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President's Report

November 2024 is the 30th anniversary of the signing of a Sister Wetlands Agreement between the councils of Kushiro in Japan, Newcastle and Port Stephens. These councils have agreed to protect our fragile wetland environments, essential habitat for resident birds and birds migrating from the Arctic Circle during the northern hemisphere's winter. An important part of this is educating our community about the importance of the wetlands and their flora and fauna, and as a result gain support for their protection.

The Port Stephens Sister City Committee organised for Dr Alan Stuart from the Hunter Bird Observers Club to present at the Community Arts Centre on 7 May. Alan highlighted the amazing migration story providing details



of the techniques used to monitor the migration and the need to have good habitat for the birds when they arrive exhausted from their long flights.

We have been provided with access to the Hunter Bird Observer Club's library of images <https://hbc-bird-gallery.smugmug.com/HBOC-Featured-Photography-Members-Galleries> to help our artists with details for their art works.

Amanda Hyde from the Local Land Services provided two videos showing wetland habitats and the wonderful work to rehabilitate the wetlands of Ash Island and the Kooragang Wetlands, a Ramsar protected wetlands shared by Port Stephens and Newcastle Councils. These videos have been made available to the two art groups.

https://youtu.be/V_qPcbMLRXs?si=B1tXb2Z2i3hGLnwP or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp1Yso5EKDk>

Port Stephens Council called for Expressions of Interest for the art panels in the Yaccaba Street Art Walk, to be on display in November. The two artworks that we have put forward are a combined mural where 35 Monday Painters Contributed as the one entry. The Mural is now hanging in the stairwell down to the Kanimbla

Room. Four other members put forward two photographs and two paintings. A vote was held by all present in the afternoon on Monday 20th and Nada's painting received the most votes.

Meryl

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2024 WHEN THE ARTS CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED

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 - **Closed**

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

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

Pottery Groups

Show at Artisan Collective.

Our pottery member Caryl Bryars here discusses one of her distinctive ceramic bowls made at the PSAC Barn, featuring in an upcoming two person show with painter Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge, at the Artisans Collective.

Caryl's work explores her experiences of bushwalking - long distances in many countries. Her rugged pots reflect a love of the land and the geology she sets her feet upon.

Opening event is on Sunday 2nd June at 3pm, all PSAC members are invited.

Artisan Collective

Dalbora Marina

Nelson Bay

Show runs June 1st-June 30th

Carole Driver

caroledriver@gmail.com



Monday PM Watercolour Painters

What a lot of fun we have had of late experimenting with different surfaces to use when painting watercolour. Our last efforts have been on Yugo paper, this is a Japanese print paper, it has a very shiny surface where the water colours just sits on the surface and can be manipulated producing some amazing results. A couple of examples of past works are shown here.

Thank you to all our members that produced a small work to go on the painters group painting of our Wetlands that is now on display in the Westralia room. All Monday painters did a wonderful job in putting together this piece.

Now our Group is working on some great pieces to go in our Watercolour Annex exhibition in October where a great variety of works will be showcased.

Thank you Nada

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge



Garden News

All is alive and growing well in the garden. With all of the rain, we have chickweed coming up everywhere. Yummy in salads and great to make pesto with. And also great for the skin – steep it in oil out of the sun for 3-4 weeks and then strain it off. You can use it as is or make a balm from it using cocoa butter and soy or beeswax.

We have a few more helpers in the garden including young Ashton who is doing his Endeavour Awards community hours helping in our garden. His patch is to your right as you come down from the Potters barn so keep an eye out for the improvements. We also welcome back Margaret Brace who is tending our propagation area and Dave and Donna who will be looking after the front gardens.

Its time to start thinking about our Spring Fair and if you would like to contribute plants to our stall, we are happy for you to start dropping them off from now. You can leave them behind the seat at the Plant stall near the entry of the Gallery or up at the propagation area itself. If your plants are rare, can you contact me directly so I can pick them up and care for them at home until the Fair.....to keep them safe 😊



Helen Love
ph- 0415 646 060



Monday PM Mixed Media

The fantastic Wetlands Collage you all contributed to is landing a permanent spot in the Westralia Room! This is a huge accomplishment for the painting groups, showcasing the amazing talent we have here. The collage might be taking flight for a public showing soon.

