



PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

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

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From the President

2023 is off to a flying start. It has been wonderful to know that the Gallery has had many visitors who have bought our beautiful works. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on the desk over the holidays your welcoming attitude shows in our sales figures.

The Art Prize, our much needed funds generator for maintaining our wonderful Arts venue is fast approaching. We all need to get behind this major fund raising event. So far the majority of entries have been from external Artists. I have heard many say, 'but we are not good enough to enter the Art Prize'. Such a surprising comment when you look at the high standard of work we always have on display for each exhibition. \$15.00 per entry is extremely reasonable and if each artist enters at least two works this will go a long way to not only making the Art Prize Spectacular but profitable as well.

The Prize money pool is \$10,950.00 our largest so far thanks to our generous Sponsors.

All the information on the Art Prize is on the Arts Centre website. <https://artscentrenelsonbay.org.au/home-page15th-port-stephens-art-prize-2023/>

Manual entry forms are available for members at the sales desk. If anyone needs help processing their entry please contact Meryl 0409 455 529. Entries must be in by

11 February to allow time for the processing and backend planning that takes place. Works need to be delivered by 24 March so plenty of time left to create something spectacular. The motivation of the Art Prize will get your creative juices flowing. We can do this together.

The Board held a planning meeting on 24 January where we went through all the requirements of managing a Crown Lands site. We will be sharing the outcomes with Group Leaders soon.

We are glad to report that Liz Berger has joined the Board filling the casual position of Publicity Director. Liz will remain in this position until she is elected at the AGM in September. Liz has extensive experience on Charity Boards as well as great grant writing skills. Liz is part of the Thursday Pottery Group. Susan Zhou has taken over our Social Media Accounts on Facebook and Instagram. Thanks for all your help Susan.

"A friend is one who overlooks your broken fence and admires the flowers in your garden".

Meryl



Exhibition Team



The current exhibition '**Lets Explore, Black and White with a touch of Colour**' has been a great success with many items sold. This will be replaced on 8 February with the new display entitled '**Seasons**' with

print clearly on Painter's Tag (front and back) with black pen - name, exhibition date 2/23 (month/year) etc.

If you are unsure of any details please leave front tag blank and we will transfer the information from the tag on the back of your painting.

Paintings are to be delivered to the painters storeroom on Monday 6 or Tuesday 7 February.

We are looking forward to hanging this new and interesting exhibition.

Marianne, Judy, Bev and The Hanging Team

'Mixed Media' items in the annex

As usual two Paintings only per Artist and could you please

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Gallery Manager

Once again, our gallery rooms are looking stunning – thanks to all volunteers who assist with keeping displays updated.

Thanks also to those members who took on extra desk duty shifts to enable us to open all day on Sundays during January.

Your generosity is much appreciated – a small gift of a few hours makes such a difference to our workloads.



Our next exhibition theme is **Seasons**, running from 8 February to 21 March.

Mixed Media artworks will be on display in the Annex.

Following this, the gallery will close for a couple of



days, to enable preparation for our 15th Art Prize. This is a major event, requiring many hands for a multitude of tasks. Please consider helping out – the tasks that need help range from preparation of the exhibition, supervision on opening days, extra people for desk duty, to the tidy-up tasks following the closing.

Our whole gallery will experience a larger number of visitors during this exhibition, so if you regularly sell works, please make sure you have plenty of stock of your most popular items. We don't have much stock storage space, but you may get a phone call requesting more stock if needed.

This is our chance to make our gallery shine!!!

I've seen some very interesting beanies under construction – please keep your stock at home until closer to the Muster date in June. We will have some very creative samples, and thanks to Susan Zhou for photographing these in preparation for our events publicity.

Di Adamson

ART PRIZE 2023 – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The information for all volunteers able to help with the next Art Prize in March 2023 is on the following page.

We are asking for helpers from all Groups, and they may choose an area to which they feel they could contribute to another great Art Prize extravaganza.

Opening Night is 24 March. The event runs from 24 March to 2 April.

Each group of helpers will have a leader who will organize their time and tasks.

The sign-on sheets are laid out in the Westralia Room for names and contact details - so we can team build.

This 15th Port Stephens Art Prize invites entries from across Australia. See our Website.

