



WOADY YALOAK Herald

SINCE 1977

February 2014
ISSUE #208
Term 1

Haddon Community Learning Centre's quarterly community newspaper



International Women's Day

AT HADDON ~ INSPIRING CHANGE

Popular WIN News weather presenter Jane Bunn is to be the very special guest speaker at the annual International Women's Day celebration at the Haddon Community Learning Centre, Northern Community Centre, Haddon on Thursday evening the 13th March.

Ms Bunn has completed a Bachelor of Science from Monash University in 2005 majoring in Mathematics and Atmospheric Science, as well as a Graduate Diploma of Meteorology from the Bureau of Meteorology and is a great inspiration to women to follow your passion, take up the challenges and just go for it!

Jane was fortunate enough to experience a semester studying at Pennsylvania State University, one of the leading Meteorology schools in the United States.

After graduating, Jane was one of nine students from around Australia to be accepted into the Graduate Diploma of Meteorology given by the Bureau of Meteorology at their Melbourne training facility. After a year of intensive study, Jane was posted to the New South Wales region as a weather forecaster. Her work involved writing public weather forecasts as well as aviation weather and warnings. Jane worked in the Sydney and Canberra offices as well as spending some time at the RAAF's Williamtown Base.

In 2008, Jane joined The Weather Channel as the morning meteorologist. This position saw Jane perform radio interviews around the nation and provide on-air commentary as a friendly expert to explain the weather in further detail. A highlight of her time at The Weather Channel was the appearances on the 'Today Show' to explain the reasons behind many severe weather events, including the Queensland floods and Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires.

More details of the evenings entertainment will be available in February. The theme for International Women's Day this year is "inspiring change." You will need to book for this free event. Other guest speakers, free demonstrations, displays, giveaways and free supper will be all part of the nights celebrations as usual. Entry is just a gold coin donation that will go to local charity. Phone the Haddon Community Learning Centre on 5342 7050 to book now!

To read more about Jane go to <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jane-bunn/26/389/b19>



Jane Bunn Win TV Weather presenter

A FREE publication for the more than 11,000 people who live in the Woady Yaloak District.

The Woady Yaloak Herald is available to households in Haddon, Nintingbool, Cardigan Village, Smythes Creek, parts of Alfredton and is generally available for collection at General Stores in Smythesdale, Scarsdale, Ross Creek, Linton, Cape Clear, Snake Valley and through the Woady Yaloak campus.

The Woady Yaloak HERALD

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Write for The Woady!

Anyone is welcome to submit articles, photos and reports for publication.

We would really love to put together a regular team of 3-4 people so do get in touch if you are interested. We'd love to hear from you.

Send items to The Editorial Team, Woady Yaloak HERALD by mail, fax or email or deliver to Haddon Community House by the deadline.

DEADLINE FOR TERM 2 ISSUE IS APRIL 8th 2014

Preferred format is MS Publisher, typed or clearly printed, sent as an email attachment, on a computer disk, fax or post.

NO PDF files please without prior discussion and consent of the Editor

Send photographs by post or as an email attachment. If photo to be returned, send with a stamped SAE and put name/address on back.

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact the editorial team to discuss your needs.

Disclaimer. Any group or person may submit items for publication, preference may be typed or in a recognised computer format. Items must include name, address and telephone number of the sender. The Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or legality any item or not to publish any item considered inappropriate.

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Send any items or questions to:
media@haddonlearning.org.au

Haddon Community Learning Centre



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WHAT IS ART?

by Beverley Inch

'Art' is a term used to describe ability or mastery. It's formal qualities can express concepts, self expression and a representation of essential human themes such as spirituality, narrative, or environmental issues. Art can be Pottery, Painting, Drawing, Sketching, Sculpture, Monuments, Buildings, Jewelry, Flowers, Religious icons, Fashion, Architecture.. Art can be just the doing of something or performing Arts such as acting or singing.

Art is part of an emotional journey, it is unique to each individual. Art can be functional, a statement, a way of telling a story or simply for visual pleasure. Art can be found in music, information, expression, communication, aesthetics. Art changes with time, it evolves with the mood or culture of civilization. Art is made by man in some way to elicit emotion, feeling and mood in the capturing of an image.

We respond to Art with emotion and feeling. Individuals respond in different ways depending on their interests, likes and dislikes. We can respond to Art instantaneously, analytically, by observation, colour, brush strokes, compositions and symbols. Art stimulates the thoughts and evokes passion. We can appreciate Art more by reading, going to Art Galleries, studying Art, hands on practice, researching an Artist's life and beliefs, watching DVD's using the internet and libraries.

Every individual is capable of making Art either conscious or unconsciously. We make art for decoration, and visual pleasure, it is a way of creating and being creative.

