

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President

Jennifer Wright (Summers)

Vice President

Kim Besley Scott

Treasurer/website

Dana McCown

Secretary's

Minutes

Maria Richardson

Correspondence

Mary-Kate Khoo

Membership

Cath Wright

Committee Member's

Tina Cherry

Glenda Lynch

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NEWSLETTER

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

AUTUMN 2011



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After many months gestation, 283 members and guests celebrated at the arrival of What is Blue to you?. TRAG was buzzing at the launch! ACT has had positive press and great feedback.

Thanks to the enthusiastic ACT committee members Dana McCown, Mary-Kate Khoo and Kim Bestley Scott who collaborated tirelessly to actualise the exhibition and catalogue. In an atmosphere of warm hospitality we learnt so much about the details of taking an idea to a gallery, visualising each step in a project plan (picked up at Arts Yakka last year), developing a proposal, applying for grants, budgeting, communicating, graphic designing, hanging, sharing tasks and building supportive friendships.

Guest speaker Arthur Frame CEO of QAC is a strong advocate for the culturally led revitalisation of regional

communities. He enjoyed the opening and Women in Harmony's entertainment. He suggested that ACT apply to tour the exhibition. This process is underway.

Artists Victoria Cooper and Doug Spowart were smiling broadly at the launch and said,

'BRAVO!!!! Arts Council, organisers of the BLUE exhibition.

Well done to all those who made this exhibition possible. We have never seen TRAG so full of local artists and guests participating in a local arts event.

Arthur Frame's comment about the idea of a touring exhibition is testimony to the vitality of our community's artists and the work they create.

We sure felt part of that community.

Thanks again for the great effort in putting together an amazing exhibition.'

- Continued page 2.

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

NOW!

www.actmba.com

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED.....

Thanks to all who provided the plentiful refreshments and to Cath Wright who worked tirelessly in the kitchen and supervised the flow of drinks.

Thanks also go to our regional gallery. What a wonderful space the Atrium is to showcase members' works! Particular thanks to Sue Lostroh who gave us this feedback.

'Personally just wanted to say congratulations... It was really rewarding to see so many local artists in the gallery participating in an extraordinary local project. Lots of happy patrons too. This is what it's supposed to be about! Thank you and Bravo ACT!'

The success of the inaugural exhibition reveals the creative potential of Arts Council Toowoomba Inc's members. Congratulations to all!

Let's keep the momentum going!

Jennifer Wright (Summers)



Mary-Kate Khoo, Kim Bestley Scott, Dana McCown, Arthur Frame and Jennifer Wright (Summers)

Positive collaboration, positive outcomes



Toowoomba Regional ART Gallery

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 at 5.30pm,
at the Immunisation clinic, 12 Little Street, Toowoomba

**Look at the ACT website
for dates of committee meetings**

We would love to see you there!

What Do
You Want?

What Do
You Want?

What do you want?

ACT are currently seeking ideas for new projects and we'd love to have your input/ideas. We're looking for:

- **Themes for a 2012 TRAG exhibition**

With the success of What is Blue we are wanting to reapply to TRAG to hold another exhibition next year and are looking for a new theme.

- **Ideas for an ACT presence during Carnival of Flowers**

We've done Avant Garden and Postcard Project. What can we do this year?

- **A Flood Memorial – ideas to include in grant submissions for a project to commence 2012**

We are specifically looking at a permanent/ephemeral sculpture project for this.

Please email your ideas to info@actmba.com or come along to a meeting –
we'd love it if you could join us!

What Do
You Want?

Member Profile

How long have you been involved in the Arts?

Really I've been in amongst creative groups for most of my adult life – out of school I was heavily into the independent music scene – punk rock and new wave, which while appearing very chaotic and even ugly to outsiders was actually brimming with dedicated talented artistic people. I hung out with a artist run initiative called One Flat which did many interesting weird projects, I played drums in bands, saw too many to even remember, and wrote about that scene in my fanzine Ratsack. Outside of my Public Service job, there was always something creative going on – like that was normal life. Then I travelled a lot for a couple of years at a time, had a family, and it wasn't until moving to Toowoomba in my late thirties with my two school-age daughters that I felt I had the freedom to really pursue something more independent Artistically that didn't require a group context. I started a Diploma in Fine Arts at Southern Qld Institute of TAFE in 2004, really because I needed to meet people here (outside of school tuckshop) and I knew I wanted to find the arty folk – primarily I wanted to gain skills and knowledge about art practice that I hadn't previously had full access to.

What medium do you prefer?

