

Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre Inc



Promoting Arts & Crafts in Our Community

Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre is one of North Sydney Council's Community Centres, managed and operated by a committee of volunteers. We provide educational and recreational resources to the community, concentrating on the paper-based arts and crafts. Activities include workshops, exhibitions and other activities appropriate to each particular branch of our artistic groups. The newly renovated Centre is well equipped with paper-making and bookbinding equipment, excellent audio visual capabilities and support facilities for other art forms. There is a fully-equipped traditional photographic darkroom and a professionally lit gallery space for exhibitions.

For general enquiries please see our webpage <http://www.primrose-park.com.au> or email committee@primrose-park.com.au



Supported by:
North Sydney Council

On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre Inc (PPACCI) for the year to 30 June 2019.

During the year, North Sydney Council undertook extensive renovations of the Centre. Our fantastic 'new' centre was officially opened in April 2019 by the Mayor Jilly Gibson.

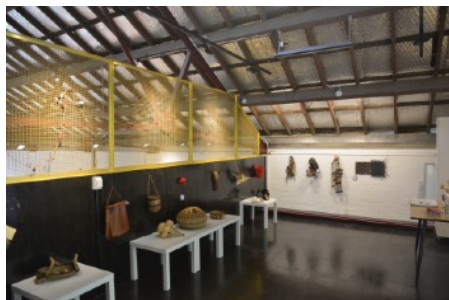
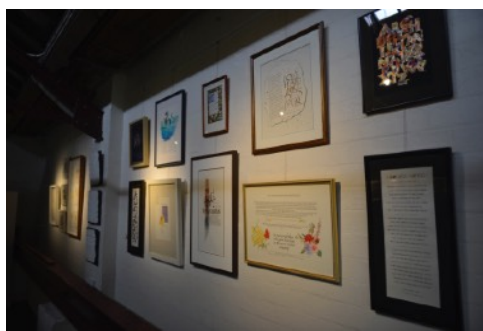
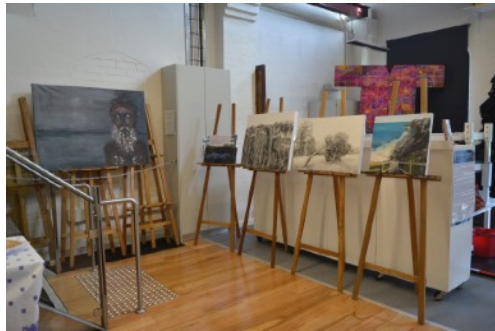
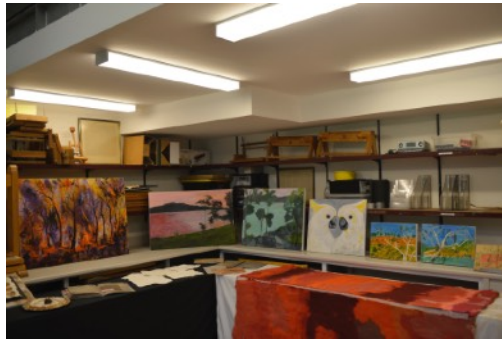
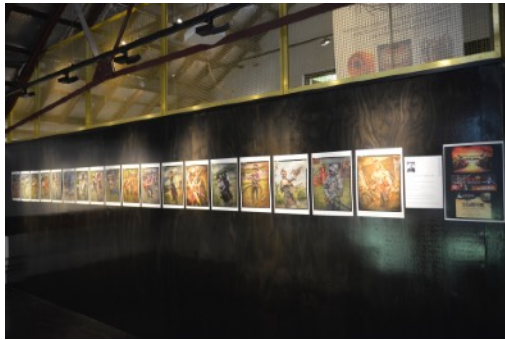
Our active groups comprise, Basketry, Calligraphy, PaperArts, Photography and painting 'Artists in the Park'. Activities of each group are presented later below. The committee was largely preoccupied

throughout the year with matters associated with the renovations.

The ongoing very strong support by North Sydney Council and the PPACCI Committee Members is acknowledged and appreciated in making the Centre a vital & vibrant resource for our local arts community. All our community members are encouraged to participate and new art activities welcomed.

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 have been separately provided to Council and members.

Ron Switzer, President 2019



ARTISTS IN THE PARK



Summary:

The painter's group, **Artists in the Park**, was formed at Primrose Park Art Centre in February 2016. The group was setup for emerging artists to meet and come together one day a week to paint and inspire each other. Artists meet on a Tuesday. It currently has 24 members.

Our Aim:

Our aim is to provide a warm encouraging environment for emerging artists to come together to paint, share ideas and develop their skills with oils and acrylics, pencil sketching and mixed media. A mixed exhibition is held each year to showcase and sell artworks.

