



PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

February 2025



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President's Report

As we embrace another vibrant year of creativity and community, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible talent and passion that thrives within our growing Arts Centre. Each of you contributes to making this a space where creativity comes alive and connections flourish.

Our groups are the heart of our Centre—friendships create a sense of community, skills are shared, and artistry is nurtured. I encourage all members to actively participate in their groups, not just as spectators but as engaged creators. No matter your craft, your involvement enriches both our community and your own creative journey.

This year, we're calling on members to share their working experiences by stepping forward as volunteers. Volunteering is an invaluable way to give back, support our operations, and ensure our Centre continues to thrive.

Since September 2024 we have been asking for a member to step up and take on the role of the **Group Liaison/WH&S position** on the committee.

We regret to inform you that Louise Leddie has resigned from her position as Treasurer due to personal reasons.

According to our constitution, the role of Treasurer is essential for the continued operation of the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre. Louise has generously agreed to remain in the role for an additional three months while we seek a replacement. The Treasurer position is supported by an efficient Finance team, and the bookkeeping tasks are managed by Connectt Total Business Solution. No accounting or bookkeeping background is required for this role—basic computer skills and the ability to manage internet

banking are sufficient. Comprehensive instructions are in place, and Louise will provide assistance and training. The role is expected to take about an hour per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact a member of the committee as soon as possible.

Sharing your expertise, your contribution will make a difference to keeping our Arts Centre functional.

I also want to motivate everyone to showcase their talents by entering one of the six categories in the upcoming Port Stephens Art Prize. In previous Port Stephens Art Prizes, our members definitely show that they hold their own in the competition. Let's make this year's Art Prize a testament to the extraordinary creativity within our community. The Art Prize is also a major fundraiser for the arts centre. Thanks for supporting the Art Prize. I will bring my computer on Mondays and every second Wednesday from 12noon during February to help anyone who is unable to use the online



application. You will need to bring the **Title, Medium, Size, Price** of each work you would like to enter as well as a credit or debit card.

Thank you for your dedication and passion. Together, let's continue to make the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre a vibrant hub of creativity and connection.

Meryl



Fusion Group

In December the Fusion Group farewelled our talented and creative member Carolyn Virgona. Carolyn has left the coast and moved to the Blue Mountains to be nearer to her son and his family.

Our Christmas function was hosted by Colleen

Malloy, in her lovely home. We used this event as a surprise farewell luncheon for Carolyn. Each fusion member made her a special gift, they were all placed in a beautiful box and presented to her at our lunch with a gorgeous



handmade card.

Our group has an interesting and varied activity plan for 2025, we want to learn new skills, be creative and have fun.

Jan O'Neal

CAFÉ NEWS

Our next high tea is an Australian-themed high tea in mid-February. Think sausage rolls, mini meat pies, mini quiche, lamingtons, mini pavlovas, custard slice, etc. Its going to be a delightful spread!!

Keep an eye out for the posters and tickets and please **SPREAD** the word to neighbours, friends and any groups you belong to.

Antonia Creese

Aussie High Tea



February 15th 2025



**10:30am to 12noon or
1pm to 2:30pm
at the Port Stephens
Community Art Centre**



**Cost: \$45 per person
Tickets available at the desk**



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Gallery Manager

Exhibition Calendar 2025/2026

The new Exhibition Calendar from March 2025 to March 2026 has been laminated and placed on the Information boards across Gallery and Barn. Also, a new and concise bookmark is available at the desk for our members and visitors. It contains relevant information and scheduled timeframes for displays throughout the Main Gallery, Annex, Special Events and Featured Artisan's/Potter's exhibits.

Miniatures

The Miniatures Exhibition was a great success. We were thrilled to receive a tremendous response from various art and craft groups showing enormous skills, enthusiasm and willingness to experiment and try something new. Hope you all enjoyed creating amazing art that blends with both traditional and modern designs.

Port Stephens Art Prize

To ensure that our Gallery is presentable for the 16th Port Stephens Art Prize, several members were gathered on two occasions and painted approximately 30 display boards. I would like to thank all volunteers for dedicating their time to help in preparation for this special event.

This bi-annual event is a great opportunity for all Art/Craft groups to showcase their best work, so I encourage you all to stock your displays with new and exciting works.

This year, we have two new categories with possibility for additional Art/Craft

groups to participate in this great event.

I would like to encourage Art/Craft groups working with fibre, clay and photography to try their luck and enter their best works. This also opens an opportunity for members to offer



their help and be involved in various tasks ensuring success of this event.