My focus for the last four years has been assemblage using drop-sawn recycled tongue and groove wallboards. I prefer limited palette and abstracted line over organic form, and this material suits that even though I could never have imagined I'd be using wood as a preferred material. Really it is an extension of a long-running fascination with collage and recycling materials into something different – I've done this playfully since I was a child. I truly enjoy moving paint on a surface and remember this whenever I do it. I haven't had much of a chance of late because I get obsessed over the wood collage and utilising the skills I've acquired since I started doing it in 2006.

What are the most important influences that have moved you as an artist?

I am always most influenced by my physical place and how that environment affects me. Coming to Toowoomba I found that water issues were foremost a challenge: Brisbane is so close but being on the river and near the coast made it a very different atmosphere to the dry environment I encountered here. I recall getting totally spun out by a crack in the earth that appeared in my backyard here during a very dry period – it was nearly two metres long, six centimetres wide and quite deep. More so now I feel I am defined by my house here, a huge old Queenslander which has been in my family for over one hundred years - it is really what ties me to my art practise: the concept of house as self. I struggled with moving to Toowoomba because while the space



Chelle McIntyre
Rash Analogy
Recycled house timber
Photo: Don Hildred

from history was something I needed, I am a city girl attached to the subculture and community of big populations to create with ease. The house holds me here and sometimes I feel it is a cop-out because the city is perhaps where I'd rather be. By the same token I do reflect that the move here has been one of the smartest albeit most difficult things I've done.

Who are your favourite artists; acclaimed or emerging?

I've been into Andy Warhol forever mainly from my musical youth early on encountering the Velvet Underground – the band and the whole Factory scene – a group creating a dynamic art/music revolution situation.

Marcel Duchamp's 'Nude Descending a Staircase' has stuck with me from the time I started high school and doing art, using Betty Churches' 'Understanding Art' textbook which I still own from that time. When I was doing my Diploma and had to seek out references for influences I looked more into these and others and understood then that readymade and abstract line was something I was attracted to on a deeper level than I'd previously realised. Picasso is another influence, for his fractured and restructured cubist works.

Once I'd started working with the wallboards, people started referring me to Australian artist Rosalie Gascoigne with whom I now feel a great affiliation especially with regard to her displacement issue – from New Zealand to Mt Stromlo.

Former Brisbane now New York based artist Anthony Lister is also a favourite – I've always been into cartoons and comics. I like street art and subscribe to 'Juxtapoz', an Art & Culture Magazine, and through the internet source further information on many of the artists it highlights.

- Continued page 5.

Continued.....

Q. What exhibit have you seen within the last year that has most influenced you? Why?

I go to loads of local art openings mainly to mix and talk with like minds and keep up with what's happening and who's doing what. My main influence comes from people doing things more than what they actually do – I'm inspired by action. Through Juxtapoz I've found artists like Sarah Frost – I like recycled materials a lot because I think there is too much crap in the world already. I try to catch a few GOMA shows and the Asia Pacific Triennial when it comes around.

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

For me it's been a huge asset because I think I may just have been too caught up functioning in a city to do anything if I was elsewhere. Plus I have the luxury of space to work and time to study and maintain practise here and it's comfortable to raise my kids in this community. I've had three solo exhibitions in four years and I'm not sure that in a large population like the city of Brisbane that this would have been possible without more financial backing or a hugely competitive edge. It's enabled me to hone my skills while exhibiting to get to the position where I feel I can take it elsewhere with confidence in my ability.

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

This year I really want to make some significant works to exhibit in shows and competitions. I've entered ok works in competitions like the Stanthorpe and Churchie Art prize a couple of years back and didn't get hung. It did make me realise I needed to do something with toil and professionalism behind it including the photo submissions. With this attitude I purpose-made a large artwork 'Beautiful Rain' that was a finalist in the 2010 Regional Art Awards so I figure that tells me I was perhaps on the right track. It's important now that I get my artworks outside my region and beyond my comfort zone here. I've entered the Churchie this year with three large works and I'd really just like to get in for the exposure.

Q. Do you think of your art as existing within a moral context, do you think that a moral context is necessary for true creativity?

My art is based in a personal context – what concerns me: currently that's the urban and rural divide, weather and landscapes as an aesthetic abstraction of my emotional response to place. A moral context exists at any time however is subjective to a degree especially towards the middle of extremes of morality codes. It is noticeable as a single parent that

some people find it difficult to look outside of what they personally consider is right, wrong or appropriate – I don't feel a great need to make social comment in my artworks because I don't get too charged about it. I'm not inclined towards absolutism on any level really and believe that every situation has its own unique influences that may or may not draw wide comment.