Member Value Activities:

The group were delighted to return to the Primrose Park Art Centre in early 2019 and have the centre formally re-open in April. With getting back to the big space we had several new members join us.

The group extended its Tuesday painting sessions with several arty social nights. One of which was to see 'At Eternity's Gate' on the life of Vincent van Gogh. A new activity was added of having demonstrations by an accomplished artist each term. The first was with the Melissa Read-Devine. This was a great success to see a live demo of how an artist starts to almost finish a work within an hour, while explaining painting technique.

This was followed in October with a demonstration by Garry Donnellan, a street artist who shared his vast art knowledge while he painted the view of the playing fields outside.

The 2019 mixed group exhibition entitled 'Connections' is planned for November 28. We aim to make it a fun night for the community and also raise money for the Bushfire Appeal on the night.

BASKETRY



Membership and Activities report – President Glenese Keavney

Membership: 2019/2020 28 full memberships and 20 remote memberships. This includes 12 new members to Basketry NSW

North Sydney Senior Citizens workshop:

Glenese (and grandson) and Jan, led by Sally conducted a workshop at the Don Bank Museum on Thursday 14th February 2019. With fifteen participants we managed to make (or at least get a fair way through) a basket using recycled materials. Participants seemed quite happy with the results and evaluations were favourable.

Celebrating Bangalow Exhibition July 2019

This exhibition was held in the mezzanine level at Primrose Park Art & Craft Centre during the month of July. Nine members contributed 26 baskets in all plus one photo book.

Outreach events:

Basketry NSW participated in stands at the following events to promote basketry and drive membership and awareness of our association. Some members baskets were for sale. A number of members volunteered their time to help out at each of the activities, thanks to Jan Hay, Jillian Culey, Meri Peach, Flora Friedmann and Sally Blackwell. A number of messages from visitors to the events have since been received via our email and Facebook account, expressing delight in finding out about our association with the possibility of their following up on their “weaving” dreams.

Winterfest Medieval Fair - Saturday 6/Sunday 7 July 2019; St Ives Medieval Fair – Saturday 21/Sunday 22 September, 2019; Lost Trades Fair –Saturday 5/Sunday 6 October, 2019

Craft week activities:

Nicole Robins and Sally Blackwell will be leading a “drop in workshop” at the North Sydney Markets (same location as above) on 19th October. We will be creating small pendants from natural and recycled materials. - 19 October, 2019

Basketry NSW is offering a basketry activity for children as part of the North Sydney Children's Festival. The theme of the Festival is Animalia so on October 26th, in Civic Park, the park outside the North Sydney Community Centre, we will be offering a communal activity making a number of large bird's nests.

CALLIGRAPHY



The Australian Society of Calligraphers currently has 152 members with approximately 50 members living locally. We hold monthly, all day workshops and on occasion, especially when a visiting overseas tutor is concerned, workshops that run for 4 or 5 days straight. Midweek meetings are held on a 'needs must' basis.

The aim of the ASC is to promote and practice both traditional and modern forms of calligraphy, thus keeping this beautiful ancient art alive and flourishing.

Royal Easter Show: The ASC has participated here since 1983. The annual calligraphy exhibits include, Traditional works, Contemporary & Experimental work, plus pieces for 'off the wall' ie, non-hanging art works. All categories are open to all level of expertise, ranging from absolute novice to very experienced calligraphers. Many of the works displayed were workshopped at Primrose Park. A number of members also demonstrated calligraphy at the ASC stand in the Exhibition Hall.

Sydney Craft & Quilt Show: As in previous years the ASC demonstrated, and promoted calligraphy to the many visitors, and our personalised bookmarks were very well received by the general public.

St. Ives Medieval Fayre: The ASC was again invited to participate in this annual event, with medieval societies from around Australia, the UK and Europe taking part. We have our own turreted medieval style tent in which to demonstrate our skills, while encouraging potential new members.

ASC Workshops

A full range of monthly one or two day workshops have been presented this year (with the move back to Primrose Park being especially welcome) Our tutors have been drawn from our own local, talented & highly respected teachers, as well as from interstate, plus two renowned international calligraphers (Yves Leterme – France) & illuminator (Toni Watts – England) All workshops are held on specialist topics and cater for all skill levels. 2019 has also seen the ASC introduce 3 hour mini-workshops that follow on from committee meetings. Although still very structured, they are less demanding than a full day, and are ideally suited to beginners. 2019 has also seen the ASC present an exhibition at the prestigious Palm House venue in the Royal Botanic Garden.

Hundreds of visitors have viewed the art works and given highly complimentary comments to those members on duty or written in the visitor's book. Many of the works on display were also workshopped at Primrose Park as a direct result of workshops done there.