Please check the Art Prize Roster and note your name when and where you may be available to help. Your assistance is needed and would be highly appreciated.

Meri Andric



Australia Day 2025

Our thanks go to Mel Delaney and Lyn Grigor for representing us at the Nelson Bay Fly Point Australia Day event. Our new Pull up Banner was alongside and it looks fantastic!



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Painters Exhibition Team

Announcing our first 2025 Gallery Exhibition

Theme: Colour and Design

Date: Tuesday, 28 January, 2.30pm - 4.00pm (Please note the adjusted time to better suit volunteer availability)

Delivery Deadline: Monday/Tuesday before 2.30pm of hanging week
(i.e., by January 27 or 28)

Return to Hall Date: Monday, 24 March by 2.30pm

Art Prize Exhibition Hanging Volunteers:

Would you like to join a group for the upcoming Art Prize Exhibition?

A program outlining the Painting Categories is currently displayed on our notice board.

Please write your name in the appropriate section of the program to register your interest.

Art Prize Painters Category -

Group Leaders:

Mixed Media: Ileana Clarke

Port Stephens Residents: Robyn Bailey

Miniatures: Nada

Painting: Marianne, Bev

What will make the 16th Port Stephens Art Prize a roaring success? **YOU!** Let us do it together.

Following the Art Prize, we have our regular exhibitions to hang 8am Tuesday 25 March:

Gallery: Nautical 3/25 (2 paintings per artist)

Annex: Mixed Media 3/25 (2 paintings per artist)

Return: Colour and Design to Hall

We look forward to hanging your wonderful work.

Marianne and The Exhibition Team

Message from Port Stephens Art Prize Co-ordinator

Well not long, until this year's Art Prize. Everyone is getting very excited and working hard preparing their items. We have two new categories this year; Photography and Earth & Fibre, it will be a big year and quite a different look to our regular Art Prize.

Rosters have gone up in the Westralia Room. We are looking for lots of helpers, we will set up and sell raffle tickets at Salamander Shopping centre, need two people morning and two people for afternoon. All dates and information are on the boards in Westralia room. Rosters for all setting up are on both sides of the boards so check them out and get together with others and see where you can help.

We are clearing the gallery of all items late Tuesday and Wednesday morning 12 March. Arts Centre members will be able to bring their Art Prize entries in on Wednesday morning. With your help we will process them and the items will be ready for display on the Thursday, so lots of places where you can help. All other entries will be accepted on Thursday morning.

Nada O'Loughlin

16th Port Stephens Art Prize 14 – 23 March 2025



CATEGORIES:

Painting including Printmaking	Miniatures
Mixed Media	Photography
Port Stephens Residents	Earth & Fibre

All the details for:

- Entries
- Opening Night tickets
- Judging

are available at www.pscac.org.au



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GARDEN NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone from the Garden crew and may it be one of peace and happiness. Not too much to report from our end but after the recent wild weather, we are doing a lot of 'picking up sticks' and of course lots of other debris. Margaret is now revamping the propagation area and the rest of us are trying to keep up with the weeds again! Robyn has been planting out more peace lilies up the little path behind the plant stall and Wayne is going to be busy this week moving some of the lomandras off the pathways. There is always something to keep us busy!

Bottoms up from us gardeners and have a great month.

Helen Love



Pottery Groups

New Year at the Potters



Colleen Sessions, Denise Tucker and Louise Leddie are right back into the mud, which is where they like to be. Who knows what will emerge in this new year with the alchemy that is the metamorphosis of wet earth into beautiful forms and colours, both functional and sculptural. Mud, mud glorious mud!

The studio is now clean and the dreadful task of the sump accomplished! Our imaginations can now go forth uncluttered.

Carole Driver

Spinners & Weavers

Once again the Spinners & Weavers will be participating in the Australia Day celebrations at Fly Point. We are located next to Drew the shearer and his pens of woolly sheep and alpacas. As he shears the fleeces from the animals the fibre is passed to us to card and spin, then ply to create a usable ball of wool. It is a popular spot with lots of children (and adults) watching the animals lose their coats and the transformation in appearance. Its great to be part of it all.

Melanie Delaney



Mixed Media Group

As we embark on another exciting year of artistic exploration at Port Stephens Community Arts Centre (PSCAC), the Mixed Media Group is buzzing with activity and some truly inspiring projects in the works.

Mark Your Calendars:

Mixed Media Exhibition: Get ready to showcase your unique creations! Our group exhibition is scheduled for **March 25** on the annex wall. Each artist is invited to display two paintings. Need inspiration? Connect with Bev for some exciting ideas to spark your creativity.

