



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre
Working Group Inc.

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NEWSLETTER NO. 27 MARCH 2017

Dear PerfEx Members and Supporters

January this year marked the 10th Anniversary since the Incorporation of PerfEx. When I look back, I can't believe that we were naïve enough then to believe that within five, maybe seven years it would be done and dusted....

It's been many months since we comprehensively updated you on our progress, so this Newsletter attempts to rectify that situation.



Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct Sunset Committee

Since the purchase last May of the Batemans Bay Bowling Club, you will remember that we made very comprehensive submissions to Council both for interim use of the facility by the arts groups. We included relocating the Visitor Information Centre to the site, as it's perfect (and already being used) for long vehicle parking! At the same time, Council called for preliminary expressions of interest from the private sector for developing the site to possibly include a new aquatic centre, an arts cultural facility, conference and event space, tourism accommodation, restaurant and cafes, seniors' living and the integration of existing sporting fields. Four expressions were received which gave Council the confidence to further pursue outside interest.

In July, Council resolved to call for submissions for Community Representatives to be on a Sunset Committee to assist Council in the planning for

redevelopment of the precinct. The Terms of Reference are as follows:

1. Assist Eurobodalla Shire Council with the investigation of opportunities for the development of the precinct.
2. Develop and oversee the community engagement process during the investigation of opportunities for the development of the Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct.

PerfEx applied for two of the nine community seats on this committee. We were only allowed one, but have an alternate member if one of us is away. I am the primary member and Secretary, Sue Mackenzie my alternate.

Our first meeting was held on 2nd November and it is worth noting that Council has modified its suggested inclusions for the site to incorporate a Gateway Visitor Centre, which emanated from our submission! This is important as it is an acknowledgment that arts, culture and tourism go hand in hand and can enhance one another, in fact are vital for the survival of both.

At our meeting on 2nd November, Jeff Morgan, ESC Divisional Manager Strategic Services who is in charge of the project informed us that the funding of the redevelopment would be sought by Council from three sources: 1. Grants; 2. Public Private Partnership; 3. A mix of options. A full report was given to the Council meeting of 22nd November which can be viewed at <http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/meetings/2016/november/ordinary-council-meeting-22-november-2016/Agenda-Public-22-November-2016.pdf>

In January this year, Council contracted Otium Planning Group to prepare the concept plan and business case. David Mason from this organisation, interviewed Sunset Committee

members, including both Sue and me. Independently, however, we both felt that the Aquatic Centre was taking priority, but were not aware of the brief that the consultants had been given. We understand that the pool is the number one in the popularity and necessity stakes, but we are definitely making sure that our own needs are not sidelined. We look forward with interest to the next meeting of the Sunset Committee (date to be announced, but should be March) when we will be presented with a concept plan .

Also, In January, O'Connor Marsden were contracted to provide probity advice and Council has also been pursuing funding through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

Of concern is the written and spoken emphasis on a **financially sustainable development** when we all know that both swimming pools and arts cultural facilities are not normally seen as alluring financial investments: it's rare to turn a profit on either. Therefore, PerfEx sees as its main responsibility, to ensure that community interests are provided for.

At this point in time, Council has not made a decision on the interim use of the current Bowling Club. However, I imagine much will hinge on the PPP investigations and whether or not they deliver the funds which are being sought. If they do not, we will be recommending hastening slowly with the community and budget in mind to make best use of the current facility.

To fulfill the community consultation requirements of the redevelopment, Committee Members Sue Mackenzie and Dave Harding attended a Eurobodalla Shire coordinated Vision Day for the CBD in December. The Shire produced a great Workshop Booklet entitled 'Batemans Bay Town Centre Vision and Growth Project' as background and the community all had an opportunity to have their say. The resulting Report from Consultants KJA in my opinion lacks real substance; I had thought more concrete ideas might have come forth. It can be viewed on <http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/project-and-exhibitions/batemans-bay-vision-and-growth-project/Batemans-Bay-Vision-Workshop-Report.pdf>



Updating our website and starting Facebook

This year, we have been making enquiries regarding updating our website www.perfex.org.au and launching a Facebook page to move us further into the 21st century. I'm a bit of a Klutz when it comes to social media and am learning that it's not as easy as I thought and takes more time and effort on someone's part and therefore can be costly if we pay someone to manage it for us. Our idea was to launch a Facebook which could be used by the whole arts' community, but this is seeming to be less likely. Sue Barford of *The River of Art* has invited us to use their Facebook and we could well go down this path. I've also learned that Facebook isn't used by everyone regularly, and some people don't use it at all.

We are also looking at making our website more appealing; it is rather dark, so a new background would be preferable, but we have to ensure we don't lose the years of valuable information which it currently contains. I'm currently on a steep learning curve and am more than grateful to have Vanessa Hurst by my side on this. Will keep you posted on how we decide to proceed.

During my investigations, I attended a social media workshop at the premises of South Tribe www.southtribe.com.au in Kylie Crescent, run by Film makers Andrew Belk and Isabel Darling. Last year, with the assistance of Council, they set up shared office space, meeting rooms etc ideally to be rented by creative business people and they've recently connected to NBN. However, they're short of takers and will not be able to continue unless the situation changes. You can spread the word by liking their Facebook page as well. It would be a shame to lose this facility which is very reasonably priced. <https://www.facebook.com/SouthTribe2536/>

Their space is also ideal for events, meetings, video and photography.

