

ArtSpace GALLERY

Newsletter #23

November/December 2016

News

Centennial Centre – Open for Business

We're open for business in our new abode – the Wonthaggi information centre – or Centennial Centre as it's officially called.



John Mutsaers, Dan Luscombe BCSC, Ursula Theinert President of ArtSpace and Dee Connell President of WBTA signing the MOU papers.



Thanks to hard work and perseverance by members of all groups involved – ArtSpace, Wonthaggi Business and Tourism Association, the Volunteer Information team and Bass Coast Shire Council- we have now taken up residence in this lovely new space.

Up until 9th January we will be running both locations to ensure people know where to find us for those lovely thoughtful Christmas presents. After that date we will close the doors on McBride St and be solely located at 1 Bent St

May you and your families be happy and healthy over the celebratory season and we will see you all again in the New Year.

Events and Exhibitions

3 Dec 2016 to 27 Jan 2017

Sculptures at Lucinda – featuring great local artists. See flyer on page 14.

15 Jan 2017

Visitors Welcome – at our new address 1 Bent Street. Small event encouraging visitors to the area to see the gallery, and find out more about Wonthaggi. 11am to 1pm.

17 Jan 2017

Wet Felting Workshop for children at Coal Creek Heritage Park Korumburra. Contact Janice Graham on 0407 094516.

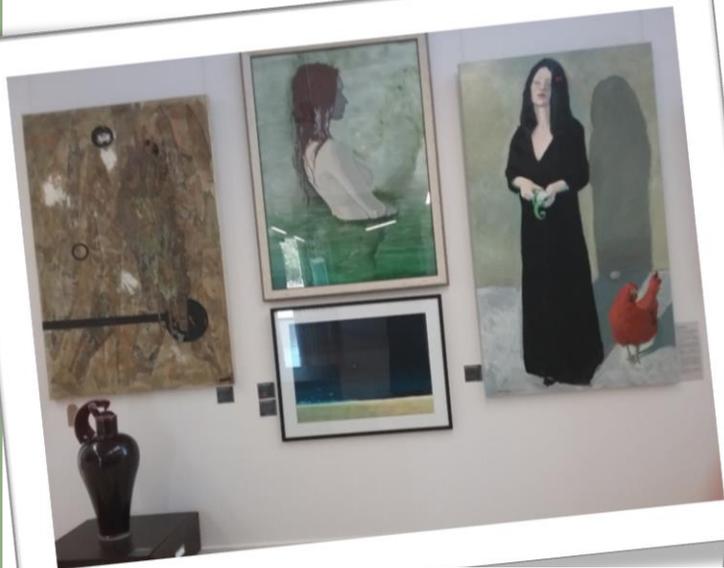
ArtSpace Wonthaggi Gallery –1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi Vic 3995
5-7 McBride St until 9th January 2017
www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au



