



PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Cultural Close, off Shoal Bay Road, NELSON BAY. 2315

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Marketing Officer

The Committee of Management has a vacancy for the position of **Marketing Officer**. This position is to promote the Arts Centre and its Activities, and working with a small group of members.

President's Report

Thank You to all who did desk duty over December and January your contribution over the holiday period made an impact on visitors to our Gallery.

Thank you to Margaret for organising and all who contributed towards the Christmas Raffles you helped make the raffle a huge success.

The repainting of our Arts Centre survey had 110 votes the breakdown is as follows Option 1 - 60, Option 2 - 22, Option 3 - 28. While planning with the painter he suggested that the Pillars tie in with the purple colour in all the banners to bring out the yellow that will be behind the pillars.

In November 2024 Port Stephens will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of our Wetland agreement with our Sister City Kushiro in Japan. To include our Arts Centre in the celebration we have scheduled the exhibition starting on 13 November 2024 to have a theme of Wetlands. This is a wonderful opportunity for all our groups to be involved with. The Latham's Snipe Shorebird is the link we have between Kushiro and the Mambo Wetlands as

these birds migrate here for the Kushiro Winter. We will be organising the Hunter Bird Observers group to give a talk to interested artists who would like to learn more about the *Latham's Snipe* and shore birds that can be painted for the exhibition. Hunter Bird Observers will also be providing copyright free images for our use.

I was thrilled to receive a nomination certificate for the Annual *Port Stephens*

Awards, recognising my volunteer contributions to various groups over the past decade. It has been a privilege to call beautiful Port Stephens home and be involved in its vibrant community.

We are grateful to the wonderful volunteers at our Arts Centre. As you are aware, numerous tasks are essential to keep our

centre running smoothly. If anyone has extra time and skills or is willing to lend a hand, please inform us so we can accommodate your assistance effectively.

Looking forward to an inspiring year ahead.

***A friend is someone,
who is always there,
and will always care.***

Meryl



People's Choice

We have two winners of the People's Choice Award to announce this newsletter.

Firstly congratulations to Elena Leong for her painting '*Grevillea Rose*' for the gallery display period ending in December and to Ruth Wynn for her pottery piece '*The Whale*', on display until this week.

Your People's Choice Award Certificates will be delivered to you next week. Congratulations!

Melanie Delaney



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Mosaics Group

Happy New Year to all. We hope all had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

The mosaic group have resumed our get together, with only a few on 10 January, more to commence on 24th. But at this time of the year many also have other commitments with family and friends.

We were fortunate to be allocated the Annex Area at the gallery for our mosaic exhibition from 21 December to 23



January with many sales. Always happy that people also enjoy our works.

Just a reminder that when sales are made, I'm notified, a sold sign placed too. Think it's

just a good look for the gallery.

Wishing all a wonderful Australia Day and hope you visit us soon, so many

beautiful works in our gallery.

Exhibition Team

Current Exhibition

The walls and shelves are displaying our current exhibition with the theme of *'Reflections' - mirror images, thoughts and dreams.*

As the curtain rises on a fresh year, the PSCAC Hanging Team is thrilled to welcome you back to our vibrant Art Centre. We extend a heartfelt thank you for your creative contributions in 2023, which helped make our Gallery a must-see destination. Your passion fueled a whirlwind of artistic exploration, with new themes unfolding every six weeks.

But get ready, because 2024 promises to be even more spectacular! In just a couple of months, our very own building will burst onto the scene with a vibrant explosion of colour. This stunning transformation will undoubtedly grab attention and solidify our place as a beacon of creativity in the community.

Mark your calendars! We're already brimming with exciting new exhibition themes waiting to ignite your artistic spirit.

We look forward to exhibit your new artworks in 2024.

Push those boundaries and explore your creative self.

Cheers

Marianne, Judy, Bev and The Team.

Some of our talented photographers



Aprons

I am offering eight only black 100% cotton aprons with the PSCAC logo for sale for \$22 each. Included in this price I will add your name.

I also have three polyester aprons with the logo and your name for \$15 each.

If you miss out and would like a new fresh apron I am more than happy to make more. I will need a minimum of eight to order another lot as this is the most cost effective way for the good quality 100% cotton aprons.

Coloured aprons are only



available in polyester. Cotton is my preference.

Also, if you have an apron and would like the logo attached, let's talk! Or, if you would like to whip up your own coloured apron in whatever fabric I'm happy to help with logo.

An order sheet will be left in the wrap room.

First in first serve for the first lot. Please specify if you would like cotton or polyester. Payment on delivery.



Wendy Lane
0412 196243

Upgrade to Neil Carroll Amenities Block

The current amenities block is to be demolished, and replaced with a building similar to those at Little Beach and Shoal Bay.

