

Art Whitsunday has faced a series of challenges over the past, following the destruction of our gallery. This has led to membership decline and a great sense of loss both physically and creatively. This was compounded by Cyclone Debbie with all of us affected to various degrees, which is still ongoing and will be for sometime. In the midst of all this I would like to thank the Management committee and the 30th Celebration committee for persevering to keep some form of Art Whitsunday running.

After the storm, rays of sunshine do peek through which we can embrace. This includes completing and celebrating the Myraid Exhibition (including the artwork swap), which is still going ahead through the efforts of most members, including the organisers Ross Scanlon and Claudia Gray. We are also getting set for our 30th Celebration through the efforts of the Exhibition Committee which includes Avril Ayling, Linda Forrester, Sunnee Gowdy and Tess Cummins.

Under these circumstances it could be viewed as a time of renewal, a fresh start, an opportunity to re-evaluate what we, as artists value and require, to not only nourish ourselves as practising artists, but to make Art Whitsunday a focus for creativity, development and mentor-ship.

In order to do this we must all work towards a common goal rather than relying on a small number of individuals to constantly carry the load. We are all responsible for the development of this group. As members I thank you for sharing this endeavour which is waiting to blossom.

Regards

Belinda Curry

(Outgoing President)