*Images: Decorated cake by Janis Fletcher .
Pen and Ink Possum by Janis Fletcher.*



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Vintage Whispers of Love—Art in a Dress Shop

by Jess McCulloch

As I browsed a rack of vintage dresses today in a colourful little country shop, I had the loveliest surprise. The price tag for a red woollen number that caught my eye was tucked away so I flicked it out. Instead of a price, the tag read "Beth brought (sic) me to wear to a friend's wedding in 1933. She met Fred at the wedding and they married a year later. I went on their honeymoon to Paris – OH what a joyous time." Immediately I was at that wedding watching Beth and Fred dancing on the grass back in 1933. To think I was touching a piece of that was just lovely.

Of course I quickly looked at the next dress to see if it had a special story. No, none there. I went back to Beth's dress and read it again a couple of times, smiling each time. I thought it might just be that dress that was particularly special but I wanted to be transported again. I was checking all the tags now, before I'd even properly looked at the dresses. The next one I found was quite a few dresses over. A lovely green number whose tag told me "Alice had me made in 1968 for a special date with Bill – he loved her in green, it matched her eyes. They loved each other deeply." I wonder where they went on their special date? I imagine somewhere with lovely sunshine and gorgeous desserts. Maybe he proposed to her then? What a special dress.

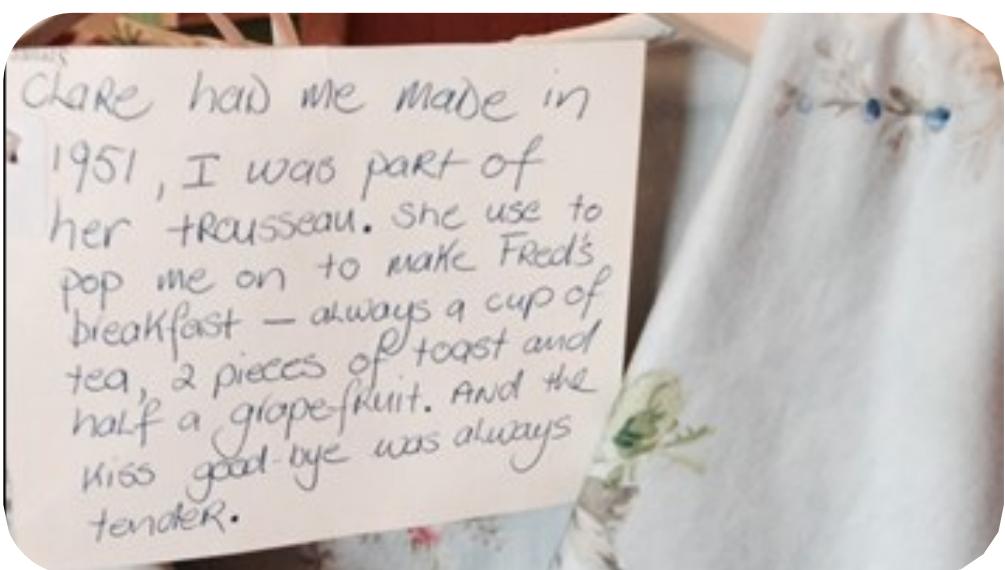
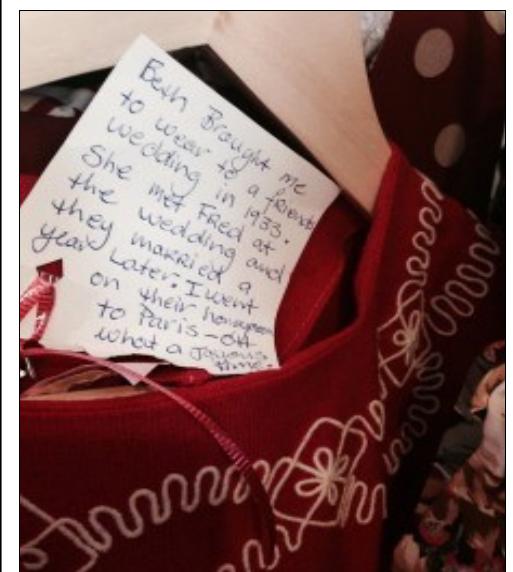
By this time I had to speak to the shop owner. "The tags on these dresses," I began, "are the stories real?"

"Some of them," Kathryn replied with a big smile "and some of them I've made up." "The one from 1933 over there, is it really from 1933?" "Yes, it really is."

The dates are always right."

Kathryn went on to tell me that it was an idea she got from a book called The Secret Lives of Dresses so she thought she'd give some secret lives to the dresses in her shop. She pointed me to another dress and its tag, a true story about making breakfast. I'll let you read this one straight off the tag. It's fabulous.

Vintage Lady is at 37 Brooke St (Glenelg Highway), Smythesdale. 0409 806 936. Do go in and be transported to another time via a tag on a dress.



Golden Plains Arts Inc.— a group for local artists.

