



PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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

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From the President

What a privilege it is to become President of our amazing community of artisans.

Together with our new management team Di Adamson - Vice President and Gallery Manager, Louise Leddie – Treasurer, Susan Kelly – Secretary, Marianne Newton – Maintenance, Melanie Delaney – Group Liaison and ??? Publicity.

The role of Publicity Director has been simplified! Susan Zhou has put her hand up to take care of our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and a soon to be created WeChat account. The Publicity Director role will be liaising with newspapers, Destination Port Stephens, and any of our key stakeholders together with the President. Please contact one of the Committee if you would like more information.

Together we hope to continue the great work of our predecessors in promoting our vision ***Cultivating Creativity and Friendship via Community Arts and Crafts.***

We are in the process of creating new name badges for all members where our names are larger. Group leaders will be distributing the new badges in November.

I have started visiting all our groups to get to know all our members. Some feedback that I have received is how members miss socialising as an entire community. In the good old days when there were fewer members many social activities took place. With this in mind lets all celebrate the end of 2022 together with drinks at Fly Point on Sunday 13 November from 4pm – 6pm as a BYO table, chair, nibbles, drinks friends and partners. Fingers crossed the weather Gods will be kind to us. The long range forecast looks promising.



A Friend is a feeling forever in your heart!

Meryl



Beanies with Personality

There has been an enthusiastic response to the idea of a special beanies display area, as part of our exhibition calendar for 2023. This will be held in the middle of the year.

So get those creative juices flowing, and start planning! You can use any form of threads, yarns, and fabrics for your creation. The display will run for six weeks, with any unsold stock then moving into general display areas in the gallery.

Di Adamson



15th Port Stephens Art Prize



The 15th Port Stephens Art prize will take place from 24 March – 2 April 2023. A page is being developed on the Arts Centres website that will hold all the information about the Art Prize as well as the entry form. To inspire you all to start creating here is a list of the sections within the Art Prize as well as our generous sponsors. The entry link will be sent to all members as well as past participants in the second week of November.

Section A Painting

The application of pigments (oil, acrylic, watercolour, gouache, ink, pastel) to a surface to create an image, design or decoration. Includes Printmaking.

1st Prize - \$1,500 - Sponsor Kate Washington and Meryl Swanson

2nd Prize - \$500 - Sponsor Port Stephens Council

Section B Drawing

Images are depicted on a surface by making lines, marks, tonal areas and washes. The drawing will be on paper based ground in Graphite, Charcoal, Unblended Pastel or Ink.

1st Prize - \$1,500 - Sponsor West Diggers Nelson Bay

2nd Prize - \$500 - Sponsor PSCAC -Life Drawing Group

Section C Mixed Media

Artworks which are composed of several different media or materials, such as collage and paint.

1st Prize - \$1,500 - Sponsor Love Oil Collection

2nd Prize - \$500 - Soldiers Point Bowling Club

Section D Textiles

Textiles as a decorative two-dimensional art form. Any fabrics and fibres may be used to produce a work which is non wearable, and must be able to be hung for display.

1st Prize - \$1000 - Sponsor Port Stephens Community Arts Centre

2nd Prize - \$500 - PSCAC Fusion Group

Section E Miniatures

A two-dimensional work that has a perimeter that must not exceed 40cm (e.g. 10 x 10cm) excluding frame. Works in any medium.

1st Prize - \$750 - Sponsor PSCAC – Painters

2nd Prize \$250 - Sponsor PSCAC – Painters

Section F Port Stephens Council Prize

Any work by a local artist within the Port Stephens Council area only. Including photography and any of the above sections.

1st Prize - \$1,500 - Sponsor Port Stephens Council

People's Choice Award

All entries are open for selection in the People's Choice award that will be determined by the public during the 10-day exhibition.

