



# PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

## NEWSLETTER

October 2023

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

### In this issue:

- President's Report
- Spring Affair Report
- Mosaics Group
- Papercraft
- Gallery Manager
- Café News
- Exhibition Team
- Congratulations
- Pottery Groups
- Monday Morning Painters
- Plein Air
- Tai Chi
- Spinners and Weavers
- Monday PM Watercolorists
- Featured Potters
- People's Choice
- Featured Artist
- Embroidery Group
- Patchwork Groups
- Garden News
- The Woodies
- Bonsai Group
- Fusion Group
- Photography Club
- Spring Affair Photos

### President's Report

Thank you for electing our committee once again we look forward to an exciting year ahead. As you all know Susan Kelly has stepped down from the secretarial role, thanks for all your hard work last year Susan. We have worked on restructuring the role of Secretary into manageable tasks. Thank you to the following members who have come forward. Jane Parker will join the committee as Secretary. Chantal Gray will take over membership, Penelope Highland will continue printing sales tags and badges, Robyn Killen will take care of all the outer office tasks as well as ordering supplies for us. We are still in need of one additional committee member. If you are interested, please contact any of us.

We are privileged to be amongst 26 successful grant recipients from Create NSW Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package - Arts and Cultural Assets Program the only organisation in Port Stephens. This grant will be used to

Repair and Restore Exterior of Port Stephens Community Arts Centre.

Replacing the roof in the Café as well as the box gutter replacement will take place in October / November. Painting of the exterior of the building will be from March 2024.

As part of New South Wales Governments energy efficiency program a 200 litre heat pump and hot water system has been installed for the Gallery Building replacing our old 50 litre system.

Love is when two people know everything about each other and are still friends!

**Meryl Miller**

### Spring Affair Report

Once again the weather was perfect, and it was wonderful to have so many of our groups participating with displays and demonstrations. From the Tai Chi demonstration on the front lawn, through the groups in the workrooms, to the café, up through our beautiful gardens, to the plant sales and work in the Barn, all was there on show!

Thanks to hard work by many members, our visitors were able to see what talented people we have in our community. Many visitors left with information about our groups, so hopefully we'll have some new members joining us. Sales in the gallery, as well as cakes and other donated items, meant that many people didn't leave empty-handed. All income from the day will go towards providing us with pleasant

surroundings and work spaces.

Well done, PSCAC – when we all pull together, we are a mighty force, so thank you everyone. (More photos on page 11)

**Di Adamson**



## Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

### Mosaics Group

We had a very successful Spring Affair with many membership enquiries, interested parties and compliments on our work in the barn.

Now that the Cafe has opened, we have had more compliments on our mosaic of **Irene** hanging next to the doorway going into the Westralia room from the cafe patio.

We are also very happy to welcome back Barbara Winters to our group after a long and painful illness.

As usual at this time of year a lot of our members are travelling so our tables look a bit empty at the moment and we are looking forward to catching up with them on their return. Anyone interested in joining the Mosaic Group will be very welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

**Kim Reilly**



### Papercraft

Our "Featured Cardmaker" is MARGARET SOMERVILLE.

Margaret first joined the Arts Centre as a Spinner and Weaver, but having belonged to a scrapbooking and card making group with friends in the area for many years, it was a natural progression to join the Papercraft group as well. After many years as an Infants/ Primary teacher, repairing Kindergarten creations, you would think Margaret would be tired of paper and glue.

