

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

Newsletter - July 2009

President's Report

My "Arts" experiences were enjoyable and varied this last month. From "free" activities to ones that had to be budgeted for.

I managed a visit to the NGV Ian Potter Gallery for the John Brack exhibition and have followed up by discovering the wealth of information on the NGV website. Audio tours are available on the website <http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/johnbrack/audio/> If anyone intends going to the Dali exhibition there is a downloadable audio tour available for this also.

On the home front the little gems of performances that happen when others come to rehearse and record at Gorae West have provided a great deal of pleasure, as have the Sunday sessions at the Bridgewater kiosk. I joined a small group for Trevor Smith's artist talk at the Arts Company at the end of last month. I encourage you to support the Artist Talks on the last Friday of each month.

On Friday night I joined a very appreciative audience for "Lotte's Gift". Exquisite playing by Karin Schaupp and an interesting story of her grandmother's life. Karin proved to be a great actor and story teller and the set was simple but elegant.

Despite working hard to remember my five lines for the Admella play, I didn't manage to get any of them right at yesterday's rehearsal. Oh dear. I will have to do some "Brain Gym" exercises! I've been enjoying watching the "engineer at work" designing the set of the Admella in a 3D computer drawing and consulting with the director by email. We are interested in donations of frock coats, top hats and dark coloured Colonial dresses for the Admella play. There must be many sitting in wardrobes from 1984. Contact me if you can help out in this regard.

I am happy to announce that Carmel Potter is our new Costume Dept manager and that open hours will be 4.30 - 6pm every Thursday. Costume hire rates are \$20 Deposit and \$10 an outfit. There will be an additional chargeout fee for Carmel to attend at times outside the regular hours. The phone number for costume hire is 0427 473 130 1984.

I wish to acknowledge the wonderful work of our newsletter editor Warren Mars. The contributors are often unreliable and erratic but Warren manages to publish, print and circulate to all members every month. Warren has also been "webmaster" for many years. We thank him for the magnificent contribution to our organisation.

We will be urgently seeking someone (or group of people) to take over Warren's role and will be seeking someone to

nominate as Secretary. All positions will be declared vacant, but most of the current executive have indicated a willingness to be nominated.

Please attend the AGM on Thursday, 16th July at 7.30pm. Members are encouraged to provide a contribution for supper. Groups are reminded to submit financial reports to Gregor McGregor and also to produce their annual report which should be read to the meeting by Group Convenor or representative.

PS. Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to our membership secretaries Bev and Bill.

Jan Colliver (President)

Membership Secretary's Report

We encourage all members to attend the AGM at the Portland Arts Centre, Thursday, 16th July at 7.30 to support the executive who keep the CEMA organisation alive and active by meeting monthly to keep the business affairs in order. The AGM is always a pleasant evening with supper and an opportunity to compare your group activities with others.

Bill & Bev Martin (Membership Secretaries)



Long time CEMA stalwart Josephine Koch was presented with Life Membership of the Fibre Group on the occasion of her retirement to Loxton, SA.

THE ARTS COMPANY

The Arts Company look forward to a busy time ahead working with the Portland Tourist Association to present an exciting arts project as part of the 'Upwelling Festival' in November. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, The Hon Peter Garrett MP announced this week the Festivals Australia Grants Recipients. One of the major recipients was the Five Whales Project

From November to May Blue Whales can be seen off Portland's coast. The Five Whales project will be a celebration of the visitation of these magnificent animals to the region. Artists will work with the community to build five temporary life-size whales out of materials that are local to the area. Five professional artists will work with teams that represent a diverse cross-section of the community. Each team will create one full size blue whale of a different art medium - inflatable plastic, old fishing gear (craypots, nets), sand & soil, cloth & cane and aluminium materials.

When installed in and around the festival site, each whale will let fly with a mighty spray of water at unpredictable intervals to acknowledge the blue whale blow.

Funding: \$20,000

The June Hedditch Apartments will host the visiting artists and the upstairs area, currently used by the Camera Club will be a workspace for the artists.

The Pioneer Quilters have joined the Fibre Group in the Fibre Studio and the Camera Club will hold their monthly meetings in the Studio Gallery meeting area.

Workshops are continuing this month with Felt making and Solar Printmaking and The Arts Company continues to host Portland's Creative Kids in the after school program. Bookings can be made by calling Ebony Yuill on 5523 6566.

Lesley Jackson (Chair)



June Lynch - "Mums, Bubs" on sale at The Arts Company

PORTLAND FILM SOCIETY

present:

The Visitor

Thomas McCarthy, 2007

Writer: Thomas McCarthy

Starring: Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Danai Jekesai Gurira, Hiam Abbass, Marian Seldes, Maggie Moore

A deeply moving drama built around longtime character actor Richard Jenkins, *The Visitor* is a simmering drama about a college professor and recent widower, Walter Vale (Jenkins), who discovers a pair of illegal aliens who were the victims of a real-estate scam living in his New York apartment. After the mix-up is resolved, Vale invites the couple--a young, Syrian musician named Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend (Danai Gurira)--to stay with him. An unlikely friendship develops between the retiring, quiet Vale and the vibrant Tarek, and the former begins to loosen up and respond to Tarek's drumming lessons as if something in him waiting to be liberated has finally been unleashed. All goes well until Tarek is hauled in by immigration authorities and threatened with deportation.