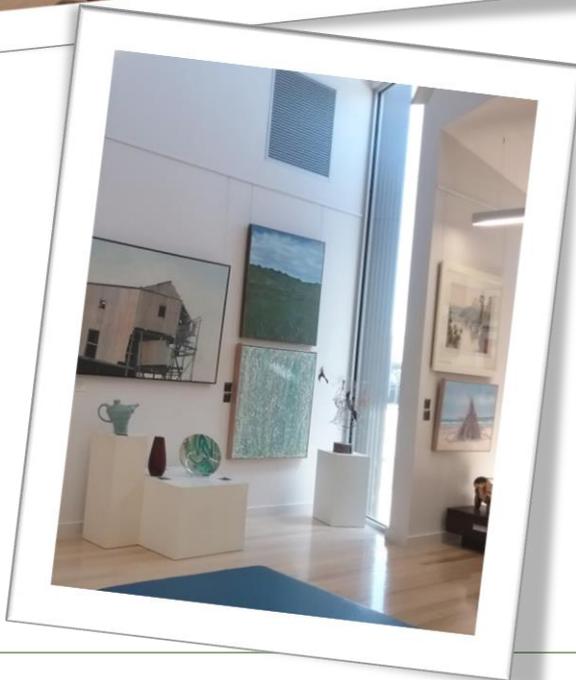
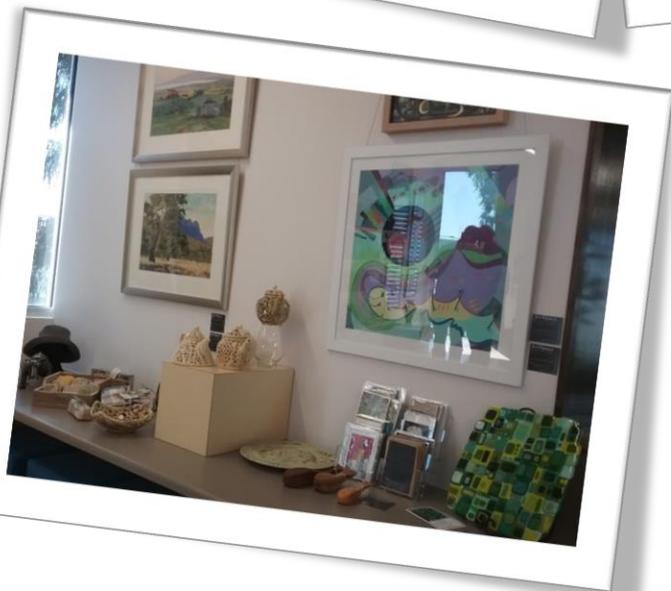
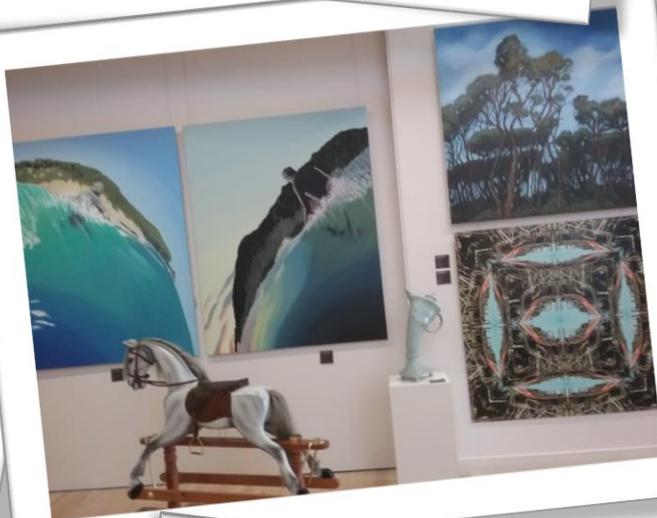
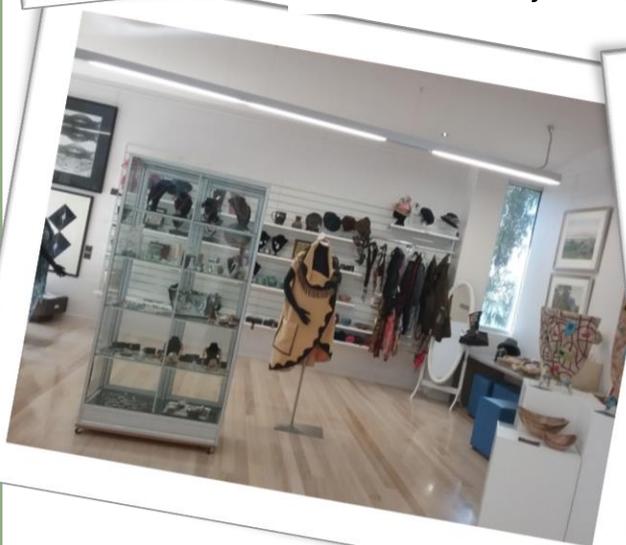
Outside walls of 1 Bent St with new signage.



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The first hang in the new space.



Featured Artist – Heather Towns

Ratiti sauntered over and demanded attention. I had only just entered the amazingly colourful art studio of Heather Towns and already her Tonkinese cat was sizing me up. Ratiti, or in English 'Fijian Princess' (who only answers if you roll the 'R' and is so protective of her domain that she will Velcro herself to an unfortunate dog that comes past) only responds to the Fijian language. The reason being that Heather used to have her second home there. In a traditional bure, nestled on a fringe of an idyllic white sandy beach, Heather would flee the pressures of her graphic arts business whenever she could.



She was accepted into the community but only on the proviso that she obeyed 'fish people's' village rules. She laughs as she describes that one part of the rules was to wear the dress worn by the locals. The women would purchase a bolt of fabric and make the traditional, shall we say, less than elegant frocks and all wear them. One day, they all lined up on the beach, along with Heather to pose for a photograph. Heather laughs, "We looked like a curtain." What was worse was the coconut husk threaded with frangipani flowers that she had to wear around her neck which felt worse than a hair shirt. But she was happy there eating fresh fish every night and sitting on the floor on woven mats and listening to the stories.

