

**23 March 2020**

## **An Update from Penrith Performing and Visual Arts Regarding Covid-19**

We are sad to have to close our doors today on 23 March 2020, following the latest announcement from the Australian Government restricting non-essential businesses, including places of entertainment, to open. However, our greatest responsibility is to serve our community and keeping safe is the most important thing we can do right now. All activities at The Joan and Penrith Regional Gallery including performances, events, exhibitions, workshops, lessons and other tuition are suspended until further notice. Cafe at Lewers will remain open for takeaway.

In challenging times like this, the arts can help inspire and uplift, and we will be working on ways to continue to bring art to you: safely, from a distance, while our doors are shut. Please check our website and social media channels as the weeks roll on and we move into the digital space.

Please be assured that ticket holders for cancelled performances are entitled to a refund. We also have other ticket return options available: we can hold your refund as a credit in your account for 12 months, or you can donate the amount as a tax-deductible contribution which will be essential to protecting our ongoing operations and artist community at this challenging time.

For all ticket holders impacted by the cancelled performances, we will contact the person who made the booking as soon as possible to provide further guidance on the returns process. In this unprecedented situation, our Box Office is fielding a tremendous volume of requests and we are working to be as responsive as possible. We ask that you please wait for us to get in touch.

Penrith Performing & Visual Arts (PP&VA) is a not for profit public company. Any donation over \$2 is tax deductible and is used to enable us to hire professional artists across music, theatre and the visual arts in order to provide artistic programs for and with our community. By choosing to donate to us you are helping us to maintain creative employment amidst this crisis and to refocus our ways of working to deliver services digitally whilst personal contact is ill advised. You are helping the arts survive in Penrith.