Council asked for our input to the design to be etched and cut into the front metal screening. Our committee has asked for Kookaburras and Gynea Lilies to be incorporated in their artwork.

In 2018 after consultation with the Council, a committee was formed to come up with some ideas for painting the old toilet block down the corner that looked very dilapidated at that time.

Quite a few of artists got together and drew up designs and volunteered to take on the task of the paintings. We had an agreement with the graffiti artist over at the skate board park that they wouldn't touch the toilet block and it has never been a problem.



Nikki & Judy Koala and Mosaic wall

It will be sad to see our wonderful artistic endeavours replaced with a generic structure but at least we have had the pleasure of this work for the last six years.

Everyone should go and have a look at the work before it is gone!



Margaret, Ruth, Madeleine the Mosaic Team



Womens Entrance



Mens Entrance



Marianne & Dee - The Mermaid



Back Wall



Mike and Nada and the Sailing Boat wall

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Gallery Manager

Our patchwork and quilters have been working hard for their exhibition that runs from 6 March to 16 April. Be sure to pop in to the gallery and see their beautiful works, plus there'll be some bits and pieces of fabrics etc for sale at bargain prices!

From 18 March to 16 April, we are planning a display with an Easter Delights theme. This includes any media, so please get working to make this exhibition look its best. Art works will hang in the hall, and other handcrafted Easter items will be displayed in a designated area in the craft room.



Items for sale should be delivered to Manoora Room a few days prior to 18 March.

Our Arts Centre will be undergoing major renovations and a face-lift during the next few weeks – there will inevitably be little inconveniences, but we can all look forward to seeing a building that reflects the artistic talents of our membership. So many visitors remark on how fortunate we are to have such a magnificent setting for our creativity – we know that our building will stand out even more in the future.

Di Adamson

Rnd22315@gmail.com

Pottery Groups

Potters are back to work, and new pieces are appearing in the gallery. Here two of our display team Caryl Bryers and Meri Andric are putting the finishing touches to the new display.

For those of you off to Sydney, check out the Art Gallery of New South Wales' terrific new curated show put together by ceramicist Glen Barklay. ***'The art that made me'*** Really worth a visit with treats by Gwen Hansen



Piggott, Pippin Drysdale, Merric Boyd and many other exciting Australian potters.

Shown here are a group of beautifully coloured desert inspired pots by Pippin Drysdale, and a very expressive sculptural piece by Merric Boyd. Plus the superbly challenging Louise



Bourgeoise show ***'Has the Day Invaded the Night or has the Night Invaded the Day'***, might just change your life! Not to be missed.

Carole Driver



Monday AM Painters

Having returned to our Monday activities on the 8 January, the Festive Season seems long past, I could say it's back to black tea and dry biscuits, we all know that would be stretching it a bit, however it's true to say we are back to painting, yippee.

Our group is once again expanding, so it's a big welcome to our recent new members and those who have re-joined our ranks.

Excitement is in the air as this Wednesday we will hang our first annex exhibition.

Just know it's going to be a productive year.



Robyn Killen



Embroidery Group

The Embroidery Group had a lovely Christmas luncheon at Cellar Café Fingal Bay. We've had a couple of weeks rest and catchup with family and are now back with our stitching. I have completed the donation afghan titled 'Wandering Vine', and everyone has been impressed with it. Another little exercise in *Biscornu* has resulted in these cute little pincushions.

Chantal has completed a beautiful Sea Horse in bead work and is now working on an ambitious blackwork piece.

Kathy is working on a cute cat using mostly French Knots.

Lyn is completing her Mandala coloured blackwork picture.

The piece that Noela finished recently has already sold!

Penelope



Spinners and Weavers

The Spinners & Weavers finished off last year with a well-attended Christmas lunch and a surprise delivery of a large donation of fibre and commercial wool from a retiring elderly spinner. Christmas presents all round!

We are starting this year off with our regular attendance at the Australia Day celebrations at Fly Point. We are usually set up next to the sheep and alpaca shearing and demonstrate spinning the wool straight off the animals back. There's lots of noise, dust, reluctant animals and excited kids who all want a souvenir handful of fleece. It's also a good promotion for the Art Centre.

Melanie Delaney



Monday PM Watercolour Painters

Happy New Year to everyone. We had a great roll up for our Christmas party and a great day enjoyed by all.

We are now at the beginning of a new year, lots of fun painting, what challenges we will take on this year.

Our new exhibition **'Reflections'** is on display and I hope everyone has their two paintings in the gallery.

I am planning a watercolour workshop, it will be held on a Saturday, date to be advised,



we will work on stretched watercolour paper, possibly with a bird as our subject, email me if you are interested.

