



The Crafty Artist – May 2020 Newsletter

From President Mary (somewhere in Ballina)

Hi there fellow 'Isolated Members',

I hope this month has passed as quickly for you as it seems to me.

Can't believe it's only twenty days since they told us 70+ Yr olds to stay at home

At least my dog Marly takes me out three times a day for exercise! No changes for us yet so we can only take one day at a time & enjoy the 'me' time.

Do all those things we have been putting aside for when we have time, because that's one thing we have plenty of. Paint & Craft hard, ring your mates (chat with a Cuppa), but mainly stay happy, healthy & safe! Thank you again Jenny for putting this Newsletter out to keep us in touch. Keep smiling Mary.

And then.....

Hi Jenny, a **STOP PRESS** for my report.

The N.R.C.GALLERY has just been in touch and given that the Government restrictions are open ended, they are moving dates to 2021 as the best way to secure dates for artists without complete cancellation.

At this stage **our 2020 Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition will be rescheduled to 13th January to 7th March, 2021.**

On your behalf I have accepted the offer & they will keep us informed.

Now we can only wait & see what this strange new world does next.

Cheers Mary.

From Deb (editor on the run) McFarlane

I'm back!

Unfortunately my holiday was very short and I just finished my mandatory isolation.

My grandson is adorable and I didn't get the bug. **READ full story at end of bulletin**

Quotation from book of Hope

'The Sky is the daily bread of the eyes'

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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From Janet (No Hassles) Hassall

Sorry Jenny NO NEWS.

I have attached a photo of a painting I did of the Mulgrave River just outside Cairns North Queensland when we visited Cairns three years ago.

I called it **THE MULGRAVE WILD RIVER OF THE NORTH** because when it floods in a good wet season it really roars along.

Bob (my husband) lived beside the river with his family during the 2nd world War as a 10 year old as his father was the engineer on the road they were building for the Allied Works.

He and his brother didn't go to school for a year and had the time of their lives.

The above may be useful to fill in a space.

Kind regards.

Janet



THE MULGRAVE WILD RIVER OF THE NORTH by Janet Hassall

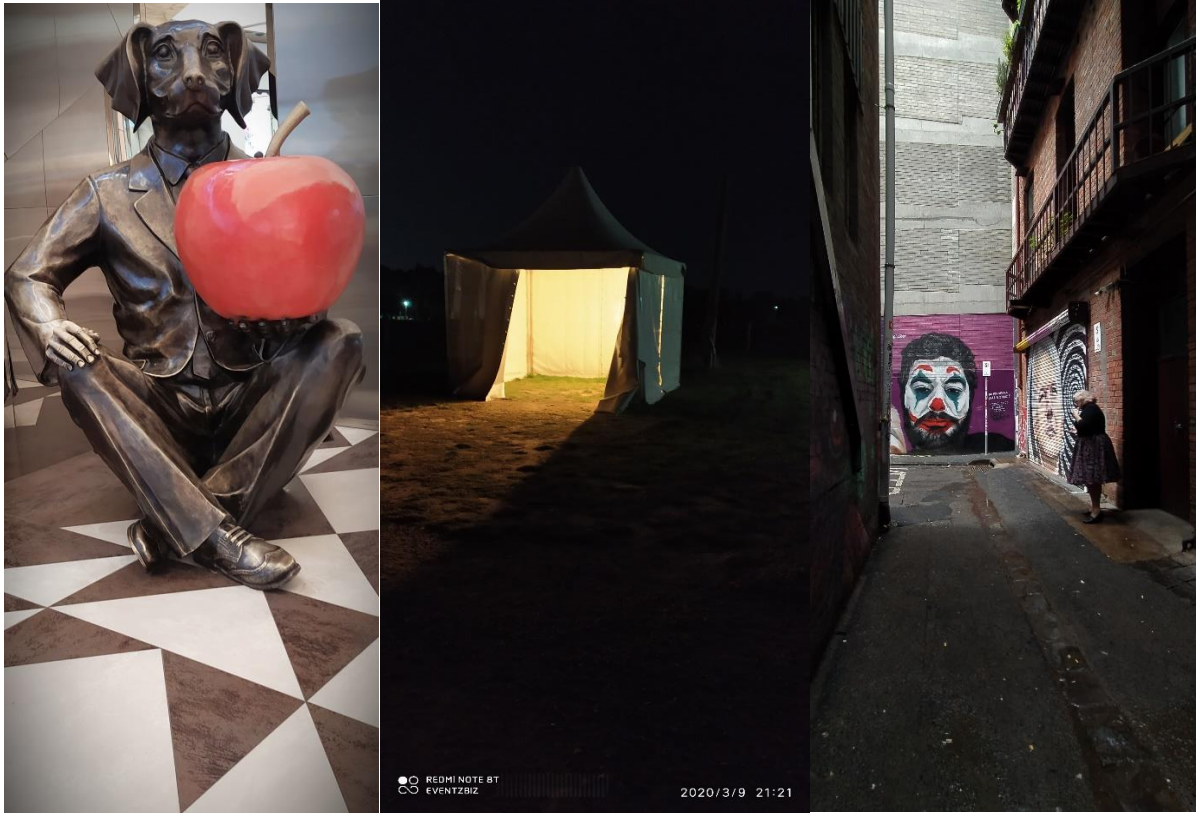
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From the Acting Editor

Life in the Tweed is pretty interesting with our border being closed & family trapped on both sides of the fence with a permit required to cross back into Qld. Life as we knew it will never be the same. So glad to head for the hills after my 1xweekly shopping outing.