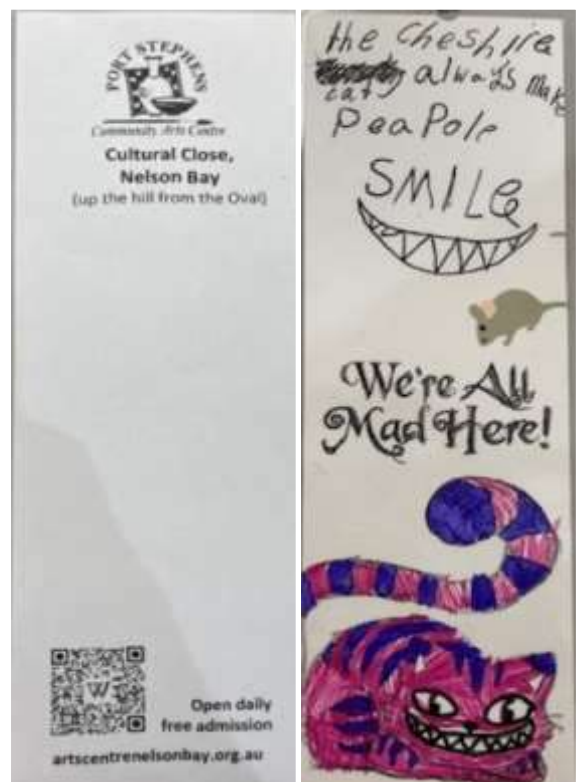
However she still enjoys the creative challenges of working with stamps, inks, colour and shape to make beautiful cards.



Our papercraft group put together card-making kits for the winter school holidays to support the art centre and prepared materials for Spring Affair visitors to create bookmarks to take home, it was popular with kids and adults and included an Art Centre advertising.

*Pictured: Above right, Mary Cunningham on the morning shift at the Spring Affair and right, one of the finished bookmarks.*

**Antonia Creese**





# Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

## Gallery Manager

### Exhibition Calendar 2023 – 2024

A meeting will be held at 12 noon on Thursday 26 October, for all members who are interested in contributing thoughts and ideas for the next calendar. This year we had a very successful Beanie Muster – any suggestions for another happening, that can include all our members?

Anyone wanting to have space in the Featured Artist or Featured Potter spaces will need to contact me, and suggest two possible dates they'd like. Preference will be given to those members who haven't had a display in these spaces this calendar year. I will pass the lists of names on to the members who are co-ordinating each of these display areas.

Groups wanting space on the Annex wall also need to let me know their date preferences.

If you are unable to get to the meeting, be sure to email me with your suggestions and requests.

Christine Learning has done an excellent job of co-ordinating the Featured Artist program, but has decided to retire from that position. So we need someone to take over, to ensure

that this display can continue. Plenty of help and support will be given to the new co-ordinator – please contact me or Marianne Newton if you are interested.

Our **Christmas craft** display will be in the Annex from 1 November to 22 December. All items for this display need to be left in the Manoora room between 24 – 30 October. Please keep in mind that there is no access to that room on Friday mornings, when the Life Drawing group is in progress.

Once again, we are asking all groups to contribute a **Christmas Hamper** to our monster Christmas raffle. Tickets will go on sale from 1 November, so please make sure your donations are ready to be displayed in the gallery by then. Hampers can be left in the Manoora room during the last few days of October.

### Photography

Kay Hathway is the new co-ordinator of our photography display areas.

She is also a member of the local camera club. They are having an Open Day in October (see flyer on page 11).

**Di Adamson**

[Rnd22315@gmail.com](mailto:Rnd22315@gmail.com)

## Café News

The café reopened just before the Spring Affair for Saturday AND Sunday Mornings.

We are pleased that Heather and Madeleine have not only shared their expertise but are helping manage the kitchen with newcomers Debbie and Antonia.

We are also very grateful to all the café volunteers both previous helpers and new helpers who have stepped up to make it possible to provide this valuable service and drawcard for the Art Centre.

The feasibility of the café will be assessed in November.

There is still an URGENT need for more people to help out. Without more volunteers it is likely that the café will not be able to run next year.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP IT STAY OPEN?

We welcome members who would like to try a café shift and see if it suits you before committing to the roster or back-up list.

In November we will trial cake baking days in the kitchen – a fun activity for a small group and support for the café! Contact Antonia or Debbie for more details:

Phone **Debbie** (0409131497) or email **Antonia** ([creeseanty@gmail.com](mailto:creeseanty@gmail.com))



### Exhibition Team

#### Next Exhibition

Theme: Travel

Date: 1 November to 12 December

Paintings: 2 per Artist

**Note:** Please check your paintings are suitably wired with d-hooks ready to hang.

Tags are printed in black pen only.