Public Talks / Visual Presentation

Our international tutors are always invited to give a 'behind the scenes' talk, and overall presentation of their works. These meetings are free to any member of the public and are held either at Primrose Park or the State Library. The talk is followed by a light supper, and we generally attract in excess of 125 people to the event.

Library:

The ASC has an extensive range of books & magazines in its collection. Most can be borrowed although some of the really valuable ones are for reference only to be consulted on site.

PAPER ARTS



61 members; Meets every Monday and Thursday (& monthly weekend workshops); President Dinah Beeston.

This was a very exciting year for us as we moved back into the renovated studio in April. We've been able to find homes for all our equipment and resume our usual activities for members and the community. A big thank you to North Sydney Council for all the work that was done to give us a wonderful world class studio space in the building. The Gardens Department did special planting in the new gardens around the building involving plants which can be used to make paper – we have to wait until they have grown a bit more before we can start harvesting!

During the renovations we continued holding meetings and workshops at North Council Chambers and North Sydney Community Centre. We held monthly Social Days which were well supported by members who meet to share ideas, experiences and catch up with each other, and which are a great chance for us to show off the studio and welcome new members. These days are a very important part of our calendar.

In conjunction with North Sydney Bushcare we held a paper making workshop for children using local plant fibres and recycled board. They produced lovely papers that they took home to use in various forms.

We had a number of workshops that were open to members and the general community: exploring dyes; colour, design and collage; photographing your art work; and paper manipulation. The workshops were well supported and resulted in some new members for the group. We had a couple of days when members brought in plant fibres from their gardens to cook up and then prepare pulp to make paper. This is always a very popular activity as the results are unique and can be used in many different art forms.

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We've continued to hold our Tips and Tricks days when members share ideas, techniques and experience with each other on the topic for the day. Our activities are advertised on our website and we've had a very good response from people far and wide who follow our blog – this has resulted in a number of new members.

This year we introduced the concept of Special Interest Days which are held once a month primarily for our print makers and book makers. It is an opportunity for the specific equipment to be out and available for members, and for the sharing of ideas, techniques and experience for these art forms.

We also participated in the North Sydney Children's Creative Festival with an open day at the Primrose studio. We had nine different activities for the “children” to try – we found that the children were all ages with a lot of parents being involved as well. The studio was full of people from when we opened at 11am and most people stayed for an hour with many staying for two hours. The visitors appeared to be having a good time and our members certainly enjoyed themselves. It was a great experience for us to be involved in this activity again and we appreciate the Council's invitation to participate.

In October, we had a display of members' work in the Mezzanine area which also brought visitors into the studio – some who came specifically to see the display and others who happened to be walking by and saw the sign outside the door.

Following a request from some of our more remote members we have held a few workshop days at Como which have been popular with those members who live in the Shire and down the South Coast. We will continue with this program.

We are grateful to North Sydney Council for their ongoing support.

PHOTOGRAPHY



We currently have 60 members; with meetings on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday evening of each month and with additional weekend workshops, such as our annual World Pinhole Photography event, held successfully in the renovated darkroom in April. We are represented on Facebook and Instagram. Our Patron is renowned photographer and darkroom specialist, Gordon Undy.

During the almost 10 months of renovation activity, PPP met at the Chatswood Bowling Club. Facilities there were minimal but we enjoyed a fruitful and industrious 2018/2019 thanks to the focused energies, support and commitment of our committee, members and guests.

Conversational/Practical workshops during the renovations were held at the Don Banks Museum in North Sydney generously provided by Council. These included Black & White landscapes presented by our Patron Gordon Undy, night photography, lighting and a discussion led by our David Jenkins on mirrorless cameras.

Our A/V facilities had to be transported to the Chatswood venue where our technology team improvised to suit the external venue. This technology team also made an outstanding contribution to the planning and implementation of our much improved AV facilities in the renovated Primrose Park venue.

Our monthly newsletter FLASH, continues to inform, educate and entertain us all. PPP's Gallery exhibitions and "On the Cupboard" works have continued under the guidance of curator Andy Rogers both in the temporary facility and upon return to Primrose Park. One of our members Mick Lynch, made new and improved stands for showing off prints on our meeting nights. We produce the annual PPP calendar, showcasing some of our members' best photographs as well as publicising our meeting nights and events.

PPP's ongoing fundraising activities include the Sydney Camera Market, sale of surplus and donated photographic items and Raffles. Contributions of photographic goods, food and prizes together with the time and energy of our members is appreciated by all.

Our social occasions include such events as our Showcase 'Hot August Soup Night', our Christmas Party and our regular Oaks lunch and dinners.

The newly renovated traditional darkroom has proved an outstanding success. One of very few public darkrooms left in Sydney, we have engaged many new members, established operating protocols and conducted introductory and advanced workshops. And we've had very successful model nights since moving back to the renovated PPP premises.

There will be a lot more to come in 2020.