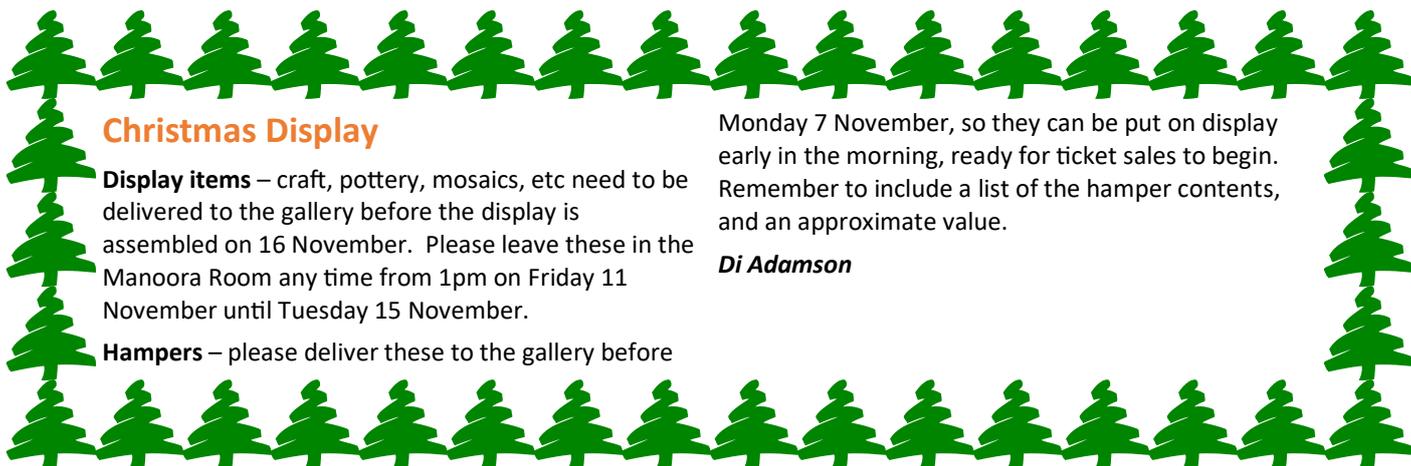
1st Prize - \$200 - Sponsor Port Stephens Community Arts Centre.

Encouragement Award

All entries registered by members of the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre are automatically entered into our Encouragement Award, provided they have not previously won a monetary art prize.

1st Prize - \$500 - Sponsor Port Stephens Community Arts Centre

The 2023 Art Prize Committee



Christmas Display

Display items – craft, pottery, mosaics, etc need to be delivered to the gallery before the display is assembled on 16 November. Please leave these in the Manoora Room any time from 1pm on Friday 11 November until Tuesday 15 November.

Hampers – please deliver these to the gallery before

Monday 7 November, so they can be put on display early in the morning, ready for ticket sales to begin. Remember to include a list of the hamper contents, and an approximate value.

Di Adamson

Bonsai Group

Vince, Kim, Lynne and Sandra are our new members and are enjoying our sessions when they can get away from golf and other pursuits. We have several members roving around the country and overseas at the moment and we hope they are having a wonderful time and will be ready to come back to Bonsai on their return.

With all the rain the trees need less watering so we have more time on our hands for trimming with the trees putting on their Spring growth in abundance. Keep an eye on wired trees as they are quickly growing and wire could cut in leaving ugly scars.

Happy Bonsaing!

Carol



Gallery Desk Roster

We've had a trickle of new volunteers in recent months and, together with those returning from winter trips, we are tantalisingly close to having enough people to reopen on Sunday afternoons.

It is to the benefit of everyone in the art centre if we can be open for the full week to maximise our income from the gallery, particularly in view of the last two years of both Covid shut downs and reduced visitor numbers. It's especially important to be open for the busy summer season in January, as well as December for Christmas shoppers. So, please, please consider volunteering for the desk roster. We only ask for one three hour session per month, it is quite sociable and not onerous. It doesn't have to be a Sunday as I am going to have to move people around from the rest of the roster anyway.

If you sell in the gallery you get the bonus of reduced commission, approximately 22% instead of approximately 33% and we all have the satisfaction of knowing we are helping the art centre flourish.