<https://artscentrenelsonbay.org.au/home-page15th-port-stephens-art-prize-2023/>

Marianne Newton
Roster Co-ordinator



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DATE	TASK	TIME	COORDINATOR	VOLUNTEERS
17, 21, 22 MAR	RAFFLES		NADA	
20 MAR	MEET WITH ALL COORDINATORS	TBA	MARIANNE, DI, MERYL	
22, 23 MAR	GALLERY CLOSE Clear Gallery Dome, bonsai, pottery	1pm Up to noon 23 rd	Di ADAMSON	Laurie, Ross,
22 MAR	ARTWORKS Postage Receiving Greet and direct - 2p Runners -10p	2pm	JUDY JONES BEV MCKINNON- MATTHEWS ROBYN BAILEY	Life Drawing
23 MAR	EXHIBITION ROOMS SETUP – Current paintings (<i>Seasons</i>) to go home. Clear the Gallery, Hall, Manoora, Westralia, Fusion, (postage bay) and Cafe	1pm	MARIANNE, JUDY, BEV, ROBYN B, JENNY S.	Laurie, Colin, Steve, Keith, Roger
23 MAR	ARTWORKS	1pm process artworks		
23 MAR	PEOPLE'S CHOICE SETUP	1pm		
24 MAR	SET UP RECEIVING TABLES Direction signs for deliveries	8.30am		ALL GROUPS
24 MAR (opening night)	SETUP OPENIG- 6p Name badges - 2p Raffle ticket sales and Door ticket sales - 2p	4pm 6pm to 9.30pm	CHRISTINE LEAMING	Carol Gilmour, Nikki Waters
24 MAR	CATERING Collect platters from Coles, servers of food. Alcohol - 3p	2pm Check glasses, esbies, fridges tablecloths	KATHY MURRAY JOANA JOHNSTON	ALL GROUPS Joana, Steve Murray, Penny Amberg, Meryl
24MAR to 2APR	FLOOR STAFF Answer and direct visitors -2p	1p for AM duty 1p for PM duty		ALL GROUPS
24MAR to 2APR	DESK DUTY EXTRAS	4p for opening night 2p extra per day	MARIANNE, SUE KELLY	ALL GROUPS
1 APRIL	SOLD PAINTINGS PREP. - 4p Courier/post returns			ALL GROUPS
2 APRIL	GALLERY CLOSE Setup as normal	2pm	DI, MARIANNE	ALL GROUPS

Art Prize Textiles Entry

As a reminder to all members there is a new Section in the Art Prize that covers Textiles. This will include embroidery, patchwork, quilting, felting, spinning/weaving - as long as the items fit the criteria below. The restrictions are due to the limited amount of space our gallery can accommodate.

'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 Sponsor PSCAC Fusion Group

In the conditions that must be adhered to it states as item 6:

*'Textile works to be **non-wearable**. Work should be ready to hang, including support rods if needed. Longest side a maximum of 1 meter'.*

I hope you can pass this information on to your group members, and anyone else you know who may be interested.

Di Adamson

Spinners and Weavers

The Spinners and Weavers have been planning a workshop program for the year including some bead leno weaving, felting and dying with natural dyes. We are also planning visits to other Spinning groups, especially our friends at Tea Gardens.

The photo, right, shows examples of natural dying in Argentina taken on a recent trip. Interestingly they are dying with the same natural products as we use, turmeric, pomegranate, onion skins and walnuts.

We look forward to a year of productivity and friendship.

Melanie Delaney



Woodworking Group

The Woodies held their Christmas Party at Soldiers Point Bowling Club with 40 people attending and with entertainment by singer Jenni Rossi. There was a two course buffet, lucky door prize, quiz prize and a prize for the best performer in the "poetry reading" aka jokes, song, skits etc., which was won by Col Bridgeman.

The Woodworker of the Year perpetual trophy, voted on by the members, was won by Ken Richards. Ken is a very talented carver but also a great club member. He runs the Bunnings BBQs with great success and also puts his hands



Above: Ken Richards with his **Woodworker of the Year** award, a carved cassowary head.

Left: Col Bridgeman being presented with the poetry reading prize by Roger Delaney

up for the not so popular jobs of cleaning the kitchen and toilets! Well done Ken.

The Woodies were successful in applying for two grants for the driveway alongside the Barn. It was resurfaced using the Club's Grant from The Wests Group and then the State grant came through later. We're hoping to get approval to apply the money to another capital expenditure project, like our morning tea area.

Roger Delaney

Bonsai Group

Bonsai has started again in the new year and everyone was eager to be working on their trees. It was good to see our new members returning and all the regulars. The weather has been favourable to the trees with warm temperatures and no extreme heat although a bit more rain would be welcome.

Some bulk purchases of soil and wire have been made for members to buy at reasonable prices. Bonsai World at Jilliby has a good range of pots etc. at the moment so perhaps a group trip down to the Central Coast could be arranged.

Happy Bonsaing!

Carol Rigby



Plein Air

After the festive break we returned to Barry Park on 11 January, so many people!! Always an interesting location. Last week we met at Boat Harbour and will remain painting there until further notice, south side of the beach.

Robyn Bailey



Life Drawing

We all enjoyed our break over Christmas / New Year and were pleased to resume classes last Friday. However our model unfortunately had to cancel last minute due to car trouble. Back to plan B ! Drawing each other! All good experience. We are fortunate to have a couple of new people interested in joining the group and hope they love it as much as we do.

