to Sydney to perform a lunch time concert at St Andrews Cathedral.

The members of the group were Dr James Bicigo - trombone, Dr Karen Gustafson - trumpet, Jane Aspnes - horn (the founder of the group), Dr John Aspnes - tuba (and violin) and Hannah Johnston - trumpet.

MUSIC EVENTS

Official Reception

The official reception was held on Wednesday evening at the Hanging Rock Function Centre. Our guests were given a Welcome to Country by Loretta Parsons and a recital by local didgeridoo player Rod Slockee. Other words of welcome were given by Mayor Fergus Thompson, Shire Council General Manager Paul Anderson and our President Jean Brewer.

The musicians gave a brief taste of the music that would be played at the concert on the Friday and also played the world premier of a trumpet duet composed by Katia Tiutiunnik especially for the occasion .

A large number of local providers had donated wines, cheeses, fruit, sea food and other delicacies which the guests enjoyed after the formalities were over. These donors are listed below :-

Pearly Oyster Bar, Batemans Bay
8 Lunch Bar, Batemans Bay
Nori Heaven, Merimbula
ABC Cheese Factory, Central Tilba
South Coast Cheese, Bodalla
Clyde River Strawberries, Malua Bay
Bob & Barbara Day's Berries, Malua Bay
Elysium Wines, Mogo
Bawley Vale Wines, Bawley Point
Tilba Valley Wines

Lecture at the Wollongong University Access Centre

A small but appreciative audience enjoyed a lecture and recital on "The Role of Music in Conflict Resolution" given by both the members of Borealis Brass and Dr Katia Tiutiunnik on the afternoon of Thursday 3rd December. Excerpts were played from pieces which had been written specifically for this purpose and there was discussion on how music had successfully been used as therapies in prisons and schools for example.

Concert and Workshop at Batemans Bay High School

On Friday morning a group of around 30 music students from Batemans Bay High School, St Peter's Anglican College and Carroll College, Broulee attended a concert and workshop.

Again Borealis Brass played excerpts from a number of their concert pieces but they also engaged the whole audience (including music

teachers present) advising in ways in which brass and wind musicians can improve their posture and breathing to produce a better tone.

'Borealis in Australis' Concert

The final official public event was the concert at St Bernard's Church, Batehaven on Friday evening, 4th December.

Before an appreciative audience Borealis Brass and local composer and viola player Katia Tiutiunnik presented a delightful concert including a number of Katia's compositions.

The beautiful brass tones achieved by the quintet were enhanced by the acoustics available at the Church venue; this was especially the case for the spirituals played - "Shall we Gather at the River" (Walker), "Amen" (Damon) and "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" (Walker).

Katia gave a moving performance of her viola solo "White Night", and world premiers of her compositions "Out of the Depths" and "La Passion de Jehanne" (illustrating the suffering of Joan of Arc) were performed. The latter piece was based on her original piece "Jehanne" for viola and soprano which Katia had rearranged for trombone and violin specifically for this concert; John Aspnes showed his versatility by giving a virtuoso violin performance.

Other highlights of the concert were "The Bremen Town Musicians" (Bicigo) which in a combination of brass and voice told of the arrival of a donkey, dog and rooster in Bremen and their attempts to communicate, and the "Playford Dances" (Throop) based on five dance tunes originally published by John Playford in England in 1651.

This concert will be long remembered by all of those fortunate enough to attend.

SOCIAL EVENTS

If this was not enough the week was also full of social events.

On Wednesday morning the group were taken to Birdland to see the koalas and cuddle a wombat. After lunch at Catalina Golf Club they were driven to North Durras to see the wild kangaroos (none were found at Pebbly Beach).

On Saturday morning a visit to Moruya markets was followed by lunch at the Pickled Octopus restaurant at Tuross. Then on Sunday a wonderful trip to Nelligen by boat arranged by the Batemans Bay Coastal Patrol was followed by lunch at Baywaters Inn and a jamming jazz session with Peter Poole and his jazz group.