The Golden Plains Arts Inc. was incorporated in 2012, with the intention of creating an environment that nurtures participation, learning and networking through providing opportunities for all arts practitioners working within the Golden Plains Shire in order to establish the arts as an enriching and vital aspect of community life.

The objectives cover strategies to raise the profile of artists working in many disciplines; to provide showcase platforms that encourage a local audience and support base as well as drawing visitors from further afield. As a peak body in the region the committee and members of Arts Inc liaise with all levels of government, funding bodies and other arts associations. At the moment we are very active in supporting the Shire in planning the next **Arts Trail which will be held on the 15th -16th March 2014**. We are also planning other community events.

Membership costs \$10 per annum, and we usually meet every 2 months at the Meredith Community Centre. If you have any ideas about putting on an event or wish to become a member contact me rosalind@activ8.net.au 03 53420745 I would love to talk to you.



Rosalind Lawson President: Golden Plains Arts Inc.

Local Artist Profile—Janis Fletcher by Jess McCulloch



When I interviewed Janis for this piece I didn't bank on there being three of us in the room. The third person had striking eyes that seemed very interested in what we were talking about. He was quiet the entire time, never interjecting with his stories or opinions, but his presence was no less felt. He didn't even respond when we talked about him as if he wasn't there. He didn't even know he was in the room and we weren't sure whether he was dead or alive. Yet, there he was, not unwelcome.

He became quite a talking point during our chat. Nick, his name is, and he's from a Greece of many years ago, now in a country Australia of today via the medium of an oil on canvas portrait. He supervised as Janis and I chatted about all sorts of art related things and listened carefully as Janis

talked about how she sees art in many things and creates art in many ways.

If she was on a deserted island and could only have one form of making art, pen and ink would be what Janis would choose. She creates beautifully detailed pictures of Australian flora and fauna with nothing more than a nice black pen and a piece of paper. The possum on the front cover of this issue is one of Janis' pieces. .

When I asked Janis what one tip she had for how to look at paintings, her advice was to look at the shapes. Where many of us would look at the colours, Janis looks at the shapes. It's the shapes in a picture that make it most interesting. She focuses on the background and sees how the shapes inform the structure of the whole work.

But thankfully, Janis is not stranded on a deserted island and so has the opportunity to use lots of different mediums to create lots of different things. Apart from pen and ink drawings and oil on canvas paintings, Janis loves to decorate cakes, design and sew dresses, dance (she has even taught belly dancing!), have a go at mosaic with tiles, and cook lovely meals at the Haddon Community Centre.

Janis says she can't stop making art. It doesn't matter what it is as long as something is being formed with the creative force that drives her hands and mind. She says that when she is making art is when she has her best sense of self-worth. It's part of who she is.

So I think he approved of our chat, this Nick from a Greece of years ago. I imagine he didn't mind us admiring him more than once. I wonder how he now sees the world differently after all these years of watching the various ways and things Janis creates. It's been an art filled life for both of them.



Local Artists Profile—Printscape

Written by Anne Langdon and Janette Wotherspoon

Printscape is an exciting venture established by artists Anne Langdon and Janette Wotherspoon. Their interest in fashion initiated an eclectic range of art based garments and products



Photos were taken by Pat Cameron - Dunkeld.

Printscape



Anne Langdon is a practicing artist living in Smythesdale. She worked for many years as a printmaker, experimenting with a range of printmaking techniques including silk-screening, relief and etchings. Drawing and painting are also an important part of her art practice.

After moving to Smythesdale, Anne found her bush setting inspirational and conducive to a contemplative exploration of her environment, whether it is gum leaves or kangaroos. She works in a figurative style that is underpinned with a fantasy twist that challenges the viewer.

As a retired art teacher of over thirty years experience including time as Head of Art at Ballarat High School, Anne is still interested in teaching and mentoring. She will be running a Lino cut print class at Haddon community centre in March (bookings available)

Her studio is part of the Golden Plains Art Trail and she has had several group exhibitions at the Ballarat Art Gallery and Red Brick Gallery in Ballarat.

An exciting event for Anne this year is that there will be a solo exhibition of her work at Hamilton's prestigious Art Gallery during May. Check out Annes website: www.annelangdon.com



Janette has recently established My studio RED door which is a mobile training business with a focus on more personalised training in all things creative including digital design. Janette supports the progressive development of new skills and a learning vision that empowers people to grow creatively and with individuality. Learning is focused on the development of ideas so by providing individual and small group training everyone gets to learn in their own unique way.

Through a desire to create comfortable and fashionable clothing with individual design features Printscape created garments and accessories that feature original art in the printing designs.

The shape and styling of the garments embrace minimum wastage through the shaping of the garment and the use of all left over fabrics for labels and trims.