**Marianne, Judy, Bev and The Team.**

### Congratulations

to Eleanor Anson for winning the Watercolour Prize with her painting ***Too Pretty to be a Weed*** at the 58th Scone Art Prize for 2023.

### Pottery Groups

The Spring Affair for the potters was a hard working day of demonstrations for young and old. Lots of visitors to the barn. For sale we had little critters for the young at heart, succulents in pots and seconds.

Here Heidi Harber, below and Carole Driver right, below show some hand building techniques.

The pit-firing day at Hannah Whitney's was fascinating for all involved. Bisque fired pots were placed in a large pit, covered in wood and set to burn for hours, then cooled and excavated. Michael Wein's expert advice made sure the final results were stunning. Here you see Michael, below placing the pots carefully to make sure the smoke curls round them for the colour. Hannah Whitney, right is then gently removing the finished pots from the cooled pit.

A fun, hot hardworking day for all.

**Carole Driver**





## Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

### Monday AM Painters

Never a dull moment in the painting area of our centre, what with the usual exhibitions to prepare for, the excitement of being part of our recent Spring Affair with many artists hanging works to make a wonderful display. Then there's upcoming workshops in watercolour with tutor Danni Liu and pastels with tutor Gwendolin Lewis to look forward to before the Christmas rush. It's never too late to learn a new trick or two. It does not stop, plans are in the melting pot for more learning experiences in the New Year.

If you need a little respite from what can be a dreary old world come join in the creativity of our Monday morning group, have a good laugh, paint, have a cuppa with cake or bickies courtesy of Les and Moira, do a bit more painting then go home feeling really good.

Happy painting my friends.

**Robyn Killen**

### Plein Air

1. Little Beach
2. Boat Harbour
3. Boat Harbour Kingsley Beach side.

We have moved around a bit more lately due to people away, wind etc. Currently at Kingsley Beach.

**Robyn Bailey**



### Tai Chi

A motley crew ! It's been a long road but we have mastered the Yang Sword, memory, balance and skill; right. Cheers. Second and third photographs are from The Lotus which concentrates mainly on hand and arm movements.