It was very primitive with most either not having access to, or choosing not to, attend the western hospitals. Her very dear friend who looked after her bure and boat, Josua, built like an Adonis, was sick – but went to a snake oil doctor. He started wasting away and Heather got a message from his cousin to come quickly. She caught the next plane to Fiji and with mobile phone in one hand talking to a doctor friend from St Vincents and her other hand moving over Josh's body they tried to work out what was wrong. The Doctor suspected lymphoma. She managed to get Josh and his wife on a plane to Australia – but it was his embalmed body in a coffin that went back home.

While funeral and body transportation arrangements were being taken care of she painted Josua's coffin with the patterns that the Fijian people painted on their tapa cloths in the brown and white and with frangipani flowers with blocked out centres so that his friends and family could write messages to him of their love and respect for him.

Featured Artist – Heather Towns

Without Josh, it was not the same. The boat was no longer looked after and the bure was last seen on the horizon when a cyclone hit. She sold the boat's engine and gave the proceeds to Josua's wife.

But it was this place that became so influential in her art. The raw and repetitive nature of tribal art which she found in the Pacific, Africa, Mexico and American Indian art is what inspires her. She loves the "pattern on pattern on pattern." She certainly has no desire to be a tonal artist. What she loves is pushing colours backwards and forwards, push and pull.



Her first forays into art were not about colour. She managed to forage some charcoal from the incinerator when she was less than five and drew patterns down the concrete paths surrounding her father's vegie patches. But her parents weren't enthusiastic about her attempts at drawing and gave her dolls instead of pencils. She would design and make elaborate costumes for the dolls and then put them in her drawer – job done – she certainly didn't want to play with them.

Heather used to tell everyone she wanted to be an artist to which her parents would reply, "No she's not." Whilst she wanted to go to art school her mother wanted her to play piano and tennis and marry a doctor. Heather was terrible at school and so ended up at tech school where she was bribed with a transistor radio by her parents to make her attend. She was taught to cook (she failed cooking a brown stew on three occasions), home economics (as she refers it how to iron a man's shirt), social studies, sewing and art. Her parents wanted her to become either a nurse (as her mother was) or a teacher and refused to support her in art. Heather thought that there was no point in living, and not finding a knife handy, and thinking that it would be a bit tricky to strangle herself with her stockings, decided to drink a bottle of weed killer. The trouble was she hadn't realised that it would cause some violent vomiting which was, as she says, "hard to do quietly".



Featured Artist – Heather Towns



Her parents relented and allowed her to sit for entrance exams to Swinburne College of Art. They only did so because they didn't believe she had a chance – after all only 10% were chosen from 700 applicants. And – yes – you guessed it – Heather was one of the successful applicants. But then two thirds of the way through the course her parents stopped supporting her financially. You can understand why as in those days the tram fare was £21 a term and a drawing set £50 when a block of land was £300. And so she had to support herself – and through ways and means she finally completed her studies.

Featured Artist – Heather Towns



Zulu Studio

Featured Artist – Heather Towns

She then trained in Graphic Design and studied under Garry Emery setting up her own graphic design business, Towns & Co which later became Value Added Design. Think Epworth Hospital, Mildara Blass and Melbourne Docklands and you will realise what an impact Heather has had on developing iconic brands. For her it is not just the 'mark' that makes a brand – but the culture of thought – enabling her to discover the ideals and ambitions of the many corporations she worked with.

She is not only passionate about art, but also about knowledge. She despairs about news programs that devote 10 minutes to news, 20 minutes to sport, and not a dot about art or science. The Victorian of the Year is a scientist. "But what do we know about him?" she laments.

Confident and witty, with a strong sense of perspective is how I would describe Heather and so I was surprised to hear that she does not like it when the attention is on her exclusively. She has taken up belly dancing for fitness but also for the tribal feeling that it gives – but she tells me she stays at the back – she would never want to be at the forefront.



Zulu Dancing

At her own first art opening she was so agitated she decided to take some 'relaxants', promptly fell out of the car that delivered her to the venue, answered the fellow who asked her what her 'Medusa' meant by stating it was wall decoration, and then promptly got back in the car to home. She didn't last five minutes.

Now a permanent resident of Bass Coast, Heather bought her father's house from him and is now settled in Cape Paterson – her home on and off since 1958. She acknowledges that her art, which is a conversation between shapes and perspective, is not for everyone. As she says, "You don't have to like it – but don't be rude." She works in acrylic because her style of art does not have the time to wait for oils to dry. She explains that is because each block of colour is so interconnected to the next – if she changes a colour in one – she can't wait for it to dry to change the others. However it is not just painting, but lino printing and textiles are part of her repertoire.