Printscape recycles left over fabrics into small products or uses them to trim and embellish garment design. The printing table covers are recycled into Art Canvases. Printscape uses Japanese Kimono fabrics, recycled vintage fabrics and second hand designer garments and uses water based printing inks. The future of printscape designs will feature colours and designs created using natural dyes, reinvented second hand clothing, new original artwork and products like the unique Travel Bags.

www.printscape.com.au



Anne Langdon
Gallery



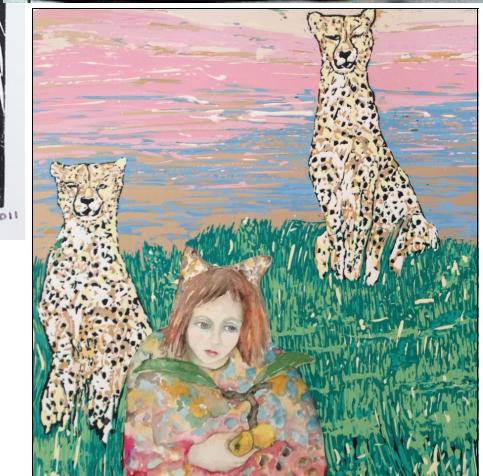
Janette Wotherspoon

Janette Wotherspoon is a Ballarat based artist who has a passion for printmaking, sculpture, sewing and textiles. Drawing and sketching by hand and on computer is an important part of the development of her design ideas and finished pieces. Janette has long standing experience in the fashion and textiles industry having worked as a freelance design assistant and teaching at MCT and RMIT since 1993.

Janette has specialised in training fashion industry personnel and RMIT students in the use of Adobe software with a focus on Fashion specific graphics. Janette joined Anne as a member of the Goldfields Printmakers group a proactive group featuring some of the best printmakers in the area.

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Janette will be teaching workshops at Haddon Community Centre in the current 2014 workshop program so we hope this will be the beginning of a happy and creative learning experience for everyone.



Janet printmaking

my studio RED door

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Local Artist Profile—Vida Pearson

by Beverley Inch



Vida Pearson is a professional artist creating art and residing in Haddon, Victoria. Her passion for Printmaking came about whilst studying at the North Adelaide Art School. She mainly focuses on Linocuts these days, and her passion is evident in the way Vida applies her creative skills to produce brightly coloured works full of movement and vitality. Vida's favourite part of creating is the actual process of doing; her hands on approach allows for the images to evolve and emerge as a new design that evokes her enthusiasm for the subject. Vida has a purpose built studio and only uses the best Magnani papers, along with inks for printmaking and watercolours for hand colouring.

Her work is influenced not only by her natural surroundings but also by her trips abroad to places like, Antarctica, Madagascar,

Iceland, Asia, Africa and of course her trips to our own Australian Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. Her time away from the studio on these trips revitalises and challenges Vida to generate designs of new subjects that add to her repertoire. Being a member of the Wildlife Artists Society of Australasia has influenced Vida to pursue making Wildlife Art; but also a part of Vida's genre is that of native flowers and native birds. As part of Vida's art practice she hopes through her images to create an awareness of native flora and fauna and the important part they play in the Earth's sustainable future.

Vida is also a keen photographer; using her photographic work to inspire her natural talent by creating work that is sometimes a composite of many photographic images. She also frames her own work, which value adds to her already stunning imagery.

Over the past twenty seven years Vida has won in excess of 100 awards and has work in both Private and Gallery collections, she has also been involved in over 80 Group and Solo Exhibitions.

Vida is represented by Macarthur Gallery in Ballarat and Seaview Gallery in Queenscliff.

Vida will be taking part in the Golden Plains Arts Trail in April 2014, so make sure you visit her studio, it will be an invigorating experience.



Discover the Fungi of the Golden Plains Shire this Autumn



Foraging for mushrooms is becoming an ever more popular pastime in Victoria. With their earthy fragrances of wet forest, mushrooms truly capture the essence of autumn and add interest to a forest stroll. Once a tradition of European countries, these days Aussies are also likely to be found in the forest on a misty autumn afternoon foraging for mushrooms. However, those who fancy collecting a few mushies for dinner need to take heed. Among the tasty edible species, lurk dangerously poisonous species that could land you up in hospital or even in the grave.

If you're keen to forage for edible mushrooms, always remember that you should never eat a wild mushroom unless you are absolutely certain of its correct identification. Unfortunately the various folkloric sayings about edible fungi always have their poisonous exceptions. As a reminder of the toxicity of some fungi, the appropriately named, Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*) has been found in rural Victoria and lived up to its sinister name on two occasions in Australia last autumn.

However, there is much more to fungi than those destined for the pan. Although we often don't think about fungi until mushrooms push through the soil, fungi exist all year underground and are at work maintaining the health of ecosystems. They form connections with a great variety of plants, helping them to access water and nutrients. Many species play a vital role in decomposing organic matter and returning nutrients to the soil. Fungi are also vital indicators of ecosystem health and make a great photographic subject.

