



Sarina Tourist Arts and Crafts Centre

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Future looking bright



Capacity crowd at sale

Left: Cheryl McCarthy and artist Kathy Murray with the prize painting.

A CAPACITY crowd backed the future of the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre at the mega cent sale at the Bob Wood Hall in Sarina on Sunday.

A lengthy closure of the Craft Centre last year due to COVID and falling sales due to declining visitor

numbers as the pandemic cut tourism to the north forced the centre's board to seek other funding to ensure its survival.

"The future is now looking much brighter," the centre's treasurer Jennifer Costello said.

Right: Rosemary Howland and her granddaughters Harmony, 7, and Felicity McBean, 3, with Len Costello and the table which she won.

"We'd like to thank all those people who came to support us, as well as the many who helped through donations and other support. Really, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people and businesses in Sarina and throughout the district.

"We'd also like to thank Jenny Miotto for giving us her experience to help make this sale a success. Jenny has run many cent sales and it shows.

"We will now aim to ensure the centre remains open and continues to have available its delightful collection of crafts for district residents and visitors."



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Left: Rhonda Payne won this doll at the cent sale, but decided to donate it to young Isabella Boswood who was too busy at the sale to win prizes as she was running prizes to winners.

Board chairman Bob Neilsen said Jennifer Costello and Marg Hinrichs had put a massive effort into collecting donations and wrapping the prizes, and many other volunteers and crafters had helped with the preparations and during the sale.

"It was a big effort overall, well done by everybody."

Profits from the sale will be shared by the Craft Centre and The Variety Club. Cheryl McCarthy won the major raffle of a painting donated by artist Kathy Murray, while Rosemary Howland won the second prize of a table donated by Len and Jennifer Costello.



Left: Lisa Kerr, left, with her grandmother Margaret Phillips, relax after catering for the crowd at the mega cent sale.

Below: Prizes at the sale.





BEAR FRIENDS: Crafter Chris Brough chats with her bears Rosie and Katie, which are part of the Babies and Children display at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre. Photos: Charlie Payne

There's a bear in there

THERE'S some bears in there – at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Sarina crafter Chris Brough's bears take pride of place in the Sarina Arts and Craft Centre's Babies and Children display this month, and for good reason.

Chris has been making bears for more than 20 years, and she's a winner when it comes to her furry friends.

"When I first started I got a bear, made up its dress and put it into the Sarina Show and I won first prize."

She says every bear she makes is a "one off" because its clothing, character and design develops over the course of its making, and sometimes ends up totally different from what she first envisaged – but most times she's happy with the result.

"I have ideas of what I want to do and lots of bits and pieces and I get spread out on the table and I put them together, doing bits at a time.

"Some of them have taken me up to three months. If I was paid a cent an hour for the work I put into them, I'd be rich, but you do it because you enjoy it.

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“Sometimes I get halfway through doing one and I think ‘Oh why am I doing this’.

“By the time you do all this and all that that’s involved in making them, you realise that it’s just for the love of it and it keeps me active.”

Chris said the bears were ideal for a present intended for a special occasion for a child, such as a christening, and for keeping as a family heirloom.

“They’re not really something for a tiny child to play with, although we do have toys here that are ideal for that purpose.

“I’ve been down to Melbourne and I’ve seen them getting hundreds of dollars for similar bears, but you can’t really put a price on what is a unique creation.”

The Arts and Crafts Centre has a wide range of baby and children’s toys and clothing, along with other varied crafts from about 70 district crafters. It’s open seven days a week, 10-3 Monday to Friday and 10-1 weekends.

Meet Chris’s family of bear friends



From left Lucy (\$140), Katie (\$140) and Rosie (\$140).



Bear Teacup (\$70), Baby Bear Tilly (\$45), mohair bear Rosie and Rosebud (\$140).



SO CUTE: Helen Stewart with a cute bag she made from a recycled jeans pocket.

Helen's life of crafting

HELEN Stewart was four and living a remote western property when she learnt to knit using string with two twigs off a camphor laurel tree.

