

MEDIA RELEASE

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TUGGERANONG ARTS CENTRE: HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM *February – July 2023*

Tuggeranong Arts Centre's half yearly Highlights Program showcases some of the ways the local community can engage with the arts in the first half of 2023.

With a focus on participation and accessibility, the program builds on existing work and introduces a range of exciting new opportunities spanning live music, performance, exhibitions, school holiday programs, and classes for kids as young as 18 months right through to seniors.

CEO, Caroline Downer says community partnerships is one of the key pillars of the program. "New in 2023, is the introduction of *'Sing with Toby,'* a new community choir led by singer and choir conductor extraordinaire, Tobias Cole," Downer said.

Created especially for the Tuggeranong community, Tuggeranong's new choir has been enabled through a new partnership with the *ANU Open School of Music*. It's free and anyone aged 18 and over is welcome to sign up. The choir kicks off on 28 February and runs weekly on a Tuesday from 5:30pm-7:00pm (during school term). [Registration essential.](#)

Two new partnerships with the Canberra Comedy Festival and Canberra Youth Theatre will see live comedy returning to Tuggeranong in March and the introduction of weekly drama classes for high school students starting in term 1.

Launching on Friday 3 February with the *Leisa Keen Trio*, the *Lakeside at 5* music series returns on the fourth Friday of each month, presenting a program of folk, jazz, blues, and country from some of Canberra's best loved musicians, alongside a few regional guests. On Saturday 13 May, the *Turner Brown Band* return with a gospel/blues music feast featuring Australian slide guitarist Dom Turner (Backsliders) and Ohio-based lap-slide guitar and vocal sensation Nikki D Brown. On Saturday 2 July, the Acacia Quartet return to present an afternoon of well-known classical favourites including Ludwig van Beethoven - SQ 10 E Flat Major, Op. 74 'Harp', and Franz Schubert - SQ 14 D810 'Death & The Maiden'.

"Our newest staff member, Ann McMahon now heads-up our Visual Arts Program, which features photography, ceramics, multi-media, sculpture, textiles, and painting exhibitions by a diverse range of local and interstate artists," Downer said.

Bringing together emerging, mid-career and established artists, the program opens on Friday 3 February with Andrea Bryant's *A Lens on the Lake*, Louise Curham's *Kambah* and Ruby Lucia Ballantyne's *Colouring the Dance Floor*. In March, the visual arts program welcomes Mark Dober with his exhibition *On the Banks of the Murrumbidgee* and *Incidental TV* by Nicci Haynes. *Intertidal* by Jennifer Procter follows in June. Details about associated public programs are on the TAC website.

"We're also presenting a series of curated multi-artform school holiday programs in 2023 in response to feedback we received from the community," Downer said.

Iconic Canberra artists Tim and Nathalie Bevitt will run *Make a Mini Musical* in January and July. *Mural Painting with Karri McPherson* and the *Art & Action* (art, dance, and drama holiday program) will run in April. And in July Little Wings Theatre Company will present *A Little Bit of Blue* puppet show and puppet making workshops.

Due to popular demand, the Art Centre's *Making Time* art class for seniors will run a second weekly class in 2023. *Every Body* monthly life drawing continues in 2023 along with two six-week painting intensives, commencing in February with artist Lily

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Platts.

“Our *Messengers* youth art program will continue to offer classes that aim to improve social and psychological wellbeing for young people experiencing early signs of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues,” Downer said.

The Arts Centre’s popular dance program, *Fresh Funk* provides opportunities for more than 300 students who come to the Arts Centre each week to access affordable hip-hop and contemporary dance classes. Information about 18 different weekly classes offered by [Fresh Funk can be found on the website.](#)

Tuggeranong Arts Centre’s Highlights Program is available online here: <https://www.tuggeranongarts.com/events/2023-highlights-program/>

Come along and be involved – there is something for everyone.

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