In the Golden Plains Shire there is a diversity of habitats in which one is likely to encounter fungi. If you'd like to know more about these incredible organisms you may like to attend a workshop that introduces participants to the diversity and curiosities of the Fungi Kingdom. This workshop includes an interactive and illustrated seminar on the natural and cultural history of fungi as well as the basics of fungus identification, followed by an exciting foray into local habitats to search for species of interest. Many fungi from the local area will be displayed, discussed and examined during the workshop.

The workshop will be held at the Haddon Community Learning Centre on Sunday 11 May. It will be run by local ecologist and environmental photographer, Alison Pouliot.

For further information and bookings contact Haddon & District Community House on 5342 7050 or email the centre via manager@haddoncommunityhouse.org.au.



A basketful of fungi collected from the local forests and woodlands

Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom

This workshop will introduce participants to the curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi.

It includes an interactive & illustrated seminar exploring the major fungal groups, tips for fungus identification, fungal ecology, natural & cultural history of fungi, followed by an exciting foray into local forests to search for species of interest.

Many fungi from the local area will be displayed & examined during the workshop.
Morning tea and supplementary notes are provided.



Presented by Ecologist & Environmental Photographer, Alison Pouliot

Sunday 11 May 2014

10.30am – 4.30pm

Haddon & District Community House, 396 Sago Hill Road, Haddon

Bring along your lunch, wet weather gear if necessary, a magnifier or fungi field guide if you have one.

Cost: \$75-

Bookings: Haddon & District Community House: 5342 7050
manager@haddoncommunityhouse.org.au

Further Info: alison@alisonpouliot.com



Haddon Community Learning Centre



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to term one, 2014! We have some great new courses and activities on offer at the centre and the new course program is ready for you to peruse and hopefully find something to interest you. And if there is something that is not on the program or you have a skill that you would be willing to offer then give me a call and if possible I include it in next terms activities.

The Digital Enterprise program is still available till June so if you have not yet signed up for any of the free training/mentoring sessions then get in quick whilst it is available for free for business/individuals with an ABN, not for profits, sporting groups, etc. This applies to many of the courses in the program not just computer classes. And if you have a particular training need or see a course in the program you require and the times/dates do not work for you just let me know and I will try to organise other dates/times for you. It is well worth a phone call to enquire what you may be eligible to undertake under the scheme.

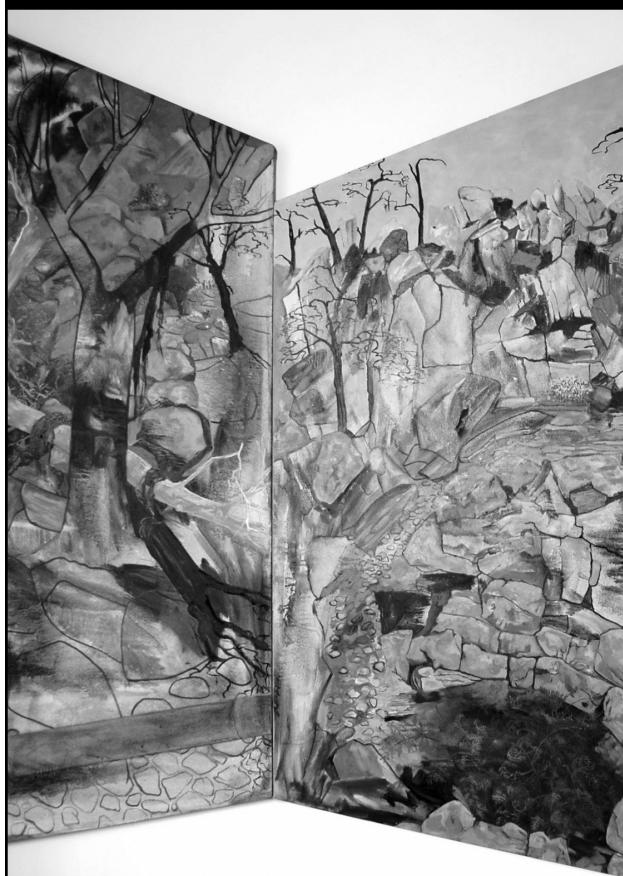
Just a few of the new offerings this year include, an 'Introduction to Broadcasting' in partnership with PowerFM; 'Introduction to Health Services,' 'Introduction to Tourism and Travel' in term two. We only have limited funded places so get your name down for these courses as soon as you can. There is a full day with all the first aid certificates required on Saturday March 22nd. We need a minimum of 8 students for these courses to proceed. And we have a new combined hairdressing and beauty services course that should be great fun as usual.

Don't forget to join us again this year for our 'International Women's Day' celebration to be held on Thursday 13th at 7pm. Our special guest speaker will be Jane Bunn, Win TV weather presenter. More details will be available soon, so look for the flyers. This year we are taking bookings so please phone 5342 7050 to secure your place. Gold coin donation to local charity please. We will have lots of food, displays and demonstrations so look forward to another great night. We would like the men folk to come as well so get them involved!!!