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge

nada4art2@gmail.com

New Activity

Have you ever thought "I wish I could have a try at that craft idea."

We are thinking of introducing a day a month to try something new. Your input would be helpful. Please let us know any ideas you may have.

For example

Refresh or recover a lampshade

Rock painting

Calligraphy

Do you have a favourite activity that you could share? Please let us know.

The cost will be kept as low as possible and will be members only events. You can attend as many or few events as you like but numbers will have to be capped

depending on activity.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Lane , Pauline Commins, Marianne Newton



FEATURED CARD MAKER - 1

Mary Cunningham

I grew up in UK, but lived in Toronto and Vancouver as an adult before moving to Australia in the late 80s. I have always enjoyed having creative hobbies and learning new skills.

I still enjoy flower arranging, jewellery making but about 15 years ago I saw a demo of papercraft at the Sydney Royal Easter Show which sparked my current passion of card-making.

I use ideas and materials from many sources. Some recent cards included knots from a previous career as a sailing instructor. A quote from a style class of "Basic, Light and Bright" many years ago has also been a great guide for card-making.

My mind is always on the alert for inspiration. I once made a series of cards based on seeing an antique farm gate on Antiques Roadshow!

I am a keen recycler and hate waste. Leftover packaging or scraps provide me with great "opportunities" to challenge myself.



FEATURED CARD MAKER - 2

Wendy Lewis

Wendy is a newcomer to the Arts Centre. She has finally managed to squeeze in Papercraft between health care shifts but she is not new to card making and design. Wendy has been making cards since she was young and her first career after schooling and college was as a commercial interior designer in Sydney.

After raising her family, she moved into aged care and pathology. Papercraft provides Wendy with a relaxing and creative space. Wendy also enjoys sketching and painting, often including these in her cards.

Wendy was born in Maitland and fondly remembers holidaying at the Bay with her grandparents and family from the age of four. She seized the opportunity to move to the Bay in 2001 to enjoy the wonderful environment. Her love of beautiful papers and design skills are evident in her elegant cards.



Featured Artist- Lizzie Paterson

I was born in Scotland, married the boy across the road and had two children. We raised the children on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. We had hens, geese, lambs a pony and several golden retrievers. Our Golden's were working dogs.

I have always loved painting and spent many years learning most mediums at the Green Gallery in Aberdeen with like-minded friends.

When our daughter and her family moved to Australia, we spent several years visiting them on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. In 2009 we took the huge step to move from Aberdeen shire to Salamander Bay.

We have a son and grandson in Scotland, he says he's an orphan!!

I joined Port Stephens Community Arts Centre not long after we moved and enjoy every minute spent with the artistic community who love to paint, experiment, learn, laugh, chat and enjoy life together. We are lucky to have such a wonderful creative centre on our doorstep.

My favourite topics to paint are abstract landscapes using my favourite colours. Flowers are another passion. Hope you enjoy my work.



Featured Artist- Carol Gilmour

I was born in West Africa and then lived in England until I was eight. A lot happened in between but I eventually settled in Newcastle where I studied, worked and raised a family. I have lived in Nelson Bay for fifteen years.

I have always been interested in drawing and painting though had no time to pursue this interest until I retired.

Once in the Bay I was lucky enough to be introduced to the Arts Centre. The talent and skill of those involved is amazing. I consider myself very fortunate to have had such assistance and guidance. I find painting and drawing most enjoyable Not forgetting travelling, swimming and bike riding!



The Woodies

Ros Leitch has taken over the Secretarial role from Geoff McClelland, who stood in temporarily while we were between secretaries. Thanks, Ros, for taking this on, on a permanent basis, much appreciated.



Ros Leitch

The Woodies Christmas Party was held at Soldiers Point Bowling Club on 14th December with 40 people in attendance including Frank Future, our Patron. It was one of our best and funniest yet. Best skit went to Jim Papworth for two numbers played on guitar.

Geoff McClelland and Dave Bear were awarded Life Memberships for over ten years of meritorious service to the club.



Geoff McClelland



Dave Bear

The Club Member of the Year award went to Jim Papworth. Jim ran ukulele making sessions and very generously brought in all his tools and jigs for members to use. Jim was a school teacher and he was true to type while he was instructing us - every detail had to be perfect, as he wandered around inspecting progress. If we made a mistake, we had to undo it and stand in the naughty corner 😊!! Well done, Jim, well deserved and great results with the ukuleles.



Jim Papworth

We had a very successful Bunnings BBQ in December. One of our members, Claudio, made some snag holders. They stop the snags rolling off the bread and make the hand over to the customers a lot smoother. They also make it easier for the punters to



Ukuleles drying after spraying



put the sauces on, especially if they are buying multiples. What will we think of next?!!

