



Sarina Tourist Arts and Crafts Centre

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Jasmine Kelly, 9, and her mother Leanne create natural soaps now available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, where the theme for February is kitchen and bathroom.

Love goes into soaps

THE LOVE of a mother and daughter and generations of experience go into natural soaps now available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

SARINA ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2021

Leanne Kelly and her daughter Jasmine, 9, combine their knowledge and inspirations with a family history of soap-making dating back to her great-grandfather who used to make soaps in Liverpool.

“After emigrating to Australia around the early 1900s, my grandparents continued to make soap here,” Leanne said.

“I’ll always remember as a kid they made these awful yellow soaps; they didn’t look like anything good, but it did the job.



LEFT: Some of the soaps made by Leanne Kelly.

“As kids, instead of using it to wash we used to carve things out of it like teddy bears and other little figures and we’d play with them with our friends.”

But that’s changed now, as Leanne went through a process of self-teaching how to make soaps in a safe and environmentally friendly way, as she says her grandfather went blind from using caustic soda in soap-making.

She makes her soaps at home and markets them under the name Strawbale Soaperie.

“I try to use everything that is natural, a lot of soaps now have all sorts of chemicals in them. My soaps are slightly softer, but better moisturising. I use natural essential oils wherever possible, which is holistically good for you too.”

Jasmine’s role is as a designer and inspiration for her mum, making sketches of colour schemes and putting forward ideas of how to make the soaps more appealing.

“We make up colour schemes of swirls, lines of waves,” Jasmine said.

“We’re working now on a rainbow, trying to put all the colours of a rainbow into them.”

The soaps are part of a kitchen and bathroom display at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre for the month of February. The centre features crafts by about 70 local crafters, and is open seven days a week, 10-3 week days and 10-1 weekends.

Postie’s tough introduction to the job

LEANNE Kelly has vivid memories of her first day on the job as a postie in Sarina.

Using one of the famed postie bikes ridden by postmen everywhere, she ran out of petrol at a hilly spot in Sarina, and had to push it all the way to the BP servo in Broad St.

But a run-in with two pit bull terriers was far more traumatic.

“These dogs got me bailed up and were coming at me,” she said.

“I turned the engine off as they were going for the sound of the engine and was blowing the horn to try to scare them off. Eventually someone came from a house nearby.

“He had a slingshot and picked up a pebble from the road and hit one of the dogs, and they ran off.”

Leanne said she thoroughly enjoyed her time as a postie in Sarina and on district runs including the beaches and inland. She now works for the Sarina Hospital as a courier and cleaner.



GOOD MATES: Jessie Malone, left, with good mates Thelma Bromley and Ellen McDermott on the occasion of Thelma's 80th birthday party.

A happy team of good mates

JESSIE Malone was the glue that kept together a group of three good mates who gave wonderful service to the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre for more than 20 years.

Jessie died this week at the age of 94 and her mates Thelma Bromley and Ellen McDermott remember her as a dedicated volunteer to the Arts and Crafts Centre, where the three made up a team which regularly took Tuesday afternoon rosters.

"As a team we were there for over 20 years at the craft shop," Thelma said.

"She made mainly soft crafts but she was very dedicated to looking after the craft shop. She was a stickler for keeping it scrupulously clean and as a keen gardener she always ensured the plants were well fed.

"In the days when we had a lot of travellers, she was good at talking to them about Queensland and the local area. In those days she was very involved in assisting tourists."

Ellen said tourist numbers flowing through the Craft Centre were down due to the opening of the Mackay Regional Tourism Information Centre at the Sarina Railway Station.

"That and COVID has taken its toll," she said.

Jessie, who was born at Kingloc Station, Blackall, is survived by her husband Pat, children Kerry, Debra and Julie, their spouses, and eight grandchildren. A cremation service has been held and a get-together for family and friends will be held this Saturday, February 13.

Cent sale will be mega



Left: Jennifer Costello with just some of the prizes for the mega cent sale on Sunday, March 7.

THE place to be on Sunday, March 7 is Sarina's Bob Wood Hall for Sarina Arts and Craft Centre's mega cent sale.

The centre is teaming with experienced cent sale organiser Jenny Miotto to conduct the sale, which will indeed be mega, with over 250 prizes and food and drinks available.

Proceeds will go to the Sarina Arts and Crafts and the children's charity The Variety Club, which Jenny supports.