Chris



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Gallery Manager

From 16 November, our gallery Christmas display will be in place in the Annex. Do pop in and take a look – you might just find that little something to add to the seasonal spirit in your home. Our displays are full of interesting items that would make ideal gifts too.

Our **Sea Art** display will also be hung in the main gallery on 16 November – themes that relate to our local area are always popular with locals and visitors. Mike Veran will be our featured artist.

Then from 28 December we have **Let's Explore**; this looks at works that are black and white with a touch of colour. Nada O'Loughlin Yonge will be our featured artist.



We are now well underway with our plans for the next Exhibition Calendar. Keep an eye out for your copy in your inbox – we have some interesting themes, and a couple of

new ideas for special displays. There are still two vacant slots for Annex displays, so if your group would like one of them, please let me know asap.

The old stand for magazines is being replaced, and the photography exhibition space has now expanded. Come and take a look – we have some very talented members, who have some interesting and unusual works for sale. These change



regularly, so remember to come down to the end of the hallway and see what's on display.

Christmas is rapidly approaching,

so I wish you and yours a safe and happy summer. Fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to all our plans!

Di Adamson

email: rnd2315@gmail.com

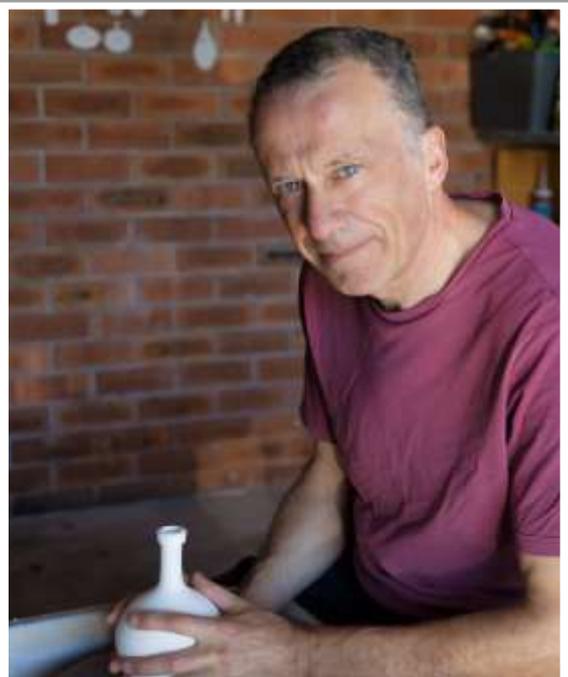
Phone: 0414 756 118

IMPORTANT – Please check your sales tickets before placing them on your items for sale - to ensure that your name is correct on both sides of the tag.

Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

People's Choice Vote

The most popular item in the Gallery recently was Dave Briskhams' beautiful blue pottery vessel (Item B6). This work of art is a masterpiece and complements other pieces of Daves' work. Congratulations Dave.



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Café News



The Cafe has it's ups and down, one good week followed by a poor one so please make sure all of your friends and neighbours know about us. I still need

volunteers (broken record I know), but just one person goes away and I have to scramble to get a replacement which usually ends up with someone doing an extra shift if I'm lucky. I basically have nine volunteers.

On a brighter note, my mosaic group and I want to do a mosaic for the far wall of the cafe so if anyone has old spare wall tiles hanging around the house

(preferably with colour) please consider donating them. It should be a lot of fun. That's all from me.

Madeleine Quinlan



Fusion Group



The Fusion group have just completed our final Skills Enhancement challenge – using reverse applique and machine embroidery to create a Blister Beetle. This was done following an on-line video we purchased through Craft NSW. Although we all began with the same details, each of our insects definitely took on an individual personality.

Our current project is creating Christmas Antique Bunting; it's amazing how stunning recycled lace and antiqued paper shapes can become when hanging together!

As part of a raffle prize for 2023, we have

constructed another of our wall hangings based on felt inches. These small felt squares have been embellished with embroidery and beads, then strung together, and finally suspended from a frame. Keep a look out for it in the New Year.

