

Welcome to the December 2011 newsletter.

The Territory Craft Office will close after lunch today 14 December 2011; we wish you a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to next year when we reopen full of fresh resolutions on Tuesday 17 January 2012.

Our retail shop at Parliament House, soon to be referred to as **TACTILE Territory Craft Shop** (see page 2) has already closed and will reopen on 14 February 2012.

Note from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Territory Craft membership a very happy Christmas. Territory Craft has had a big year and next year looks like it might be even bigger!! Most visible of the happenings at Territory Craft for 2011 is the paint job and the industrial clean, followed closely by the POS system and new employee Lois Murphy! Among the invisible achievements are increased participation in workshops, really successful exhibitions especially in the last two thirds of the year and a happy Artist in Resident.

Recognition must go to the board members, Helen, Andrea, Cecily, Catherine and Karen, staff members, Sandy, Diana and Lois and to our wonderful, hugely appreciated volunteers for all their dedication and hard work.

I am already looking forward to the Tutors and Students exhibition at the beginning of next year.

Cheers

Sarah



Sad news – but as one door closes we must remember that another door will open!

Our dear Office Manager, Sandy Ford (Duckmanton) has decided to call it a day at Territory Craft. She has done some excellent things for the organisation, in particular the mammoth job of installing and programming the POS (point of sale system) for which I am extremely grateful. The POS has meant huge savings in terms of the workload for Territory Craft staff and they are now able to get on with other more important income producing things rather than filling in sales sheets etc. She has also written and established a format for our excellent website.

In cahoots with our stoic past treasurer, Helen Menzies, she has worked hard to reduce Territory Craft's expenditure so we can afford to carry on existing. She and Helen have managed to produce a workable budget for next year although it has no fat to speak of. Sandy and I are still talking about ways to address this issue.

By establishing three separate job descriptions Sandy has enabled us to reorganise the office staff so we now employ 3 people part time instead of one person full time. This has meant that if someone leaves we still have continuity and do not lose our focus or momentum. It also means our staff do not burn out so quickly. Territory Craft is a great place to work; there is always something new and exciting happening. However it is a very busy office and can be overwhelming for one person to handle alone. Government continues to require more and more paper work from organisations such as ours and in order to fulfil these obligations it's important to have someone of Sandy's experience and know-how.

I have enjoyed working with Sandy and would like to thank her so much for her dedication to Territory Craft and I wish her every happiness and success in the future.

PS. If anyone would like to apply for the position it is for 2 days a week (flexible hours). We expect to begin to interview candidates early next year. A more detailed description of the job will be placed on our website soon.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

By Sarah Body



Sandra Kendall had some beautiful items

It was another extremely hot and humid event but by accounts incredibly successful. Many fair goers commented on the good quality of the items on sale. This is truly fantastic as it supports Territory Craft's charter. Thank you, stall holders, for your passion and hard work getting your goods and artworks together. There was a record number of people wandering happily from stall to stall in the morning, although after one o'clock things did begin to slow down a little.



some of the many delightful treasures made by Andrea McKey

I believe nearly all stall holders reported good sales.

A huge, enormous thank you to all of our cheerful volunteers. The tea and coffee stand was virtually groaning with the loads of truly magnificent cakes and slices. I know tea, coffee and cake sellers did really well (as did the saucy assistants working the sausage sizzle) because there was hardly a crumb left by the end of the day. Actually, there was one plate of left overs, but the hard working pack up put away and lock the door team ended up eating them, together with a glass of well earned champagne!



customers clamoured for Fran's fine work

Renaming Territory Craft

After much deliberation the board has finally come to a decision.

We will not be changing the name of Territory Craft completely as this is a long and costly process so we have taken a half way measure. The board has decided to initially name the gallery and shop:

Tactile

Territory Craft Shop

Tactile

Territory Craft Gallery

The appropriate signs will be placed outside each premises. As the membership and the community at large come to recognise the name and associate it with Territory Craft the board will then revisit the idea of changing the name solely to Tactile.

Thank you to all those that gave this matter thought and submitted their suggestions. It was so difficult to choose as each board member had a different favourite but after lengthy negotiations we all agree that Tactile is it.

Helsinki and Back

By Sarah Body and Aly de Groot

About a month ago I ran into Aly de Groot in the Territory Craft car park. She had made a large turtle from 'ghost' nets that had been found, discarded, floating out to sea or washed up on a beach. She was wondering how she was going to get it to the Wild Life Park along with a large bag full of jelly fish made of woven fishing line.