Stay tuned for updates!
Please feel free to join us in the Café courtyard prior to PM painting. It is nice to have a little chat before we get down and serious with our art.
See you on Monday PM.
Bev Henry

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Gallery Manager

Sales have slowed down, but our gallery is still looking very inviting to visitors.

Just a reminder to all who sell items: please make sure you use the correct tags (knitting, pottery, craft etc), and write clearly in black pen. It pays to check your shelf items regularly to see that your tags are still in place and clear to read. Remember that all pottery, craft and knitting items should only be placed onto shelves by our display team members. There are cupboards and drawers for you to leave your new stock in. It is then checked by them before being placed in the gallery. To have faulty goods or missing tag details is not a good look!

I hope you take the time to see our newest exhibition Modern Contemporary, from 29

May as well as the featured work by Spinners & Weavers, potter Rhiane Clayton, and photographer Kay Hathway.

Diary Date: 12 noon Thursday 27 June in Manoora Room.
Come to hear and be heard with ideas for our Spring Affair in September.

Di Adamson



TUTOR TRICIA REUST - MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 17 AND SUNDAY 18 AUGUST 2024

Tricia Reust is a visual artist working in most Media. She exhibits regularly, teaches, judges competitions and is active in the arts community.

The two day workshop using texture and dry brushing in mixed media on canvas is planned for Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August and will be held in the Westralia Room.

Attendees list will be on the board in the Westralia Room the first Monday after the Newsletter is distributed, no prebooking will be available till this time. This is a new system we are trialing trying to be fair to all group members. This workshop is being subsidised by the Monday/Wednesday painting groups, total cost \$90 for regular group attendees, with a deposit of \$40 to be paid on registration or full amount may be paid on same day. Others are welcome but cost will be \$130 for the 2 days.



canvas. We will be working on two gessoed canvases, one smaller (about 10 by 12 inches or 11 by 14 inches) and one at least 24 x 30 inches. Dry brushing is a painting technique used to enhance texture. On the first day we will do some exercises to briefly cover basic texture techniques, mediums and dry brushing. We will collage and texture the canvas surfaces. On the second day we will complete the works with paint and/or dry drawing media.

Payment to be made to either Nada Yonge, Robyn Killen, Christine Leaming or Bev Henry, Monday/Wednesday Painting Group leaders.

Nada O'Loughlin-Yonge

Workshop Description: This workshop includes looking at the processes for introducing texture along with collage on

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Welcome to New Members

Over the past eight months we have welcomed 20 new members and three past members, rejoined:

Wendy Lewis (Papercraft)
Glennis Quinlan (Photography)
Yvonne Morrison (Painting)
Jill Don (Bonsai)
Penny Amberg (Bonsai)
Jill Patchett (Bonsai)
Denise White (Patchwork)
Mike Kovacs (Bonsai)
Janet Laurent (Papercraft)
Grahame Wilson (Painting)
Rosalie Kellie Landa (Painting) rejoined
Donna Tompkins (Painting) rejoined
David Tompkins (Painting) rejoined

Eliz Brooks (Painting)
Marilyn Bisset (Painting)
Peter Nosti (Painting)
Ali Checketts (Fusion)
Jopie Lampen (Papercraft)
Anne Maher (Quilting)
Joan Barber (Painting)
June Coleman (Mosaics)
Brenda Glenn (Fusion)
Janelle Boonstoppel (Craft)
Julia Wilson (Bonsai)

We welcome you all and hope you have a wonderful experience with your group and enjoy creating your art works.

Jane Parker

Social Saturdays

Everyone is welcome to come along, any time between 10am and 12:30pm. Join a workshop, or work on your latest project, or just enjoy some company.

April was a Beading get together. There were about a dozen attendees and we were all pleased with the outcome of our beading projects. May was an introduction to Macramé. You can tell by the photos that the group had a great time. The girls all brought their own craft items and created different pieces of their own making.

Coming Workshops:

15 June: Dye a Silk Scarf (cost \$20 - group is full, reserve list available)

20 July: Water Marbling on Paper (cost \$8 - vacancies)

10 August: Eco Printing (cost TBA - vacancies)

If you want to take part, add your name to the list on the Westralia Room Noticeboard. The workshops must be paid for by the Saturday before, to secure your place. See Marianne Newton for payment.



