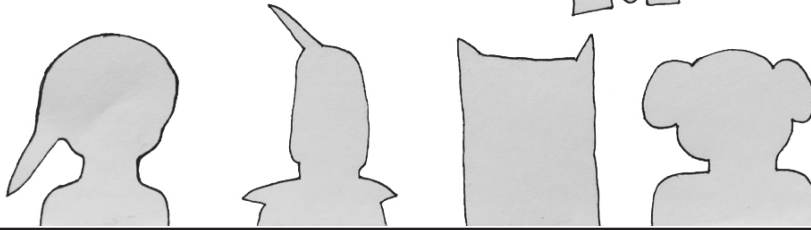


SOFTYS CLUBHOUSE NEW SLETTER

MARCH
2019



We're gonna be putting out a monthly newsletter to all our members. This is the first one. Future newsletters will probably just be emailed out to members. We're sharing this first one more widely, so those who haven't joined yet know what we're up to. First up... a word or two from Softys Clubhouse El Presidente, Michael McDonagh...

Hey folks, I'm Michael, the president of Softys, which means I get to do things like take up the first page of the first newsletter and have an email sign off that makes people take me more seriously. Thankfully, you don't have to have an email sign-off or be 26 to be taken seriously here at Softys. As you will read in this here publication, it's intended to be a welcoming space of possibility where people of all ages and abilities can expect a fair shake of the sauce bottle. I got involved following a stint overseas during which my beloved Commons (where I used to run the music) was closed.

I met Jamie & Rachel at a meeting with Cr John Mackenzie. We hit it off and I thought "by jove, here's some interesting people giving an awful lot to the creative scene here with some crazy and fun plans." I think they thought "ah well, I guess we did invite him over for a look around, we might as well let him stay for dinner".

And here we are some months later, laying out the red carpet for you to come get involved in making this space a treasured community asset. I really believe Newy is crying out for a space like this, and any time and energy (or chairs) you bring to the table will help us build up our collective resources. There are so many losses and hits being taken by the creative community lately, but in Softys we have a chance to co-create something fun, resilient, and nurturing. We also have you - the talented, kind, and hard-working people who just need an opportunity to put your ideas into practice. Read on for some more information on what the heck Softys is and how to get involved.

Much Love,
Michael

A bit of background info about Softys...

Hi, Rachel from Softys here... in case you're interested... Softys is owned by Jamie and myself. We intend to build a licensed cafe here which will be called Softys Diner. It will open out onto the street and serve cafe style food, coffee and have 12 craft beer taps. We lodged a DA with council just before Christmas. Once the DA has been approved, we will start to build the cafe. This will run as a standard business and will be how we make our living.

Softys Clubhouse is a not-for-profit organisation formed in May 2018 to enable and promote creative projects of our members. We are sorta following the model set by Renew Newcastle, by making our excess space and resources available for creative projects. The resources we currently have available for Softys Clubhouse include the use of parts of our premises and some sound, lighting and filming gear. As our business changes, the resources we can offer will change. While we are building, usable space will be reduced. Down the track, we will build media studios and so usable space will increase. The input that members have into projects is a resource that is potentially way more valuable than any physical resources that exist now.

Softys Clubhouse was formed using the standard off-the-shelf constitution for an Incorporated Association. Towards the anniversary of formation, we are working on a new constitution that is specifically tailored for what we're on about. If you have a good brain for this kind of thing, we will be asking members to submit their ideas for our constitution very soon, so stay tuned. While Jamie and I own Softys, we don't run Softys Clubhouse. We're on the board, so we have some input and we get to specify conditions about how we would like people to treat resources we make available for the Clubhouse, but the Clubhouse organisation itself is run by members - and how that all works is currently up for review as we look to

re-write the constitution. The Objects Of The Association have been written and these are them...

1. To support and promote the creative projects of our members.
2. To source funds and resources to enable projects to happen.
3. To contribute to the Newcastle all ages community, giving young people a platform to share creative ideas, performances and knowledge.
4. To be a testing ground for fun ideas and to present creative work far and wide.
5. To learn new things and share culture, knowledge and resources among members and the wider community.
6. To help creative people develop income from their work.
7. To encourage those who have been assisted to assist others.
8. To be inclusive and treat one another with respect, kindness and honesty.
9. To respect nature.
10. To support Indigenous sovereignty.