Best wishes to all for the Christmas and New Year season, from the Fusion members.

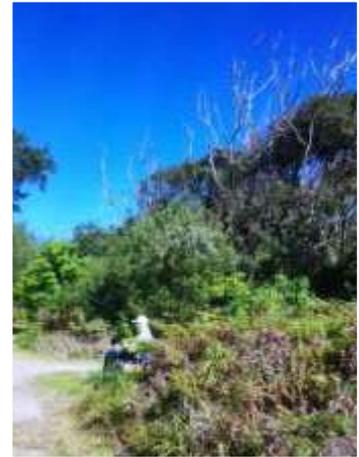
Antonia



Plein Air

There is nothing quite like sitting on a rock, stump or ledge and drawing, or painting your surroundings. Apart from the fact that you learn so much by observation it's fun! We are at the Barry Park area of Fingal Bay.

Robyn Bailey



Life Drawing

Our group is very pleased with the opportunity to hang some of our work and are happy to report that two have already sold. We are a very relaxed bunch who love to draw, create a likeness and chat, perhaps you would enjoy that too.

Robyn Bailey



Garden Group

THE IRIS FOUNTAIN

The garden is really turning on the colour at the moment with these blue flowers (native blue Dampiera?) and red Crucifix orchid in bloom. We have the Hippeastrums popping up all through the garden as well. It's looking great.

We have a new volunteer in the garden, Dave. He is going to be of great help in the coming warmer months helping with the lawns and mulching. But, if any of you want to join us in the garden, we have room for more.

Spoonville has successfully taken up residence in the garden and you will be able to see it as you walk up to the pottery shed, just behind the Fairy Garden. The kids will love it.

If you have any 'pottable' plants in your gardens that we could use to sell, please just leave them under the bench at the



front door and we will take them up to our propagation area to get them ready for sale. Also, empty pots too please.

Thanks from Helen and the team.

Helen Love

Potter of the Month



GILL WARD was born in 1946 in England. At the age of eleven she attended the Junior Art Department in Sheffield and then went on to Leicester College of Art to study Foundation and Leisurewear Design. At 19 she gained a City and Guilds Diploma, which qualified her to become a designer.

Gill worked in the UK for four years before spending a year in the USA. On returning to the UK she joined the Berlei Foundationwear Company in London. In 1973 she was offered a position in Sydney.

After many years working and travelling the world looking for new ideas, she married in 1982 and moved to Port Stephens, where she was able to resume her love of painting. Gill works mainly in Acrylics (mainly influenced in the early years by the wonderful paintings of Patrick Carrol), watercolour and pen and ink. She has won over 100 prizes and commendations, including three prizes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.



Gill has sold work around Australia and overseas.

More recently Gill has taken up making hand built pottery and sells many pieces incorporating paintings of animals, birds and flowers. (Handmade cards, magnets and signed prints are also available).



Artists of the Month

Libby Booth came back to watercolour painting in 2017. Having given up painting as a hobby when her third child was born in the 1970s she became inspired again after attending an exhibition at the Gosford Regional Gallery held by the Central Coast Watercolour Society. She was handed a brush, paper and paint and told “just go for it”.

Libby previously painted with oil and acrylic and watercolour was (and still is) quite a challenge! She joined the society and



attended workshops to get started with the essentials. Her inspirations and differing techniques in the early days came from such artists as Krista Brennan, Susie Murphie, Tony Belobradjic, Dee Jackson, Madeleine Szymanski, Greg Allen and Tanya Baily.



When Libby moved to Corlette she joined our Monday afternoon Painters Group, here she has been able to hone her skills with instruction from talented local artists Nada Yonge and Iliana Clark. During the Covid lockdowns



Libby says she found inspiration online via YouTube and from artists like Cheryl Bruce. This year Libby has attended workshops conducted by Rob Candy, Harold de Jeune and Harry Westera.



Libby says she enjoys working with watercolour as she loves the transparency of the paint and to work in a free style with a limited palette.