The 16th Port Stephens Art Exhibition is Approaching!

The biennial Port Stephens Art Exhibition is just around the corner, and we encourage all members to participate.

Enter your masterpieces! Showcase your artistic talents and share your unique perspective with the wider community.

Lend a hand: Please jot your name down for one or two roster jobs to help ensure the smooth running of this prestigious exhibition.

We look forward to seeing your incredible work and enjoying the camaraderie of our vibrant artistic community.

Bev Henry

Painters Supplies in the Bay

The newsagent in Magnus Street, now carries a line of Montmartre art supplies, which they have taken over from the liquidators.

A good selection of acrylics is carried, and these include premium acrylic brand Satin acrylic. Montmartre premium brands are really quite good, obviously not Windsor and Newton quality but not bad at all and very useful for beginners, sketchbooks and journals.

The hardbound sketchbooks are also good quality and very solid and strong and you can throw a bit of water at them okay as well, also brushes are excellent if you choose well.

I think it's really good that we have these reasonably priced art supplies easily available to us. I love these materials for working out ideas and experiments - gives me freedom to not worry about using my pro materials - but still get a good result.

Carole Driver



Monday PM Watercolour Painters

Members are gradually returning to our group after the Christmas and New Year break. We have been working on paintings large and small, some for the next exhibition, some for the upcoming Art Prize and some for the sheer enjoyment of painting. It's fabulous to see such a wide variety of original paintings being produced. We are looking forward to seeing paintings from artists across the state during the Art Prize in March.

Photos of Jane Parker far right and Linda Groome near right.

Sarah Locke & Roslyn Clarke



Plein Air

We are still at Pearson Park Soldiers Point where there are plenty of subjects, marine, houses, people etc. Fay enjoying her special day. We meet Wednesday mornings 9.30 — 12.30 or later. Bring your own morning tea, hat and chair although there are tables available.

Tai Chi

We enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Salamander Hotel to round off 2024. Quite a few will be away until February but classes resumed Monday 13 January bringing two new members. Unfortunately the Thursday classes haven't been as lucky with poor weather conditions. Hopefully February and the rest of 2025 will be more favourable.

Life Drawing

17 January was to have been our first day back but the area was without power, however on 24 January classes resumed. So back in business for 2025. Sending best wishes to David and John and hope we will see you again soon.

Robyn Bailey



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP Tutor Kay McFarlane Smith



When	3 rd & 4 th May 2025	Cost	\$105.50 for PSCAC Members who attend PSCAC Painting group activities on a regular basis. \$155.50 for all other applicants
Where	Port Stephens Arts Centre Westralia Room		

Workshop Description Kay will demonstrate how to develop a landscape painting of a distant view of Gloucester Tops, with an emphasis on composition and tonal values. Atmospheric and linear perspective will also be explored.

Artist Statement



Kay began painting in the 1980's in country NSW. Her subsequent formal training included study at Charles Sturt University and the Macquarie School Bathurst as well as a number of internationally renowned artists. Kay has been painting professionally on a full-time basis since 2000 around Australia and internationally.

As a Fellow of the Royal Art Society of NSW (FRAS) she is a regular exhibitor of the Society's Lavender Bay Gallery and is a member of many Art Societies and Galleries where she exhibits her work. Her work has featured in many publications in Australia and Internationally.

Kay has been the recipient of many awards which can be viewed on her website www.kaymcfarlanesmith.com

Essentially Kay's style is impressionist, painting in a variety of media with broad subject matter including landscape, seascape, portraits and still life. With an education background, as a teacher and education consultant, Kay is a sought after art tutor in Adult Education Classes, Art Societies and private groups.

An attendance register will be located on the Painters Notice Board in the Westralia Room at the Arts Centre from the 27th January 2025. Please register your interest to attend. For further information please ring Robyn Killen - 0457 634 470.

All applicants will be contacted and those successful will be forwarded payment information and the materials list. Payment in full when requested will secure attendance at the workshop.

Come join us for this exciting experience you will be amazed at what you can create!
(This workshop is designed for Intermediate to experienced oil painters)



Thursday Patchwork Group

Welcome to the New Year and hope everyone has enjoyed the break and looking forward to trying something new in the quilting world.

Jan Sidnell has been making colourful Kawanda panels

which is an Indian quilting technique. Using scraps cut into strips and sewn traditionally onto sari backing from outside edges inwards. Strips are sewn directly onto backing (with no batting in between) with a simple running stitch. Can't wait to see this colourful quilt finished.



