

FOSTER WAR MEMORIAL ARTS CENTRE COMMUNITY ASSETS COMMITTEE

2022-2023 President's Report

Our committee has continued to work hard this year to maintain and improve the building and fixtures of the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre. This building is the most well-known and utilized public facility in the Corner Inlet area.

We hope to finalize an agreement with U3A Prom Coast for the lease of the former Senior Citizens meeting room including the two small rooms formerly rented to the Foster Youth Assist Clinic. The main room is now known as the U3A Prom Coast Learning Centre.

This year we have welcomed 5 new members to our committee. They are Shane Doherty(RSL), Jenni Munro (U3A), Heather Bligh (U3A) and Paul Greenhalgh. Councilor Moya Davies is our councilor representative at meetings.

Usage of the Centre has nearly returned to pre-pandemic bookings with FAMDA to stage two productions and a one-act play festival soon.

The Shire Council have installed split system air conditioners and blinds in the meeting room and U3A Learning Centre and new carpet has been laid in the newly painted Foyer.

As stated in my report for last year we are currently applying to the Shire for a Community Consultation Grant to commission a professional evaluation and strategic plan for future needs of the Arts Centre in respect to the town and district. This will be undertaken by Michelle Harris of Gippsport Community Solutions. Included in the submission are 13 letters of support from regular user groups including 3 from Foster Secondary College. All are supportive of this plan with most critical of the outdated facilities and building age. However, this will be a professional evaluation of the needs of the community regarding the facility for at least the next 50 years.

Future improvements we would like to see for the Centre include a new ceiling and lighting in the supper room, new external lamps on the front portico and a moveable banner frame to publicise upcoming events. There may be a time, however, where it would be impracticable to spend money if the facility is to be re-built.

Individual bookings for the year ending June 20th2023, totaled 208 from user groups and individuals. This is similar to last year, however Youth Assist has now moved to the Hospital and U3A Prom Coast is now using their Learning Centre on a permanent basis during school terms. A list of all main user groups is included in this report.

User groups 2022 - 2023

Foster Arts, Music and Drama Association

Foster Youth Assist Clinic (part year only)

U3A Prom Coast

South Gippsland Farmers Market

Foster Secondary College

Friends of the Corner Inlet Library

South Gippsland Shire Council

Susie Green School of Dancing

Foster RSL Sub Branch

South Gippsland Hospital Auxiliary

Community House

Prom Recitals

South Gippsland Water

Cindy Halsthorp Yoga

Parks Victoria

Low Res Choir

Foster Cricket Club

Prom Coast Festival

Manner Gum

Foster Primary School

Peter Clyne

28th July 2023