

BRAVO!



Friends Youth Arts Academy a major step forward

HUNDREDS of Gold Coast youngsters, for years to come, are set to experience life-changing opportunities thanks to the establishment of the city's first ever youth arts academy.

The Friends Youth Arts Academy, which was officially launched on 19 October, is a major milestone for the Arts Centre Gold Coast which will work in partnership with The Friends of the Arts Centre Gold Coast to fund the program. (See story and picture page 2)

"For 14 years, the Arts Centre delivered successful annual Summer School programs but they were limited to only about 40 young people," said General Manager Dstry Puia.

"Many youngsters missed out because their families could not afford the fees while others were forced to leave the Gold Coast to pursue training and coaching.

"Now, thanks to the official financial commitment by the Friends, in conjunction with the on-going generosity of our Benefactors and Supporters, we have been able to develop a first-class program to nurture the creative and artistic talents of more than 200 young people each year.

"I am confident that the Friends Youth Arts Academy will attract national recognition."

Talented young Gold Coast performer Bonnie Page who starred *Cabaret Berserkus* and *High School Musical* exemplifies the need for the new academy.

Because there were no local courses, Bonnie was forced to move away from her family down to Victoria where she trained at the Ballarat Performing Arts Academy, 105km north-west of Melbourne.



Lapping up the limelight, youngsters get set for the academy's inaugural year.

Not only was it "financially challenging", but she missed being away from her family and friends. So did many of her classmates, some of whom abandoned their Ballarat course.

"I am really excited about the Friends Youth Arts Academy," Bonnie said. "Now young Gold Coast people will not be forced to Brisbane or interstate or have their talent go untapped."

The Academy's 2012 program will be conducted by some of Australia's most acknowledged and respected practitioners whose CVs involve major productions such as *Billy Elliot*, *Mamma Mia*, *Chicago* and *Singing in the Rain*.

Young dancers will benefit not just from tuition by top choreographers, but also from advice from a supporting nutritionist, physiotherapist,

yoga teacher and artists' agent.

Platinum Benefactors Jock and Beverly Mclwain, (pictured) long-term supporters of the former Summer School, said: "The Friends Youth Arts Academy will give Benefactors the opportunity to make a real difference to so many young lives.



"The satisfaction you receive from fostering the creative and artistic talent of a young person is indescribable. They become part of your family."

To make a donation see "Benefactor Buzz" on the back page.

Cake kicks-off year of 25th Birthday celebrations



CAKE, camaraderie and congratulations were the happy combination on Tuesday 6 December when Benefactors joined General Manager Dstry Puia to celebrate the 25th Birthday of The Arts Centre Gold Coast.

The Arts Centre Gold Coast has developed a year-long program to commemorate the milestone anniversary.

"We consulted Benefactors earlier this year for their ideas and suggestions and they provided invaluable input," said Sue-Anne Chapman, Marketing and Partnerships Manager.

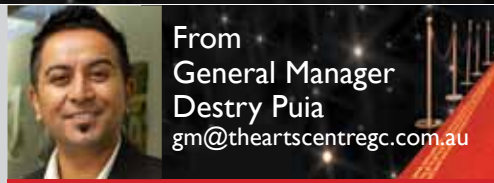
"We've included these ideas in our plans for the 25th Birthday commemorations from now until all the way through to next November 2012.

"All suggestions were considered and became pivotal in developing a suite of activities and communications for the celebrations where we will be highlighting events on the 25th of each month.

"These will include a February 25 Family Fun Day and a November 25 Outdoor Celebration.

"I thank Benefactors for their input and invite them to regularly check the website www.theartscentregc.com.au where they will find a full calendar of events.

"There will also be some historical press clippings and competitions on the site."



From
General Manager
Destry Puia
gm@theartscentregc.com.au

NOW that the Gold Coast has secured the right to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games, our goal of a major cultural precinct is one enticing step closer.

