

Opening Welcome Address

Ellissa Nolan – Delivered 10 January 2008

Academy of the Arts, Launceston

Thank you for enrolling in our 2008 Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School.

Over the past months I've had contact with many of you by phone or email, and I hope that over the next 8-days I can meet with you in person as well.

I'm really happy that so many people here today have come back to attend our Summer School after experiencing the first one held this time last year.

I'd like to welcome *all* members of our Tasmanian Community. Welcome also to the many people from all around Australia who have travelled significant distances to join in our workshops this year. I'd also like to welcome our contingent of International Students studying at UTAS who have also opted to participate in our Summer School.

Essentially, The Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School is about offering distinctly Tasmanian cultural and creative experiences in order to stimulate your creative intelligence.

Recent studies by the Head of Psychology at Yale University, state that creativity seems to involve synthetic, analytical and practical aspects of intelligence. Synthetic is the ability to come up with ideas, analytical is to evaluate the quality of those ideas, and practical is to formulate a way of effectively communicating those ideas to other people.

With such a diverse range of people attending this year, it seems we all bring a different and unique construction to what the culture of being Tasmanian can mean. Certainly for our interstate and international participants, the Summer School provides an opportunity for a synchronic interpretation and analysis of this place and its people.

It's been written that culture can be defined as the shared practices of a group, community, or society, through which meaning is made of the visual, aural, and textural world of representations. It's also been said that culture is not so much a set of things, such as television shows or paintings, as a set of processes or practices through which individuals and groups, *come to make sense of those things*.

Therefore, I hope that for each of you that it may be a journey and process of self-discovery throughout our Summer School that manifests itself in shared Tasmanian cultural and creative experiences.

This I am sure, will result in cultural artefacts that both artistically reflect what it means to be Tasmanian, and provide insights into how Tasmania is interpreted by our people visiting from the mainland and abroad as well.

When we conclude on the final day – I'll be very interested to look around at the body of artwork created by you and see how I can broaden my own cultural understanding of this beautiful Island.

The Mayor of Launceston, Albert Van Zetten, will officially open the Exhibition of your artwork at 2pm on the final day. Your friends and family are very welcome to join us for this exhibition.

I trust most of you will have received your Summer School program in the mail. If not, please pick up a copy at the front office today.

I would also appreciate if you would please arrange to pay your consumables fee at the front office today or tomorrow. Please also let us know if you are planning to join us at the Cocktail Party next week.

It's now my great pleasure to introduce one of our Artists-in-Residence, Tom Ward. Tom will shortly play the "Balalaika" composed by Stefon Rak.

Tom will also be playing at lunchtime in the Academy Gallery this week. On Monday, Tom will be joined by Ambre Hammond, another of our very talented Summer School artists-in-residence. From Tuesday, Ambre will then provide solo piano performances at lunchtime until Thursday.

It would be wonderful if you can drop in to the Academy Gallery during your lunch breaks, to appreciate their very fine talents.

In a moment, once Tom has concluded playing, please head off to your appropriate class. Would participants in the Culinary Design workshop please meet in the front foyer, as we will arrange your transport up to the kitchens at the Newnham campus.

All the best for a happy, relaxing, stimulating and creatively rewarding Summer School with us.

Please join me now to welcome Mr Tom Ward.