Roger Delaney

Bonsai Group

Well another year of Bonsai has begun and I hope everyone had a great holiday and managed to get a little "snipping" in between festivities to keep the trees happy and trimmed. This year a plan has been devised so that we know what we are going to be doing each meeting and can bring in the appropriate trees, so many thanks to Michelle and Mel.

A trip to **Bonsai World** in Jillyby is planned for 20/02/24 so car-pooling is suggested and a possible stop for lunch. The National Arboretum in Canberra is having a **"Bonsai Reshaped"**



convention from 11/04/24 to 14/04/24 so maybe a group outing could be considered.

Happy Bonsaing!

Carol



Thursday Patchwork

Nelson Bay Quilters Quilt Show will be held in the Arts Centre from 7 March – 16 April 2024.

The official opening will be held 7 March at 10.30am with morning tea. Everyone is welcome.

The set up of the show will be on 6 March from 8.30 in the morning. Anyone able to assist setting up during the day will be welcomed.

Nelson Bay Quilters will have two quilts raffled during the show and we were able to secure 20, 21 and 23 February at Salamander Bay Square selling tickets. We do have availability on the roster for ticket sellers. The roster will be posted on the board at the back of the Westralia room.

Sharon Turley



Wednesday Pastels Group

The Pastels Group, now incorporating Exploring Art, held the first meeting of 2024 on 24 January. The group will meet weekly....Wednesday 9.30 to 12.30.

The activity of Charcoal Drawing was enjoyed by everyone!

Each week we will explore a new medium, technique or process to enhance our drawing skills and in turn develop our art further.

Christine Leaming

Contact 0413960955 to attend.



FEATURED POTTERS

Janet McDonell

Janet moved to the Bay four years ago to retire!! She has always dabbled in arts and crafts. Janet first tried pottery five years ago and loved it. She was lucky enough to join the pottery group at the Arts Centre with their great facilities. Janet says she has learnt so much from the friendly and helpful people here who are always happy to share ideas.

Hope you enjoy our displays.



Leslie Lewis

I started pottery as a 17 year old in the 1970's, making four large bowls for my HSC major work.

I enjoyed a 27 year teaching career but was medically retired due to chronic pain resulting from two workplace injuries.

I joined the newly formed PSCAC in the early 1980's and enjoyed working with Newcastle sculptor and potter, Peter Tilley in the old Matron's Cottage behind the Arts Centre.

I was a member of PSCAC for many years but left to attend Hunter Street TAFE completing Cert 2 & Cert 4 in Ceramics with tutors Sue Stewart and Jane Barrow.

I followed this up with two years working on a Visual Arts diploma.

After a number of years I rejoined the Arts Centre working with the stimulating and creative Fusion (Textiles) group and the Pottery group where I continually receive great inspiration, share ideas and make great friendships.

I greatly enjoy making textural pieces such as my 'City-Scapes' and making bowls or pieces that have altered edges or holes to make additions of textiles or fire. I have learnt Twining and added a Twined

skirt and emu feathers to one of my pieces.... With more experimenting to come when I find a source of suitable paper twine. I am also experimenting with combining my love of textiles with the addition of ceramic pieces.



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

PAPERCRAFT

We chose to have our Christmas lunch on-site to celebrate the lovely Westralia room and our wonderful group of talented ladies. With a few decorations, yummy food contributions from all, some Christmas trivia and secret Santa...it was a very pleasant and relaxed afternoon!

Antonia



FUSION GROUP

The Fusion Creative Textile group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings from 10am. As usual we have put together a rough plan of activities for the year ahead, although we don't always stick to it. Everyone is free to work on their own project /current obsession, or to try out something new.

Recently we experimented with a different eco-dyeing method: burying a bundle of fabric and plant material in the garden back in October. The results this month were very variable from just a few dark threads remaining after an ant attack, to lumps of vintage linen, to some fairly intact dyed pieces. In February the group will try another eco-dyeing method involving cooking the plant bundles.

We welcome potential new members and visitors interested in the textile and sewing arts.

Carolyn



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2024 WHEN THE ARTS CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED

Friday 29 March - Good Friday - **Closed**

Saturday 30 March - Easter Saturday - Open

Sunday 31 March - Easter Sunday - Open

Monday 1 April - Easter Monday - Open

Thursday 25 April - Anzac Day - **Closed in morning**

Monday 10 June - King's Birthday - Open

Monday 7 October - Labour Day - Open

Tuesday 24 December - **Closed in afternoon**

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day - **Closed**

Thursday 26 December - Boxing Day - Open

Tuesday 31 December - New Years Eve - **Closed in afternoon**

Wednesday 1 January - New Years Day - **Closed**