PICKLE RICK (Djuul Price)

Stuff happening at Softys...

GIGS

We have not been running gigs at Softys for the past few months. Over the past two years we have run a bunch of gigs here, but the whole time have been an unauthorised venue. Last year we met with some relevant people at council, hoping to get some sort of authorisation to run as an ongoing pop-up venue prior to our DA going through, but were told that couldn't happen - despite council generally being in favour of us providing a space for all ages gigs.

Essentially, if we continue to run open-to-the-public gigs without being authorised as a venue, we run the risk that our insurance wouldn't cover us if anything was damaged or somebody got injured.

Apparently, running "members-only" events involving music is totally different and we should be able to do this. It's hard to find definitive info about this stuff though. If anybody knows the right kind of legal expert who may be willing to give us some advice on this, please get in touch.

We definitely are hoping to get back to running gigs as soon as we can.

While we're sorting that out, we can still do a bunch of other stuff...

GREENSCREEN

Jamie built a circular green screen and it is currently assembled in the back workshop. At some point we will have to pack it away to make space for other projects, but it will be set-up till the end of March. Byren Sawell has offered to facilitate filming sessions. We have two 360 cameras available for use. We're not offering to edit your video, but can provide footage from our cameras. You can also bring your own cameras. Check out the Softys Clubhouse website for more details or email Byren. byrensawell@gmail.com



GREENSCREEN

REHEARSAL SPACE

Do you want to rehearse at Softys?

The spaces available are out the back in the workshop and on the stage outside. We also have a bunch of sound gear available for use and a drum kit*. The Workshop is used for other things, so it's not going to be available all the time. We don't have time to run this, but if a few responsible organised people step forward and offer to help run a rehearsal space, we can make the space available a few times across each week.

*DRUM KIT

Byren recently downsized his drum setup and has donated his spare drum kit to be used by people rehearsing or playing at Softy's, no questions asked. It's almost a full set, just missing a snare stand and could do with at least one more cymbal stand. If anyone has a spare one of either of those bits they would be willing to contribute, please get in touch.



SOFTYS DRUM KIT

YOUR CLUB AT SOFTYS

Do you want to run a movie night? Do you want to hold an info night or a meeting or start your own club?

If so - you totally can do that. We don't have time to run and supervise clubs and events, so you need to be an effective organiser and for us to feel comfortable that you will respect the space.

To achieve this you just need to be a Softys Clubhouse member and be briefed on safety and security. Volunteering to help out on somebody else's event is also a great place to start.

We are also looking for a small team of volunteers to administer the running of clubs.



RADIO PROJECT

The Radio Project is still ticking along. There is an abundance of talented people with great ideas involved in this project, but we're a little short on recording resources and organisey-type people. We will be emailing out to all those involved in the radio project to see how you are going with your ideas and to work out how we can progress to the next stage and set a date for the week of radio.

If anyone else wants to join in, it is not too late. We would also be very grateful for any resource contributions or audio engineering time that anyone may be willing to put in.

KIDS PROJECTS

If you're a kid, you too can organise clubs and projects at Softys. We're not babysitters though, so if you are under 15 you will need to get some level of parental support to run your club. Essentially, if a bunch of 10 year olds want to run a comic writing club - they need to get at least two parents to check over how they will run it, how much supervision they will get and what rules they decide to follow. If the parents of the group are happy with the setup, then we're fine with it too. The guidelines for each club or project will form Clubhouse policy for kids projects ongoingly.

15 is also the age at which we've decided you can become a member without a parent or guardian approving your membership. It's 15 because that's the age when you can get a job. If you are old enough to have a role in a workplace, you should be old enough to take responsibility to look after yourself and behave well in respect of other members.

If there are any organised kids out there who want to start something, please rope in a guardian or two and get in touch.



PARTY is 16 years old. Two years ago she would have needed a guardian to approve her membership to Softys CLubhouse. Now she's a responsible cat who can make her own choices.