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Exhibition Team

We appreciate your continued support of our gallery exhibitions!

The hanging team is always excited to showcase fresh and captivating artwork every six weeks. To help us create the best possible exhibition, we kindly ask for your co-operation with the following:

Bring New Art! We encourage you to contribute new pieces to each exhibition.

Clearly Label Tags: Please use black pen to clearly print your tags, including the correct exhibition date 5/24.



Presentation Matters: Ensure your artwork is ready to hang securely. If your artwork is behind glass, clean for a professional presentation.

Together, we can create a vibrant and dynamic exhibition experience for everyone!

Next Exhibition

Date: 29 May to 9 July

Theme: Modern Contemporary 5/24

2 x per Artist

Cheers

Marianne, Judy, Bev and The Team.

Exploring Art/ Pastels

Wednesday 9.30 to 12.30

Recently a group of our members enjoyed getting messy with ground charcoal and erasers to produce great results!

Join us on Wednesday mornings as we explore various materials and techniques.

Christine Leaming



Monday AM Painters

With the constant wet, the coming of winter, now and then the covid virus resurfacing, together with a smashed knee and a fractured back our members have had some negativities to deal with. SO... we wish all who are not AOK a quick recovery and a speedy return to our group.

On a brighter note I am pleased to say this has not diminished the enthusiasm of our group who come to enjoy painting, a good laugh, morning tea and the sharing of painting tips which

has been known to roll into constructive critique discussion facilitating the sharing of knowledge on the subject we all love, painting.

We are pleased to welcome two new ladies as they proceed through the initial stages of life as a member of our facility.

Happy painting to all.

Robyn Killen

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

The Woodies

Morning Tea Area Grand Opening

The Woodies new morning tea area has been completed and the official opening with Kate Washington MP will be on Friday 31st May at 2.00pm. All Arts Centre members are welcome to come along, free of charge! There will be refreshments, a lucky door prize and display tables showing the work done by the Woodies

Test and Tagging

The Woodies have completed the testing and tagging of all their electrical equipment and will start on the Arts Centre equipment in July. Last year there were 250 AC items tagged, so quite a big job to organise for all groups and locations.

Our Facebook Page.



Did you see this posting on our Woodies Facebook page?



"Big thanks to the Woodies, two Bob's and one George for crafting our beautiful Easter cross! Your talent and generosity were an amazing blessing.

Love, All Saints Church, Nelson Bay."

A busy Easter boys – well done. Hope you didn't have to carry it along the via Dolorosa!

Roger Delaney



Bonsai Group

Liz completed the making of artificial rocks so we expect to see some lovely saikeis using your new rocks. We welcomed Gail and Julia to our group and hope they enjoy the experience of creating Bonsais.

Two of our members, Michelle and Jeff attended the 2024 AABC National Bonsai Convention 17-20 May at the Royal on the Park Hotel in Brisbane. They said "The demonstrations were excellent and the trees on exhibition were inspiring. See the photos of before and after bonsai creations (top right), rock making and planting (right) and a small sample of trees on exhibition (below right)".

This is the world wide **"Year of the Bonsai"**.

Reita and Carol who have had recent surgery are recovering well and hope to be back with the group soon.

Happy Bonsaing!

Carol



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Exhibition until 28 May

The newly hung exhibitions are **Flora & Fauna** and **Mixed Media**.

Flora & Fauna showcases local artists' interpretations of Fauna and Flora, celebrating the biodiversity of the region. Artists capture the vibrant essence of native wildlife and plant life. The exhibition invites viewers to immerse themselves in the beauty of Port Stephens' natural landscape.

Mixed Media – Through innovative combinations of

materials, textures, and techniques, artists explore diverse themes and narratives. This dynamic showcase offers viewers a captivating journey through layers of imagination and expression, reflecting the vibrant artistic spirit of the community.

Admission to our gallery is free. Find us at Cultural Close, off Shoal Bay Road in Nelson Bay. Gallery OPEN to the public 10-4 pm daily. Sunday hours 10am – 1pm. Don't forget to vote in the People's Choice Award when visiting. Winning each exhibition motivates our members.

