



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre
Working Group Inc.

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NEWSLETTER NO. 18 APRIL 2012

Hello to all PerfEx members.

Although real progress on the Cultural Centre since our last Newsletter has been slow, we have held a film fundraising event, completed the Literary Awards and made progress in erecting a PerfEx Batemans Bay Happenings Board.

The PerfEx AGM was held earlier this month and was followed by a very worthwhile *Think Tank* at which members of PerfEx were able to put forward their views on the directions we should be taking.



Sunset Committees

In regard to Hanging Rock, earlier this month the Hanging Rock Management Committee made up of Council staff and Heads of Departments within Council decided that instead of completing the Hanging Rock Master Plan (the services of the Architects undertaking this work were dispensed with) a Feasibility Study taking 4 - 6 months will be undertaken which will address co-ordination, management and operational issues of the planned Hanging Rock complex.

Given that it takes time to write an Invitation to Tender document, which then has to go to the market place it is unlikely the Study will be completed much before the end of 2012.

It is worth noting that the Report to Council recommending the Feasibility Study makes specific mention that there will be sufficient space for a Performing Arts Centre at Hanging Rock; this had been always slightly in question. The current regime of Council and Councillors is still totally committed to providing a centre for Batemans Bay and Councillor Rob Pollock, our

Sunset Committees' Chairman, is very supportive.

Unfortunately Peter McLaughlin, who was the Director of Eurobodalla Shire's Community Well-being Department (which covered culture), has recently moved on to a Senior State Regional Director position (based in Batemans Bay); Peter was terrific to work with and very sympathetic to our cause. A new Cultural and Recreational position has been created but we are yet to meet the new officer, John Clague.

There has been progress on the Narooma and Moruya Cultural facilities. The Narooma School of Arts together with the Montague Arts and Crafts Society have produced a master plan to improve their visual art facilities which operate from the Kinema and the cottage behind it and they have recently created new gallery space. Council is committed only to the extent of assisting these groups with funding applications and advice. However it is acknowledged that this site does not offer any solutions for Narooma's performing arts, which is an on-going problem.

As far as Moruya goes Council has recently signed a 99 year lease for the RSL Hall with the Moruya RSL Sub-Branch of the RSL which, together with the already leased Mechanics institute and the Dr McKay Centre next door will give Moruya a cohesive arts precinct.

Architectural plans have been drawn up to link the RSL Hall and Mechanics Institute with a glass structure and new toilets are to be installed.



PerfEx Batemans Bay Literary awards

The PerfEx Literary Awards proved to be a very successful event. With promotion support from ABC radio South East, we received 43 entries to the Short Story Competition which had the theme of "Seaside". Entrants came from as far afield as Eden and Cooma. The entries were shortlisted to 10 stories and these were judged by Anna Valdinger from Harper Collins.

The winner of the major prize, a \$500 voucher donated by Brown Books, was Robin Trinca from Narooma with a story titled "The Last Boat" and she and the other four winners received their prizes at the Batemans Bay Seaside Carnivale in November. ABC radio recorded a reading of each of these 5 stories by local story teller Anna Jarrett and each of these readings was broadcast early in January.

At \$10 per entry income was \$430, which after expenses left us a little out of pocket. However the positive publicity and increased recognition were invaluable. PerfEx thanks all of those members who contributed to the event's success and in particular Ian Campbell from ABC radio and Lyn Brown of Brown Books. Our 2012 Literary Award is in the early stages of planning; more about this soon....



Film Night

In November a fund raising event was held in conjunction with Bay City Cinemas. Members of PerfEx and guests attended a showing of Woody Allen's film "A Midnight in Paris". Even those wary of Woody Allen's productions thoroughly enjoyed the movie.

Thanks are due to Meredith Malcolm and her assistants for organising a very successful event. The net profit for PerfEx was \$657.00. The raffle of generous donations of Loretta Parsley's painting and jewellery from Suzie Owens and Lora Groom is ongoing and will be drawn at our next film night.



Happenings Board

An initiative of Committee Member Judy Malonyay has been to have a "Happenings Board" installed in Batemans Bay on which cultural organisations can put up posters to advertise forthcoming events.

Initially discussions took place with Eurobodalla Shire Council staff about the possibility of having the board on a wall of the toilet facilities next to the Boatshed Café. In the end this option was found not to be feasible.

Over the last couple of months discussions have taken place with Village Centre management. As a result space on the wall adjacent to Noni B in the Bridge Plaza has been allocated for this purpose.

The Board will be behind sliding glass which will be lockable with permanent advertisers having keys and a reserved spot. The Batemans Bay "Woodies" have agreed to provide their services free to build the Board and 'All about Glass' is donating the glass, so the only cost to PerfEx will be for some of the materials – wood, runners and locks.