Featured Artist – Heather Towns



Zulu Studio

Featured Artist – Heather Towns

She is a member of Artback – a group of painters that goes out bush and she is constantly amazed at how they can all look at the same thing and interpret it differently. Her companions laugh sometimes at her straight lines – but then she asks them if they could do it.

Heather believes that art can only be accomplished with love, diligence and talent – and only a few moments in her company she has them all.



Describing herself as a 'doer', Heather's next project is working with John Mutsaers on gaining some interest in a project, 'Patinas, Patterns and Painters'. The idea is to have monthly tours of artists' galleries in the region with viewings and then following up with a soirée where artists will chose a topic to discuss – anything from technique, canvas, colour to brush strokes. If you are interested please get in contact with Heather on zulu@heathertowns.com

Featured Artist – Heather Towns



PS When I sent the draft back to Heather I also had the temerity to comment on her business bio. I said, "Forgive me - it is my mother's influence who was an English teacher who can see an inappropriate apostrophe from 100 paces. In your business bio one has snuck in there..." She kindly told me she didn't mind and then went on to say, "Didn't I tell you I am also dyslexic? (Not even sure if that's how you spell it). Interesting isn't it, my Dad was dyslexic, then me, then my son (he's really bad) and now my grandson...sad and difficult, but doesn't stop ideas or life. Richard Branson is also dyslexic... And my son's favourite saying is...**Great minds think differently** – Not: Great minds think alike."

Frankly if I wasn't impressed about Heather before this – now I truly am.

Website Designs

Glen Orchard of gtcdesign has created our lovely new website.

INTUITIVE DESIGN

E-COMMERCE SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE HOSTING

MARKETING DESIGN



<http://gtcdesign.com.au>



Intuitive Design

IS YOUR CURRENT SITE MOBILE FRIENDLY? WITH THE GROWTH OF SMART PHONES, TABLETS AND GAME CONSOLES ALL CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BUSINESS SHINES ON ANY SCREEN SIZE.



E-Commerce Solutions

WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BUILDING VISUALLY EXCITING AND EASY TO EXPLORE E-COMMERCE SOLUTIONS AND USER EXPERIENCES ON ALL DEVICES.



Sculptures at Lucinda



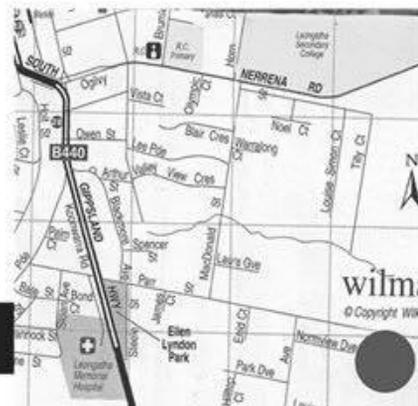
Sculptures at Lucinda

3 December 2016 to 27 January 2017

Come and sample superb wines, whilst viewing the amazing sculptures of Gippslands leading sculptors

Taste some wonderful wines whilst viewing these great local artists
Marlene Abela. Robert Barron. John Carlsen. Laurie Collins. Graham Duell. David Enbom.
Wayne Foenander. Lee Harrison. Denis Hawkins. Bob Hickman. Anne Roussac-Hoyne.
Andrew Kasper. Leslie Monahan. Mark Olsen

Twilight Opening 6.00-late Saturday 3 December 2016
Open weekends thru December 11:30-5 pm
Open daily thru January.
Weekdays 1- 5 pm Weekends 11:30 - 5 pm
Pizza available.



110 Parr St, Leongatha 3953

Tel: 0417 337 270 www.lucindaestate.com



Art Supplies

Fiona Fleming from the Wonthaggi Newsagent in Murray Street is now stocking Art Spectrum , Colourfix in packs of 10 or 20 roughly A4 size in smooth & original.

The packaging looks great and comes in either Cool or Warm colours or a pack of 20 with all colours for both.

She also has other art supplies in which to indulge – or hint at as presents for under the tree!

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www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au

Tidelines

Tidelines

Beach Litter Art Show & Marine Pollution Education Exhibition

Tidelines invites artists to submit work, made predominantly from beach litter, to highlight the need for people to take care of the marine environment and the beauty and health of the planet.

Vast amounts of plastic and other waste materials wash down our water ways and into the sea. Other pollutants come from ocean going vessels, industries and recreational activities in, on and near the ocean. This pollution is killing the plant and animal life in our seas.

Make art to encourage people to care for their beaches, to prevent and remove litter, and leave only footprints along the tideline of our living oceans.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

Work to be made mainly from materials that are often found as marine debris and rubbish. Visit www.tangaroablue.org, to find out more about marine debris data. Other materials and techniques may be used in the creation of these works, at the artist's discretion. Individual and group entries welcome.