**Robyn Bailey**

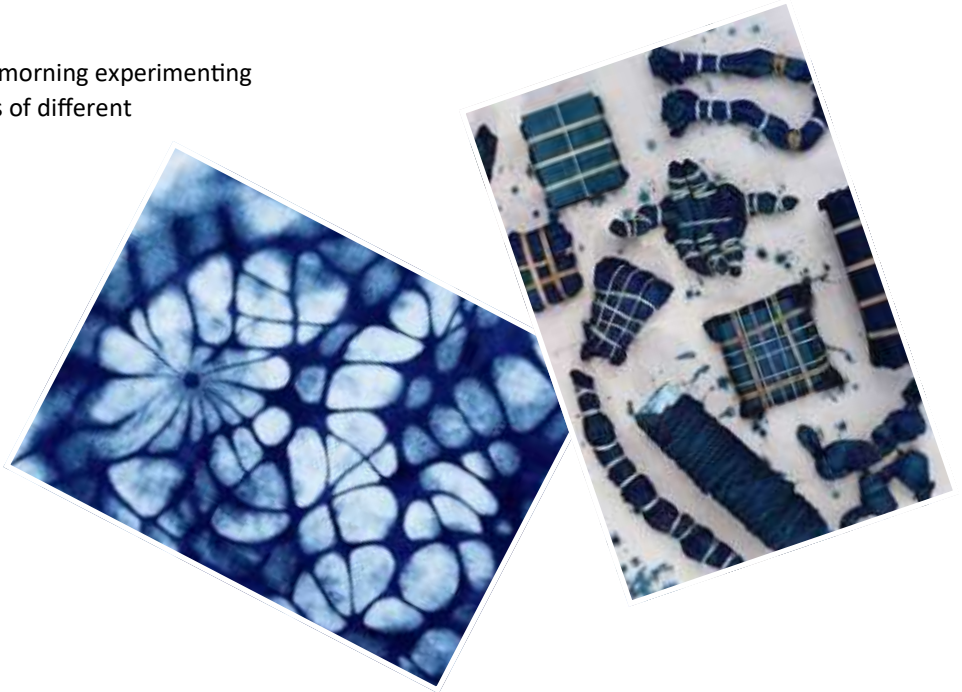


### Spinners and Weavers

The Spinners and Weavers had a great morning experimenting with dying silk scarves. There were lots of different techniques tried including Japanese shibori, a manual tie-dying method creating exciting patterns and lots of variations of hand painting with different applicators. The challenges of selecting a different colour combination - we all need to get out of our comfort zone, were sometimes a great success and often a big surprise. We all learnt something; often less is more.

Next month we plan on all wearing them on the same day.

**Melanie Delaney**



### Monday PM Watercolour Painters

What a great effort by all our painting groups for their contributions to the Spring Affair and thank you to all those who contributed their time and efforts in making it such a successful event. So many contributed two or three paintings each for sale and with many sales achieved. These two Acrylic paintings were painted by two from our watercolour group, well done.

**Nada Yonge**

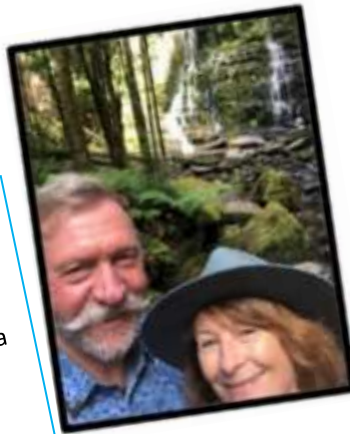




### Featured Potters

#### Anne and John Townsend

Anne has always loved the 'therapy of clay' and uses it personally as a medium for relaxation. Anne began clay building at high school, then encouraged children to enjoy it's properties when becoming a teacher. Later Anne became an art and drama therapist and helped clients use clay as a tool of expression. She is inspired by natural objects such as leaves, birds and flowers. Anne is still learning and enjoys her days at the Arts Centre under the experienced tuition of Michael Wein and would be lost without his wise counsel....



Married to Anne, John is an absolute beginner at using clay for shape making. After moving from Sydney to Port Stephens he thought he would try a new adventure in life and learn pottery along with Anne. His initial attempts at building with clay were frustrating but somehow clay has begun to work some magic into John's hands as he learns to control this medium more. John enjoys the social side of pottery classes at the Arts Centre as well as hand building and learning about glaze techniques.



### People's Choice

Congratulations to Lizzie Paterson who romped in as winner of last exhibition period People's Choice Award with her acrylic painting 'Favourite Tones'. Well done Lizzie don't forget to collect your voucher for coffee and cake for two at the Garden Café.

We had a great range of votes across all painting mediums, photography and pottery. Desk duty volunteers don't forget to remind our visitors to submit their votes for the People's Choice Award - they can vote for anything in the Gallery.

**Melanie**



### Featured Artist - Susan Zhou

Susan moved from Sydney and now lives in Salamander Bay. She has always been interested in art. She is a photographer, and her main interest is seascape and landscape photography, however acrylic painting is her new challenge. Susan started painting a year ago through the Port Stephens Community Art Centre Acrylic Group.



artworks of the ocean and the mountains, birds and flowers.

The natural world is the source of her inspiration, this is reflected in her work. Susan produces lovely colourful



### Embroidery Group

It's good to be back in the Bay after a three month caravanning holiday in FNQ and Sue has just returned after a long holiday in Norway.

We have all been working on our individual pieces and enjoying our creations.

**Penelope**





### Patchwork Groups

We have had a big attendance over the last couple of months which is wonderful.

A block of the month is in progress with different members presenting a block each month. Ten ladies from the group are off to Tocal for five days mid October. Nolda will present a demonstration on working with felt. With lots of stitching happening, hopefully there will be some show and tell when they return.