The design and delivery of the precinct will be a massive, multi-faceted project requiring enormous levels of planning, including community consultation. It's a long journey ahead, but we are privileged to be at this historic vantage point.

The new cultural precinct will foster a blossoming of the Arts in our city for generations to come. Benefactors will be in a strong strategic position to provide valuable input.

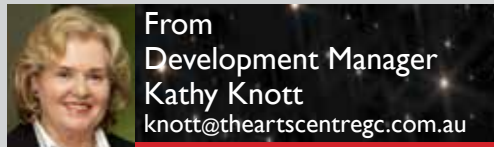
A warm welcome to new Benefactors: Aegis Theatrical; Hyperion Asset Management; Prof. Emeritus Ray Byron and Carole Byron; and Paul and Maureen Fitzgerald.

Sincere thanks to Barry and Maureen Stevenson for upgrading to Gold Benefactors.

Congratulations to Memberships Coordinator Di McCormack for receiving a prestigious honour, Honorary Life Membership of the Friends of The Arts Centre. The award recognises Di's many years of dedication and service, provided with such warmth and enthusiasm, to the board and members.

Thank you to all Benefactors for your financial support and the pleasure of your company during 2011.

Best wishes from all of us at The Arts Centre for a happy festive season.



From
Development Manager
Kathy Knott
knott@theartscentregc.com.au

OUR year ends on a high note for four Benefactors.

Well done Mark Clough (pictured) who woke at 3am for ten consecutive days to cycle 100km before dashing off to BBC Digital to put in a full day's work.



Mark clocked-up 1000km in a fundraiser which supports hundreds of troubled boys to find their way in life.

Congratulations to Lucy Cole for her inclusion in the The Power 100, a comprehensive list of the movers and shakers who contributed to the Gold Coast over the past year;

In a first for the Gold Coast, the coveted National House of the Year title has been awarded to a home here. Benefactors Ann and Richard Glenister received the award for their spectacular home on Sovereign Island.

Thank you to all Benefactors for your generosity and support of our artistic endeavours during 2011. We look forward to renewing our friendships in 2012.

•Enclosed with this newsletter is a special offer from our Benefactor preview sponsors Sirromet Wines – perfect to celebrate the festive season.

Academy naming rights a tribute to our fantastic Friends

AS honorary members of The Friends of the Arts Centre, Benefactors can take pride in the naming of the new youth arts academy.

The Friends Youth Arts Academy is a tribute to years of tremendous financial support to The Arts Centre from The Friends.

To cement the official partnership in the academy, The Friends President Wendy Spencer recently presented The Arts Centre Gold Coast with a cheque for \$20,000.

General Manager Destry Puia said: "The genesis of the academy was the Friends Professional Development Workshops in 2011 and our desire to reach more young people.



Wendy Spencer and Destry Puia

"I welcome this partnership because there is an almost perfect alignment of our mutual objectives.

"The Arts Centre seeks to offer young Gold Coast people opportunities to learn new skills and explore new artistic concepts, form new friendships and have fun while The Friends have a broad objective to support young people seeking a career in the arts."

Key of gold unlocks a city's gratitude

OLYMPIC champions receive gold medals but cultural champions receive the golden keys to the city.

Pictured are Board Director Judith Ferber and Chairman Kerry Watson who were recently presented with the honour by Gold Coast Mayor and former Olympian Ron Clarke.

The key is a symbolic gift from the city to recognise Judith and Kerry's three decades of time, energy and commitment to successfully producing the Gold Coast Eisteddfod, now in its 30th year.



Gallery sole Queensland winner at prestigious National Awards

HELPING to increase the profile of our Arts Centre is a goal shared by all Benefactors.

So we can be very proud of two recent awards presented to Gold Coast City Gallery, which was the only Queensland institution to win an award at this year's Museums Australia National Conference.

Kuru Alala: Eyes Open, co-curated by our Curator Virginia Rigney, won in the category of Small Museum Temporary Exhibition (budget over \$25,000).

