



Artists: Darko Drljevic, Dee Texidor, Gerald Carr, Robert Carter, David Morris

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC Elton may have left town, but he hasn't left the Bunker!

As a tribute to Elton's visit to our city, we ran a cartoon competition and have ended up with a fabulous, fun exhibition.... So great the Park Beach Plaza to ran an engaging installation in the centre with life size versions of a selection of entries from the competition for shoppers to use use as a photo opportunity.... if you missed it, it's not too late, one of the "Eltoons" will be at the bunker until the exhibition finishes. In addition, long time supporter of the gallery Steve Panozzo spent the 2 days while Elton was in town drawing caricatures in the centre. This collaboration reached a massive audience and resulted in increased traffic in the gallery... and it was a whole lot of fun as well!

The opening night and awards ceremony was a hit with full house, including winner Judy Nadin and a bunch of other cartoonists both new and regulars, local and from all over Australia. Irish Joe Lynch captivated the audience with spoken word poetry and stories of Elton's life as well as his own.

Accompanied by a selection of music themed works from our collection, this exhibition is a must see! On until 29 March, every day from 10.00am until 4.00pm.

.... and we loved the exhibition so much we produced a calendar filled with entries from the competition. Running from July 2020 to June 2021 be sure to get in touch with the gallery to reserve your copy!



MANAGER'S REPORT It's been a while since the last Underground and for that, we apologise. Those of you who are following our progress will note that there is a lot going on as we prepare for the new building, including our sod turning ceremony late last year with the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro. We are also raising funds for a new exhibition, managing our contract with Create NSW, overseeing building commencement and much more. We've had bushfires and floods and Elton John! So a very busy start to 2020.

Meanwhile the Gallery has continued to run new exhibitions regularly and has had a hit with the Captain Fantastic Competition Exhibition. If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss out as it only has two weeks left to run.

You may have seen media reports about the gallery being in financial trouble. This is definitely not the case. We simply sought an extension for another year of the funding Council has provided to date, to assist with daily running costs, as this was due to cease in June, well before we can expect a rise in revenue from visitors and activities in the new building.

The volunteers continue to do a great job of welcoming visitors and providing them with information about the exhibition and the gallery and generally keeping things going on a day to day basis. The work put in to prepare for each new exhibition and remove and refile the works from the old one is done entirely by a small team who work tirelessly for several weeks around each changeover. We wouldn't survive long without them!

Shelley and I thank everyone for their ongoing support for our unique gallery and very much hope that you will continue to visit every exhibition, bring your family and friends along, and generally help us to ensure that the gallery is a big success, particularly this year as we work around the building construction.

Be assured, the gallery will only be closed when the builders need access in a way that would create either noise or danger to visitors. So check with us if you are planning a visit, but we will be open most of the time and at the end of the year, a wonderful new building will be opening for all to see on City Hill.

Margaret



images are indicative only

WE ARE SEEKING LOCAL FUNDING SUPPORTERS!

We are seeking funding to create what will become an iconic must visit tourist attraction for the new gallery space. Plans for an interactive, high-tech exhibition, *The History of Australia since Federation – as seen through the eyes of cartoonists of the time*, are well underway. Whilst we are looking for a major sponsor for this, we also believe many locals might wish to contribute to our fundraising goal of \$2.2M to ensure our new exhibition is the best of the best! Every \$ counts!

Remember, whilst the gallery is run by a small band of dedicated people, it belongs to the community and it is the community that will benefit ultimately from the resulting increased visitor numbers. If you support the gallery and want to contribute, please contact us for more information. You might like to [view the video](#) we have produced, find it on our website and please share with anyone you envisage being interested in supporting our cause.



BUILDING PROGRESS Finally, we are underway with our much anticipated building addition to the gallery. As so often happens, building commencement also brought rain, for which we are grateful, but now feel we might have had enough. The old underground bunker has been uncovered and is currently undergoing waterproofing and proper underground drainage before commencement of the new building construction. Our thanks go to Coffs Harbour City Council for getting this waterproofing underway for us, it will ensure we never again have to have buckets located around the gallery to catch the drips!

