

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Arts Centre Gold Coast - Cultural Heart of the Gold Coast Beats Strong and Loud and at Length!

From Coolie to Mt Tambo to the streets of hard knocks, The Arts Centre Gold Coast cultural heart is beating strong.

In less than a week The Arts Centre Gold Coast presented the co produced *The Surfer and The Mermaid* at the Bleach* Surfing The Fringe Festival. Then took the surf to the mountain and presented the production at the local Goat Track theatre on Mount Tamborine. The Centre then housed the homeless providing space and support to the InterUrban Arts Choir. And last but not least, the Centre presented to the public the culmination of the *Opera for Over 50s* workshop. Just over 400 Gold Coast community members attended the free concert.

Opera for Over 50s

The foyers of The Arts Centre have been bouncing with the glorious sounds of the *Opera for Over 50's* workshop participants. Opera Queensland are partners in the program, and delivered an outstanding experience for the age group. Modelled on the *Moving Opera* concept for school students, the workshop was an intensive week long program that worked on classic Opera repertoire, stage craft, and musicality. Add to this some riotous fun and laughter – this was an initiative that sent spirits high.

The program culminated in a wonderful free concert held in the Arts Theatre on Saturday evening (18 Feb). The 400 strong audience was captivated with the achievements of our over 50's performers. Joined by three professional Opera Queensland artists the program was a delightful mix of Opera and Musical Theatre. One of the many highlights included a number from Gilbert and Sullivan's – *The Mikado* which will play in full professional production at The Arts Centre later in the year.

Creative Producer Brad Rush said: *'We at The Arts Centre are so proud of this program now in its second year. It is a significant investment by The Arts Centre, an investment that we believe very important for our over 50's community. We are proud of the relationship that we have built with Opera Queensland, and are proud to be the first to host this workshop for this age group. We are mostly proud of our 35 participants, whom chose to spend the week with us moving outside of their comfort zones, and we are proud of their performance this evening.'*

InterUrban Arts

The Arts Centre Gold Coast is proud to support InterUrban Arts. Recently the doors of The Space were opened to an intensive residency experience for the choir.

The residency provided rehearsal and development space in a safe environment. Participants were over the moon with the experience, and appreciate the opportunity to work in The Arts Centre.

The highlight of the week's residency culminated in two concerts showing on Friday 10 February. Funds raised on the day will assist funding a music therapist to continue this wonderful and inspiring work.

The Arts Centre will host them again at the end of the year.

InterUrban Arts is an initiative of [Gold Coast Drug Council \(GCDC\)](#). The program is working towards creating a city where art, culture and community are valued and embraced as a pathway to health and wellbeing.

The program creatively co-ordinates, develops and produces sustainable opportunities and experiences for individuals and groups to make positive changes and promote good health in their lives and communities.

Through the InterUrban Arts program GCDC deliver therapeutic arts workshops, youth peer support programs, training workshops, public art projects, community consultation and community cultural development projects.

The principles of social justice underpin all the work that is delivered through InterUrban Arts.

The Urban Choir has been developed to encourage individuals to come together to sing and make music. The social and emotional benefits are outstanding, and music is recognised to lift one's soul, and provides much therapeutic relief for all people, but in particular - persons of troubled background.

For photos or interviews please contact Sue-Anne Chapman Marketing & Partnerships Manager at The Arts Centre Gold Coast on 07 5581 6528 or marketing@theartscentregc.com.au