"I am leaving for Finland tomorrow" she said, "and I promised Jasmine Jan that I would get these to her before I leave".

In case you are unaware Jasmine works at the Wild Life Park when she is not painting her beautiful watercolours.

As I live just round the corner from the Wild Life Park I offered to drop them off but first I wanted to know why Aly was going to Finland. She wrote this for the Newsletter.

I just got back from a ten day trip to Finland. It was amazing but cold. I don't recommend travelling from 30 degrees to 10 degree and then back to 30 degrees in a hurry. My body has just recovered from the shock. But was worth it.

Why Finland? I was fortunate enough to be invited by artist Nancy Tingey who, back in March, saw my 5 minutes of fame on ABC's television show Art Nation. She was interested in my use of ghost nets as an artistic medium as she is involved in an inter-university relationship between ANU (Australia) Cumbria University (UK) and Novia Design School (Turku, Finland)

They have had a creative relationship and partnership over the past two years. They have maintained dialogue through a blog and have had several group exhibitions in Australia revolving around the theme of nets.



Aly instructing a student

So I was lucky enough to be invited to join them in Finland to talk about my involvement in the Ghost net projects with Indigenous rangers and weavers in Northern Australia as well as share skills and insight into my own practice using recycled materials and basketry methodology to make art. We even went to the ekoturi i.e. dump shop in Finland, which felt like home.



a Finnish dump shop

* the Jellyfish seen in the background of this Newsletter are made by Aly



LOVE TO GO FISHING

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Flicking Fresh Barramundi Farm at Berry Springs, one hour from Darwin, has opened its farm to those who wish to experience the thrill of catching a large Barramundi. We are a working farm so

Bookings are essential

to book go to our website

www.reelbrainfood.com

gift vouchers are available on our website

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From rods to dazzling beads - Joanne Gerke A.I.R. 2011

Artists In Residence for 2012

We have been approached by a number of artists wanting to take up the position of Artist in Residence in 2012. We have selected two excellent applicants and are very excited that we will have them working at Territory Craft next year.

The first is Sandra Lancaster, who makes sculptural ceramic pieces. While she is with us she has chosen to produce a series of sculptural forms based on the Northern Territory landscape, its plants and animal. She has asked for a 6-month residency and we will be giving her the use of a space in the Ceramic Studio. You can expect to find Sandra at our premises from the end of March to the beginning of September.

Our second artist is Alex Clayton who has taken a three months residency beginning (very sensibly) in June. She is a printmaker and will take up studio space in the Triangle room. She wishes to combine traditional and photographic digital printmaking techniques and will be experimenting with 'green' techniques using non-toxic, non-hazardous materials.

We are delighted that both artists have agreed to hold workshops while they are at Territory Craft to pass on some of their skills to others. If I could I would be putting my name down now.

They will be holding a joint exhibition at Territory Craft, which will open on the 7th September.

A note from outgoing Artist in Residence for 2011 Joanne Gerke

At the beginning of 2011 I decide to resign from work so as I could spend more time making glass beads and be able to take up the Artist in Residence position at Territory Craft. I had learnt my bead making skills from glass artist Michelle Selway and had reached a stage where I needed to push myself just that little bit more in order to progress in my arts practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board of Territory Craft for awarding me the position of Artist in Residence for 2011. I felt greatly honoured and humbled not only to be selected but also to be able to work in such a supportive environment.

There was a great response to my studio being open to the public. I had many people, who were coming to Territory Craft gallery (or looking for the Museum) dropping in to have a look at my bead making. They asked me many questions about Territory Craft, the Artist in Residence program and about the workshops held there. Through answering their question I learnt a lot about Territory Craft myself! As the dry season got truly underway the number of visitors increased dramatically and I had very good sales of my beads and jewellery.

I was pleased with the exhibition I was able to put together at the end of my residency. I am extremely grateful to water colour artist Jasmine Jan who created some beautiful watercolour panels based on the colour/design of my beads to enhance my display. Also I would like to sincerely thank my teacher, mentor and friend Michelle Selway who opened my exhibition with some very supportive words.

My only comment in the negative was that a few visitors to Territory Craft said they found it a bit of a rabbit warren and there was not enough signage.

I wish future Artists in Residence at Territory Craft the same rewarding experience that I had.

With Regards

Joanne Gerke