Featured Artist Meri Andric



Drawn to the beauty of her surroundings since childhood, Meri Andric has always found joy in expressing herself through drawing, painting, and craft. Inspired by the ever-changing moods and textures of

experience empowered her to translate emotions and ideas into powerful visual statements. Craving further exploration, she then embarked on a Diploma of Ceramic at Gymea



landscapes, Meri's artwork is a vibrant symphony of color and atmosphere.

A restless explorer, Meri thrives on experimentation. She shifts between techniques and styles, guided by the emotions she wants to capture rather than a strict adherence to realism.



Ceramic & Design Studio, graduating in April 2022.

Her work has graced numerous group exhibitions and competitions across New South Wales and Victoria. Now residing in Nelson Bay, Meri finds a fulfilling artistic home as



marks all become tools in her artistic vocabulary, allowing her to translate inner feelings onto the canvas.

Meri's artistic journey was honed at the Nepean Art & Design Centre, where she earned her Diploma of Visual Arts. This

Lines, shapes, textures, and

a member of the Port Stephens Community Art Centre, collaborating and thriving alongside fellow creative minds.

Featured Potter

Marilyn Dawes

A lifelong love of art, particularly sculpture, drew Marilyn Dawes to pottery ever since her school days. Captivated by the watchful presence of gargoyles, she experimented with creating small-scale pieces at home. However, a move to Nelson Bay from Sydney's North Shore 12 years ago truly ignited her artistic journey.

Joining the Port Stephens Community Art Centre unlocked a world of creative possibilities. Surrounded by a supportive community of fellow artists who share her passion, Marilyn feels incredibly grateful for the chance to fully embrace her love for pottery. But the most surprising twist came from a recent family history discovery. Unearthing a lineage of potters dating back to the 1860s, Marilyn found not just ancestors, but kindred spirits – women and men who shared her artistic calling. This revelation adds a heartwarming layer to her artistic journey, a legacy now being shaped anew in Marilyn's skilled hands.



Future Calendar Date

Advance notice is hereby given for the GM and AGM to be held on 10 September 2024.

GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given to all Members that a General Meeting will be held at **11am on Tuesday 10 September 2024** in the Westralia Room, PSCAC. This meeting will be immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Agenda items for the General Meeting can be forwarded to the Secretary by 27 August 2024.

The AGM is a set agenda, so no agenda items from

members are called for.

Nominations for positions on the Committee of Management are open from 6 August 2024 until 27 August 2024. Nomination forms are available in the outer office for completion and signature and may be left in the secure Nominations box.

A list of the nominees will be placed on notice boards on 3 September 2024.

Proxy forms are available in the outer office and will also be sent to members with the Notice of the General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting.

Jane Parker
Secretary

Embroidery Group

We had three new embroiderers last week joining us to restart some of the pieces they have been gifted or catch up on embroidery skills. It was a great to welcome these keen stitchers.

I was commissioned to embroider initials on a shirt for a birthday present. The lady was very happy with the result.

Nell has been de-stashing her home and brought in some items that we all thought were well worth re-purposing or completing.

Penelope



Thursday Patchwork

Featured Patchwork Artist

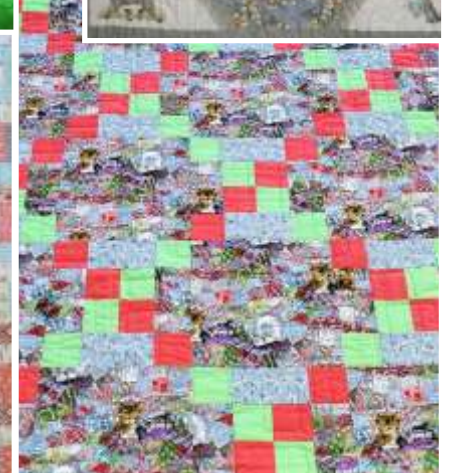
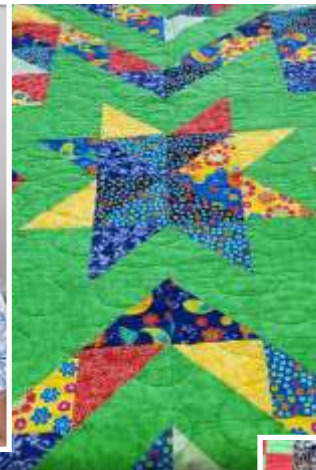
Linda Brett

Linda is a very active patchworker and has recently purchased a Gammill Quilting Machine. Since purchasing the machine Linda has been very busy producing patchwork quilts and experimenting with her equipment.

