

Portland CEMA Inc. - Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts

Newsletter - May 2008

President's Report

What an amazing feat to have "ongoing" involvement in "encouraging" arts activity in this area for over 60 years! CEMA's structure has allowed new groups to flourish and less supported groups to go into recess over its long history. There were periods where we had an orchestra, concert band, current affairs group and others which met demands and interests of the times. Are there groups that could be formed in the future?

The Arts Company grew out of needs of some CEMA groups and other arts groups to find permanent homes, and the desire of local artists to display and sell their products. For more than 15 years it has contributed to the "arts life" of Portland.

Who knows what the future will be for our organisations? I suspect there are some big challenges ahead, in terms of aging volunteers, but let's celebrate the fact that we have lots of opportunities to create, make and present art, or to be arts consumers in this place.

Enjoy your arts.

Jan Colliver (President)

THE ARTS COMPANY

Heather's Retirement Speech

Well! Another busy year for The Arts Company has come and gone with many achievements and changes along the way.

Many of you are aware that for the past year The Arts Company in conjunction with CEMA has employed an Arts Program Coordinator from a grant received from Dept Planning and Communities Development, with sponsorship from Glenelg Shire and Portland Aluminium.

In August last year our first coordinator left for personal reasons, then our current coordinator Nikki Adams was appointed and commenced in September 2007.

The past 8 months has seen the start of a regular and wide variety of workshops from storytellers to book binding and life drawings with some of the popular ones continuing on in the next few months. Some of our visiting tutors have also returned for further workshops.

I would like to thank Nikki for all her hard work and dedication she shows over and above her role as Arts Program Coordinator and I am sure we are all looking forward to another year of exciting workshops.

I would like to sincerely thank Karl Hatton and Jan Colliver for all their support they have given me over the past year. Karl, Jan and myself have put in many hours to overseeing all the grant and sponsor money we have received over the past 12 months. One of the outcomes from all our meetings is that we now have a business plan and a budget as a guideline for the next 3 years for The Arts Company.

I would like to thank the Department of Planning and Community Development, CEMA Inc. for their past support and Glenelg Shire and Portland Aluminium for their ongoing support.

With all this extra activity happening at the Arts Company the June Hedditch studios have enjoyed the extra occupancy, we have most of our visiting tutors staying here as well as student nurses and visiting photography judges for the Camera club. Due to increases in our operating costs for June Hedditch apartments we have recently increased the accommodation rates for the studios and as of last month the committee appointed Joanne Allwood as our new cleaner for the gallery and the studios as well as our meet and greet person for the apartments.

Changes and improvements, there have been many during the year from changes to the way we display our gallery and stock to introducing an annual gallery fee instead of an individual item fee each time stock is submitted.

I sincerely wish to thank Trish Cooper for her commitment in her role as our Bookkeeper and Treasurer and Joanne



Heather Clark gives her retirement speech at the Arts Company AGM

Allwood for all her work as our Secretary, without their support it would make my role very difficult. Thank you also to the rest of the management committee for their support during the past year.

It is with regret that due to my current business and family commitments I am unable to take on the role as President for the forthcoming year and wish the Committee all the best in finding a new Chairperson.

(Speech given to The Arts Company AGM 9th April)

We are to reconvene our AGM on Wed, 23rd April at 5.30 pm. Details in next month's newsletter.

Thank you.

Heather Clark (outgoing President)

Membership Secretary's Report

One of the challenges of being Membership Secretaries is to hunt down the offender who leaves money with no form or documentation. Even Sherlock Holmes would be impressed.

Since the last report the Membership Secretary (guess which one) has had a brush with authority. The weather and damp condition were perfect for rubbish removal. Unfortunately the little man in the fire tower saw a puff of smoke and called in the response team. Fire restrictions are off today - no more red faces!!

Bill & Bev Martin (Membership Secretaries)

ARTISTS' SOCIETY

We had a commission recently to paint a country shack on a farm near Bessiebelle. Most members turned out to sketch and paint the shack. Many were called, but only one was chosen. Some of the results can be viewed in the window at The Arts Company.

Our Easter Exhibition is still on display in the Studio Gallery and all works are for sale.

Warren Mars (painter)



Various versions of "The Shack" on display in the Arts Company Window

PORTLAND FILM SOCIETY present:

Dr Plonk

Rolf de Heer 2007 (Australia) G

Starring: Nigel Lunghi, Paul Blackwell, Magda Szubanski, Wayne Anthony, Quentin Kenihan, Mike Rann

It is the great year of 1907. Dr Plonk, eminent scientist and inventor, calculates that the world will end in exactly 101 years unless immediate action is taken. As befalls visionaries through the ages, Plonk is ridiculed for his beliefs, by politicians, by bureaucrats, even by his faithful manservant Paulus. Being the lateral thinker that he is, Plonk invents a time machine and sets out to collect the necessary proof from the very future that's ending.