The Gallery was also highly commended in the Museums Australia Multimedia and Publications Award for its school resources kit, ART UNPACKED: LAND AND PLACE.

The kit, is designed for children aged from kindergarten to Year 12, as a resource for Australian teachers.

It includes themes on the beach and the marine environment, as well as the changing landscape of the Gold Coast such as the old crab farm at Coombabah and sand mining at Currumbin.

The kit features 37 works from our gallery's collection, including paintings by Donald Friend and Margaret Olley.

The Pop Culture Landscape section celebrates the iconic Pink Poodle Hotel.



Thanks to the support of the George Alexander Foundation the kit is made available for free to Gold Coast schools and is \$50 for others.

Arty Benefactor grandparents might like to pop one under the Christmas tree?

To order a kit, contact Assistant Curator Pip Lean on 5581 6524 or email Lean@theartscentregc.com.au

Benefactor Previews: *The Good Doctor* *The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* *Cosi*



Creative Producer
Brad Rush

THE Spring racing carnival had nothing on the Arts Centre which provided Benefactors with a trifecta of events over recent months.

There were three major previews of productions in the Regional Stages program.

First up was the Youth Theatre Project's production of Neil Simon's play *The Good Doctor*, directed by Queensland Theatre Company's Jennifer Flowers, with Artist in Residence Monette Lee as Assistant Director.

Benefactors chuckled as the young cast produced well-timed, hilarious theatre in Simon's clever adaptation of eight thought-provoking Chekhov stories.

Next outing was *The Blonde, the Brunette & the Vengeful Redhead* starring Monette Lee, who described the role as "the toughest task I've ever taken on over 30 years".

After the preview, she thanked Benefactors for their support for the production.

Two weeks later, Benefactors were popping the champagne again after the preview of Louis Nowra's grittily funny, *Cosi*, directed by distinguished Brisbane director and teacher Jamie Kable.

Arts Centre Creative Producer Brad Rush, produced all three shows.

He described their back-to-back roll out as "exhilarating and exhausting".

"I thank Benefactors for their audience support at these Regional Stages previews which are always a very important part of any production," Brad said.

"Having a receptive, friendly, final rehearsal audience gives great confidence to performers."

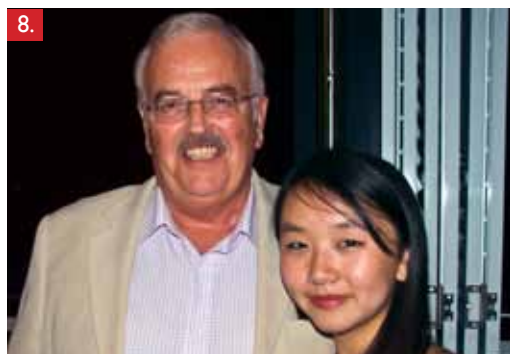


The Good Doctor:

1. Michelle Johnston, Anne Glenister, ~~xxxxx~~ and Ian Johnston.

2. Susan and John Barr

3. Tory Bailey, Tim Carroll, Jennifer and Michael Pinter



Cosi:

8. Kerry Watson and Jaymee Mak

9. Kellie Ward and Kerry Crawford

10. Carole Sulzer, Jessica Westhead and Donna Mroz Turcic



The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead:

4. Tony and Geraldine Coyne

5. Terry and Lurleen Morris with Jim and Ivana Rupplinger

6. Lena and Kerry Crawford with Rhona McKay

7. Roma Blair and Klara Furness

Benefactor Spotlight - Tanya Bellchambers

THE Gold Coast has its iconic Pink Poodle but, did you know, it also has a Blue Platypus?

That's the name chosen by Benefactor and businesswoman Tanya Bellchambers for her highly successful website design company.

"I was looking for a memorable name, something unique and a bit of fun," Tanya said.