Unfinished Quilts, that have been donated to Thursday Patchwork, have been finished by Linda on her new machine. These quilts have since been placed in the centre for sale and sold. A Huge Thankyou to Linda.

Linda also has some of her own quilts on sale.

Sharon Turley



Tai Chi - Right

Taylor's Beach, Monday and Thursday, 10- 11.
We have only missed a couple of days despite some wet weather and are continuing to maintain and polish our repertoire while adding some new forms.



Plein Air - Left

Currently at beautiful Boat Harbour.
Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 12.30ish. If you would like to join us bring your chair, drink and paints, pastels etc.

Robyn Bailey

Life Drawing - Right

Friday morning 9.30 - 12.30 why not give it a go, polish your hand to eye drawing skills, try a different medium, friendly group. Cost is \$15 which pays for the model, room hire and morning tea. Life Drawing group thanks to Di Adamson for beautifully recovering our screen.

Robyn Bailey



Spinners and Weavers

The Spinners & Weavers Group have continued their program of monthly workshops with a very therapeutic session of hammered flowers on cotton shopping bags. These bags were pre-treated with an alum mordant and air dried. A selection of flowers, leaves, buds and ferns were chosen for their potential release of colour and were then hammered onto the cotton bags.

Some surprising effects and colour changes were experienced providing some interesting results, not all to do with the power of the hammering!

Melanie Delaney



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

High Tea

On the 11 May, the Café Group held our first special event of the year, a Garden High Tea.

It was wonderful to show off the fresh and brightly painted patio area even though the weather was a bit average!

We sold all the 60 pre-bought tickets and had a busy and happy day.

The event was made possible with help from so many people, including those who lent cake tiers, washed, cleaned, created, decorated, planned, promoted and of course those wonderful ladies who cooked so many delicious morsels! I must also thank Lynette who was our head server and did it all with expertise and efficiency.

The guests were a mix of members and other locals. Everyone entered through the gallery which

ensured people were reminded that there are so many wonderful creations on sale.

We hope to run some more special events later on when the weather is more suitable. We are also happy to discuss catering for workshops or functions on-site.

Antonia



Antonia, Judy, Penelope, Lisa, Madeleine

FEATURED CARD MAKER

SHIRLEY WARMAN

Shirley moved to Nelson Bay in 1998 after leaving Melbourne. She joined the Art's Centre and Papercraft Group in 2018.

Shirley had been a dress maker all her life before making porcelain dolls and paper tole pictures. A dear friend introduced Shirley to Papercraft and she started making cards in her 'spare time'.

Shirley says she loves making cards and often uses paper tole techniques in her creations. Make sure you check out Shirley's cards next to the front desk..



PAPERCRAFT

In recent weeks, we have played with shaving foam backgrounds. They are always surprising and good fun. It is great to have a large area to create these pieces with friends.

Cindy showed us how to tie bows (She admitted to plenty of practice helping her florist mum). She was certainly a lot quicker than the rest of us!

We have also introduced a new challenge format where we use a particular layout to create a card.

OUR NEXT Activities will include UNIQUE envelopes and SENTIMENTS.

Antonia



FUSION GROUP

The Fusion group continues to grow and thrive. We have welcomed two new members over the last two months - Eva and Sue who have both brought new ideas, skills, interests and energy to the group. Lesley led another eco printing session for us, which produced some lovely, moody foliage images on fabric and paper. Some of the group made chiku chiku balls based on a workshop I'd attended in Japan with Akiko Ike last year.

Group members are always free to work on their own projects, so in the last few weeks some have been creating fabric depictions of Latham's Snipe. Many were inspired by the great presentations on Wetlands Birds and the Port

Stephens-Japan Sister City group held in the Westralia room on 7 May. The story of the migrations of the snipe and other water birds to our local wetlands is extraordinary. Well done Meryl and the Board for organising this session!

Carolyn



Mosaics Group

Mosaics is coming along nicely this year. There have been several new members who are very enthusiastic and talented. We pride ourselves on having a lovely group of ladies which makes the 2nd and 4th Wednesday an absolute joy. We would also like to invite new members to join our group as we have space available.

Kim Reilly