I entered the **Border Art Prize** for the first time with a photo print of the first pic above (minus the head) It is called 'To Err is Human – Adam's Apple' A bit daunting as a first timer but nothing ventured as No 2 is an image I liked from the recent festival I worked at in March in Victoria (Golden Plains 14) The day before we were to leave we had word a band member tested positive for the 'Rona followed by a punter the day after. And then it all began as they say.

Image 3 is from the Melbourne CBD street art trail. I really enjoy seeing the diversity & colour of the images each time I visit. This time was no exception.

Take care everyone and let's paint/craft some colour back into this world.

Jenny x

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Debs Holiday to the UK (grab a cuppa for the full story)

My **10 week holiday to the UK, then Mexico and Cuba**, was cut short due to the Coronavirus.

I did manage two weeks in Edinburgh to see my new grandson Tilo, who is adorable and a very happy baby.

The weather was very nice and sunny but very cool and I needed about 4 layers of clothes on when going outside. I think it was max of about 12 in the day. I'd only been in Scotland for 2 days when all the shops shut, and only supermarkets allowed open.

A few days later they introduced social distancing. The UK was ahead of Australia with the progression of the virus. The kids had organised for me to see 'The Lion King' on stage for my birthday but that was cancelled the day before our booking.

However, we did a lot of park walks, saw some beautiful gardens and did beach esplanade strolls, plus had plenty of good cooking. It was lovely family time although short and sweet. Like here, the unfolding of the spread of Covid19 was all over the tele 24/7.

After 12 days away I got a message from my travel agent who warned me to return home ASAP as all the airlines were ceasing operation. So, my return flight with Emirates was cancelled at the check in desk. They wouldn't let me board because I didn't have UNE citizenship and an hour earlier they made this ruling that only UNE nationals were allowed onboard!!

There were so many people with tickets that couldn't get on planes. Many had no-where to stay, as most of the hotels etc were closing down because there were no tourists. Lots of cheesed off people, especially the Aussies. (Later on we saw on the tele that there were a lot of people stranded at Dubai airport, so we think that was the reason for us not being allowed on this flight.)

So, I went back to my son's house to see what options I had, and I think the last flight out of Edinburgh was leaving the next morning and was ridiculously expensive but I had to take it otherwise I was told it could be 6 months or more before I could get home. The seats were getting snapped up online and the prices going up by the minute so we just had to grab a ticket before there were no seats left. I was hoping to avoid going via London as it was a hotspot already, but I had no choice.

So there was I on a Qatar flight, (actually a very nice airline to fly with) and I flew from Edinburgh to London to Doha then Sydney, with an almost 8 hr stop in the middle of the night in Doha. I was rather scared to take this flight as I really didn't want to be stranded in an unfamiliar country....if you know what I mean. Was it reliable??

There were lots of people coughing and sneezing on board which left everyone shaking their heads. **In Doha I had to sleep on the cold terrazzo floor, but at least it was reasonably clean and I had a couple of jumpers for padding. The journey went reasonably with lots of red tape, until I got to Sydney...**

I went through the health screen, was issued a face mask which was mandatory on my trip home, then headed over to domestic terminal to catch my flight to Ballina. But that was cancelled. Great!!

I was very tired and Quarantine told me I had a few options to get home.

Continued

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1. If I wanted to catch a flight the next day to Ballina, I would have to be in quarantine in Sydney for 14 days before I get on a plane
2. If I flew to the Gold Coast I would have to be in quarantine in Queensland for 14 days before I could return home
3. I could catch a bus, a train or drive. (It was only the next day after I returned that the government bought in the ruling to send every international arrival to a hotel immediately after disembarking.....thank goodness I just scraped in safely of course!
4. I got on the XPT train that afternoon to Casino and then caught the bus to Ballina, arriving at 4.30am!
5. My mum left my car at the Tamar bus station so I could drive myself home and self isolate.
6. It was a 60 hour marathon to get home. My sleep pattern was a mess and it took me about 10 days to get back into some sort of almost normality.
7. I just finished my 14 day mandatory isolation and am appreciating my freedom, although it's limited. My first bike ride was wonderful.

I have been doing a lot of gardening, online tai chi classes, sorting the office/filing cabinet (cleaning) and weaving and painting, to keep me busy. I've also had a few family dramas to deal with. I am never bored.

We are very lucky to have modern technology to keep in touch with family and friends.

I hope to finish my visit to Mexico and Cuba early next year.

By the way, I never had any viral symptoms, not a sniffle or anything. Touch wood.

Stay safe and make the most of these quiet times.

Deb McFarlane



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Lennox News May 2020

In the unusual times we are living in I really must say I'm enjoying the amount of time I have to paint and create, but I also know a lot of people are not motivated to pick up a brush yet.

Most of you know the **Border Art Prize has gone online this year**, and I suspect they will have a very large number of entries, because there is nothing much happening in the area. Wouldn't it be lovely if one of our members had some success?

Some of you might like to try some online teaching or art challenges.

There are a lot of online tutors, some paid and some not. I particularly like www.arttutor.com.

You can look at some free sample lessons on Youtube, but this is one where you have to pay.

This group also has a Facebook challenge page, called "Isolation art" where they are asking for a picture a day with a different theme and this is free!

It can also be a time when you tackle something you have been meaning to try, such as digital painting and drawing.

I have a free app called "Procreate", a good way to try some digital art. Here is an example: It really looks like a watercolour painting doesn't it?

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A GENTLE REMINDER.....

- Have your contact details changed?
- Do you use the facebook page and or website?
- Do you have a news item to share?
- Have a question?
- Need some help?

ACT NOW! GET IN TOUCH.

ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

See you somewhere in the sunshine.

Jenny

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