"The platypus is arguably the most unusual and quirky animal in the world and a blue one is certainly unique!"

Tanya is a marketing professional with more than 15 years experience delivering integrated campaigns for companies in the private and public sector in Australia and Asia.

She has a Bachelor of Business and a Master of Business (Marketing).

Tanya, who grew up on the Gold Coast and attended St Hilda's School, moved back home almost five years ago from Sydney with her husband Greg, (an IT specialist), and their two children Ashton, 4, and Imogen, 3.

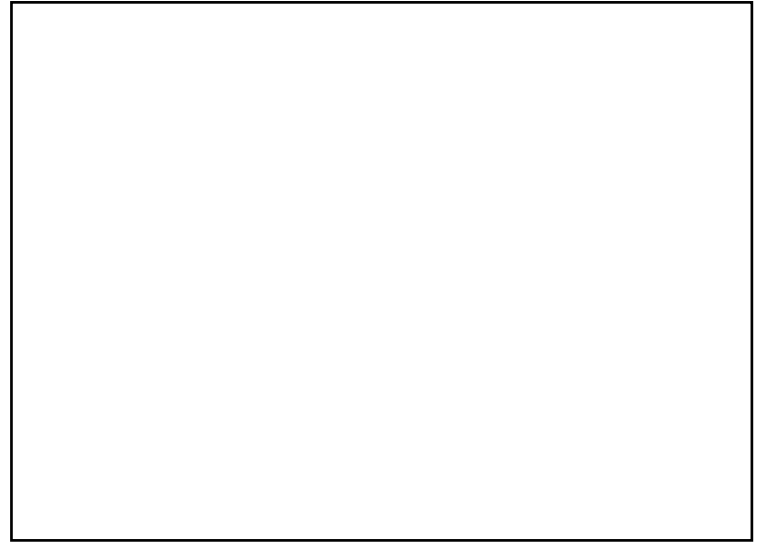
She is relishing her role as a Benefactor.

"The Gold Coast arts scene had big shoes to fill as we were avid arts consumers in Sydney. When we returned to the coast, I was impressed by the recent changes to the Arts Centre," Tanya said

"Destry has introduced creative maturity to the programming and has put professional polish on The Centre's branding.

"It is amazing how open the Arts Centre has been to me as a Benefactor – not just by invitations to special events, but in being open to suggestions and actively seeking Benefactors' opinions.

"There's a real generosity of spirit and a very enlightened approach exemplified by the fantastic Youth Program.



"Kids need choices and the Youth Program provides a huge range of educational and entertainment opportunities."

Tanya said the main reason she chose to become a Benefactor was to support the Arts Centre's role of engaging with the local community.

"I'd love to see more young professional people sign up as Benefactors," she said.

"It's more rewarding than giving to a big name charity because you're able to see first-hand where your support has been invested, right in your local community.

"It's also a diverse social group. We love meeting like-minded arts enthusiasts at the Benefactor gatherings."

Entries hung from floor to ceiling!

BENEFACTORS were among the scores of buyers attracted to the hundreds of works displayed at the 2011 Border Art Prize.

'There were so many, we hung them from floor to ceiling,' said Gallery Manager John Walsh who co-judged the awards along with well-known Brisbane artist Bruce Reynolds and Tweed River Art Gallery Director Susi Muddiman. .

"Giving everyone a go!" - that's the number one priority of the annual Border Art Prize which consistently attracts hundreds of entries throughout south-east Queensland and the Northern Rivers.

Benefactors and Gallery guests attended the official opening on 10 September at the City Gallery.

Most of the works were for sale and were on display for several weeks, attracting numerous visitors to the gallery.

"I thank the Benefactors who took the opportunity to buy some of the works not only because this supports the artists, but also because it supports our Gallery which receives a commission from each sale," John said.

This year's winner was Frey Micklethwait of Pumpinbil NSW for his work, *Symbiosis*. Viewers peeped into a box where a fantastical horned elf, cramped and twisted, looked ready to spring out.