LAST WEEKEND ACTIVATION - seeking ideas and participants

The Wickham markets happen on the last Sunday of each month. We would like to focus on activating Softys Clubhouse over the last weekend of every month, starting on Friday nights. If anyone has any ideas for fun activities, especially any which may become regular monthly events, we're interested in your ideas.

MONTHLY MARKETS - seeking organisers

To coincide with the Wickham Markets that happen across the road from Softys on the last Sunday of each month, we'd like to hold our own markets on the same day at Softys; with market stalls in the yard, in the building and out onto the street.

We are looking for a few people who would be happy to run this. This would involve offering members the opportunity to have a stall, booking people in, promoting, opening up and letting stallholders in and making sure everything gets packed up at the end of the day.

The people we attract would probably also go to the Wickham Markets and their clientele is likely to come over and check out ours too - so holding this on the same day will hopefully be mutually beneficial and also help activate this end of Islington.

POP-UP DEPARTMENT STORE - seeking vendors

The Hello Shiny Pop-Up PJ Shop that ran last year in one of the two shop front spaces was sorta successful. Everybody who came in loved the unique product and opportunity to have bespoke pyjamas made-to-order. But ultimately it didn't make enough money to allow one person to sit in a shop every day waiting for customers. And so Shiny had to divert her attention to a more secure income. The shop was also only open four days a week from 11-4pm. That makes it tricky to attract customers - hard for them to work out when the shop will be open.

We have an idea that a different format might work. If we had 7 different vendors all crammed into the one small space, the seven vendors could work one day each, forming a collective department store. If it's open every day, customers know they can come by any day and find the good stuff. Each vendor would only have to work one day a week, so they can fit in other income producing work the rest of the week and still have the opportunity to sell their wares.

Obviously it would be a bit of a task cramming everything into that small space and there may need to be written info about products provided by each vendor so other people can sell your stuff effectively when you're not there - but there's a good chance this model can work and dovetail well with the monthly markets.

Whaddaya reckon? If you have stuff to sell and can spare one day to man the store, please get in touch. If enough people want to get on board with this concept, we are happy to host it.



HELLO SHINY POP-UP PJ SHOP ~ bottom photo Lazybones

PROJECTS IN GENERAL

There is much scope for projects, events and clubs to take place at Softys. But right now Jamie and Rachel are putting a lot of their time into setting up Softys Diner. This means, if you want some activity to take place, you need to step forward and offer to run it.

As we finalise the constitution, we're not going to have a bunch of rules about how things have to be done. The people doing the work on any project make up their own processes. As long as you don't go against the main ideas about being kind to others, honest in your dealings and follow any relevant safety guidelines, nobody is going to boss you around.

What we discovered through allowing people to run the first few events here, was that there already exists a kind and responsible culture among Newcastle creative people. You're inclusive - you accept and enjoy the one thing we all have in common - that we are all different ;) And you are generous with your time and experience; sharing resources and skills with your peers and those coming through who don't know nuffink but are keen to learn and develop their own talents and ideas.

It's the good stuff we discovered in you bunch of nongs that we wish to build into a supportive structure that will help us all in our individual creative pursuits, whatever they may be.

MEMBERSHIP - join now, Membership Officer wanted

Becoming a member of Softys Clubhouse does not have any dangerous side effects. It only costs 5 bucks a year. Holding "members only" events helps with our insurance and represents well when we pursue grants and seek permission to do stuff.

For some events we request that everybody attending should be a member. With others, we just request the organisers are members. It's a decision based on perceived risk.

If members are involved in organising events that aren't specifically their projects, they are described as "working members". Working members still have to sign the membership form, but paying the fee is optional. We put this in place because, even though 5 bucks is not a lot of money, when you work for free on other people's projects, you shouldn't have to pay as well - though the club still has to generate unpaid membership fees some other way to comply with the regulations of running an Incorporated Association.

We are seeking somebody to volunteer to be our Membership Officer. This role would involve encouraging membership, chasing fees, updating the database and fielding membership enquiries. A smart bossy bunch of kids might be good in this role!



ABUNDANTINA LAUNCH JUNE 2018 ~ photo Lazybones

that's all folks...

please follow up any of the stuff mentioned in this newsletter on the website ~ softysclubhouse.club or email ~ softy@softysclubhouse.club

up ya bum
Softy xx