



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre
Working Group Inc.

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NEWSLETTER NO. 23 MARCH 2015

A long time coming, but a Newsletter at last with a positive feel to boot!



Update from President Jeannie Brewer

It's been an extremely quiet year on the PerfEx social front, largely because my own life has been so full, with little time for my community organizations. However, in September last year, a chance encounter between member Geraldine Currie and her neighbor, got the PerfEx blood stirring in its veins again! This neighbor, David McLachlan has recently purchased the Lincoln Downs Motel which he is refurbishing. David has a long list of credentials, importantly to us, in the entertainments' business. He had been chatting with the Chamber of Commerce people and essentially, as it turns out, we all have the same common goal; to see Council purchase the Bowling Club for the Community and within this, incorporate a Performing Arts' Centre.

The consensus within our lobby group (which I have become a part of), is the suggestion to a cash-strapped Council, to purchase the site with a view to later refurbishment, as Grants become available. It is in a fabulous position, at the entrance to town; the gateway to the Shire. The whole place could be utilized by locals and tourists alike, incorporating many community facilities which could be relocated and will include a gallery too. I am not going to elaborate too much more at this stage, but I understand this will be in the public arena very soon.

Since September, I have had several meetings with David, Allan Rutherford, President of the Chamber of Commerce, business man and Supporter Dominic McClelland and last month, Allan and I had an informal meeting with the Council General Manager, Dr Catherine Dale and Mayor Lindsay Brown. They are still keen to act on the Bowling Club, but are incredibly cautious about spending too much of ratepayers' money. This last meeting was a hurried one in response to the proposed expenditure of \$2.5m on the extension of the Moruya Library (partly funded by the increased Rate Variation).

When Dave Harding and I were on the Infrastructure Sunset Committee, the findings were that the towns which had priority were Batemans Bay and Narooma when it came to improving the Arts' facilities and the fact that Moruya is jumping in ahead, was quite upsetting. We are assured that the facilities are definitely needed in Moruya as meeting rooms, etc, but it is still a lot of money to spend.

As we speak, members of our group are putting together a business plan for Council to show that what we plan can be viable, (which is more than a Moruya Library extension will be). We can't

help feeling a little cold-shouldered. I am however, consoled by the fact that the General Manager and Mayor have the goodwill to help us.

As far as a Performing Arts Centre goes, David MacLachlan has ideas for a 'box' style multi-use theatre which can be adapted to cater for as many different needs as possible. These days, seating and stages can be moveable and acoustics can be catered for with different building materials, even fabrics, and electronically. PerfEx' role will be to ensure that the arts are catered for to the best level possible with the funds available.



PerfEx Awards and Sponsorships

In November last year, at the St Cecilia Music Scholarships Concert, we presented our second \$100 Merit Award to an incredibly talented young drummer, Ike Reid who made the walls of the St Bernard's Church vibrate like they never had before! We're sure that Ike will go far! Once again, it was a wonderful concert and I'm so proud to be part of that organization. This year is our 20th Anniversary, so make sure you put Sunday 22nd November in your diaries.

As a result of this concert, and particularly because of Ike, PerfEx members Marion and Henk Roubos-Bennett (Marion is the co-ordinator of the wonderful Batemans Bay Writers' Festival), approached PerfEx to offer a \$250 sponsorship to a young musician at the next concert. This will enable PerfEx to increase its donation. Marion and Henk support all the arts and their PerfEx donation may go to support a young artiste in a different field of the arts next year. Naturally, we are very grateful to Marion and Henk and thank them publicly here and now.

Also note in your diary The 2015 Batemans Bay Writers' Festival to be held on the long weekend of June this year. We are so very fortunate to have this event in our town! When I attended last year, I had to keep pinching myself to remind me that this was actually happening in the Bay!

At our last week's PerfEx meeting, we agreed to make a \$100 Photographic Award through the Eurobodalla Photographic Society. We are grateful to Committee member Jan Draper for organizing this.

Such Awards keep us in the public arena and we like to support the Arts. If other groups want to approach us, we would be happy to hear from you.



Christmas Drinks in February and New members

After our meeting last Monday 23rd at my place, almost 20 people gathered for very belated Christmas /New Year drinks and nibbles. It was lovely to welcome so many of you and to mingle with like-minded people. It was also a great opportunity to meet fellow members. Thank you to all those who brought a bottle! We gained two new financial members from our get-together and warmly welcome them. Sue Mackenzie many of you may know through her literary classes with U3A. (Sue critiqued our publication *Memoirs from the Bay* for U3A last year). She was also an art teacher in a former life. The other new member is Helen Maxwell, an Art Curator who is new to the area, having moved to South Durras. Helen ran her own gallery in Braddon, ACT for 20 years. PerfEx welcomes both of you to the organization.

Belatedly, I'd also like to welcome member Rosanna McClifty who joined our organization during last year. Rosanna is one of the most enthusiastic people you will ever meet; a ball of energy. Many of you may know her from her Hairdressing Salon, golf, line dancing....The list goes on! Thank you Rosanna for supporting us.



AGM

This is booked to take place at 2.00pm on Friday 29th May at my place, 2 Smugglers Cove, Lilli Pill and all are welcome. Due to lack of man power, PerfEx is no longer fundraising per se or running social events, but if any of you feels so inclined, to enhance our public profile, or increase our funds, please feel free to contact any of the Committee listed.



Membership Renewals

There are still some outstanding renewals for Membership for 2015 (due 31/12/14). If you haven't paid, I can guarantee you'll be hearing from Treasurer Bob Kolderie! If you still need to get up-to-date, you can direct deposit into our IMB account and only need to fill in a Renewal Form if any of your contact details have changed. Renewal Forms can be downloaded from www.perfex.org.au and the bank details are as follows:

PerfEx
BSB 641 800
Account 2004 62452
Reference - please quote your surname

It's still \$20 for a single and \$30 for family membership

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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