Second prize was awarded to Tallebudgera twins Christie and Kelly Turner for *Wintersun*. Third prize went to Leone Corker for her poignant beachscape.



Frey Micklethwait, *Symbiosis* 2011, mixed media. Winner of The 2011 Border Art Prize



Christie and Kelly Turner, *Wintersun* 2011, mixed media. Second Prize The 2011 Border Art Prize



Leone Corker, *Untitled* 2011, oil on canvas. Third Prize The 2011 Border Art Prize.

TANYA, through Blue Platypus, is proud to support the local arts community.



Last month, in a joint initiative with the Arts Centre, Blue Platypus called for expressions of interest from individuals, groups and organisations across all sectors of the arts on the Gold Coast to be considered for the gift of a complete on-line marketing package valued at \$1800.

Of the seven short-listed, Tanya, in consultation with Arts Centre Creative Producer Brad Rush, chose Southport's Gallery on the Lane - a non-commercial enterprise which exhibits contemporary Australian photography.

Gallery on the Lane provides a platform for new talent to showcase their work without the overheads of a commercial gallery.

Blue Platypus will refresh the design whilst extending the functionality of Gallery on the Lane's existing website, develop social media strategies, optimise for search engines and provide professional marketing advice.



Budding talent in the full flower of youth represents a true blossoming of the arts!

PARDON the headline but it was a Garden Party!

And it did include a poignant speech of gratitude to Benefactors by talented young actor Jack Harbour (picture 4, centre).

Jack, told guests at the Mudgeeraba event hosted by long-term Benefactors John and Alison Kearney at their historic Jabiru Homestead: "If there's one thing Benefactors have taught me it is that, as a young actor, I can dare to dream.

"While there are caring, generous people like The Arts Centre's Benefactors, the dreams of Gold Coast youth are in good hands."

Jack declared he would "seek out and group hug" his initial Benefactor Summer School bursary donors Barry and Maureen Stevenson (picture 4).

"You will hold a place in my heart forever!" he told them.

The garden party was the culmination of a busy social year for Benefactors and an opportunity for a well-deserved festive season get-together.



1. Greg and Tanya Bellchambers 2. Asha Martin and Thom Gardner 3. Maree Alexanderson, Bennie Johnston and Ann Dean 4. Maureen and Barry Stevenson with young actor Jack Harbour 5. Directors Judith Ferber (left) and Christine Lohman 6. Lucy Cole and Ann Glennister 7. Hosts John and Alison Kearney 8. Lena Crawford, Poppy Puia and Kerry Crawford 9. Beverly and Jock McIlwain with Jennifer Bainbridge

If art's from the heart, then John knows the beat

PEOPLE who know Gold Coast City Gallery Manager John Walsh would describe him as a man of calm intellect, measured and modest.

Few would know that, apart from his love of the visual arts, his greatest passion is rock and roll music and that he was once bass guitarist in the 1980s Canberra band *Elbow Thru My Rothko*.

"The band's name derived from a major incident, widely reported in the media, while I was working as Assistant Curator at the National Gallery in Canberra," John said.

"One of the exhibits was a large and very valuable colour-field painting by the iconic late American abstract expressionist Mark Rothko.

"To everyone's horror, a little old lady tripped on the protective plinth below the painting and put out her arm, right into the picture, causing big 'onion rings' to form in the paint surface!"

John's role in the band ended when he left Canberra to become Assistant Director of Wollongong City Gallery where he worked for seven years before leaving in 1996 for the Gold Coast with his wife, Wendy, to take up his appointment here at the gallery.

In his 15 years, John has grown the gallery collection to more than 3000 items, including the Evandale Sculpture Walk which he developed from its existing four pieces to today's engaging collection of more than 40 outdoor sculptures.

