



ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2nd April 2022

Introduction

It is a pleasure to present our Annual Report regarding the affairs of the Springwood Community Arts Centre for 2021 / 2022.

Thanks to the unstinting support of the committee, the tutors and the wonderful membership of our happy community we have accommodated the many changing protocols and restrictions posed by Covid-19. Happily, the membership remains robust and ever renewing and the tutors continue to loyally present stimulating and rewarding classes and workshops.

However, the last 12 months have presented unexpected challenges over and above the closures and restarting of classes safely. The saddest change to occur is the loss of our president Ian Bogg in December 2021. Ian had capably and quietly led the centre for 8 years and his good cheer and positive attitude were appreciated by everyone. We all cherish the warmth Ian fostered at our precious local community centre. We had not fully appreciated the breadth of the roles he filled so here I would like to thank the committee and especially the executive team for taking on a variety of these tasks to continue our work of running a much-appreciated community service.

Events and achievements 2021-2022.

1. Managing Covid-19: As for the previous year we continued monitoring the evolving Covid-19 safety protocols relevant to a community Centre of our size. Classes were not held in Term 3 as the Covid-19 Delta variant locked down the people of Greater Sydney. When we were able to re-open for Term 4, we continued requiring social distancing, mask wearing, reduced class sizes and urging members to use supplied sanitising products. The centre obtained a Covid Safe badge as well as the QR code in September. We were also required to monitor the

vaccination status of all who use our centre and that led to a staggered start to term 4 as tutors become fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, not all tutors were able to return.

2. Many planned activities were organised then cancelled. Workshops were cancelled in the hope of a re-run in 2022. The 2021 members' exhibition was again planned for the October long weekend but postponed once again. On reflection it is fortunate that we were able to run two exhibitions in 2019, including our 50th Anniversary exhibition at Braemar Gallery, as we have now had two years without the chance to show members' work.
3. Centre remediation. The Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) has planned for some years to remediate the asbestos in our building, along with all of their properties. We were informed late in November that these works were to take place in our January break. As well as the prospect of a renewed and much safer building, this gave us the impetus to re-organise much of our storage to better use the classroom spaces. All asbestos and white-ant damage has now been removed, the work areas have all been repaired and need only to be painted, this work being scheduled for the Easter school holidays.
4. Whilst classes have resumed with strong membership, we have also had a change in tutors, with the departure of Lucy Dixon and Margaret Ng and the introduction of Grant Eyre.

Conclusion

Change has been the strongest feature of the past year. I see this as an opportunity to bring in new ideas, whilst maintaining and supporting the continuing classes. I thank all members of the committee, especially the executive, in joining me with this positive frame of mind, looking to a bright future, remembering always the purpose for which we were formed, to serve the community.

We are all delighted that our centre remains strong and members continue to enjoy creative pursuits in a safe, happy and supportive environment.

Catherine Fox

Vice President.