



Calling for expressions of interest
from Artists, Craft workers
and Designers

Aim

Marion's Artree is a fundraising initiative to raise money to research for a cure for Meniere's Disease <http://www.menieresresearch.org.au> and to support Meniere's Australia <http://www.menieres.org.au> who provide support and counselling for people suffering from Meniere's Disease.

Money will be raised by selling Art Christmas Decorations: the decorations will be handmade by Artists, Craft workers and Designers then generously donated for sale on art tree's proposed around the country.

The inaugural 2013 Artree project will be held at the Summer Art Bazaar <http://www.artbazaar.com.au> in Newcastle. Decorations may be sent to Newcastle or, displayed on trees in local Galleries and/or appropriate public places.

See also Marions Artree on Facebook www.facebook.com/MarionsArtree

Background

Marion's Artree is named in honour of the organiser's sister who passed away in 2008. Marion suffered from Meniere's Disease right up until she passed away aged 49.

Marion's Artree also acknowledges Marion's great passion and support, not only for the Arts but for life, justice and humanity (see also "Why Are We Doing This").

What is Meniere's Disease?

Meniere's Disease is a condition of the inner ear which is characterised by sudden and recurring violent attacks of unrelenting vertigo, often lasting for hours and in more extreme cases, days. It is also associated with nausea and vomiting together with hearing loss, tinnitus and a blocked up feeling in the affected ear. Between attacks, sufferers will be in good health, although are often very anxious about when the next attack may occur.

About 1 in 500 persons are affected, unfortunately there is an increase in children and young people being diagnosed.

It took over 20 years for the organiser's sister Marion, to be diagnosed. Many people, including Doctors, underestimate the suffering caused by Meniere's Disease. It affects EVERY part of the sufferer's life with many unable to work, socialize or, even do normal activities like shopping.

Add to this the indignity when suffering an attack in public, many people assuming you are affected by alcohol. Being able to be diagnosed helps but what will really help is greater funding for finding a cure, greater funding for support groups and through this, hopefully, a greater awareness within the wider community and the Medical community.

Project outline for galleries

- ★ Galleries will invite their stable of Artists to create unique works of art as Christmas Decorations.
- ★ The Christmas Decoration Art works can then be hung on a Christmas tree or displayed in your gallery for a four week period for sale ending Christmas Eve.
- ★ With all sales being donated to the fund for equal distribution to Meniere's Research at University of Sydney and Meniere's Australia (patient support services).



- ★ The Christmas decorations can be wall hangings, sculptural, diorama's, door wreath/ decorations etc. Traditional or contemporary and pricing across the market.
- ★ All Galleries will be featured on our Facebook page and in media releases with links to their individual websites.

Project outline for artists

- ★ Artists are invited to donate their time, skill and creativity to create works that can be sold at either the Summer Art Bazaar or within their contracted Gallery.
- ★ All Artists work will be acknowledged and there will be a master list of artists and Galleries available to all media outlets.
- ★ All Artists will be featured on our Facebook page and in media releases with links to their individual websites.

Why are we doing this?

In September 2008 the organiser's sister Marion, aged 49, made a decision to end her life. Marion had suffered from her early 20's from debilitating attacks that would come with little or no warning. Over the years, the attacks became more acute and lasted longer. She never knew when the next one was coming and it made earning an income and living a "normal" life an impossibility.

Marion had only been diagnosed in the previous 5 or so years and so for many years suffered the attacks without being able to put a name to it, or in fact, how to deal with them. Even with the diagnosis the Doctor's weren't able to tell her much, or give her any real support and the search for the correct regime of medication was an exhausting, stressful and long process. All she knew was that she had Vestibular Meniere's Disease and the attacks were getting worse and lasting longer as she got older.

Marion was a very generous soul and had volunteered her time with the Aids Council in the early '80's, a time when most people would shun anyone with Aids. She was also a huge supporter of the visual and performing Arts and mixed in these circles in Brisbane. All her friends knew they could rely on her for support, emotionally and practically and she was the "go to person" for love and nourishing encouragement.

Media

Media releases will be sent throughout Australia in November and December to promote the campaign and individual businesses that choose to adopt the project. The first article was published on Saturday 10th August in the Newcastle Herald . We are also negotiating to secure a spot on a National TV morning show and will be working with Meniere's Australia to help make that happen. We will also rely heavily on social media.

National launch

This will be held at the Summer Art Bazaar Saturday 7th December in Civic Park, Newcastle. We will be inviting Governor Marie Bashir to open and launch the programme. The magnificent trees of Civic Park will be used to hang and display the Art Christmas decorations for the day and then at the end of the day, transfer unsold stock to the reception/open space of a major institution (yet to be confirmed) for sale until Christmas Eve.



Volunteers

I am starting a register of volunteers that are able to commit time during the lead up to the programme launch and during the day of Art Bazaar as I'm sure we will need lots of help hanging and displaying the works, processing sales and packing up at the end of the day to transfer the unsold items to the venue.

Anyone with specific skills that would be helpful in making this happen would be welcomed.

Contact details

Leah Fawthrop: 0408 653 605

<https://www.facebook.com/MarionsArtree>

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Janet O'Malley: 0417 947 401

Galleries already committed

- ★ Nanshe Gallery, Hamilton

Artists already committed

- ★ Strutt Sisters
- ★ Michelle Schmitzer
- ★ Wild Things Clay
- ★ Mona Ryder, Brisbane
- ★ Penny Creighton

FAQ

- ★ **How do we price items?** A guideline will be provided along with pricing labels.
- ★ **How do we stock take?** Code name for each Gallery + stock take numbers will be provided along with a document to record sales.
- ★ **How do we promote this event?** Numerous National Media Releases will be done by Marion's Artree and Meniere's Australia. A guideline Media Release will be provided to you to send to local Newspapers etc. Posters and handouts will also be provided.
- ★ **How do we bank funds?** Bank account details will be provided and can be done online or manually with deposit slips provided.
- ★ **What do we do with leftover stock?** All leftover stock should be sent to Marion's ARTREE
- ★ **Do we need to sign a Contract?** An Agreement for adopting the Marion's ARTREE programme and handling/receiving fundraising monies etc., will be required to be signed.

