

# BRAG WOMEN'S ART EXHIBITION 2015

I know what I like

GAIL NICHOLS

DENA PHARAOH-PEZZANO



## Redefining the dictionary

Judit Kovacs likes to brag ... sorry, likes BRAG

She reports on the 2015 women's show

Merriam-Webster defines brag as a noun. 'A pompous or boastful statement; arrogant talk or manner'; and for an adjective I've found the definition as, 'Archaic; usually fine; first rate'. And if we go and look at the synonyms:

'bluster, bombast, braggadocio, bull [slang], cockalorum, fanfaronade, gas, gasconade, grandiloquence, hot air, magniloquence, rant, rodomontade (also rhodomontade)'.

A visitor to BRAG's exhibition would have found that work displayed by its women members redefined the meaning of boastful statement — BRAG can brag about the work of its members.

CHELSEA PHARAOH



Sixty-three works of art by artists young as 8 and young as 80, showed a range of talent and a variety of medium for expressing views on the subject matter — 'Not Alone'.

BRAG members, yet again, took up the challenge to support the campaign to change attitudes and voiced its opposition to domestic violence. Artists expressed their opposition directly through their works of art, like Fran Ifould, Kylie Dominick and Vera Sapov or simply by offering works of art for sale so the profits could go to the Louisa Refuge supporting the region.

Recounting in detail one's experience at walking through the exhibition would not do justice to the displayed works of art — not to mention that it would be a very subjective reflection risking to commit injustice by omitting a name or art work — and I am committing a sin by mentioning some. The standard of exhibits is very high.

Included are works by award-winning artists and many surprises. For example, I must mention that one could expect a salt glazed ceramic bowl from Gail Nichols but one could not pass by her exquisite rag rug depicting Bobs Creek Culvert without admiring the colours and the composition. Or Dena Pharaoh-Pezzano's 'Reclaim your

Web', Gwenna Green's 'Cold Feet' earthenware or Julie Baker's 'Warrior Woman Apron'.

My favourite was Chelsea Pharaoh's 'Nothing is the Same', in metal and wood. Considering her age, one can only admire her talent. One day we can all say, "I was there when she started".

Rest assured, if you missed the exhibition or want to re-visit it or want to buy any of the works still available, you can walk through the virtual gallery on the website:

[www.bragart.com.au](http://www.bragart.com.au)

GWENNA GREEN



JULIE BAKER



# KATE MITCHELL

Pub owner



## "The usual?"

Kate keeps them coming

My family bought the Braidwood (Commercial) Hotel in 1985. I did primary school in Braidwood, high school in Victoria and college and uni in Canberra. I started working at the Hotel during the school holidays cleaning and doing paperwork and then behind the bar from 1998. I grew up watching 'The Year My Voice Broke' being filmed on site and playing the pub piano that Mick Jagger played at the hotel during the filming of 'Ned Kelly'.

By 2005 I had accidentally ended up running the show and somehow decided it was so much fun that I should buy the Majors Creek Pub as well. Since then, there has been no going back and no time (bar a period of 5 years when I

leased out the Creek Pub) to consider anything but the day to day running of two seven-day-a-week small businesses.

I work on all aspects: cleaning, ordering, bed making, running a postal service, paying bills, bookwork, organising staff, serving customers, working on my counselling and skills of diplomacy, getting the party started or finished — and then getting up and doing it all again the next day.

Small country pubs are more of a lifestyle choice than a job. You spend a lot of time at work so you need to enjoy what you do, which can be very easy when you're sitting up at the bar having a beer with the Sydney Swans or recreating a scene from Coyote Ugly. It's incredibly rewarding to be able to provide an environment where people are comfortable to have a good time.



Of course you get your fair share of assholes. That will always happen when you strike someone who should not mix their personality or bad experiences with alcohol.

Thankfully most of my customer base are good people who all have something to contribute to the friendly and easy-going atmosphere of the public bars.

Busy nights are great obviously because (hopefully) you're making money but quieter nights are often more enjoyable for me because I get time to enjoy the company of my patrons. As I expected, there's been a little less time for all that since I had my daughter Ellie in August 2014.

Over the past year the Suzi Q song "Bit Off More Than I Could Chew" has sprung to mind a number of times and I am now making moves to get my work/life balance under control. Unfortunately with so much on your plate it's hard to get job satisfaction because you don't have the time to do things the way you'd like to. You also don't get enough time to go bush or enjoy how the rest of the world does things!

