



MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

INCORPORATED

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1000 Wishes launch the Belconnen Arts Centre Spring Program

Over 1000 visitors attended the first Open Day of the Belconnen Arts Centre last Saturday 29 August. The Paradise Lion Dancers cleansed the various spaces with great exuberance and fascination.

Families with young children beat the later crowd to enjoy a Blueberries dance and a Moozik studio Kindermusik session followed by a fascinating presentation by Tongan singer and dancer (in a wheelchair) Siosuia F.P.Lafitani-Tofua'ipangai (Siua) on Pacific Island culture including chanting, Lullaby songs and dance.

The artists market featuring SCOOP Strathnairn cooperative, Belconnen Artists Network (BEAN), Fiery Purpose glass artists group and Indigenous Textile and Glass Artists Group all drew a strong crowd as did the lunchtime concert of local choirs, Wiradjuri singer and songwriter Johnny Huckle and Tongan singer and dancer (in a wheelchair) Siosuia.

Try-out classes in Flamenco, Salsa, and Reggaeton along with Canberra Youth Theatre's drama for young people and plenty of creative arts activities had some enthusiastic takers.

Wishes for the centre facilitated by Wellspring and Boho Interactive, written on coloured ribbons and voices recorded were celebrated with candles, music, followed by dance, fire twirlers and drummers as part of the Dusk Ceremony on the foreshore of Lake Ginninderra. A bevy of artists coordinated by local group Servants of Sound entertained and provided more inspiration with projections on the Foyer ceiling that then accompanied the final act, local band 'Little Sister' who took their audience into the night with a little dancing while others relaxed back on the beautiful couches scattered around the space.

Most of all however, Belconnen came out to 'check-out' their latest new facility on the Lake and to enjoy themselves. It was a great day.

Thanks to the staff at artsACT in the Chief Minister's Department for making the day possible and organising a great start for the Spring Program at the centre.

Enrolments are now open for classes and workshops, by coming in to the centre located on Emu Bank by the lakeshore or going to the website www.belconnenartscentre.com.au

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Contact; Hannah Semler, Director or
Christine Watson, Program Manager for further information.



Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government facility and is supported by the ACT Government

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au