There's not a lot to see at the moment, but if you watch the site over the coming months you will see the new building starting to take shape. If the weather lets us, we expect the building to be completed in November this year, so not very far away.

We may need to close the gallery from time to time during construction and will try to limit these closures to Mondays, but with such a big project happening around us, it is inevitable that there will be disruptions during the year. We will continue to run exhibitions all through the building stage so please don't stay away in case we are closed, it's more likely we will be open! If in doubt, phone the gallery on 02 6651 7343 between 10.00 and 4.00 any day to check.



Above: Sod turning cartoon by Steve Panozzo. Below: Board Chairman Paul McKeon, Snr Manager Create NSW Cultural Infrastructure, Michael Chance, Gallery Manager Margaret Cameron, Building Project Director, Graham Lockett



**CALENDARS
FOR SALE** **only \$25**

**JULY 2020 - June 2021
FEATURING ENTRIES FROM THE**

**CAPTAIN
FANTASTIC
CARTOON COMPETITION**

Drop into the gallery or
mail order by calling 02 6651 7343

DOIN' IT FOR THE KIDS An exhibition dedicated to our littlies! The walls of the gallery will be filled with cartoons of children and the things they get up to... as well as how they see the oldies! Bound to grab the attention of your kids and the young at heart.

Kicking off with the opening night on Friday 3 April at 6:30pm. Entry is by gold coin donation, nibbles provided and a cash bar. On display until 31 May (closed Good Friday).

We'll keep the fun times going as the school holiday workshops roll around when we host a Mr Squiggle fun day for the kids. For these workshops we will put the classroom aside and host drawing games that will get them tapping into their imagination, playing with other kids (and learning a few things on the side). Tuesday 21 April 10:30-12:00 or 1:00-2:30.

\$10 per person. Bookings Essential. Phone the gallery to book and pay.

IRISH JOE Outrageously funny, deeply romantic, universally unique... Performer Irish Joe Lynch is a poet, storyteller and singer who frequents the folk festival circuit Australia wide and internationally, captivating audiences of all ages.

Born and bred in County Cork, with the ancient arts of storytelling, music and song, Joe now brings those Celtic Sagas to us. Stories laced with wisdom, romance and intrigue and sometimes downright hilarious... but always entertaining.

Enjoy the current exhibition over nibbles and drinks before and after the show. Doors open at 6pm show starts 6:30pm (approx 1 hr duration with mingling to follow) Bookings Essential. Purchase tickets via eventbrite or the gallery. Adults \$25, 11-18 yrs \$10, 5-10 yrs \$5, U5 Free. Nibbles provided and a cash bar.

BLACK AND WHITE GALA In the coming months The Friends of the Gallery will be hosting a Black and White Gala.

Our planners are busy working on impressive menus, musical entertainment and a silent auction to raise funds for the new historic exhibition. Join us for a social night with a great cause. More details to come...

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the auction items please contact Shelley at the gallery.

CALENDAR DATES!

doin' it for the
Kids!



OPENING NIGHT 3 APRIL 6:30PM
VIEW EXHIBITION UNTIL 31 MAY

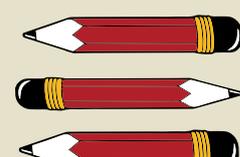


**irish
joe lynch**
AUTHENTIC IRISH
STORYTELLER AND POET

18 APRIL 6PM - ONE NIGHT ONLY!
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Adults \$25, 11-18 yrs \$10, 5-10 yrs \$5, U5 Free

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS!

**MR SQUIGGLE
FUN DAY**
DRAWING GAMES FOR KIDS!



TUE 21 APRIL 10:30AM-12PM OR 1PM-2:30
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
\$10 per person. Recommended 6-16yrs

Black and White Gala



DETAILS COMING SOON!
Canapès • Entertainment • Silent Auction

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE WEBSITE