And don't forget to book a stall for our twilight market on Saturday March 29th between 4pm and 8pm. More details will be made available over the next few weeks. Send us an email at admin@haddoncommunityhouse.org.au or Jess at jlmccull@gmail.com to register your interest in having a stall. It will be fun for all the family.

We look forward to hopefully welcoming you to the centre at one of the activities or events in the next several weeks.

Cheers, Joan
Manager



CLYDE PARK
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golden plains arts trail

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www.artstrail.com.au

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Haddon School Holiday Activities

It was great to see a number of children take advantage of the free fun and educational school holiday activities this January provided by the Golden Plains Shire in partnership with the Haddon Community Learning Centre. The Shire provided the funding for the art and craft classes to be conducted at the centre. Local talented artists Anne Langdon, Nicole Fox Humber and Karen Pohlner provided wonderful activities for the children over three days.

Anne Langdon showed the children watercolour techniques to recreate favourite fantasy or fairy tales (*photos of the workshop here below*).

Nicole Fox Humber's workshop introduced the children to drawing techniques using charcoal and Karen (Kaz) Pohlner entertained with various handmade art and craft items as can be seen on the following page.

A big thanks to the wonderful artists and to the helpers at the centre who assisted with the catering of the delicious healthy lunches that consisted of baked potatoes, sandwiches and fruit.. The children produced some wonderful pieces.



Summer holiday fun!

Anne Langdon's
“interpretive
fairy tale”
workshop



Draw Like an Artist and
Crafting with Kaz workshops



Meandering Through the Mystery of History by Tomara Elisha

With a membership of about one hundred and eighty - both throughout Australia and overseas - the Woody Yaloak Historical Society located in Smythesdale has grown considerably since its humble beginnings back in 1985. There were a group of people in the town that were keenly interested in what was happening and wanted to preserve history. So a public meeting was held and it was decided that they would form an historical society.

The Society is a wonderful resource available to the public. Staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers who are committed to their passion of documenting history. Although located in Smythesdale, they actually cover the surrounding district of the Woody Yaloak Creek from Haddon to Devil's Kitchen. With an extensive collection of resources on offer including books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts, microfilms, microfiches, card indexes, photographs, newspaper cuttings, maps and computer records they are available to the community and the society welcome everyone.

Resources at the Historical Society come from a variety of different places. While the internet is certainly one source of information, very often the community donates items. For example an entire collection from a Ballarat photographer who kept and catalogued all his negatives and upon retiring donated his works. There are families around the town that also have pictures, and of course people at the Society take lots of photos themselves.

When it comes to documenting information there is a marriage between traditional methods and modern technology, in a case of old meets new. They have both a computer and a card system, so the best of both worlds of research; "It's a bit like the old way of doing things but we have the new way as well. One of our problems though is keeping up to date with all the latest things as they change all the time", secretary Pauline Riches said.

Technology is designed to make life more convenient but sometimes it can come at a cost. President Bill Riches speaks of the time the lamp reader blew on their microfiche that rendered the machine unusable. "What was once fashionable becomes redundant and you end up with a shelf full of outdated technology", Bill said.

Pretty much everything that has ever happened in the town has been recorded in some way. If you're interested in history you read the documents, look at the artefacts and get a fairly good idea of how the town worked and what the society was like, and like most towns Smythesdale was very structured. "The more information we can gather, the more we can tell you about the town", Pauline said.

Hypothetically if a person was trying to locate a long lost relative they'd typically start with the card system and if unsuccessful would do research in a number of other avenues such as Births, Deaths and Marriages, police records, vaccination lists and convict lists. Pauline remembers a time she was helping a man who didn't know who his father was and after spending hours with him, she turned to the vaccination records and there he found his father. For extensive research you leave no stone unturned. "You've got to think of all the things that happen in life; Births, Deaths and Marriages is just a start", Bill said.

Looking back through history, Pauline felt that there were both positives and negatives to the slower and simpler life of the past. She feels that the biggest disadvantage back then was a lack of knowledge, as so many people died from things which today are so easily preventable. But although things may look different now, both Pauline and Bill agree that nothing new has really happened. "The history of today has parallels with the history of yesterday; there's nothing new and we haven't changed much. People still breathe and walk on two legs", Pauline said.

Bill, now in his 70's, got into this line of work in his early 20's when he got lumbered with a question he could not answer. He simply had to find the answer and eventually did so after many hours of research. Bill likens this work to higher education. "The primary objective of a good college education is not knowing the information but knowing where to look and how to find it", he said.