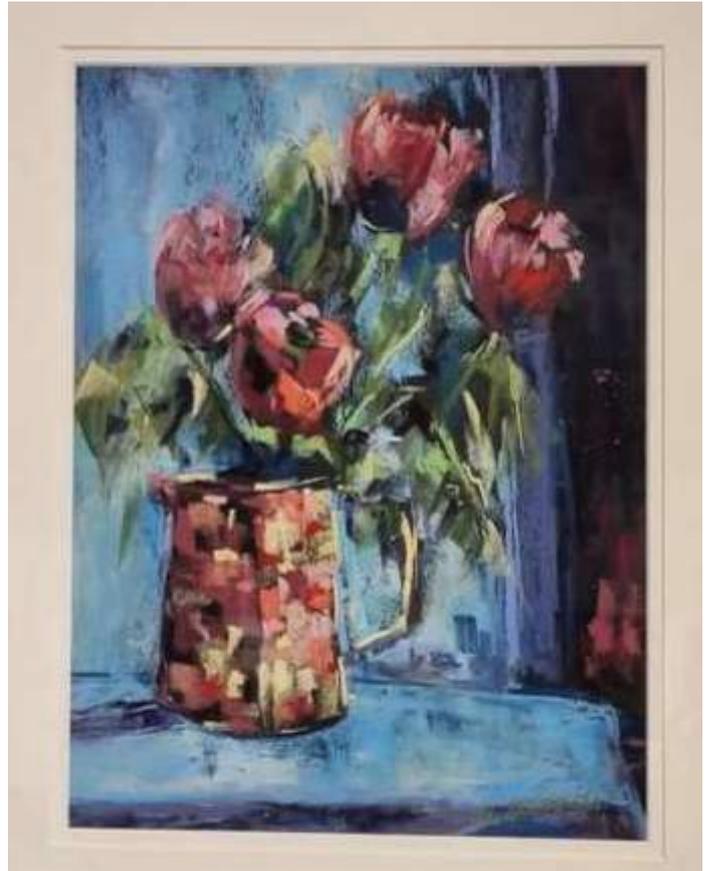
Pastel Group

Our small pastel group continues to enjoy a variety of challenges and make progress with our skill set.

Lizzie Paterson has recently sold a lovely piece which she created in her loose, colourful style.

Jenny Dobbie, one of our new members is exhibiting for the first time in the gallery. She is an accomplished pastellist, and will be also exhibiting alongside Christine Leaming at Lion Studios RAW event during November.

Christine Leaming



Polymer Clay Workshops

Our Polymer Clay workshops have gained popularity at the Centre since it began about a year ago.

Our Group Leader was Wendy



and she came on board with enthusiasm and gained great knowledge and skill to share with the group. Wendy is now enjoying travelling with her husband for an extended period of time. We miss her but are excited for her on her travels. Liz has stepped up to be the new Group Leader and supports the group on a weekly basis.

We hope that in writing this article for the PSCAC Newsletter we can get the message out that we would like to expand the group. We operate as a small group at the present time but hoping to build interest from members and community to come along. It really is a

fun and engaging art and craft.

If you are interested in polymer-clay work that produces quick results, shape making and creative techniques, come along to make earrings, bangles, beads, buttons, pendants, coasters, plates and bowls just to name a few.

We are a group encouraging anyone with an interest in this art to join us on Wednesdays (2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month) at 1pm- 3 pm and alternate Wednesdays at 12:30-3 pm.

Come along to one of our workshops and see if you like it. Polymer Clay workshops are held on each Wednesday. Cost is \$2 per session and Liz can advise you on the materials you will need to get started. For further information please contact



Liz Opielinski - 0434 925081

Thursday Patchwork

Our ladies have been busy and have made 24 beautiful placemats for Legacy to use as gifts for Christmas. It's amazing what you can make with scraps.

