

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President

Jennifer Wright (Summers)

Vice President

Kim Besley Scott

Treasurer/website

Dana McCown

Secretaries

Minutes

Maria Richardson

Correspondence

Mary-Kate Khoo

Membership

Cath Wright

Committee Members

Tina Cherry

Glenda Lynch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The President's Report 1

Inaugural Members exhibition
'What is Blue to you?' 2

Members Profile 3
Maria Richardson

SOCIAL EVENING 4
and short meeting &
ACT Meeting Dates

ARTISTS GALLERY 5
Website

Empire Youth Arts 6
Holiday Workshops

Blackbutt Sculpture 7
Award

Contact 8

NEWSLETTER

"Showcasing Toowoomba and region
as a vital creative center for the arts.."



SUMMER 2010

THE "NEW" PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first newsletter since our AGM in October, I would like to welcome the new committee and thank them for their willingness to put their hands up to keep ACT going for another year:

Dana McCown, Treasurer (and web site)

Kim Besley Scott, Vice President (and shared secretary)

Mary-Kate Khoo, Secretary (shared role)

Maria Richardson, Secretary (shared role)

Tina Cherry, Newsletter editor

Glenda Lynch, Committee member

We look forward to our Inaugural exhibition and are pleased to let you know that we were successful in obtaining a grant to produce a catalogue for this exhibition.

The committee has already been busy planning this event and I would like to particularly thank Mary-Kate for her wonderful graphic design for the invitation and catalogue, Dana for her liaison with both the printer and the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, and Kim for finessing our successful grant application.

If any other members want to be involved, come to the committee meetings, which will be held the first and third Mondays until the exhibition is launched.

Jennifer Wright (Summers)



Go to the ACT website and become a member, or renew your membership NOW!

www.actmba.com

Inaugural Member's exhibition

'What is Blue to you?'

What is blue to you?

Arts Council Toowoomba Inc. (ACT) aims to showcase Toowoomba and the region as a vital and creative centre for the Arts. Previously, ACT members have been invited to participate in the Great Toowoomba Postcard and Avant Garden projects as well as members' talks and artistic excursions. These events established ACT as an umbrella organisation that brings together and improves communication between disparate groups of artistic individuals.

In 2010 the ACT committee offered another opportunity for members to demonstrate their creativity and engage with the broader community at our regional gallery. Twenty five members sent Expressions of interest (EOIs) for this inaugural members' exhibition, What is blue to you?.

Their works engage viewers with interpretations of the essence of the colour, moods, feelings, sounds and personal truths of the cohesive element, Blue.

For What is blue to you? members explore the feeling and power of the ocean in glass and joyous paintings, the essence of recent rain changing our landscape, exploration of clouds and sky, the energy of cyan and fluid

brushwork alive and full of enthusiasm. Canvases are painted in different styles, with kaleidoscopic patterns, kitchen comfort, still life and a tranquil stream draw the viewer into the detail.

Tactile Indigo dyed textile pieces, chilling and divine sculptures, and the installation of baskets offer other views of Blue.

Ideas of genetic manipulation, how imperialism changed the First Australians and the infinite blue of sea and sky are challenged. Evocative works about depression, the double life of people molested as children, mixed feelings of a relationship ending and the void left after the death of a loved one strengthen hope with the knowledge that sharing and expressing feelings begins healing.

Be soothed by music created by women from many cultures singing in harmony.

These diverse works reverberate, build community and celebrate our differences and we hope you all rejoice in the creativity of our vibrant, local artists.

The exhibition will be hung on 7 March and we hope to see you all at the grand opening at TRAG at 2pm on 13 March 2011.

See you there Sunday 13 March
2pm

Free entry - Refreshments provided

MARIA RICHARDSON

Member Profile

Q. How long have you been involved in the Arts?

I've only been involved in the Arts for a relatively short time (6 years) though I've always had (and needed) some type of creativity in my life. I began a Diploma in Visual Arts at SQIT three days before I turned forty. It was something I'd always wanted to do but couldn't find the time while raising a family and, frankly, I didn't have the necessary self-belief/confidence. I'd only ever sketched prior to my studies, never painted, and the closest thing to "sculptural" work I'd indulged in was dressmaking which I did for a living briefly.