Portland Arts Centre,
Saturday, July 11, 7.30 pm

Book Discussion Group

This month we read Peter Goldsworthy's novella "Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam". This book, not surprisingly, provoked much discussion, not so much on matters of style, as on the controversial theme.

We talked of the issues of morality and legality, of family relationships and religious faith, both from the viewpoint of the novella and from personal experience. By the time we got to the questions, we found we'd touched on most of their points.

Most of us found it be an intense, thought provoking work, to be "appreciated" rather than "enjoyed".

Note the change of venue for our next meeting: 20 PARK ST on July 1st at 1:30 pm.

Lyn Smith (Convenor)

CEMA Online

I note on consulting my records that my first effort as CEMA Newsletter Coordinator was the Newsletter of October 1999, almost 10 years ago! After 10 years of service I find that I'm not as keen as I once was and have decided to step aside and let someone else tackle this important and rather tricky job. As a consequence this will be my last newsletter. I would like to thank all those who have helped me in this job over the years, (you know who you are), with special mentions to Lex Chalmers, who got me going and Les Roberts, who has served as folder and stuffer and *Chauffeur par excellence* for years.

It has been an interesting job, although quite technically demanding, and I would encourage anyone who is good with computers and who has an interest in Desktop Publishing to nominate for the position. Briefly, the job involves: gathering some digital photos of CEMA events during the month, gathering reports from CEMA Groups & Executive Officers, assembling the newsletter using MS Publisher, converting it to PDF, getting it printed, sending it out by email, printing out the address labels, organising volunteers to fold it and taking the end result to the Post Office. It is desirable to have a broadband connection, digital camera and a laser printer.

I trust that you have enjoyed the newsletters that I have produced over the years. I have tried to make them informative, representative and easy on the eye, with a good smattering of relevant pictures each month. Thank you for reading.

Warren Mars (Webmaster)

Poetry Reading Group

We held our AGM last Sunday. Office Bearers were re-elected:

Dawn Turner - Convenor,
Helen Anderson - Sec/Treas.

The AGM was followed by our usual poetry reading which was successful & enjoyable.

Poetry reading will continue on the 3rd Sunday of every month in the ensuing year. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, July 19.

Dawn Turner (Convenor)

Leadlighter's Guild

Annual General Meeting to be held Wed 1st July at 7pm at Leadlighters' Studio, please bring a plate for supper. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations will called for from the floor. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Glass has arrived for the community project, cutting it this week to commence leading next week. If you would like to be part of the assembly line, please contact Miriam for roster times.

Happy leading

Miriam Ray

Fibre Group

We have welcomed two new members, and farewelled Jo Koch, who has moved to Loxton after many years as a member, and in appreciation of her services, was made a life member at her last meeting with us.

We meet at the Arts Company every Thursday, 10:30am until mid afternoon, and would love to welcome more new members to join us, spinning, knitting, or whatever.

Dorothy Longney (Secretary)

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group has had a relatively quiet, behind the scenes period of time. We have spent the last little while looking at different scripts that a few members have discovered in the quest for inspiration. As we are a relatively busy group of people in our everyday lives, we have been searching for something that will quench our thirst for the drama, the rush, the buzz that we all get when contributing to a major production, but not eat so much into our busy children, study, work and sport filled lives.

It looks like we have come across just that! At our AGM last week, it was agreed that we would look at performing "Red Wax A Comedy for Women in One Act". Not, in fact, one that we had ordered, borrowed or bought, but one rather that was given to us to look at. Clinton Saunders is keen to direct - more power to him as the cast is made up of 6 women! A notice will be submitted to the Portland Observer in due course and auditions will be undertaken to find Clinton's leading ladies!!

Of course anyone interested in helping out backstage, costumes, make up, sound, lighting, props, set, etc will also be more than welcome to attend auditions. Alternatively we are always on the look out for new members with fresh ideas, so anyone who would be interested is more than welcome to contact Dani Marasco, Jason Oates or myself, and come along to our next meeting.

Kat Warner



Arts Company outgoing Executive at last month's Arts Co AGM

PIONEER QUILTERS

Our next meeting will be on July 13th at the Arts Company, meeting at 10am for a cuppa and the meeting at 10:30, followed by the annual meeting.

We will be preparing the angel blocks ready for quilting.

New members welcome.

Dorothy Longney (Secretary)

Historical Society

The next meeting of the Portland Historical Society will be held at the Portland Arts Centre on Thursday, 2nd July at 1.30pm. This will be the A.G.M. followed by the ordinary July meeting.

Betty Vivian (President)

More Random Thoughts

A body of work by Tony Ashby, encompassing different styles and techniques, including traditional, contemporary and surreal. This exhibition is designed to show diversity in both thought and application.



The Portland Arts Centre, week days, 22 June - 17 July
Free admission.

Continuing our Artist Talks series
The Arts Company presents

Ray Thomas

Victorian Indigenous artist Ray Thomas is a descendant of the Brabraloong Gunnai nation of eastern Victoria, Australia and also has Djabwurrung and Kirraewurrung ancestry lineage across the Western region of Victoria.

Working mainly with acrylic and airbrushing on canvas, Ray's artwork is not only eye catching but distinctly representational of his cultural background, adapting modern techniques to create a true personal visual experience.

The Arts Company, Julia St
Studio Gallery

7pm
Friday, 26th June
Admission Free



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ALUMINIUM**

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