John says working with Benefactors to procure art work is one of the most satisfying aspects of his multifaceted role - which also includes overseeing the gallery's systems of storage and retrieval, registration procedures, conservation, maintenance of accurate catalogue records, security, insurance of artworks and the management of seven staff and a volunteer force of 120.

John manages all aspects of the Gallery's operation and development including generating a dynamic and diverse program of exhibitions and events.

He is looking forward to 2018 when our city's new arts precinct is complete, including a much bigger, more accessible art gallery.

"It's not just about having the potential to stage the blockbusters," John said, "But more significantly, the ability to stage a continuous



range of diverse visual arts exhibitions and events which reflect the needs of the Gold Coast community.

"Community support is crucial to the gallery. Without it, it would be impossible to obtain funding from any of the three tiers of government.

"That's one reason, among many, why I am so grateful to our Benefactors.

"Their continuing generosity demonstrates unequivocally to funding bodies that this gallery has very, very strong community support."

Tillers' Outback canvasses a first for gallery

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Australian artist Imants Tillers has gifted one his major works to the Gold Coast City Gallery.

Valued at \$80,000, *Tillers' Outback: L 2008* (pictured right) comprises 54 canvass panels.

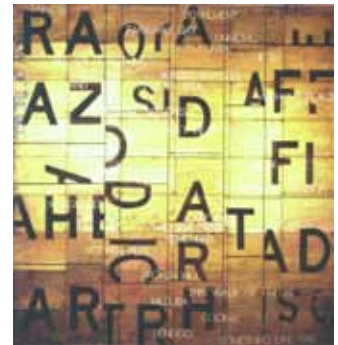
"This is a very significant addition to our collection," said gallery Director John Walsh.

"We are very grateful to Imants for this generous donation which was arranged through the Cultural Gifts Program."

Tillers, who forged a reputation in the 1970s as one of Australia's most thought-provoking and engaging contemporary artists, now enjoys an international reputation in Europe and the USA.

"This is a major first for our gallery," said John. "It was one of those donations which make you think 'Wow!'"

"We are planning to put it on display next May as part of a major exhibition featuring a number of new acquisitions currently in the planning stages."



Diversity and depth in teens' exhibition

BROKEN hearts, alcohol and substance abuse, they tyranny of technology – these were some of the compelling themes provoking insightful artwork by scores of Gold Coast students in this year's *Energies* exhibition.

"The *Energies* exhibition will continue to give Gold Coast high school students an opportunity to exhibit in a public institution," said Gallery Manager John Walsh.

"This year, more than 25 schools entered 140 works.

"Benefactors told me how impressed they were with the depth and diversity of students' works many of which strongly engaged the local community with issues affecting modern teenagers."

Catch the Benefactor Buzz!

THE "Benefactor Buzz" is a highly contagious symptom - but you don't need to see a doctor.

The Buzz happens when a young person tells you they want to hug you with gratitude for giving them the chance to develop their talents.

It happened recently to Benefactors Barry and Maureen Stevenson (see Budding Talent story Page ?)

In support of the newly launched Friends Youth Arts Academy, The Arts Centre has launched a fundraising appeal to enable grants to deserving young people.

They are the talented youngsters whose families are not able to meet the tuition fees to participate in the Academy residencies and workshops.

Grants for 2012 are now being assessed and your timely donation would be greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be made on-line.

To download information and print out a donation form, go to www.theartscentregc.com.au and click on Support Us.

For further information, call Kathy Knott on 5581 6546; email knott@theartscentregc.com.au



The Board and Management of The Arts Centre sincerely thank our family of Benefactors for their generosity and support in helping us develop artistic vibrancy and a secure future for the arts on the Gold Coast.

For more information on our Benefactor program please go to: www.theartscentregc.com.au

Or contact Kathy Knott, Development Manager on 07 5581 6546 email knott@theartscentregc.com.au

Keep up to date with what's happening at The Art Centre Gold Coast by subscribing to our E-News.