Q. Was art a thing that was encouraged in your family?

I have childhood memories of my mother satisfying her own creative urges with odds and ends from the "useful box" and encouraging us to do the same. Thinking back, I believe that it's that box and its limited contents (a fact of life due to the budgetary constraints that occur in a family of eight) that fostered my interest in using objects and materials in non-traditional ways. My paternal grandmother was an artist who mainly produced still-lives in oil and my father dabbles in watercolours and, more recently, a bit of hebel carving. My maternal grandmother loved to paint but was fairly terrible at it!

Q. What medium do you prefer?

I use whatever medium suits the subject and concept. I enjoy found object sculpture and have produced a couple of series in sandblasted, clear acrylic sheet because when it's spotlighted it illustrates the idea of highlighting issues that are treated as invisible in society. I'm planning to use inflatables in my next body of work.

Q. Who or what inspires your work?

My inspiration comes from our culture, its social issues, the human condition and the individual's relationship to society. Being a child of the seventies I'm also influenced by the feminist movement.

Q. Who are your favourite artists; acclaimed or emerging?

In no particular order of importance, some of them are : Meret Oppenheim, John Brack, Diego Rivera, Henri Matisse, Fiona Hall, Barbara Kruger, Georges Roualt.

Q. Do you have much contact with other artists, how important do you think affiliations with other artists are as an artist yourself?

No, I don't have a lot to do with other artists as I have a tendency to be a bit of a hermit. I've been berated for not even being on Facebook! Though I do think it's important to be involved in the arts

even if it's only in a peripheral way. I decided to attend the ACT AGM in October and became a committee member as a way of keeping my hand in. I think artists need input from each other. Creative people are easily inspired by other creative people.



Q. Do you think that living in Toowoomba is an asset or hindrance for developing an art practice regarding its regional states?

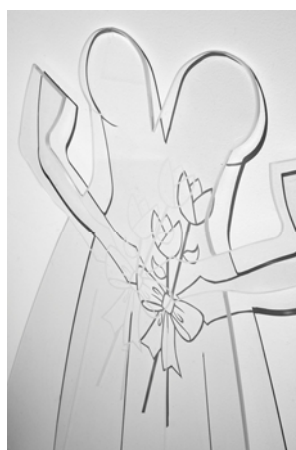
In many ways developing an arts practice is less influenced these days by your location. The internet provides alternative ways of accessing opportunities, ideas and materials unavailable in regional areas. The closeness and support of the arts community is a big plus here though. The difficulties lie in the costliness of transporting your work to and from exhibitions/competitions which can be considerable when you don't work in small scale or traditional media.

Q. What is your claim to fame?

I have been invited to exhibit in this year's Florence Biennale.

Q. Do you have any upcoming projects you can tell us about?

This year I will be concentrating on raising funds to produce and transport the work for the Biennale. I also hope to be able to attend myself but that takes money.



Maria Richardson
Cinderella Myth 2007
Acrylic sheet
140 x 135 cm



Maria Richardson
New World Order 2007
Skateboard, Acrylic sheet
61 x 20 x 12 cm

One of the perks of becoming a member of ACT

“is that we will advertise your art event or exhibition for free!”

A copy must be ready to print and in either Word or Word Pad format

Send the copy via email to info@actmba.com

ACT Meetings

ACT meetings are held on the second and forth Mondays of the each month at 5.30pm, at the Immunisation clinic, 12 Little Street, Toowoomba. Check the website to see any change of dates.

Dates to put in your diary:

Jan 17	Feb 7, 21	March 7, 21	April 4, 18	May 2, 16
June 6, 20	July 4, 18	August 1, 15	Sept. 5, 19	Oct. 3, 17
Nov 7, 21	Dec. 5, 19			

Social Evening and short meeting !

All members welcome

Come meet the entrants of What is Blue? to you

Exhibition entrants will have a chance to tell a bit about their work

Each entrant will be given invitations for the exhibition to send to friends

Let the Committee know what you would like ACT to do in the future.

Don't Miss
Out!

When: Monday Feb 21st 5:30 - 7 pm

Where: 12 Little Street, Immunisation Rooms

The Gallery Shop

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

Great gifts handmade by artists

Best selection of Cards in town

Looking for new artists to submit work to the selection committee.