Pauline's mother was interested in piecing together her family history and successfully tracked back about five generations. The tragedy of her life, she said, is that there wasn't a convict in the family. "Everybody's proud to have a convict and you're no-body if you haven't got one. Maybe my lot just had the brains not to get caught". People used to go to great lengths to hide these details but now they don't. "We were an elitist society, we were tribal and if you had a convict we wouldn't want to know you". In the mid 1940's this all started to change and now everyone is very proud of their convict connection.

One of the things Pauline absolutely loves about the study of history is finding out how the world is so small. She finds it quite incredible that she moved here and discovered that she was related to two people she'd never met. Bill too shares this same sense of amazement as he recalls a time many years ago when he was in the navy. On this particular occasion he was in Algiers looking for fossils. He was literally 40 miles out in the middle of the desert and ran into a brother of someone he knew from back home. "You don't expect these things to happen, but they do just happen".

The Woody Yaloak Historical Society was lucky as their secretary had experience from time spent with the Royal Historical Society of Melbourne; so they started out on the right foot. They belong to the umbrella organisation the "Central Highlands Historical Association" where they have the opportunity to interact with other historical societies. Bill says that they are all different from one another and a lot of it comes down to the personalities of the people who run them.

Smythesdale has changed a lot since 1974; it has become a self-sufficient satellite town to Ballarat. It started as a dormitory area but now people actually live here. The community hub that houses the Historical Society used to feel like a morgue, but within the space of some months, several community groups have moved in and started organising activities and they have now run out of space in the building. Smythesdale is a fast growing town and if they continue in the footsteps of their community hub, they will eventually be unrecognisable from their early days, and the rest as they say will be history.





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NINTINGBOOL VINEYARD

having spent 35 years working as a policeman. Peter always had a desire to work in the agricultural industry, having grown up on a dairy farm. Peter and his wife, Jill, purchased twenty acres west of Ballarat in 1982 to build their family home. In 1998 they planted five acres of pinot noir and have been regretting it ever since as this quickly became an obsession and a passion which has held them captive ever since! Initially they believed they would only sell the fruit but following a large crop in 2004 were persuaded to 'have a go' at making a vintage. This tiny vintage of only forty four cases started a quest to produce quality wine which has never waned. In 2005, the second vintage, of only seventy cases, was reviewed by James Halliday to be one of the twenty best pinots in Australia, with a score of ninety five points.

Since those beginnings Nintingbool has 'expanded' to produce a still tiny average of three hundred and fifty cases of pinot noir, as well as tiny volumes of Shiraz, sourced from a small vineyard in Clunes, and estate grown rose.

Family & friends help to harvest the grapes, which are fermented in small vats using a variety of carefully selected yeasts. Some wild yeast and whole bunches bring complex flavours to the fabulous minerally fruits. The wine is fermented in French oak barrels and coaxed through the winter with electric blankets to maintain a constant temperature in the very cool Ballarat climate.

Every vintage has shown savoury classic Ballarat flavours exhibiting delicate tannins, light in hue with earthy aromas. At 425 metres above sea level this a very cool climate wine.

Nintingbool Wines is open by appointment and can be found in 'Wongerer's Lane,' Smythes Creek.

Nintingbool vineyard is a small family owned business, established in 1998. The vineyard is planted with two hectares of pinot noir and is located 13 km west of Ballarat. The vines are planted on northern slopes in harsh goldfields soils and are hand pruned and hand-picked by family and friends and the small winery was set-up in 2004. Nintingbool vineyard benefits from a cool climate with a long ripening period to produce premium quality grapes and fine complex wines.

Peter Bothe, winemaker, has an unexpected background for this industry,



Find them on the web at www.nintingbool.com



PLAN AND PREPARE FOR FIRE THIS SUMMER



You've cleared the gutters, cut back the grass and tackled the undergrowth – but that might not mean that you are fully prepared for fire this summer.

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said research showed Victorians were great at carrying out the easy to do preparation tasks in the lead-up to the fire season.

"But it's actions like talking to your CFA brigade about the risk where you live and making a decision with your family about when you'll leave and where you'll go that could save your life," he said.

Fire risk varies from city fringe areas next to grassland to rural areas close to grass or bushland. For information on the risk in your area and tips on leaving early, you can talk to your local CFA brigade or visit cfa.vic.gov.au.

Fire planning and preparation should include a conversation with your household at the start of summer about when you will leave before a fire and where you will go. You also need to decide where you will shelter if you get caught out and cannot leave your property or area.

"Make sure everyone you live with knows these plans, so you're all clear about what you'll do on a fire risk day," Mr Ferguson said.

"You should also pack an emergency kit at the start of summer so you're ready to go any time. This should include important paperwork and essentials like mobile phones, medications, change of clothes and water. If your kit is already packed, it's easier to grab it and go."

"Finally, remember to talk to friends, family and neighbours who may need help leaving early before a fire," he said.

"The responsibility for surviving the fire season is shared between emergency services and the community – we all share the responsibility for our community's safety," he said.

