



Batemans Bay Performance and Exhibition Centre  
Working Group Inc.

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## Newsletter

### November 2018

Hi all.

This will be my last update for 2018 as I am off on holidays shortly.

2018 has been a tumultuous year, with Jeannie, after many years as the rock of PerfEx, moving on.

She has left a hard legacy to follow, but can enjoy life knowing she has been the main instrument in pushing forward with our mission:

#### ***The PerfEx Mission:***

***"To bring to completion the construction of a centre for the performing and visual arts, to meet the current and future needs of the Batemans Bay Community"***

Reflecting this, recently, at the St Cecilia Scholarships, Andrew Constance said the proposed Arts/Aquatic centre '*would never have happened if not for PerfEx*'. A fantastic and well-deserved accolade Jeannie should be well proud of.

It fell to me to carry on and I look forward to lots of help and advice in that area.

One thing we do need are two new committee members (we have six currently) but our constitution allows eight. So if you feel like getting involved, please let us know. The current Committee is:

**Susan Mackenzie – President**  
**Paul Dolphin – Vice President**  
**Greg Bowman –Treasurer**

**Henk Roubos – Secretary**  
**Grace Paleg**  
**Lesley Sowell**



Once again, there has been a lot happening behind the scenes re MacKay Park and nothing much up front. We are in a waiting period, anticipating the release of the three options the chosen Architects are to provide re the BBArts and Leisure Centre. These are supposed to being made public in December.

We are looking forward to seeing how they interpret our wishes and those of Council. Council are being very cagey, so I can tell you little there.

In the meantime PerfEx has been busy:

- **Focus Groups** – these were held by Council following the appointment of NBR Architects. A 10 page report was sent out to members post the focus groups. There has been little communication or updating since then
- **Four Winds visit** – after the focus groups Julie Stuart organised a trip to the Four Winds facility, a community instigated and successful music/performance space. We went to see/listen their sound space – the size would suit the Bay and the acoustics were amazing – circular and direct reflection acoustics designed in; movable seating that locked together for ease of setup and storage. A great example for what we are hoping for.
- By the way Four Winds are looking to put on a **bus** for Batemans Bay people so they can attend one day over the Easter festival without driving. Let them know if you are interested:



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- **The Bowlo** is being demolished by RMs to make way for their site office and use. I wonder what form the 'Sleeping Beauty' will wake in after the RMS has finished with her and council sells her off? She sure looks a little worse for wear at present.
- As a follow-on from the announcement of its demolition, and after giving an address at the launch of the latest SCHistory society '*Recollections*' Magazine at Batemans Bay library on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, (speaking on the value of ongoing historical threads for community identity), I asked if people would like to write on a '**Memories of the Bowlo**' banner to tie on the cyclone fence. Several did and that went up on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. I encourage you to add a ribbon and a memory to it.

- **Library** – A delightful initiative from Indi Carmichael was pairing Artists and Writers. For this event, of artists interpreting a story, there were some thirty or more attendees. A great turnout.
- **St Cecilia scholarship** and presentations (one from PerfEx and one donated by Henk and Marion Roubos through PefEx). Once again this was an inspiring occasion and a reminder of the importance of youth to the ongoing interest in the Arts. PerfEx is increasing our scholarship donation to \$500 in recognition of this and the increased cost of a music career.
- At the St Cecilia concert **Andrew Constance**, in his speech, he expressed great confidence in the project going ahead, and **praised PerfEx**, saying the MacKay Park facility '*would not have happened without PerfEx*'. I have conveyed this to Jeannie, because, as you all know, without her, the effectiveness of PerfEx would have been so much less. She was a driving and persistent force for this facility and still remains an inspiration to us.



- There were several meetings to discuss the Council's proposed **Creative Arts Strategy**- I organised one with Arts group reps and attended two public ones - with Indi Carmichael and Kathy Archer, one in Moruya and one in the Bay. The latter was well attended while the Moruya event had myself and two Narooma reps only there.
- To keep connection between the various Arts groups, and to share our expertise and views, I sent our draft response to CABBI, the Pastel Society, the Music Society and several other 'interested' parties for input and comment; comments came in from the Chamber of Commerce, the Music Society, the Pastel Society and from CABBI members. All their points were included in our submission as well.
- The **PerfEx submission re draft Creative Arts Strategy** was finalised and sent in 26/11/2018.
- **The Website** needs new entries for the committee (incl photos) and updating. A project for the New Year is to create a new, lighter website.
- Some of you may have gone to the **Joni Mitchell** story, sent up to us by Andrew Gray from SEArts, a very interesting event with Queenie, who did the monologue, having a beautiful voice, and reminding us of several iconic songs by Joni. We look forward to more connection with SEARTS even though it is Bega-centred.



- In the draft Creative Arts Strategy there was a heavy emphasis on the Basil Sellers complex and Prize (28 references) and Moruya (22 references) compared to the planned 'Regional' facility (14 references) in the Bay. The Council is very focussed on the **BAS Moruya** facility which is due to open next February and its exhibition space is already booked up for a year

- For those of you who know little of the BAS facility being built in Moruya, here is an update from Council:

BAS 'The new **Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre** is underway with the grand opening set for February 2019. The Bas will have 100 square metres of professional-standard exhibition space and will be a major platform for local artists and touring shows.

The new spaces will feature videoconferencing facilities, sound-rated moveable walls for flexible use of the floor space, temperature control to meet professional standards for exhibitions, kitchen facilities and additional parking.

For those of you that may not already be fully aware of the Bas's creation, the Council received both grant funding and donations to make this project possible. A generous donation was received from Basil Sellers AM who is patron to Council's Basil Sellers Art Prize and Little Sellers Art Prize. Basil Sellers has a passionate commitment to the perpetual growth of the community's perception and understanding of and engagement in art. The exhibition centre will be named after Basil Sellers AM for his significant contribution to the arts in Eurobodalla.'



**2019 could be a momentous year. Two significant elections and the likelihood of the first sod being turned for the Arts/Aquatic Centre**

### **How you can help?**

Join us and help bring this wonderful facility to your community. **Become a member** for only \$20 and **get involved** in any way you can. The Newsletter/member updates will give you an idea of where we are up to, or contact us on [info@perfex.org.au](mailto:info@perfex.org.au) . Donations and sponsorship are always welcome – for general or specific purposes – this will become more relevant as we get closer to completion date and we see what extras we would like to see there, or to support PerfEx events that will engage the community.

And that is it for the year. Hopefully we shall see some plans for the Arts/Aquatic centre before Santa comes. Until then

**Merry Christmas to all and a Happy  
New Year**

