



THE BRIDGE MARKET

PRESENTS

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

One of the earliest traditions of Christmas is the Nativity which dates back to the 13th century.

This year, for the second year running, the people of Ballarat and district can visit Bridge Mall and see ***Making a Scene at Christmas*** - a unique display of over 500 Nativities owned and collected by three passionate Christmas people - Andrew, Fiona and Kay. For over ten years the three have been combining their growing collections to provide an alternative view to the commercial Christmas. They will be in a shop in the Bridge Mall from 4 - 5 and 11 – 24 December, open from 10:00 – 5:00 daily. There is no cost to come and visit the display though we welcome gold coin donations which go towards covering costs. The only restrictions are those that the Government stipulate in managing the COVID 19 pandemic.

Over the last ten years ***Making a Scene at Christmas*** has grown as the individual collections have grown. The display has been mounted in the many towns, large and small, of the Western District, in Melbourne and in Canberra where ***Making a Scene at Christmas*** was invited to join with a resident collector there and mount an even larger display which attracted quite an amount of interest for the residents there. ***Making a Scene at Christmas*** regularly hear comments: This is amazing! I have never seen so many Nativities! I have really enjoyed this and I will bring the Grandchildren to see it tomorrow!

Making a Scene at Christmas usually travels to schools with an engaging learning program for students attending Foundation to Year 10. The powerful question of: What would the Nativity look like if it happened in your time and town? has provoked some amazing learning and responses. Our favourite had the Nativity being on the sixth floor of a high-rise in Flemington, with the shepherds being replaced by the homeless and the Magi being replaced by the doctors and nurses from the big hospitals.

These Nativities come from all around the world – every continent and over 60 countries. Some Nativities are artistically beautiful, some are challenging, some invite you to ask questions, some tell different parts of the Christmas story, some have their own fascinating story to tell. There are nativities made of bone, bread, wood, car parts, glass, bullets and paper. There is even one made of potato chip packets! Many are hand-crafted. Many answer the question, if this event happened in my time and place what would it look like?

Our personal highlights include a pregnant Mary hand painted by widows of the drug violence in Columbia, one hand made by a refugee Moslem woman in Palestine, and the fierce large Herod that came off a carousel in New York State.

Also included in the collection are interesting artefacts that date back over the centuries to the time of the Birth of Jesus. There are coins from the time and place that Jesus was born, and a coin that shows the star event that was evident at the time of the birth, and a Roman hand-made oil lamp.

Andrew, Fiona and Kay are happy to share their knowledge, passion and enthusiasm at any time. For further details please contact Fiona 0418 643 196