Congratulations to Wendy Nutt on her First Prize in the Modern Minimalist/ Negative Space Category at the Quilt NSW Quilt Show.

We are having a workshop on Thursday 16 November presented by Wendy on making Postcards. Postcards will feature in the quilt show early next year.

This year's Christmas Lunch will be on the 7 December with venue to be decided.

**Wendy Barwick**



### News from the garden

It's been a very busy time for the last few months with everyone head down, bum up in the garden getting ready for the Spring Affair.

#### **What's new**

Our upgrade of the propagation area is nearly complete making it easier for the volunteers to work in that area

#### **Next Project**

To restore the area where the old fairy garden was. Its turned into a little tropical spot but needs a little tlc.

First up, thank you to everyone who contributed to the plant stall for the Spring Affair. We had lots of people through and it was great to get the people up into the garden and to the Potters Barn and Woodies Shed. A very successful day all around and congratulations to the organisers.

Spring has hit the gardens and everything is coming to life. Great time to take the opportunity to have a walk around and check everything out.

**Helen and the crew.**





### The Woodies

#### **Fund Raising**

The Woodies raised \$900 for the local Nelson Bay Cancer Transport Group at a Bunnings BBQ on 12th August.

Neville Stansfield, their President, was invited to morning tea, and a cheque was presented to Neville by our president Roger Delaney (picture below).

Volunteer drivers transport patients to the Newcastle Metropolitan area for cancer treatment and related doctor's appointments. It's an ancillary service for when cancer patients cannot get any other reliable form of personal transport for treatments and appointments.

We have five members who volunteer as drivers: Keith Bryars, Greg Cumberland, Dave Lingard, Allen Beard and Laurie Lawson.



we cannot take pictures of the children assembling their kits!

#### **James Crombie Memorial Award.**

Woodies sponsor the year 12 woodworking prize at Tomaree High School. This year it was won by Bianca Bragg for this beautiful desk top jewellery cabinet (picture above). The presentation was made at their Graduation and Awards Ceremony on 20 September. Bianca also excelled in Mathematics and English.

**Roger Delaney**

#### **School Projects**

Club members visited Bobs Farm in August and helped children assemble BBQ caddies and nesting boxes. There were 30 children in two groups. Then in September we visited Karingal preschool and assisted parents and grandparents, while they helped the children assemble bird feeders and nesting boxes. It was a fun event and the school supplied pumpkin soup and bread. Unfortunately

### Bonsai Group

By the time you read this newsletter we will have held our Annual Bonsai Exhibition during the long weekend in October. It is always well attended and our members have some very worthwhile trees to display.

We have had a chance to advertise our bonsai group with demonstrations being given by our members at the Art Centre Spring Fair and Bunnings.

Our trees are producing lush new growth which will require constant trimming and fertilising can begin with summer approaching. Happy Bonsaing!

**Carol**





### Fusion Group

Over September the group have been working on a challenging collaboration project. We were inspired to try this after a visit from Carole Driver to show us the work she'd created with an overseas colleague. We each started with a plain fabric to stitch, paint, stencil or whatever took our fancy, then anonymously take a different piece home and add to it. Over the month, four or five members contributed to each piece with interesting, lovely and surprising results. The group is still to decide how to display the pieces.

It's been a busy time for all of us, with travel, births, other Arts Centre business, family commitments, health issues & just life in general, distracting us from our creativity. Next month, we are doing mono-colour work and a mysterious eco dyeing project - watch this space!

**Carolyn**



Tomaree Peninsula Photography Club  
**OPEN DAY**  
10.00am till 4.00pm  
7th & 8th Oct 2023  
Soldiers Point Bowling Club, Soldiers Pt Rd  
[tpphotoclub@outlook.com](mailto:tpphotoclub@outlook.com)  
[www.tpphotoclub.org](http://www.tpphotoclub.org)

Everyone welcome.....Come along and talk to some of our club members, see some of our work and what we do at the club. We are all about learning while having fun and socializing with like minded people.



Photos taken during the Spring Affair.

