



Bronwyn, Bernie, Jan, Rhonda, Noelle, Pat and Karla
Joan with Frankie

Bridgetown Art and Craft Centre 55 years on

To celebrate its 55th year milestone, the Bridgetown Arts and Craft Centre will be holding two 'open days' over the June long weekend on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th June from 10am to 2pm.

All are welcome to come and have a cuppa and a chat and look at the display of members' crafts throughout the years.

Over that time Bridgetown Art and Craft Centre (BACC), has been able to survive and renew its purpose in the town.

The building, which once was a fruit and vegetable shop, was gifted to the Art and Craft Group in 1966. The members at the time thought it prudent to put the title in the Shire's name for safe keeping.

Later additions down one side included a storage room and inside toilet.

Over the years the arts and crafts that were favoured have changed and so the changes have also happened in the Centre.

The group had the Title Deed transferred back to the BACC in 2004, which of course increased the cost for the members to maintain the building, but they have certainty of ownership.

Some of people you may meet on the open days give a little insight into the club.

Pat Strahan has been a member of the Art and Craft Centre since first coming to Bridgetown in 1992. Pat reflects on her time at the club. "Joining the Art and Craft Centre when I first came to town was the best introduction into the community I could have had.

"The Art and Craft Centre was a lot different then, pottery, weaving and art were the main interests, china painting was on the wane but there were art lessons in painting.

"My interest was spinning wool and knitting jumpers and socks, there really is nothing better than wearing hand knitted socks.

"We were also doing solar dying of wool using onion skins, avocado pith, blackberries, lavender, eucalyptus leaves it was a matter of experimenting.

"Its not only getting to know a wide range of people with the same interests as me, and it's a lot more than doing your craft and passing on your knowledge to others or learning new technics on your craft, it's the other moments as well.

"Like when another member has come across a recipe you really have to try, other members pass on their excess fruit and vegies they grown, or that inside knowledge you need when employing tradesperson.

"During my time in the Art and Craft Centre I've had roles as treasurer and president and I often changed roles, as you do when involved in a small club. *Read More In Issue 310 June 2021*