



included, which means all ages, all levels of ability, both professional and part-time, and all the arts and crafts. The purchase and development of the Arts Centre is for the community as a whole, not just for members. Everyone in the community is welcome to visit exhibitions and performances or to host one themselves. Everyone can use the Centre for meetings, workshops or get together of any kind. We keep our membership fees low, and membership of BRAG of course makes

the hire fees even cheaper. Use of the Centre is increasing all the time by all sorts of individuals and groups in town, and people should know they are very welcome to use the centre whether they're members or not. Part of BRAG's ethos has always been to welcome and show artists and craftspeople of all levels of ability, and all ages, at all stages of their practice. **What is your feeling about that extraordinary degree of inclusiveness? When it comes to art, how and**

**when should we judge, or should we judge at all?** I think the only time for judgement on artwork is in an award setting, where the judgement is made by the assigned judges alone. You look at the amount of art that's in the world, and some of it, as my dad would say, "I could do that!". That's a common response. I showed my dad a Rothko once, and he said "That just looks like house paint on a canvas. I could have done that!". And it's true, he could have painted

## MORE ART

colours on a canvas. But he didn't. Art judgement is up to the individual, and I don't think we should set a bar. So, outside of competition entries being evaluated according to particular criteria, who's to judge? The judgement can only be made by the viewer, and whether it revolts you, or engages you, or if you think it is lacking in any ounce of talent, that judgement can only be made by the passer-by. Whether it's high art or folk art, they are equal in my mind, because they appeal to different people for different reasons of their own, and their own reasons are good enough. There are times when the technical skill involved in a piece is very obvious to the viewer, but equally the skills required to make different types of art can be very different, so we can't compare. There are many other things that appeal to us in a work, beyond a display of technical skill.

**There's sometimes a perception that the two camps of artists and craftspeople can't really be reconciled and that a person has a preference for one or the other, or that one is better or more worthy than the other. Thoughts?**

Ever since Marcel Duchamp signed a urinal and said it was art, anything can be considered "art". There are good examples of what you would traditionally call "crafty" stuff, but it's merged with the whole Arts And Crafts movement and it's art. The notion of people pickling their own vegetables and making their own bunting and stitching their own clothes – there's that whole movement that's moving back to crafty things and the strict line between arts and crafts has been blurred. And that's good for BRAG. Instead of telling people about things, we can show them.

**What's the role of art?**

It's about expressing yourself and expressing how you are feeling. You can communicate with your viewer, and if there is emotional resonance for them, it creates a window into a world the viewer hasn't experienced but can respond to, to experience in their own way.

The thing is, even if you don't like something, if it made you stop because you were appalled or disgusted or just because you thought "I could do that!", that's a response. That's what art is.

**For more information or to make bookings, go to [www.bragart.com.au](http://www.bragart.com.au) or [www.braidwoodartcentre.com](http://www.braidwoodartcentre.com) or just drop in when the "open" sign is out.**

THINGS YOU  
NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT YOUR  
SERVICE

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"HELLO?"

IT'S HOW  
WE COLLECT

**Helstra**

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## 175 Braidwood alive

Judit Kovacs has the candles ready

**B**RAIDWOOD IS CELEBRATING its 175th birthday commencing with a Foundation Day Family Picnic in Ryrie Park on 27 April. This event includes the unveiling by the Mayor of Palerang of the Heritage Path which traces the 175 years' history of Braidwood.

The pavers were purchased by families, individuals, organisations, businesses and will be laid by Council as their support for, and contribution to, this event. The day includes a walk to Braidwood Wilson's grave and the Film Club showing at 4 pm 'On our selection'.

On May 3, Braidwood will be on parade, officiated by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, starting at 1 pm. The day will include heritage markets, art activities, displays, music, exhibition of heritage wedding gowns and more.

The Parade is sponsored by the Braidwood Community Bank. The day will also include a Heritage Country Rock Night at the Club, entry free (but we're happy to take gold coin donation).

Celebrations also include an exhibition of works, including the announcement of the winners, of the Heritage Art Prize Award on 2 May — in at least two locations, the National Theatre and BRAG. The National Theatre exhibition will include a display of past winners and heritage quilts. Exhibitions will be open 10 - 4 Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 May, all works will be for sale.



Prizes will be presented to the winners by Her Excellency on 3 May. The \$3000 (adult) and \$1,250 (youth) prizes are sponsored by the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Banks as well as the \$400 and \$250 Peoples' Choice Award prizes. All artists living in the postcode areas of 2621 and 2622 are eligible to enter. Details of everything is on the website or contact Judit Kovacs on 48421119.



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