But little about the year of 2007 makes sense to the intrepid doctor. His efforts to alert the appropriate authorities cause him to fall foul of the law and become a hunted man. With the nation's entire law-enforcement system arrayed against him, a scientific question is posed...can Dr Plonk run fast enough?

Rolf de Heer (Ten Canoes) has spun back cinematic time to the days of Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin with an energetic, funny, adventure-filled farce.

Portland Arts Centre,
Saturday, 17th May, 7.30 pm



Choral Group

We will be performing at the ANZAC Day commemorations again this year at the Memorial Triangle on Friday at 10:30 am.

We are learning new music at present including another piece by Orlando Di Lasso and an Irish Slipjig. New members are, as ever, most welcome.

Warren Mars (Bass)

MAP

- exploring the creative terrain -

This exhibition brings together a group of local artists who have been asked to interpret and respond to an historical map of their choice, which has a direct connection to where they live. Curated by Kelly Wynne, this should be an absorbing exhibition with a strong local resonance.

28 April to 23 May
Portland Arts Centre
Admission free

Fibre Group

We continue to meet Thursday, every week, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. At present our members are working on their own projects.

The Glenormiston Craft Week is coming up again at the end of June. Someone may be interested as there is quite a good range of courses available.

New members would be most welcome.

Josephine Koch (Secretary)

FILM SOCIETY

Our next screening will be on Saturday 17th May, 7.30pm at the Portland Arts Centre.

The Australian film is the 2007 released comedy "Dr. Plonk" with Magda Szubanski, Nigel Lunghi, and Paul Blackwell.

Shot in black and white with a hand held camera, and featuring framed inter-titles and a musical sound-track performed by the Stilleto Sisters, 'Dr.Plonk' is a modern attempt to recreate a silent era film.

From his 1907 vantage point, the visionary Dr. Plonk discovers that the world is going to end in 2008, so he invents a time machine to try to avert the tragedy. 'Dr. Plonk' is a slapstick delight.

Drinks and nibbles at 7.00pm. Supper included.

Berice Jones (Secretary)

Historical Society

The next meeting of the Portland Historical Society will be held at the Portland Arts Centre on Thursday, May 1st at 1.30pm. We will be reviewing our book collection. Please bring an early self photo. Enquiries to Betty Vivian

Betty Vivian (President)

Leadlighter's Guild

At our last meeting it was decided the guild would travel to Terang for a one day workshop learning glass slumping at Sand and Fire, near the end of May. If any members would like to go please leave your name with Miriam.

We would like to welcome Morella Rocka as a new member to our guild.

Working groups Wed from 1 pm and Thurs from 7.30 pm.

Heather Clark (Secretary/Treasurer)

PIONEER QUILTERS

Please note that our next Meeting will be May 19th.

Diane will be showing us how to make a Tissue Box cover.

Requirements are-- Material- wadding- trims- embellishments-cotton- sewing machine.

Happy Quilting.

Carmel Jasper (Secretary)



Elli McLean - Spring Is Here
from the Artists' Society Easter Exhibition



Audience members at the Arts Company AGM on 9th April

La Traviata

This is one of the most accessible of all operas, set in 19th century Paris, with powerfully drawn characters and unforgettable music. Verdi skilfully combines the triumphant celebration of life with a tragic and heart-rending love story by Alexandre Dumas, in this touring production by Co-Opera.

Saturday, 17 May, 8.00pm
Casterton Town Hall

Full price \$30 Concession \$25 Student \$10 Family \$66



Annie Get Your Gun

In Concert

Style Music presents this concert version of the musical with lyrics and music by Irving Berlin. The story is a fictionalised version of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), who was a sharpshooter from Ohio, and her husband, Frank Butler.

Wednesday, 7 May, 11.00am
Portland Arts Centre

Full price \$30 Concession \$25 Student \$10 Family \$66

Shirley Valentine

Willy Russell (Educating Rita) wrote this classic play about a housewife who feels her life has stagnated and is terribly mundane. When her best friend wins a vacation for two to Greece, Shirley grasps at the chance for a new lease on life.

Friday, 23 May, 8.00pm
Portland Arts Centre

Full price \$35 Concession \$30 Student \$10 Family \$72