Mid October saw eight Patchworkers have an enjoyable five day Retreat at Tocal. There was lots of laughs with plenty of sewing as well. So relaxing not having to worry about cooking and housework. Nolda gave us a great half day workshop on day three using fussy cutting to make cute coasters. The ladies are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Margaret.

Judy Watton's Chandelier Quilt made at Tocal Retreat.



Tuesday Patchwork

Sixteen ladies from our group had a four day retreat away to Tocal in September.

It was an industrious time of making blocks, bags, quilts and various other items. We enjoyed the company of friends, played a few games like guess who's baby photo this is which was organized by Sheila. The highlight of the retreat was the visit to Maitland Quilt Show which was being held in the big hall at Tocal College on the day we checked out. Some fantastic work was on display and some lovely stalls were there as well.

Wendy.



Wendy Harvey's bag made at the Retreat.



Exhibition Team

Our next Exhibition will be titled **Sea Art** and on display from 16 November to 27 December

Our artists have been exploring the artistic wonder in our marine parks, ocean and bay waters. This is a popular theme for our travelling visitors and will be a wonderful display. As always two paintings per Artist. Please drop off your paintings to the storeroom on the Mon/Tues prior to hanging.

Your Hall paintings can be taken home at the same time. See your group leader, Judy or Marianne if you need any Tags.

Marianne and Judy



Embroidery Group

We are all working on different items at the moment. Margaret and Lyn are creating a cute pansy cross stitch. Jan continues to make her lovely cards, Noela is working on a cushion in the Jacobean style. Wendy is embroidering a table cloth with an Australian flower design. Kathy is working on a cross stitch scissor keeper. and Nell, Sue and I are working on pieces donated to the Group.

Penelope



Tai Chi

Monday and Thursday mornings 10-11am.

Tai Chi continues to be enjoyed by all despite the weather. We are currently adding the Yang Sword to our repertoire.

Robyn Bailey



Monday AM Painting Group

How nice it is to see so many Monday morning painters gather recently for a morning tea to wish Norman Littlefair, a long time regular and his wife all the very best for their move back to Perth to be nearer to family and friends they left behind when deciding to settle at Nelson Bay some time ago. Even though a quieter member of our group he will be missed.

Friendships made whilst enjoying like interests are so very important.

Robyn Killen



Watercolour Painters

Once again we have had a busy couple of months, several watercolour workshops have been enjoyed by our members with some great results, this photo is from the Barry and Lucy McCann week end workshop.

Wonderful to see lots attending every week plus many new faces, we will now all be producing lots of Sea

paintings preparing for our next exhibition in gallery, due to be displayed on the 16 November. Next thing then on our agenda will be the Watercolour Exhibition in the Annex commencing on the 28 December. More news on that later.

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge



Barry and Lucy McCann Workshop

Well how fantastic it was to see both our Monday Acrylic and Watercolour groups participating in our most recent workshops, conducted by well-known tutors Barry & Lucy McCann.

Saturday we had Lucy demonstrating a beautiful watercolour of a breaking wave and on Sunday Barry surprised the Acrylic artists, by demonstrating the method of painting a portrait of a cat.

Both workshops were enjoyed by everyone, with fantastic results being achieved by all.

More workshops are being planned for the New Year.

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge



FEATURE ARTIST 2023

Calling all artists!

Please contact Christine Leaming if you are interested in securing a slot on the Feature Artist calendar for 2023. You will be required to frame your work (except for canvas) and occupy the wall for a six week period.

christine.a.leaming@gmail.com

Christine Leaming



Paper Craft

We have had a busy couple of months with the group working together to put together "TAKE and MAKE" kits to benefit the Art Centre.

Great little gifts for the young at heart!

There are now 2 varieties for sale at the front counter;

- * MAKE A CARD (enough to make 2 cards) AND
- * CHRISTMAS TAG SET (6 gift tags to colour or glue)

Individuals are busy making many unique and special HOLIDAY CARDS that are on display on the circular unit.

We also take pleasure in celebrating special birthdays in our group with cake and goodies and an extra-special card of course!

Antonia