"Jenny has done heaps of cent sales. She does a very good job and has a very good following so we're lucky to have her," Arts and Crafts treasurer Jennifer Costello said.

"This is a very important event for us as this is likely to be our one and only fundraiser for some time. Our other source of revenue is commission from sales which has not been well because we were shut down for almost four months in 2020 due to COVID and it's very quiet this time of year."

Right: One of the prizes for the mega cent sale.

Artist Kathy Murray has donated one of her paintings valued at \$300 for a raffle, and second prize is a coffee table donated by Sarina Arts and Crafts. Tickets for this are already on sale in front of Subway in Sarina.

Jennifer said magnificent support had been received from businesses including Sarina Sugar Shed, Sarina Arts and Crafts, Terry White Pharmacy, Steampunk Sarina, Sarina News Express, Michael's Hair Salon, remedial massager David Kirchner's AC's Massage and Bowen Therapy of Mackay and the Flower Cup Café.

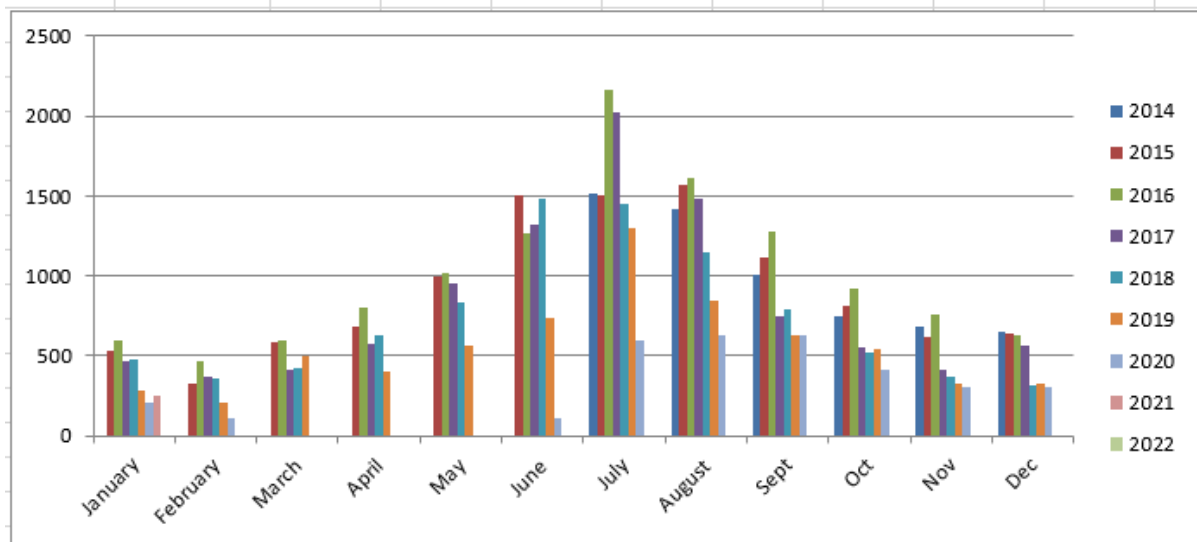


"As well our crafters and volunteers have given some great prizes," she said.

The \$2 entry fee has a lucky door prize of \$100, and there are other multiple door prizes of \$50 and up and a lucky board for \$2.

Doors open at 10.30 for a noon start.

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January		535	598	467	474	283	213	251	
February		326	464	373	358	211	116		
March		582	596	414	426	495	0		
April		687	798	571	631	404	0		
May		1001	1015	954	839	564	0		
June		1500	1270	1317	1488	738	111		
July	1511	1501	2168	2026	1446	1301	595		
August	1414	1565	1614	1483	1145	850	631		
Sept	1005	1115	1283	751	793	630	633		
Oct	745	817	918	558	517	543	413		
Nov	688	623	754	416	368	330	301		
Dec	656	638	626	570	318	323	301		
Totals		10890	12104	9900	8803	6672	3314		

THE graph above and table at left show the attendances at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre since 2014. The centre was closed for three months in 2020 due to COVID.



Great printer – make an offer

THIS printer is available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, Field of Dreams, Sarina.

It is a Fuji Xerox Apeosport Model VC2275 modern high-speed printer, in excellent condition.

The printer comes with three brand new drum cartridges and five new toners.

It has had little work, and would be suitable for a busy office, or for home.

\$1500 or make an offer.

For information and to arrange an inspection contact Jennifer Costello, 0414 735 787 or email sarinainfo@easynet.net.au.