



Chairman's Report 2021

Good morning and welcome to all. Thank you for coming today.

My name is Carolyn Wheeler and I have been your committee chairman since being elected at the last AGM.

Since that election, I have enjoyed my position and getting to know the other committee members, the staff, and some of the volunteers.

Being an accountant, I believe that I have been able to bring much of my experience to the board with the aim to help where-ever and when-ever I can.

My learning curve for the past 6 months or so has shown me how much goes on behind the scenes and I am sure you all must be immensely grateful for the variety of activities and functions that have been held recently. The processes and functioning of BICAS leave me in awe of the tentacles of the Centre and the different hats that many volunteers wear daily.

I would like to personally thank all those in the Association that have taken me under their wings to teach me some of the ropes and I hope to maintain my position increasing my knowledge further.

I would also like to personally thank the volunteers, because without them, BICAS would be unable to function to its full potential. Our thankyou afternoon tea earlier this year showed our appreciation to them.

Other mentions must include

- Our thanks to Busy Fingers for their generous funding of the new carpet in Matthew Flinders Gallery and please all note that we have positioned a plaque at the entrance to the gallery to recognize their contribution.
- The Moreton Bay Regional Council has been providing ongoing support and our meeting with Brooke just recently gave us an idea of where they are heading regarding BICAS. We will then be able to put our own plans in place based on these commitments. Our Operational Plan and our Strategic Business Plan have been drawn up by Alex Ferguson and they are slowly being filled in with tasks that the Board is allocating to be done over the next 3 or so years.
- As you would be aware, our Café 191 is steaming ahead with our amazing chef working wonders in the kitchen. It is often difficult to get a table with the number of visitors enjoying lovely food and coffee. The support from Corey's volunteers contributes greatly to the Café's success.
- The gallery has been a boon to both BICAS and the artists that have displayed their talents. I believe that there are very few dates available for 2022 with some already booked for 2023. That sounds a bit scary so far in advance, but it will arrive sooner than we think. The online gallery has started up this year and is slowly gathering momentum with the number of sales made to date.
- The WTGs have been busy each week inspiring others to join them and some even have waiting lists.

During the year, many improvements have been made to the Arts Centre.

Not only is there new carpet in the Matthew Flinders Gallery but the lights in the gallery have been replaced. There are sensor lights at the back entrance and a new air conditioner installed in the back gallery.

The pottery courtyard roof has been done, new carpet has been installed throughout the sales galleries, the bitumen area behind the café is in the process of being resurfaced, and the main toilets have been completely gutted and refurbished.

The pottery gas kiln will soon be upgraded and refitted, and the café deck roof will soon be replaced with an insulated roof benefitting not only the workers but also the patrons in the café.

These improvements have been funded by either grants applied for and received from The Moreton Bay Council, or they were fully self-funded. Next year a Grant Application sub-group is expected to be fully formed and they will be researching various grants available for BICAS to make application.

A final mention must be made of our Board member, Lynne Smith, who has had to resign due to ill health. An afternoon tea was held on her behalf recently, and a plaque in the potter's studio bears the name "The Lynne Smith Courtyard" in her honour.

Thank you for your attention today and I look forward to the future for the Bribie Island Community Arts Centre.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carolyn Wheeler', written in black ink on a white background.

Carolyn Wheeler