Works sold on commission. Forms available at the Gallery Shop



Website ARTISTS GALLERY <http://actmba.com/>

This gallery is available for ACT members only,
to have a presence on the web.

Our charge is for setup only and is a great bargain at \$20.
To apply to be part of this service, send in your application with a
profile up to 150 words. Also provide up to 12 images.

The preferred format for images is RGB,
Digital images should be no more than 600 pixels high at 72 dpi.

If you do not have software to format the images,
we can do that for you for an extra charge of \$20.

Send your application to
actmba@gmail.com with subject line Gallery.

\$

The Lost Imaginarium

An exhibition of works by Chantel Schott

www.chantelschott.daportfolio.com

4-30 January 2011

Official opening
11am Sunday 9 January 2011
All welcome

Crows Nest Regional Art Gallery
New England Hwy, Crows Nest
07 4698 1687
CrowsNestArt@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

REGIONAL
COUNCIL

ART
GALLERY

Empire Youth Arts Holiday Workshops – January 2011



SUMMER BURST

13–15 January, 10am–4pm

Ages 10 to 14

COST: \$160

Take a break from the holidays and throw yourself into one of the most fun and elite holiday programs offered in Queensland. This three day intensive will build and enhance dramatic and performance skills with particular focus on physicality, confidence, and story-building. A guaranteed fun creative workout in preparation for a whole new year of Empire Youth Arts.

SUMMER SOAK

17–21 January, 10am–4pm

Ages 15 to 18

COST: \$260

A rare and unique opportunity to spend five days delving into your inner creative beast. Enhancing and building upon skills of performance, physicality, story-telling and confidence. Learn from your peers and some of Queensland's leading experts to build a holiday program that will prepare you for the oncoming and exciting year for Empire Youth Theatre.



To enrol please call

The Empire Theatre box office on
1300 655 299

DON HILDRED PHOTOGRAPHICS



TOOWOOMBA, QLD

Commercial Photography Services in South East Queensland

Phone: 07 4635 0910 Mobile: 0437 828 418

Email: info@donhildred.com.au

Trading hours: Monday to Friday - 8.00am - 6.00pm - Saturday & Sunday by appointment

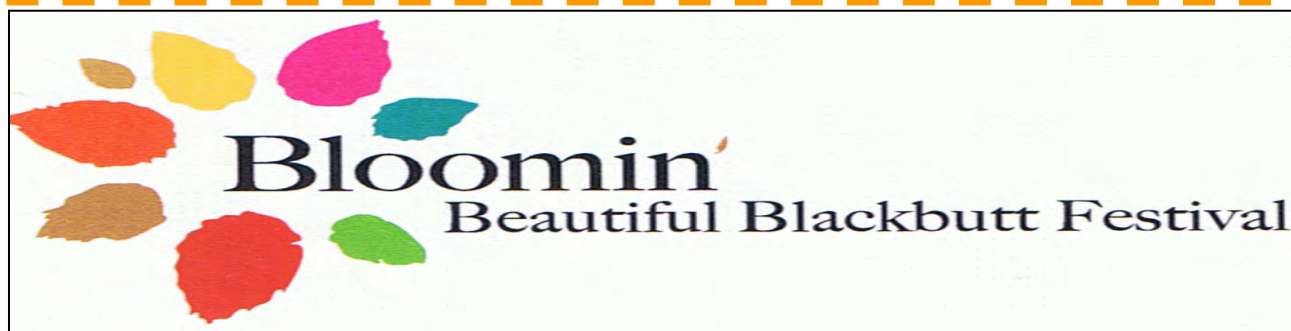
REGIONAL QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS



Regional Quick Response Grants offer assistance up to \$1,500 to individuals or organisations for projects that demonstrate a community benefit and are unable to source funds elsewhere. Applications for this program can be received at any time and an answer given to its success or otherwise within 5 business days. The Quick Response Grant Scheme operates during the months of February to November each year.

For more information got to http://incommunities.qac.org.au/funding/raf_regional_quick_response_grant_

ACT (Arts Council Toowoomba), is proud to announce it was a recipient of this grant!