Andrew and Isabel are very community minded and it was Andrew who ran the Fringe Festival last year. So please assist these guys if you can.



Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce Sculpture Committee

David Maclachlan, President of the Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce has joined PerfEx up, free of charge, as a not-for-profit organization and I was invited, (I won't say coerced), to be part of a Sculpture Committee! I must say I'm enjoying the initial discussions very much! We are looking at both the idea of permanent sculptures on the waterfront from the bridge to Corrigans and an annual event. Besides me on this Committee is David (Maclachlan), Allan Rutherford (immediate past-president of the Chamber), Sue Barford, coordinator extraordinaire of the *River of Art* and Maggie Gibson, artist and member of CABBI (Creative Arts Batemans Bay Inc.). So I'm in impressive company. Sculptures will do much to enhance the public art image of our town. We are looking at possibly using a Grant and several are on offer right now where we could fit the criteria. We are grateful for the assistance in this of Sarah Cooper and Leisa Tague of the ESC, although timing is always an issue with Grants as you have to be so quick off the mark. (Ann Sudmalis, our Federal Member, invited PerfEx to apply for funding under the Better Funding for Regions for infrastructure, one of the Grants we're looking at, but PerfEx is not in a position to apply for the Bowling Club right now. Any application would have to come from the Eurobodalla Shire Council.)

A late bit of news, I was asked to address the Chamber last night, updating them with PerfEx and bringing everyone up to date on the work for the Sculptures and Alison Miers has put her hand up to join our Sculpture Committee, which is fantastic. Thanks Alison!



The PerfEx Cultural Notice Board in Bridge Plaza

Our Notice Board is now being managed by the very helpful ladies at Noni B who have the key and have agreed to maintain it. Vanessa Hurst designed a very professional Guidelines page. Our very grateful thanks to Hooked-on-Books who had been our collection point since the Notice Board was built four years ago. So if any individual or organization has a cultural event you want to display, please drop your poster in at Noni B which is right next to the Notice Board, which in turn is right next to the Public Toilets in Bridge Plaza!



St Cecilia Music Scholarships PerfEx Awards

The St Cecilia Music Scholarships Concert, held on St Cecilia Day last November 21st, was a tremendous success. PerfEx makes two Awards; one for \$100 to a Merit Award winner in the non-classical category and a special award, funded by PerfEx Members Henk and Marion Roubos-Bennett to the value for \$200. Both recipients this year were two very talented young pianists; the first Saithong Fafie and the second Tara Watts. I have now stepped down from the St Cecilia Committee after 10 years as vice-president, but am still a member and PerfEx is proud to continue its support of this wonderful organization.



Public Art Committee

Indi Carmichael, Eurobodalla Shire Arts' Coordinator is calling for members of a Public Art Committee. It is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a proactive group enhancing the look and feel of our Shire.

For further information please phone Bev Nicholson on 02 4474 1264 or email bev.nicholson@esc.nsw.gov.au

A form can be downloaded from their website and filled in. You must register your Expression of Interest by 4.30pm Friday 10 March 2017.



PerfEx Committee

I want to begin by acknowledging the death of a dear past Committee Member and personal friend, Peter Boys who actually passed away last August. It was Peter who termed 'One PerfEx Night' and "Another PerfEx Night", the Black and White events we held in the early days. Peter had an endearing dry wit, and although he didn't speak a lot, when he did, the words were wise and practical. He worked very hard for PerfEx before bad health forced him to take it easier.

Regarding our PerfEx committee, we have managed to secure a new Treasurer, Greg Bowman, who works as a part-time business consultant these days with aboriginal corporations in Northern Australia, but mostly resides here in Malua Bay. He was a past Business Development Officer with the Eurobodalla Shire Council and past President of the Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce. (He's also a good friend). We are very grateful to him and he will take over duties after the AGM later this month.

Dougie Bindon-Howell will not be re-standing, but his partner, Grace Paleg wants to join us instead and I'm excited to report that Grace has agreed to be our Arts' Liaison officer, representing PerfEx, particularly at Talking Art, a very worthwhile forum which Indi Carmichael has enacted through the libraries. It's a great opportunity for the sharing of ideas and of course keeping the Arts' community up-to-date with PerfEx progress. Andrew Grey of South East Arts also attends these meetings which are proving a successful platform for bringing cohesion to the Arts' groups in the whole of the South East, which has to be a good thing.

Membership Renewals

A letter was sent out to Members in late November for Membership renewal by December 31st. A further reminder was sent out earlier this month. If you want to remain a Member and we entirely encourage and are grateful for the continued support, please make your deposit into our account:

PerfEx

BSB 641 800

Account 2004 62452

Reference - quote your surname

New members can download a Membership Form from our website.

PerfEx 2017 AGM

This is scheduled for Tuesday 21st March at 2pm at 3 Smugglers Cove, Lilli Pilli. All Members are welcome and you will receive last year's Minutes etc. closer to the date. So hope to catch up with as many of you as possible.

Kind regards

Jeannie Brewer and the PerfEx Committee

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