

SOA shines for River of Art

What a wonderful time we've had over the past month with our School of Arts precinct hosting significant events in the River of Art (RoA) Festival including two busker hot spots during the Busking Festival. The Kinema also screened four art movies as part of the RoA Festival. What a great celebration of creativity and community.

June is a busy month in the Studios with Nikki Hall's pastel workshop a feature. In July a new life drawing group starts on Saturday mornings.

The River of Art

The SoART Gallery hosted the official opening of the shire-wide RoA Festival as well as the Festival's prestigious Art Prize, while the School of Arts' Studios hosted the Salon des Refusés (17 May - 2 June). This allowed all entrants in the Art Prize to be exhibited for the first time, not only the finalists. The entries were hung beautifully thanks to Janet Jones (Gallery) and Joy Macfarlane (Studios).

The idea for the Salon came from Libby Shortridge and Suzanne Dainer who worked closely with the River of Art committee and the School of Arts committee and 'the SOA team' to make it happen. The many extra banners were created by Joy and Suzanne, with Libby



The grounds of the School of Arts' Studios looked very festive for the Busking Festival, thanks to the efforts of a great team. It also showed off the new entrance to the Studios via the back fence and the new signs.



Key members of our wonderful 'SOA Festival Team': Marg Ingamells, Suzanne Dainer, Libby Shortridge and Joy Macfarlane.



The Beanie workshops run by Marg Hansen (far right) over the main River of Art Festival weekend were a huge hit.

and Don Shortridge sorting out the banner hardware. The site looked fabulous. The banners can now be used for future events.

The recent work done by the SOA management committee in preparing the grounds and improving access around the site for these events meant more people were able to gain an appreciation of the wonderful assets our community owns that are dedicated to the Arts.

The work was something we had talked about doing for some time, but the needs for the RoA Festival provided the impetus to do the work.

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So what is the School of Arts?

Narooma is in the extraordinary position of owning and managing its own land and buildings dedicated for the Arts (School of Arts Memorial Hall /Kinema, School of Arts' Studios and the SoART Gallery), valued at over \$2.5m. They're held in trust for the community by Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc. and managed by a voluntary committee. The School of Arts leases the Hall to John and Janette Griffiths to operate as twin cinemas and as a venue for the performing arts.

It's vital our community keeps this organisation vibrant. Membership is open to everyone. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Membership/renewal forms are in the Studios, Kinema and on the webpage. (naroomaschoolofarts.com.au) or picked up from the Studios or the Kinema.



Enjoying the opening of the RoA Festival were Jenni Bourke, Val Tippens and Denise Rungen.



Indi Carmichael, left, winner River of Art Prize (with her winning entry behind) with Eurobodalla Mayor Liz Innes and RoA committee member Lynne Griffiths. Photo courtesy Rosie Williams

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The Busking Festival

The Busking Festival on Saturday 26 May, organised by Narooma Rotary Club, was a fabulous community celebration with music extending from the Plaza to the Flat. Fifty five different acts on 35 busking hot spots of which we provided two – the SoART Gallery and the grounds of the Studios. It

School of Arts' Studios buzz

The Studios are available for casual and regular bookings by groups and individuals for arts, cultural and educational activities, including classes and workshops. They are managed by a sub-committee of the School of Arts.

Enquiries: Please ring 0431 486 617 or 4476 8047 Or email: studios@naroomaschoolofarts.com.au

School of Arts members are welcome to the fun Friday Friend-zy (second Friday each month) for a little housekeeping plus drinks and nibbles 4-6pm.

Pastel Workshop with Nikki Hall

Sat 9 & Sun 10 June 2018

10am to 4pm

Narooma School of Arts Studios



was a great success and, as a result, we're really looking forward to next year's Festival.

School of Arts general

The SOA management committee is now focussed on dealing with how we will operate following impending legislative changes that will affect us, including hikes in insurance costs.

The other major issue is determining whether Narooma in fact needs additional workshops-studios for the Arts and a dedicated bigger gallery, as per the Arts Centre plans developed with MACS members some years ago which are about 80% to the DA stage.

EXHIBITIONS at SoART Gallery

Our boutique gallery provides a wonderful intimate space for an individual or group of artists to exhibit their work for any period of time. It is also the home of the annual River of Art Prize Exhibition.

See the website for more information www.naroomaartscentre.com.au/soart-gallery-narooma/

27 Sept-9 Oct: STORYBOARDS FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS by Naomi Lewis

6-20 Nov: BRAVE HEARTS AND SMILING FACES Commemorating the centenary of the end of the Great War, Narooma Historical Society

Life Drawing group

Life Drawing at the School of Arts' Studios starts Saturday morning 14 July. If you would like to take part (and haven't done so already) please ring Karen (0427 836 830).



Two other key members of our wonderful 'SOA Festival Team' – Karen Mallett and Ingeborg Baker.