SIZE: Hung items max 100cm x 100cm
3D sculpture max base 60cm x 60cm

Maximum of 2 entries per artist or group.

- **Entry Fee:** \$10 per entry. \$5 concession.
- **All work** to be labelled with artist's name, title of work, and price.
- **Hung items** to be framed or blocked and ready to hang.
- **3D sculptural works** to be self supporting on base

Tidelines reserves the right to refuse to accept works deemed unacceptable for any reason.

The Wonthaggi Library is secure and Tidelines will take great care with your work. However Tidelines and the Wonthaggi Library accept no liability for loss, damage, or theft of your work. Artists who wish to sell their work, please register contact details with Tidelines.

First Prize \$300
Second Prize \$200
Third Prize \$100
Honourable Mentions

Email: collyer.helen@gmail.com
rosemarypaterson7@gmail.com

Mail: Tidelines, HHR&RG, PO BOX 94
Wonthaggi 3995

Fee Payment: Cheque payable to
Harmers Haven Residents & Ratepayers Group
Electronic transfer: BSB 033-048
Account 17-7391

(Use your name as reference)

Tidelines

Beach Litter Art Show & Marine Pollution Education Exhibition

A multi media event presented by:
Bass Coast Shire Council
Clean Ocean Foundation
Coastcare Vic
Harmers Haven Residents and
Ratepayers Group
West Gippsland Regional Library Co

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Waiver: I acknowledge that whilst Tidelines and the Wonthaggi Library will take due care, they cannot accept responsibility for damaged or stolen work. Insurance for theft, fire, or any other risk is my responsibility. I have read and accept the conditions of entry as set above.

Name

Signature

Date

Tidelines

DETAILS OF WORK 1

Title of Work:

Materials:

Size:

Price:

DETAILS OF WORK 2

Title of Work:

Materials:

Size:

Price:

Sponsors: Bass Coast Shire
Clean Ocean Foundation
Coastcare victoria
Harmers Haven Residents &
Ratepayers Group

Please detach double sided entry form and submit with your payment. Retain invitation for your information and exhibition details.

Tidelines

Wonthaggi Library Bass Coast Shire
Murray Street Wonthaggi 3995

6 January - 4 February 2017
10am - 6pm Monday - Friday
9.30am - 4pm Saturday

Entry form & Fee Submission:

Thursday 1 December 2016

Delivery of Work:

Thursday 15 December 2016 10am - 12pm

Exhibition Opening:

Friday 6 January 2017 5pm - 6pm.

Guest speaker and awards presentation

Collection of Work:

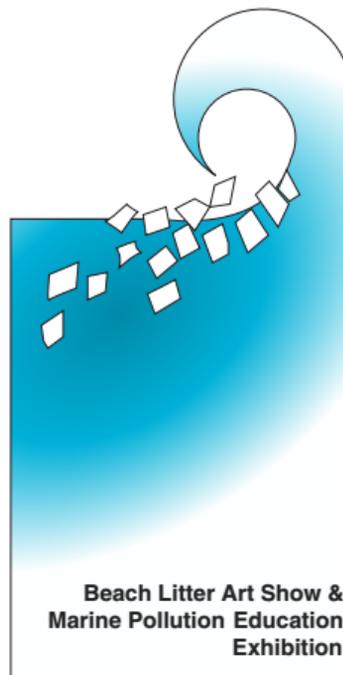
Saturday 4 February 10am - 1pm.

NOTE: It is the artist's responsibility to insure their work.

Enquiries: Rosemary Paterson 0400602187
Helen Collyer 0419126752

Sponsors: Bass Coast Shire Council
Clean Ocean Foundation
Coastcare Victoria
Harmers Haven Residents &
Ratepayers Group

Tidelines



www.inverlochholidayhomes.com.au



Inverloch HOLIDAY HOMES

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

What is Available
27th Dec to 3rd Jan



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY
SPECIAL OFFER \$150 PER NIGHT
SLEEPS 7**



\$1,100

11 Bruce Street

Inlet Side

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY
SPECIAL OFFER \$150 PER NIGHT
SLEEPS 6**



\$700

3/5-9 The Esplanade

Inlet Side

Landlords, Would you like to join us ?

- Extremely competitive commission rate
- No photography fees
- Support from our specialist and dedicated team
- Share the benefits of our privilege card
- Loyal customer base
- Creative and forward thinking marketing

 Southcoast

03 5674 2255
southcoastfn.com.au