Today at 84 she is using eight decades of experience in knitting, sewing, crocheting, needlework and other crafts to produce an amazing range of handcrafted goods available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Some of her work is part of a Babies and Children display this month at the centre, but it also extends to a wide range of other areas. One of her latest creations is a cute recycled denim bag made from a pocket, which she says is popular with the young.

“My grandmother Mary taught me with two twigs off a camphor laurel tree and string. That was how you learnt back then, there was nothing else around, certainly no wool,” she said.

“Later my mum Violet taught me how to crochet and I went from there and learnt how to sew. In those days you couldn't always get clothing and underwear from stores because we were so remote.”

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Her father Tom was injured serving for Australia in New Guinea in World War II and after the war the family moved to a soldier settlement block of 50 acres in Chinchilla. Helen was 13 when she finished school and went to work in a newsagency.



LEFT: Helen Stewart with some of her Babies and Children products.

“My first wage was three shillings, I thought that was alright because I never had any pocket money before,” she said.

She later worked at a men’s drapery store and the Chinchilla hospital. She married Norm in February 1958 before moving to Sarina in 1970. They had four children, and treasure four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She still has hopes that some of her lifetime

crafting skills will pass down the generations, as a granddaughter, Gabrielle Boswood, 11, has her own sewing machine.

On moving to Sarina she quickly became a member of the Sarina Fibre Arts Group and was one of the first volunteers and crafters for the Sarina Arts and Crafts, in which she has been involved for more than 24 years.

She was also a volunteer with the Endeavour second-hand store which was in Broad St, on the site of what is now Subway, which closed with the development of the Woolworths complex.

“I like to try a lot of different things. Being in the Fibre Arts, we try everything. We used to get a lot of tutors in and they’d try to get us doing stuff we’d never tried before. You’d end up with a few UFOs (UnFinished Objects) in your cupboard.”

The Arts and Crafts Centre is open seven days a week, 10-3 Monday to Friday and 10-1 weekends.

Glad's craft still in demand



Left: Glad Wood had a passion for arts and crafts.

A LITTLE bit of history came into the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre this week.

Two beautifully embroidered sewing caddies, made by the late Glad Wood (pictured left) who died in 2010, were taken into stock at the centre after they were finished off by crafter Helen Stewart.

Sue Smith, who remembers Glad as a very talented crafter, immediately pounced on the caddies and took them home to use while she crochets in her lounge chair.

Glad's daughter Debbie Goggan said she remembered her mum's passion for arts and crafts.

"She loved making clothes for her grandchildren and also clothes for us kids, she even made my wedding dress but most of all she enjoyed fiddly, intricate stitching," she said.

"She taught primary school students to make signature bears covered with embroidery, and I have seen photos as far back as the 60s in which she dressed dolls in wedding dresses. She made a wardrobe of clothes to go with it and this would then be raffled off to raise money for groups in Sarina.

Right: Sue Smith with two of Glad Wood's sewing caddies.

"I can always remember mum would never just make an outfit, it always had a little bit of embroidery on it."

Debbie said her mother spent many years with the Sarina Fibre Arts Group, as she enjoyed learning new crafts and teaching others.

"Applique was one of the many arts she was known for.

"We both enjoyed volunteering at the Sarina Arts and Crafts centre and putting our crafts in to sell. I think she really enjoyed chatting to the travellers as she had grown up in Sarina and was really passionate about it."



Glad was the wife of Bob Wood, who worked for Sarina Shire Council for 44 years and was shire clerk for 25 years. She died in 2010 and Bob passed away about 11 weeks later.

Left: These model houses were created by Glad Wood.



The board of the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre after their March monthly meeting. Front from left are treasurer Jennifer Costello, chairman Bob Neilsen, secretary Rhonda Payne; back Jenny Price, Lilian Brown, Marg Hinrichs, Margaret Schwarzrock, Rosemary Rowles, Charlie Payne.



Board member resigns

SARINA Arts and Crafts Centre board member Judy Langdon, pictured, has resigned from the board.

Judy said she was resigning with regret as due to changed circumstances she was unable to devote the time necessary to the position.

Chairman Bob Neilsen said Judy had been an important member of the board in her portfolio of tourism and would be missed. It was decided to take no action at this time on appointing a new member.