Robyn Bailey



Thursday Pottery Group

The Thursday Potters were very keen to get back into the mud and started back this year as soon as possible, January 5. Production is already flowing, and strange and wonderful forms will be arriving in gardens near you soon, and some in the gallery of course. Watch this space.

Our big news at the barn is of course the new glaze kiln, and isn't it a beauty, a grand size and working well. A big shout out to Michael Wein and the team for sourcing and installing this wonderful asset. Also the firing folks, many thanks to you all from the Thursday Potters.

Shelves are filling fast with new work to be fired and the kiln is working hard for us all. Very exciting.

Carole Driver



Featured Potter

Michele Darmanin



I have always had a strong desire to learn how to work with clay and use a pottery wheel. When I moved to Port Stephens, I was fortunate enough to discover the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre which was offering pottery classes. After starting tentatively I soon became completely addicted to

playing with clay.

My favourite clay is porcelain. I find the smooth texture wonderful to work with when creating pieces on the wheel.

Over time my creativity started opening up in a new way with the inspiration to share the natural beauty of Australia.



So, whilst holidaying with my husband I started collecting different types of coloured sands, volcanic soils, rocks, pebbles and pumice stone from all over Australia - which were then incorporated into many of my pottery creations.

Therefore, most of my pottery pieces feature a natural piece of Australia! I hope you enjoy my creations as much as I loved making them all.

Artists of the Month



Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge who has been painting for many years now, experimenting with and using many different mediums to achieve the results that appeal to a great variety of people. Being mainly self-taught, Nada uses watercolours as her favourite medium and she is well known for her rich, vibrant paintings of Australian flora and fauna and our beautiful ocean scenery. Nada's subject matter depicting the many moods of the ocean, Australian bush, wildlife, flowers, Venice water ways to name a few.

Nada has benefited over the past years from participating in workshops with other inspirational artists and has travelled extensively throughout NSW and overseas in search of new and exciting subjects to inspire her painting topics. At present Nada is busy working on large canvases of local beach scenes using Acrylic as her main medium, also some Venice paintings in Watercolour

Nada told News of the Area "I have been involved in many successful exhibitions throughout my artistic career and am represented in private collections throughout Australia and overseas. I now live and have my studio at Corlette, Port Stephens, NSW with my husband Geoffrey".



Pastel Group

The Pastel Group will be meeting every 4th Wednesday 10am to 2pm in 2023.

We will be exploring techniques and skills to further enhance our paintings.

Come and join us!

Christine Leaming



Monday afternoon Mixed Media Group

What a great year 2022 was to get back to normal and in our room again.

The Monday afternoon Mixed Media group has grown and I am looking forward to the enthusiasm of everyone and welcome to you all. There is a lot of talent in the Bay and it's wonderful to be a part of it.

Last year quite a number of people in the group sold their work in the gallery. Well done and congratulations.

So I say this to everyone **LETS PAINT** and have a good year and have fun.

Thank you so much and thank you to all the helpers.

Beverley Henry



Tai Chi

Happy New Year everyone. It is lovely to get back together again, a few still on holidays or with visitors. By next month we will be back to normal. Our class is full at the moment but I am looking for another teacher so that we can start beginners again.

Robyn Bailey



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Monday AM Painting Group

2023 has hit us with a rush and thankfully the dark cloud of Covid is fading along with negative health issues due to the cold wet winter, thus I am glad to say our happy Monday AM Painting group is once again growing in numbers, who enjoy the company of likeminded people whilst being creative. We are also pleased to welcome new members to our group. It is such a joy to see their fresh enthusiasm flowing onto

others.

Everyone is working towards the 2023 Art Prize knowing this exhibition will again highlight the talent of many and give enjoyment to exhibitors, visitors and members alike.

Robyn Killen

Embroidery Group

We have settled into our embroidery after the Christmas break and Noela's cushion in the Jacobean style didn't stay in the Gallery long before it was sold!! We have had quite a few sales over the holidays with the influx of visitors to the area.

I hope some of our fabric and thread working groups will enter items into the Textile section of the Art Prize.

Penelope



Watercolour Painters

How great it is to welcome all back after the Christmas break, hope you all enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing time with family and friends.

Our Water Colour Exhibition has kept quite a few of us busy, and has produced much success for all. Thank you to all the watercolourists who put in such a great effort to make the Exhibition run so smoothly.

I hope we are all back in full swing producing paintings for our next Exhibition and then getting our entries ready for the Art Prize. This event is now back after a three year break. We are very excited to see its return and I hope that all will enjoy the exhibition. It will be great to see the gallery filled with amazing works from NSW and Interstate. As well of course, all centre members who contribute.

A great way to start the new year at our wonderful centre. Thank you.

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge



The display team

Papercraft

Papercraft is changing days and rooms. Starting in February we will meet on Thursday afternoons in the Westralia room.

Antonia