All Trails lead to Blackbutt Sculpture Award - 2011

Saturday 10th September 2011

The ***Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival*** is a promotional venture of Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival Inc that focuses on and highlights the agricultural and historical assets of our community to provide infrastructure and other benefits for the communities of Blackbutt and Benarkin. The ***Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival*** is held annually over the second week and weekend in September.

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail passes through Blackbutt. Artwork installations and historical displays along the trail will encourage participants to celebrate the environment, our heritage and future aspirations whilst taking in the breathtaking scenery and enjoying a beautiful walk along the former railway line.

The event annually attracts between 2000 and 4000 participants who enjoy free interactive activities, music, the Blackbutt environment and now - sculptural installations around a set theme.

The ***Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival*** committee invites artists to create sculptural works based on the theme '**All Trails lead to Blackbutt**'.

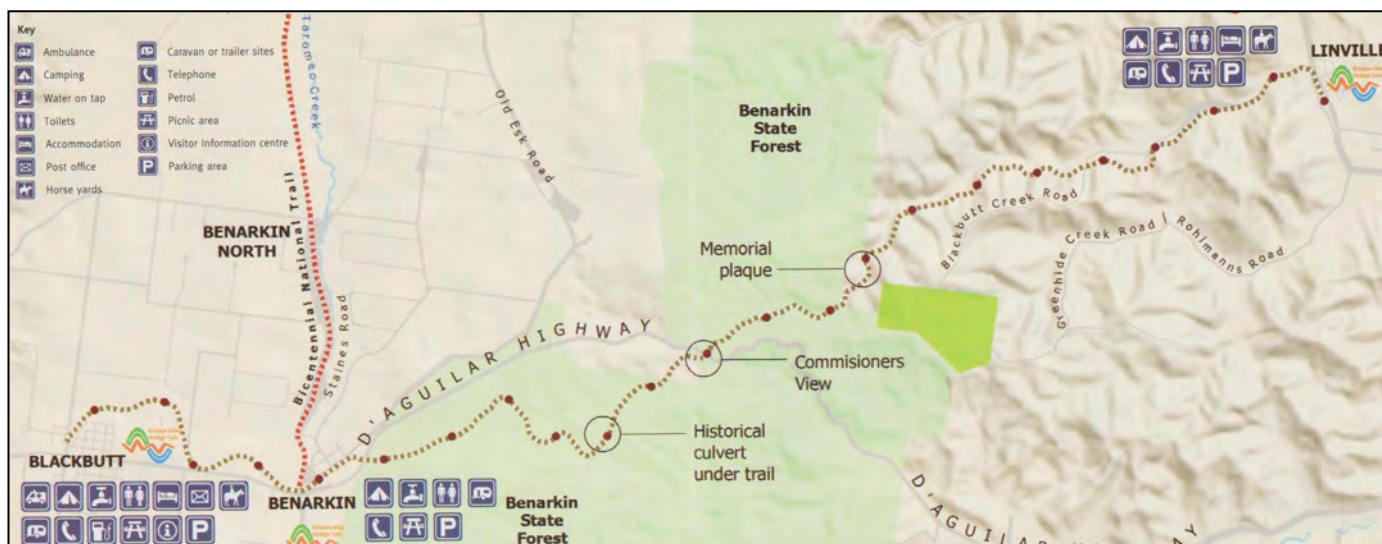
Artists may choose to incorporate topics which surround this historic section of trail from Linville in the South to Nukku in the West.

Acquisitive cash prizes will be awarded in the following categories

1ST PRIZE: \$500 2ND PRIZE: \$300 3RD PRIZE: \$200

Entry forms and \$10.00 entry fee due no later than 5th August

To get a your complete application form call or email Laraine Aniftos from the *Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival* committee on 07 4163 0135. or oldiesonthehill@bigpond.com



CONTACT DETAILS

Arts Council Toowoomba Inc.

PO Box 1421

Toowoomba 4350

www.actmba.com

info@actmba.com or actmba@gmail.com

**Dianne Turner, ACT member through the Gallery Society has a business producing
TOOWOOMBA PHOTOGRAPHIC GREETING CARDS**

Photos of Toowoomba Landmarks, 6x4 on card with envelope.

Is your group looking for a new fundraising idea?

Catalogue available

Dianne Turner Phone 46937156: diandturner@activ8.net.au