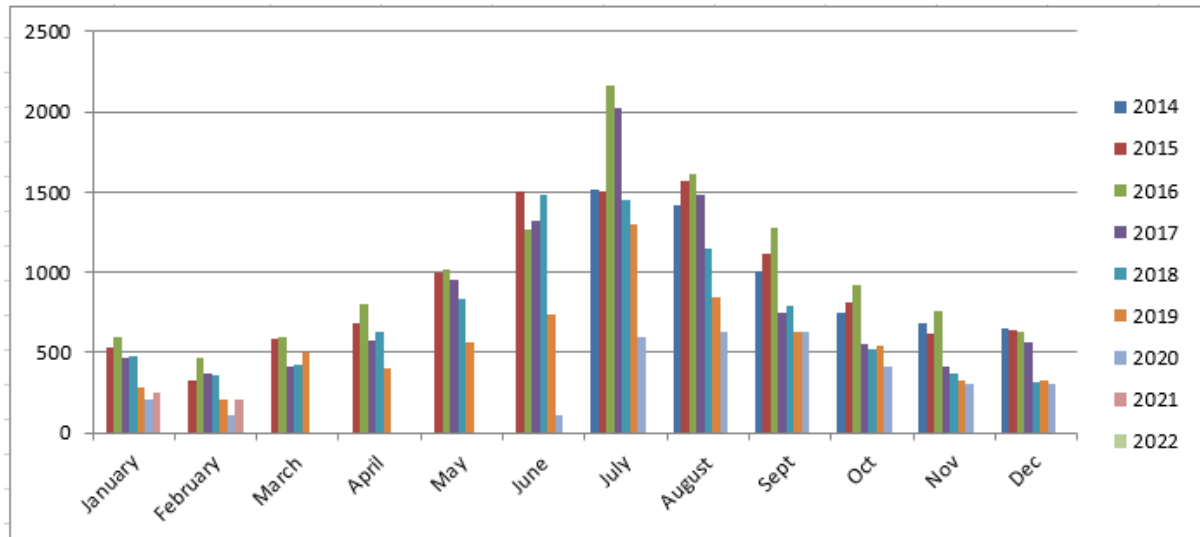
ARTIST OF THE MONTH: The board decided to promote an Artist of the Month every second month. Crafters are encouraged to take part in this promotion which gives positive publicity to the individual's craft as well as promoting the Arts and Crafts Centre. It was also decided to do changeovers once every two months, unless an Artist of the Month was obtained.

ASSETS: Marg Hinrichs will take on the position of assets register which entails recording all new assets acquired by the centre. Marg will also take on the position of assistant treasurer.

TOILETS: It was decided that toilets at the Craft Centre can now be opened to the public. The toilets were closed to the public last year due to COVID regulations. However free tea and coffee still cannot be offered to the public.

LIGHTING: Len Costello has fixed security lighting at the centre and fixed a Perspex screen to the entrance to the centre which has markedly improved the effectiveness of its airconditioning.

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January		535	598	467	474	283	213	251	
February		326	464	373	358	211	116	207	
March		582	596	414	426	495	0		
April		687	798	571	631	404	0		
May		1001	1015	954	839	564	0		
June		1500	1270	1317	1488	738	111		
July	1511	1501	2168	2026	1446	1301	595		
August	1414	1565	1614	1483	1145	850	631		
Sept	1005	1115	1283	751	793	630	633		
Oct	745	817	918	558	517	543	413		
Nov	688	623	754	416	368	330	301		
Dec	656	638	626	570	318	323	301		
Totals		10890	12104	9900	8803	6672	3314		

The graph and table above show the visitor numbers at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre since 2014.



Great printer – make an offer

THIS printer is available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, Field of Dreams, Sarina.

It is a Fuji Xerox Apeosport Model VC2275 modern high-speed printer, in excellent condition.

The printer comes with three brand new drum cartridges and five new toners.

It has had little work, and would be suitable for a busy office, or for home.

\$1500 or make an offer.

For information and to arrange an inspection contact Jennifer Costello, 0414 735 787 or email sarinainfo@easynet.net.au.