Finally for the whole period Borealis Brass were fed and watered when necessary by members of the PerfEx committee.

THANKS

A large number of individuals and organisations gave their time and/or other assistance to make this week the success it was; they are:

Dr Katia Tiutiunnik
Mayor Fergus Thomson
Coachhouse Marina Resort
Conway, Burrows & Hancock
TOSH Gallery & Café
Bay Post
Neil Simpson, Principal Bay High
Coastal Patrol Batemans Bay Division
Peter & Donna Poole
Howard Staples for the videos
US Embassy
Aboriginal Lands Council
Rod Slockee
Loretta Parsley
St Bernards & Fr Tom Thornton



ESC SUNSET COMMITTEE

Cultural Consultants Susan Conroy & Mandy Hillson, completed their consultation with the Shire's Art's communities to produce their 'Situation Analysis' and their findings will be presented in early February. However PerfEx had some concerns with the conduct of the consultancy and, considering the three years of considerable effort which has gone into PerfEx so far, we felt it important to write to the consultants before their analysis went any further. A written reply was received from Susan today:

Point 1 - The PerfEx Committee understood that neither the South Coast Music Society, nor the Batemans Bay Arts & Crafts Society had been personally interviewed and, since each has the largest membership in their genre in the Eurobodalla Shire, we were surprised at this. Susan Conroy advised that the South Coast Music Society had been invited to meet up with the consultants in October, but did not take up the offer. However, Susan was happy to extend another invitation and just yesterday, members of the South Coast Music Society met with Mandy, with a reported positive outcome from the meeting. At this point in time we do not know what the Arts & Crafts Society have arranged, although through PerfEx the opportunity has been made to them to contact Mandy Hillson.

Point 2 - PerfEx pointed out the scepticism from the Northern end of the Shire that we would be ignored culturally in comparison with Moruya, this feeling being further fuelled by the apparent lack of interviews. Susan made no specific response to this, probably because she felt it had been covered in Point 1.

Point 3 - PerfEx was concerned that at the public meetings, and in our own PerfEx interview, the consultants were working beyond their brief in asking totally uninitiated

attendees what sort of building was required, where it could be sited, etc. (The Situation Analysis is the report on the state of the current infrastructure and cultural organisations within the Eurobodalla Shire). Susan defended posing their questions on the basis of part of their brief :

- i) an evaluation of existing infrastructure and future requirements to support ongoing development of arts and cultural endeavours, inclusive of any refurbishment requirements or purpose built facilities, and
- ii) A strategic direction inclusive of recommendations for ESC staff and the Sunset Committee to progress the most appropriate course for the development of suitable facilities for performing and visual arts for the Shire.



Trusting this keeps you all informed of the PerfEx happenings since our last Newsletter. Thank you to all members who attended functions, assisted in any way or just simply because you have enough faith to continue to be financial members. Two members in particular, Judy Malonyay and Meredith Malcolm, have done fantastically during the Alaskan visit and we thank them sincerely. There are a few members whom I know have simply overlooked their membership renewals. If you think it might be you, just contact us, otherwise, I'm sure Bob will be reminding you in the New Year anyway!

On another note, I attended the local farewell to Joanna Gash recently. As you know Jo has been a huge supporter and advocate for PerfEx in the past. I wish her well in her new re-aligned electorate of Gilmore. Dr Mike Kelly will now be our Federal member and we look forward to getting to know him.

Finally, a big thank you to all PerfEx committee members for their tireless efforts,

especially during the recent Alaskan visit and to the partners who are often the unsung heroes when it comes to holding events.

Please feel free to contact any of us should you wish to discuss anything

On behalf of the committee, we wish you all a PerfExly Happy and safe Christmas with your friends and families and a PerfExly Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Jean Brewer and Dave Harding



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