

We celebrate SOA's 2018



The talents of some of our School of Arts' members seem to know no bounds, as evidenced by the review by the polymer clay group at the Christmas party at the Studios last month which was a lot of fun.

Our Christmas party last month celebrated a great 2018 which saw renewed vitality at the Studios and a growing appreciation that we as a community own and therefore must manage the whole School of Arts (SOA) precinct into the future.

Early in the year we completed the final stage of structural improvements to the Hall (Kinema) with the creation of wing spaces on both sides of the stage to facilitate live performances. Hopefully we will now see more live performances in the Kinema.

The other big SOA news of 2019 was support at a community meeting in December for the SOA committee to proceed with developing plans for the Arts and Community Centre next to the Kinema. A meeting of the committee this month will discuss how best to move forward with the plans including dealing with some issues raised at that meeting.

The community meeting re the Centre

The SOA committee sent out over 170 invitations to potential users of an Arts & Com-

munity Centre who might hold workshops or classes including many artists, SOA members, groups we thought might be interested in using such a facility, as well as other community groups who might be interested in being across these plans.

Plans for the Centre have been developed over many years to provide larger but flexible purpose-built arts spaces in Narooma that could also be used by the wider community well into the future. They include three studio/workshops/meeting rooms, catering level kitchen and a large exhibition gallery with highway frontage.

These plans were developed between SOA, artists including members of Montague Art & Craft Society (MACS) and the selected architect, with some input from Council.

The SOA has spent over \$30,000 on these plans to date; SOA members and many artists have spent almost 2,000 hours researching and developing the plans. Other

Continued next page

all dressed up
exploring the female gaze

exhibition of paintings
bethany thurtell
SoArt gallery Narooma Jan 3 to 15



Proposed Narooma Arts & Community Centre from the rear (Garvan Street), with Kinema, right, and Studios to the left. Source ClarkeKeller



The School of Arts Christmas party at the Studios was great fun.

value-in-kind (VIK) contributions have been made so, all up, our community including the monetary value of those VIK hours, has already invested over \$100,000 in this project.

The SOA committee put plans for the Centre to one side a few years ago while it concentrated on renovating the Hall (Kinema) and enhancing it as a venue for live performances.

The combined project (Hall improvements plus Centre) is about enhancing the SOA site for the community for well into the future. With the Hall project completed, the committee wanted feedback from the community about whether it should proceed with the Centre plans to consolidate the site as Narooma's arts hub. It needed to know such a building would be used. The December meeting provided that direction.

The Studios

Groups are resuming activities after the Christmas break through January and February:

- Mah-jong: Wednesday 16 January
- Narooma Historical Society: Sunday 20 January



SOA stalwarts Anne McCusker, left, Marg Hansen, Jenni Bourke and Joy Macfarlane at the Christmas party

School of Arts' Studios buzz

Some great special classes and workshops will feature at the Studios in 2019, as well as our regular sessions. Please ensure you check them out on the Studios' website, Studios' newsletter or on the Facebook page so you don't miss out.

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

Enquiries: Please ring Suzanne (0431 486 617) or Joy (4476 8047) or email: studios@naroomaschoolofarts.com.au.

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.

All enquiries welcome. Please see our website for more information. www.naroomaartscentre.com.au/soart-gallery-Narooma/

3-15 Jan: 'all dressed up — exploring the female gaze' by BETHANY THURTELL

17-22 Jan: Rocks, Trees, Plants and things' exhibition by ANN ROGAN

11-17 April: exhibition JUDY GOODWIN

EASTER 19-22 April: GROUP exhibition organised by MARGI INGAMELLS, JOY MACFARLANE and company

- Polymer Clay: Tuesday 5 February
- Meditation: Wednesday 6 February
- Thursday Art Group: 7 February

A 'brainstorming session' will be held in the Studios on Friday 25 January at 4pm to explore more possibilities for the Studios in 2019.

SoART Gallery

There are some truly wonderful exhibitions planned for the SoART Gallery this year with more under consideration.

See two adverts in this newsletter.



Plants Trees Rocks & Things

An exhibition of artwork by Ann Rogan

SoArt Gallery (next to Kinema)
Princes Highway Narooma NSW 2546
January 17 - 22, 2019

Launch: 6:00 p.m. Thursday Jan 17th
All welcome