PerfEx 2012 AGM

The PerfEx AGM was held on April 3rd at 6.30pm at the Batemans Bay Community Centre. It was attended by Committee members and a number of ordinary members.

As of 31st December 2011 PerfEx had a membership of 78 and financial assets of \$21,640.55. However membership numbers are down at present as we changed our financial membership year to the end of December to coincide with our financial year. Renewal invitations went out too close to Christmas and as a result reminders have been sent to those members who did not re-join in the new year.

In addition we now have over 430 supporters who are members of the South Coast Music Society, St Cecilia Music Scholarships, the Batemans Bay Arts and Crafts Society, the Pastel Society and the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, all of which have given us in writing in principal membership support.

Unfortunately Judy Malonyay left our ranks as a Committee Member in February as she has other commitments this year. Judy was a person with lots of ideas and we will miss her contribution. All of the other Committee members were re-elected unopposed and Jean thanked her committee for their wonderful support and hard work over the year.



Think Tank

The reason for the gathering was to discuss our future direction; the role and activities we undertake and how we go about this.

Fundraising

Fundraising is of less importance now that PerfEx will not be actually constructing any building, although a balance of \$30,000 would be a good 'insurance policy' should we be asked by Council to contribute to a specific cultural design and inclusions for a Feasibility Study, when it would be advantageous for us to have input.

- A popular suggestion was for a function to cater for more middle-of-the-road tastes such as the Sydney Welsh Choir. This proposal had strong support within the gathering as a large amount of money could be fundraised for relatively little effort;
- It was also agreed that fairly regular film nights are fun, take little arrangement, boost our funds and keep PerfEx in people's minds,
- It was suggested that other community and cultural organizations might hold a function for us, donating their proceeds. (Attendee Grace Paleg kindly offered the entry donations from her 'Digressionists' exhibition already!)

Spreading the Net

Sponsorship of functions means that, as these awards are presented, participants in the event would experience an introduction to PerfEx and its aims and goals.

- It was agreed to make the 2011 Literary Awards an annual competition, to be launched again at the knit-in etc. Lyn Brown and Noreen

Ralston volunteered to be involved. (Robyn Edgar has since kindly offered her assistance);

- A photography prize (Margaret McClintock offered to approach a contact regarding this);
- An art prize;
- An award to St Cecilia Music Scholarships;
- Alternatively, be involved with the local school art and photography prizes,
- The committee should set a limit on the level of funds to be used this way.

Membership

The gathering agreed that Financial Membership is important to PerfEx although those present believed there is no need to have a membership drive. Nor should we offer additional benefits to members or incentives to join other than discount tickets to functions.

Lobbying activities

We should renew our relationships with arts organisations in the area, fostering those relationships to increase support for PerfEx.

- In this effort, Jean will address the Pastel Society along with Grace Paleg and a new approach should be made to the Arts & Crafts Society;
- Political lobbying at all levels will continue as the need arises and PerfEx continues to be involved on the Eurobodalla Shire Cultural Infrastructure Committee; so are well placed to offer advice to Council about the centre, its set up, the users and potential users etc.
- It was agreed that the Committee would try to find a patron for the organisation who will support our cause and raise interest and awareness.

Brochures:

- Volunteers agreed to place brochures at Monets, at the next South Coast Music Society concert, Grace Paleg's studio, all of the art galleries, banks, art supplies shops, etc.
- ACT Tourism should also be advised of our activities and perhaps supplied with brochures.

Seaside Carnivale:

- This issue should be considered by the Committee but there should be some way for PerfEx to be involved.

A photographic competition was strongly supported, perhaps as part of this event.

PerfEx support for the Arts

It is important for PerfEx to encourage and support the arts in Batemans Bay in order to bring cohesion and integration to the arts' bodies.



President's comments

There is no denying that PerfEx is in transition. Ever since we have had Council's backing our role has changed meaning that the need for us to madly fundraise for the Centre itself has all but disappeared; the construction funds will eventually come from grants from all levels of Government..

We no longer need to lobby Council to convince them of the need for a Performance and Exhibition centre; they are now committed to this. However, in my opinion, we need to keep supporting and promoting the Arts in Batemans Bay in an effort to bring cohesion and vitality to the arts community to show Council and the general populace that there are plenty of people who do care about the arts and who are in desperate need for cultural facilities which have so long been denied.

After our *Think Tank*, I think we all felt a renewed sense of vigour and enthusiasm and my huge thanks to all those members who participated!

All good wishes from
Jean and the Team

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Please feel free to contact any of us should you wish to discuss anything, have any ideas or suggestions. Don't forget to keep up to date at www.perfex.org.au