Q. What helps create a suitable environment for making art (aside from tools)?

An active environment helps inspire my own – when down or even isolated I find I am inclined to stay in my head rather than produce which is what happened after the January flood when the wet atmosphere made working in the studio unbearable. I gain energy off social contact and like contribution in any form – some like to sit back and suck it up but I like to be in there doing something and being supportive. If you saw my house and studio you'd understand I could operate in almost any environment – I don't care to be too precious because life is and that what matters - not the material.

Q. What question would you like me to ask you?

How are you? I'm fine, really, everything is as it should be...



Chelle McIntyre
...**Waiting**
Recycled house timber
38x38cm x 3 panels
Photo: Don Hildred



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.



Members are encouraged to shop at The Gallery Shop – 531 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba.

The Gallery Shop carries an ever changing array of gift ideas and art works at reasonable prices. Access is from Ruthven Street or through the Toowoomba Regional Gallery. Ceramics, glass, textiles, jewellery, woodwork, prints, art books and hand made cards are displayed. Visitors can browse at their leisure and choose from the varied works of regional and interstate artists to find a special item with unique appeal.

The Shop is operated by the Toowoomba Gallery Society Incorporated with enthusiasts from the Society staffing the shop on a voluntary basis.

The Gallery Society actively promotes and supports Toowoomba and region artists and the Regional Art Gallery.

If you would like to join the Society, membership forms are available by phoning or visiting The Gallery Shop.

Are you interested in supplying your artwork to The Gallery Shop on a consignment basis – if so please contact Cath Wright on 0427 300077 to obtain a copy of the Consignment Agreement and paperwork.

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.**

\$

Smarter Arts Marketing Workshops

Creative REGIONS

Our Arts Council Toowoomba was represented at the Creative Regions Smarter Arts Marketing Workshops by both Dana McCown and George Szerencsi. Arts Marketing expert John Paul Fischback who presents these programs based on his extensive experience in the field is a dynamic communicator. He is Executive Director at Auspicious Arts Incubator in Melbourne. The second session will be a hands on workshop with John Paul and

- Learn the secret of Value Based Marketing for the arts
- Improve your audiences
- Create Anticipation for your events
- Meet and manage expectations of your communities
- Build stronger community connections

his IT specialist from Melbourne. ACT was happy to sponsor George to attend these workshop. He plans to present a report and information session for ACT members to enable them to help promote their own art practice by using better social media techniques. When a date for this session is chosen, members will be notified by email.



2011 Twilight Series

Welcome to our **2011 Twilight Series**, offering you a diverse and dynamic program of beautiful music and stimulating conversation.

18 May - [Twilight Theatre Talk](#) - Wesley Enoch

15 June - [Twilight Song Recital](#) - IkonMusic

29 June - [Twilight Jazz Recital](#) - Swing On In

17 August - [Twilight Harp Recital](#) - Lipman Harp Duo

19 October - [Twilight Political Journalism Talk](#) - Mungo Ma Callum

16 November - [Twilight Clarinet and Strings Recital](#)

The popular Series continues with its winning formula; early starting time (6pm), hour-long performances and the post-show 'meet the artist' receptions. The combination presents a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to the arts; to re-energise after work; to be entertained before having dinner with friends; or just to be inspired by the talented artists and cultural workers.

We encourage you to subscribe to the entire season. Each event is unique but nicely compliments the other and with so much variety, there's bound to be something for everyone.

For more details go to : <http://www.usq.edu.au/artsworx/2011/twilight>

our story

Creative Regions is a not for profit service provider and producer engaging with regional communities. Our motivated team has over 90 years of experience in delivering arts and cultural programs...



<http://www.creativeregions.com.au/splash.aspx>

ARTSHOP
FINE CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

Conservation: to guard against harm, decay or loss

We understand the importance of caring for your family heirlooms and investment artworks, and use museum-grade skills and resources to conserve, restore and beautify your treasured pieces.

**QUALITY ♦
CREATIVITY ♦
WORKMANSHIP**

**12 Bowen St
Toowoomba
4639 2771**

facebook



Find us on
Facebook

Arts council Toowoomba Inc. Invites you to share, connect, and engage with us on facebook!

ACT is on facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/actmba>



18101

Strangers in Strange Lands

Crows Nest Regional Art Gallery invites you to

'Strangers in Strange Lands'

a solo exhibition by Tiffany Shafran

3 - 29 May 2011

Official Opening 2pm Sunday 8 May

Refreshments will be served

This project is supported by the School of Creative Arts,
University of Southern Queensland
and the Public Memory Research Centre.

USQ UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
Faculty of Arts



Image Credit:
Tiffany Shafran
Untitled # 2
from the Wish you were here series
2011

Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 4 pm
Sunday 11.30 pm to 4pm



Crows Nest Regional Art Gallery
New England Highway, Crows Nest
P 07 4698 1687
E CrowsNestArt@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au
www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/cngallery

