



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre  
Working Group Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER NO. 21 AUGUST 2013

You are probably aware that our President, Jean Brewer, is currently travelling overseas; she and David are now in Canada. We expect them back sometime in late September and I will continue to act as President until Jean returns.

It has been a long time since we have sent you all a Newsletter, in fact six months. The reasons for this initially were to wait until after the Literary and Photographic awards presentations on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

However ten days before that the Council made its decision on the Hanging Rock development and a Performance and Exhibition Centre was not included. This was something of a shock to us all given that the Council had agreed previously that the need for a Cultural Centre in Batemans Bay was a high priority. So I have waited until I had a feel for where the Council is heading before sending out this Newsletter. This was delayed because of the arrival of the new Council General Manager, Dr Catherine Dale. She has been extremely busy settling in and I was not able to meet her until last week. The results of that meeting are covered below.

In May we held the announcements of the winners of both the Literary and Photography Awards and the presentation of their prizes.



### PerfEx Literary Awards

The awards presentation was held in the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Soldiers Club and an audience of around 140 turned up. Ian Campbell from ABC radio acted as MC and the awards were presented by Judy Thomson, one of the local judges; the other local judge, Joy Hooton, was unfortunately away.

From the total of 80 entries these judges shortlisted 12 which were forwarded to the final decision maker, Catherine Milne, from Harper Collins Publishers. In the end, because of the quality of the entries, it was decided to provide each of the short listed entrants who did not receive one of the top 7 awards with a small prize.

The subject of the story was "Memoirs" and the results were:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gillian Macnamara	<i>The Present</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Erica Woolgar	<i>Christmas at Sayers Gully</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Suzie Sarah	<i>Gift of a girl</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Judith Turner	<i>She died with her Teeth in</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Robyn McPherson	<i>The Suit</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Leonard Hegh	<i>Sunday 1975</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Clare Cavenagh	<i>Snapshots From a Time Past- European Style</i>

The remaining entries on the short list were:

Zelma Collier	<i>The Manuals Memoirs</i>
John Maneschi	<i>Towards a New Life</i>
Diana Harley	<i>"Fish 'n chip" Memoirs</i>
Rosalie Toth	<i>Overnight</i>
James Wansey	<i>Abington</i>

A special encouragement award was also made to a young girl, London-Rose Fisher, for her story *My Memoir*. PerfEx intends to publish a book containing the winning entries.

Following the presentations author Bill Gammage gave a very interesting talk based on his book "The Biggest Estate on Earth" which covers the history of indigenous life in Australia.

Sponsors, donors and supporters of the Awards were:

The Village Centre,  
Eurobodalla Shire Council,  
River of Art, Monika McInerny,  
Hooked on Books & ABC Centre– Felicity and Mark Collins,  
ABC Books,  
ABC radio, Ian Campbell,  
ABC radio reader, Anna Jarrett,  
Members of U3A  
Eurobodalla Adult Ed,  
Harper Collins Publishers,  
Allen & Unwin Publishers,  
The Bay Post, and  
Excell Print.

A large number of people were involved in the organisation of the competition but special mention goes to PerfEx Committee member Lyn Brown for her enormous efforts in ensuring that the whole event was an enormous success.



### PerfEx Photography Awards

The presentation of the PerfEx Photography Awards was held in the afternoon at the Village Centre, the theme for the competition being "Music". There were 44 entries with a wide range of interpretations of this topic.

PerfEx Committee member Jan Draper, who organised the competition and presentation, arranged with Village Centre management for us to use an empty shop for the week before the presentation to allow the general public to view the entries. The

Eurobodalla Photographic Club provided the required panels and some of its members arranged the hanging and display of the photographs. The judge was Bianca Dopson, a local professional photographer, and she and Di Gee also gave valuable assistance to Jan leading up to the presentation day.

The winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Graham Small	<i>Tools of Trade</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Kylie Verdouw	<i>Musicians own Music</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ray Sillett	<i>Kettle Busking</i>

People's Choice:

Joachim Straub      *The Sound of Gentle Surf*

Again there is a long list of organisations that supported the event with prizes, donations and assistance:

Harvey Norman,  
Frame Fast,  
Excell Print,  
Moruya Photographics  
Gifts on the Bay,  
Ella Bache,  
Bay Office Supplies,  
Batehaven Chemist and  
Batehaven Newsagency.



### Meeting with Council

Last Thursday I had a meeting with Mayor Lindsay Brown, Cr Rob Pollock and Council General Manager Dr Catherine Dale. Overall it was positive.

The Council intends to proceed with a Batemans Bay Cultural Centre and the two possible locations are the Community Centre precinct and the Bowling Club land. The Community Centre land will definitely be sold and the Centre demolished and relocated.

The first decision to be taken is the Cultural Centre location. Rob Pollock, without any dissent from Lindsay or Catherine, stated that if the Bowling Club land is chosen the Bowling Club building is not suitable and would have to be demolished, a view with which we heartily agree. However a negative aspect is, as always, how quickly the Council staff will progress the required analysis.

A second positive is that Catherine stated she is personally very supportive of the arts. Later she told me that she has a BA degree in Music and is on the Board of Directors of Montsalvat, an artist, music and craft retreat in Eltham, Melbourne, founded originally in the thirties. Her predecessor, Paul Anderson, was also supportive of our goals so it is good that this will continue.

I will write to her this week thanking her for the opportunity to explain the PerfEx objectives and will also ask whether in her management role she can ensure the Batemans Bay cultural needs remain a priority in the Council's forward plans.

Dave Harding  
Vice President  
13/08/2013

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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](http://www.perfex.org.au)*