

Ann Whitby

It is important to have space for creatives in the community

Ann has been involved with the Campbelltown ArtHouse since its establishment in 2016. She was Secretary for four years and is the current President. She is a regular exhibitor during South Australia Living Artists (SALA) and Adelaide Fringe Festival exhibitions. Ann is passionate about the ability of community art projects to build an inclusive creative community.

Ann grew up in Kidman Park and for two years lived in Whyalla. While she was at school, she enjoyed art and used drawing to express herself but she had not thought that art would become her career. Ann spent ten years in the printing industry before she returned to study at Marden Senior College. Receiving outstanding scores and the Governor's Certificate lead her to consider University qualifications.

Ann's mentors are her husband, mother and stepfather. In particular, her stepfather's example of his work ethic, acceptance and charitable interaction with everyone, is an influence on her life. Ann has been married for 25 years to her husband who is a Computer Engineer. Their connection has been an immense contribution to Ann's growth over the years.

Ann moved to Campbelltown twenty years ago attracted by the schools and family focus of the community. Her first volunteer role was as Playgroup Coordinator, and later she was the primary school class contact, providing support to new parents at her children's school.

Once her children were at school Ann completed a Certificate 4 in Painting and Drawing and commenced a Degree in Visual Arts at Adelaide Central School of Art. During this time the ArtHouse was established and Ann discovered that making a difference to other peoples lives was what she needed to do. As the acting Gallery Manager, Ann engages artists to exhibit and coordinates planning for opening events, talks and workshops and negotiates the hire agreements for all activities utilising the ArtHouse facilities. Ann has been the driving force and instrumental in improving and developing the governance, financial management, membership processes and the overall marketability of the ArtHouse.

Ann runs art classes for the ACH Art Group and many of these older people also come to extra activities at the ArtHouse.

Ann's community art projects are far reaching from raising awareness of threatened South Australian species by means of public art, to building an inclusive creative community through organising workshops of significant educational value.

Ann swims and attends Pilates and meditation classes to maintain her health and well-being. She believes that community activities that link like-minded people also helps everyone's health and well-being.

“Listen to your heart and always believe in yourself and know you are enough just the way you are.”

Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd

Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.