



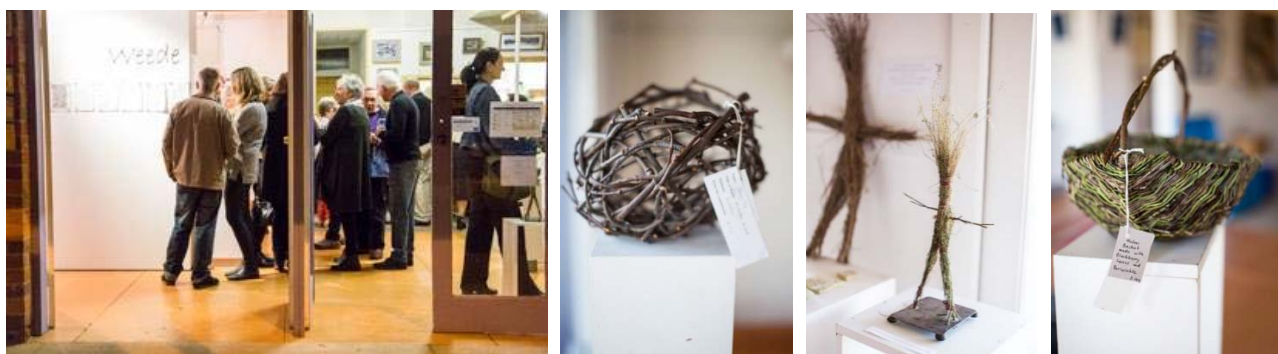
Gallery Newsletter

July 2016

We hope you are all staying warm – Winter is a great time for hibernating and getting creative!

Come and Play, all of May – we did!

May was a month packed with creativity, kicking off with a lively Weede opening - so much fabulous work, imaginative and thoughtful creations inspired by our local weeds. Thanks to Lynn Lochrie there has been a local blossoming of basketry, many of which featured in Weede. If you are keen to have a try, the basketry group meets on the first Wednesday of the month, contact Jenny Coy for more details, ensaywinery@bigpond.com.au



Weede opening and creations

And on the weaving theme, the **Week of Weaving** in Omeo was an enormous success, thanks to wonderful artist-in-residence **Wanda Bennett** and the warm welcome of the Omeo/Benamبرا community. Workshops were held throughout the week in the shopfront (kindly donated by Billie Kelly), at the school, with the residents of Lewington House, and at Benambra Neighbourhood House. The shopfront was filled with woven creations of all kinds, culminating in a very special gathering on a chilly Omeo evening! The works are now on display in the Gallery - make sure you call in and have a look in the next couple of weeks, they are truly fabulous. Thanks to Andrea Court, Creative East Gippsland Shire Council and Gippsland for initiating and funding the residency.



Week of Weaving

The **Open Studios** were also very successful with dozens of art lovers traipsing across the countryside visiting studios. The **Weekend Workshops** were also mostly successful – some being booked out and others not. Still, it is all a learning curve, and the publicity campaign by Creative Gippsland certainly brought lots of new people into our valley, and raised the Gallery's profile to a much wider audience and within our own community.

Artists' Profiles on Gallery Website

The Gallery now has a refurbished website thanks to the huge effort of John O'Neill, see www.greatalpinegallery.org.au

As you will see on the Artists page, Gallery members have the opportunity to create their own web page. John will be running a workshop on how to set up your own artist page on **Sunday 17th July** at 11am for approx. 2 hours at the Swifts Creek Community Centre. Please contact Annie on 0408 523 498 to book in for this workshop. Bring a USB stick with images of your artwork ready to upload to the website, preferably 1MB or less, with the longest side no bigger than 1000 pixels. You can bring your own laptop or use the Community Centre computers. This is a fantastic opportunity for members to get their own web page up and running, a real benefit of Gallery membership. Enormous thanks to Barry Lomas for initiating and maintaining our previous web page, we so appreciate the work Barry has done over many years.



Love East Gippsland Community Tapestry

East Gippsland Art Gallery is proud to announce *Love East Gippsland Community Tapestry*. Jennifer Sharpe, a renowned and highly experienced tapestry weaver will travel to East Gippsland and over ten workshop days create a tapestry with members from the community based on a gridded map of East Gippsland, weaving a total of 40 squares or bands that will be stitched together to form the finished piece. Participants can pick a square/band, personalise it and weave it.

Jennifer will teach the basic techniques of weft faced weave which is woven on upright looms. Participants can be a part of the project while learning a new skill. The finished *Love East Gippsland Community Tapestry* will remain in East Gippsland and has the potential to travel the region and possibly beyond.

Jennifer will be at the Great Alpine Gallery on **18/19/20th August**. People can book in to come for an extended sessions or they can just drop in. More details coming soon!

Proudly supported by East Gippsland Shire Council Arts and Heritage Alliance and Regional Arts Victoria Regional Arts fund.

Studio Visits

We are planning on having an informal **Studio Crawl** in Spring, open to all Gallery members who would like to open their studio for a visit from other members. Stay tuned for more details, and let us know if you would like to open your studio just for an hour or two - not a big commitment - so that we can get to know what everyone is making and support each other.

Spring Exhibition

Our next themed exhibition will be on a wacky clothing/wearable fibre theme. Start dreaming, scheming and playing with fibres and fabric and re-fashioned clothing – details to come.

New Gallery Opening in Bruthen

Eileen Thurgood, former director of East Gippsland Art Gallery, is opening a new gallery in Bruthen in August. Keep your eye out for Amegilla Gallery where the Collectibles shop was previously located – it will be fantastic to have more arts and cultural activity in our area.

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