Plan and prepare for fire this summer:

Do you understand the fire risk where you live? Talk to your local CFA brigade and find out your level of risk, or visit cfa.vic.gov.au

Talk to your household about what you're going to do on a fire risk day, where you'll go and when you'll leave.

Pack an emergency kit so you're ready to go.

For more information on what to include, go to cfa.vic.gov.au ~ download the FireReady smartphone app .

Plan ahead so you don't have to make decisions at the last minute

For more information on planning and preparation this summer, go to cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



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FireReady 

Foody Craft with Kids

by Joanne Lockwood



My two daughters are pretty much obsessed with arts and craft. I do tend to find it quite frustrating, spending all that time setting up and cleaning up for actual activity to keep them entertained for just a few minutes. I would rather delegate all arts and crafts to the domain of childcare, kinder or school and spend our home time in other pursuits. However the long summer holidays generally means at least some home craft activities to appease their insatiable need to 'make'. So here enters food craft, a combination of my enjoyment of cooking, the need to entice said small ones into eating healthy foods and their desire to create.

The realm of food craft is pretty wide and only limited to your (or their) imagination and level of patience – look online for some amazing ideas. We tend to keep things pretty simple and go for crafts that don't take too much time to prepare, are going to be readily eaten and have immediate satisfaction (no waiting for things to bake etc).

For lunches we create funny faces with whatever is in the fridge that the girls will eat (plus a few I'm trying to encourage), cut into different shapes. We actually have a plate with a face painted on it that they decorate (a desperate attempt at getting my four year old to eat something besides peanut butter sandwiches and sultanas) but any plain plate would do. A

few suggestions include grated carrot and cheese (great for making hair), cherry tomatoes cut in half, cucumber circles or semi-circles, capsicum rings cut in half (for the perfect smiley mouth), sultanas, olives, pieces of kabana or sausage, apple segments, mandarin pieces, strawberries, melon balls (if you can be bothered), dollops of mayo or hummus. The list is endless, the kids have fun, it's quick, healthy and they eat it.... Mostly. Depending on the ages and ability of your kids you can also get them to do the preparation, putting things in bowls, cutting up some or all of the foods, grating the cheese and so on. And don't think you have to limit your creations to faces, anything is possible. Rockets, gardens or trees and animals all work equally as well. Let your kids go crazy.

For a sweet treat think decorating. Little ones love nothing better than covering some small sweet treat with decorations like lollies, sprinkles, dried fruit, coconut etc. There are lots of decorating possibilities both as the base and the toppings. Cupcakes are a great idea, find a good basic recipe and make a batch and freeze them. Then you can just pull out a couple, make up a small amount of icing (for me I stick to the absolute basics when it comes to icing, simply icing sugar a little hot water and either cocoa to make brown or food colouring. We also sometime split it up into different bowls before colouring so we have a selection of colours). An alternative to cupcakes is a simple biscuit recipe or even using bought plain biscuits like Marie biscuits. The decorating can be completely random or could make things like faces, animals or aliens. This also makes a great birthday party activity.

I love the idea of combining food and craft, of providing a summer holiday activity that doesn't drive me nuts but does fulfil that arty need kids have and that distracts them from the bickering and the tv. It's something we can do together that we all enjoy. Then when Kinder (or school or childcare) starts again they can do all the painting, pasting, glitter-sprinkling and whatever else is on offer to their hearts content.



Funny Face Biscuits

Funny face biscuits are great fun to make with the kids for a birthday party or a special afternoon tea treat. Simply ice plain biscuits and add sweets to create funny faces. These are egg free.

Ingredients:

2 cups (300g) icing sugar,	2 tbsp water
yellow food colouring	1 packet Milk Arrowroot biscuits (oval shape)
small box Smarties	packet Allen's Retro party mix (it has the teeth and lips!)
packet jelly beans	sprinkles

Method: Sift icing sugar into a bowl; add enough water to make a spreadable paste. Add a few drops of yellow food colouring to get the right funny face colour. Spread a teaspoon of icing onto the biscuit and then use the lollies to make the faces. When the face is done, use the sprinkles for hair, beards and a moustache.



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WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN

FEBRUARY

- 4th Immunisation (12.45pm - 1.30pm, Haddon)
 20th Chat & Chew luncheon Northern Community Centre 12.30pm - \$9.00pp

MARCH

- 4th Immunisation (12.45pm - 1.30pm Haddon)
International Women's Day evening, Haddon Learning Centre, 396 Sago Hill Rd - gold coin donation, 7 pm.
 20th Chat & Chew luncheon Northern Community Centre 12.30pm - \$9.00pp
 28th Term ends
29th Haddon Twilight Market 4 pm - 8 pm

APRIL

- 1st Immunisation (12.45pm - 1.30pm Haddon)
 15th 2nd School Term begins
 17th Chat & Chew luncheon Northern Community Centre 12.30pm - \$9.00pp
 18th Good Friday

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