



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre
Working Group Inc.

PO Box 398, Batemans Bay, NSW 2536
www.perfex.org.au • info@perfex.org.au

NEWSLETTER NO. 25 MAY 2016



Dear PerfEx Members and supporters

Over the past several years PerfEx has put all of its efforts into convincing the Eurobodalla Shire Council to purchase the Batemans Bay Bowling Club. By now you will have heard the great news that on Friday 29th April the purchase went through. It has been a tortuous journey but high praise is now due to our Council for finally getting the deal over the line.

I'd like to acknowledge and give huge thanks to colleagues, in particular, David Maclachlan (Tourism and Arts) and Allan Rutherford (Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce President) for their support and hard work over the last few months. We could never have achieved this on our own.

Below are the two articles announcing the purchase which appeared in Friday's Bay Post online:

<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/3878459/shire-buys-bay-bowling-site-for-27m/>

<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/3878641/thumbs-up-for-bowling-club-sale/>

You will note in the second article that Council plans to include most of what our activist group has been suggesting (I'm not sure where the 'cinema' idea sprang from although I recall that this was mentioned by a Council planner several years ago before even the Hanging Rock plans were developed). The sporting field at Mackay Park is to be integrated into the precinct, **so when it comes to any public meetings it is essential that we ensure that the Arts are promoted. Also, Council is seeking Expressions of Interest, so it is essential that the Community is part of this consultation and that we are not a victim of 'big business'**

Council elections are coming up in September and I strongly recommend that you vote for those candidates who support and defend our cause as a strong voice within Council is essential.



BATEMANS BAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

On another positive note, and how I am loving reporting positivity, we have an absolutely fantastic Marketer on board by the name of Vanessa Hurst, a member of Batemans Bay Arts and Crafts (BBACS).

Vanessa's background is in graphic design and marketing and before arriving in the Bay two years ago was very successful in promoting tourism in the Hay Shire. Not knowing the PerfEx history she had drawn up BBACS's own proposal for the Bowling Club site. Over the past few years BBACS has been lobbying for their own gallery. Once I met Vanessa, and she told me there was a new sense of direction within their organisation, I knew we had to work together.

Vanessa met with Dave Harding, Noreen Ralston-Birchall, (a past President of BBACS) and Sue Mackenzie, our new Secretary, and me. We were all very impressed with Vanessa's obvious ability and her written Proposal which is presented in a Council friendly format.

The upshot is that Vanessa went back to BBACS with the idea of us working together. BBACS Members agreed to this whole heartedly, for which I am exceedingly grateful! Currently Vanessa, Sue and I are incorporating our own Proposal into Vanessa's. We hope that it will be as professional as possible and cover what we believe would 'best fit' the Bowling Club site from an Arts, Tourism and Community aspect (by the way Vanessa has already joined PerfEx as a Member).



SHIRE ARTS FORUM

The Shire Arts Forum was held on Wednesday 16th March at the RSL Hall in Moruya and present were about 50 members of the Arts' community from across the Shire. It was an inspiring day and wonderful to be surrounded by like-minded people. This was the day I first met Vanessa.

The main purpose of the gathering was to provide input into the next Eurobodalla Shire Cultural Plan but it also provided an opportunity for most of us to meet Indi Carmichael, the Shire's new Arts' Co-ordinator, for the first time. Vanessa and I have since had coffee with her and I'm thrilled to say that she lives in Batehaven and one of her daughters is in a Bay Players' Production! She is also full of enthusiasm for her new job.



AGM

The PerfEx 2016 AGM was held on 21st March, which seems ages ago now. I did mention that we have a new Secretary in Sue Mackenzie and I welcome her with open arms. Sue replaced Carmel Brophy who resigned from the Committee after eight years and I'd like to extend warm thanks to Carmel for her work over that

time. Peter Boys has also stepped down from the Committee due to ill health. We don't need to miss Peter and his insightful ideas as a decision was made to hold open meetings from now on. All PerfEx members can attend so we get to catch up with Peter anyway. The Committee Members are listed at the end of the Newsletter and I thank all of those who are standing again.

The AGM was a full and lively meeting. One outcome was a decision to make a renewed effort to gather in the Arts' organisations once more. We planned to send out a questionnaire which Sue Mackenzie, Julie Stuart (President of the South Coast Music Society) and I were to work on. This has been somewhat superseded as Vanessa Hurst had enlisted some supporters from the Library to do a similar thing. So rather than double up, we are leaving it to these marvellous people for the time being.



GRACE PALEG'S DIGRESSIONIST'S AWARD

As you know PerfEx Members Marion Roubos-Bennett (co-ordinator of the Batemans Bay Writers' Festival) and her ever supportive husband Henk, already fund a \$200 PerfEx Award which is presented at the St Cecilia Music Scholarships Concert. Their desire was also to very generously support a young visual artist. I immediately thought of my dear friend, pastel artist Grace Paleg, and her student class.

Every year Grace hosts an exhibition for her students called 'The Digressionists'. So this year, for the first time, an award will be made on the evening of the launch of her exhibition, which is timed to coincide with the opening of the 2016 *River of Art*. We are delighted that Indi Carmichael has accepted the invitation to open the Exhibition. Opposite is a flyer with details of the event. We'd love to see you there at what is always a fun evening.



RIVER OF ART 2016

This is the link to this year's River of Art and congratulations to all the organisers for their hard work. There is an extremely full program on offer.

<http://www.riverofart.com.au/>

Don't forget the launch of the Batemans Bay Writers' Festival during the *River of Art* week in the Rockwall Brasserie at the Coachhouse Marina Resort, Friday 27th May @ 5.30pm. The link below will take you to free tickets for the event.

<http://batemansbaywritersfestival.com/>

Marion Roubos-Bennett works all year round to bring this significant event to Batemans Bay. Although the actual festival is not until September, the launch is a great way of showing your support.

Til next time,
Jeannie Brewer and the PerfEx Committee

The Digressionists 2016



You are cordially invited to
An exhibition of the Students
of Grace Paleg

As part of the River of Art
Friday 20th until Sun 29th May

@ **The Grace Paleg Fine Art Studio Gallery**
40 Tasman St, Surf Beach

To be opened by

Indira Carmichael

Eurobodalla Shire Council
Co-ordinator of Arts and Culture

Friday 20th May at 6.30pm

President of Perfex, Jeannie Brewer will present
The Perfex Encouragement Award to a Digressionist
student who exhibits special enthusiasm
and artistic talent

Jeannie Brewer (President)

0407105790

jeanniep.brewer@gmail.com

Dave Harding (Vice-President)

Ph 4472 5668

dave.harding@tpg.com.au

Sue Mackenzie (Secretary)

Ph 4472 9259

sumac@aapt.net.au

Bob Kolderie (Treasurer/Public Officer)

Ph 0421981575

bobvalgold@gmail.com

Noreen Ralston Birchall (Committee Member)

0408996896

nralston-birchall@hotmail.com

Jan Draper (Committee Member)

44712092

pauljan@bigpond.com

Dougie Bindon-Howell (Committee member)

Ph 0404839426

rdbindonhowell@netspace.net.au