Wendy Nutt has just made a beautiful interactive sensory fabric book for her young grand daughter. These are just a few of the pages and I can see lots of tactile fun. I'm sure Wendy had lots of fun making it.

Our ladies are finishing off the quilts they are donating to Ronald McDonald House.

Quilts need to be in by 6 March when we will be hosting a morning tea and showing the quilts.

Anyone wishing to donate a new quilt suitable for baby through to teenager can drop off on a Thursday or come along to our morning tea.



Sally O'Neill

Monday AM Painters

Attached is a collage showing pictures of our Painting Group Members enjoying our 2024 Christmas Luncheon. This annual get together brings our various painting group members together for a little laughter, fun and more than enough to eat. For a bit of fun we had a lucky door prize and a prize for the best festive attire. Thanks to all for attending and also for dressing up for the occasion.

Now we are on the starting blocks for what will be a busy year. In March we have the "Art Prize 2025" exhibition. To



years has been instrumental in the development of our Arts Centre, for this we thank her and wish them both all the very best for the next stage of their life.

WORKSHOP

See the flyer on page 8 of the **OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP** with tutor **KAY MCFARLANE SMITH** on 3 and 4 May 2025.

Robyn Killen

have ones artwork hanging next to other people not just our Art Centre members, is a challenge as well as wonderful learning experience. Then mid June to July our group has an annex exhibition. So, what with painting for the normal Gallery Exhibition you will agree it's going to be a very busy year of painting.

Sadly, Nikki Waters one of our respected/loved painting members is leaving our shores, she and her husband are returning to England. Nikki over many



Papercraft

We finished our papercraft year in style with a lovely lunch at Nostimo (opposite the Art Centre).

Antonia Creese

Lots of chatting, secret santa as well as crafty-themed bon bons and some lovely handcrafted gifts from our members.

Our planning meeting the following week, saw most of our members continue to share the jobs around and some great ideas for workshops during the year.

We will start off February with creating different backgrounds and a special challenge!



Newcomers are always welcome!

Social Saturday

The aim of Social Saturday is to provide a relaxed and cheerful environment for all Crafts and to share your talents and learn with other likeminded people.

The Social Saturday Group continues to attract new participants, particularly for Monday to Friday workers who cannot attend the regular weekly groups. Two new participants have recently joined the Group.

Occasional workshops displaying various craft techniques were held during 2024.

They included:- Bookmaking, Paper Craft, Silk Painting, Abstract Ink Painting.

Additional Workshops will be advised for 2025.

The Social Saturday Group is from 10am to 12.30pm. All members and new interested people are welcome.

This Saturday I had a lovely surprise from my fellow artists wishing me a Happy Birthday!



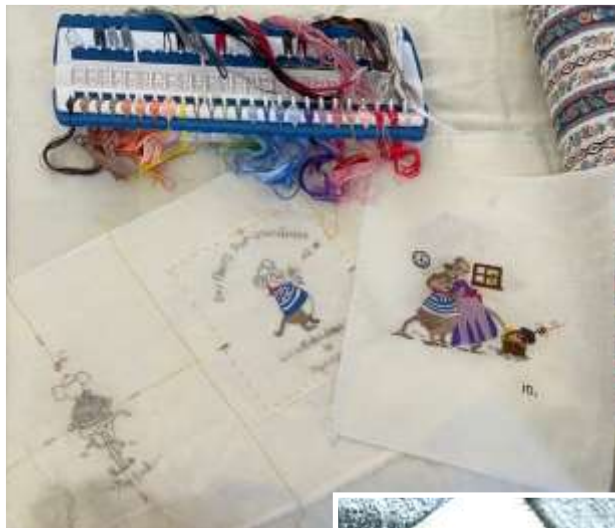
Judy Jones

Embroidery Group

We have been meeting since 10 January after our Christmas break. Due to the black-out and bad weather we all decided individually not meet last Friday. It would have been impossible for us to work on our fine embroidery without light. However did the embroiderers of the past do their work by candlelight!!

Noela has just finished a pretty cushion in crewel work, Kathy and I are still working on our *"Fleurs pour Grandmere"* embroidered book and Lyn is in the final stage of her biscornu project.

Penelope



Featured Artist Diana Atkinson



Born and educated in Wellington, New Zealand, Diana left for Europe at the age of 21. She worked and toured Europe from her London base, where she befriended many



Australians, and after two years, sailed from Southampton to Sydney.

Diana lived in Sydney, then Armidale, Trangie, Cowra, Koorawatha and Orange before she and her husband retired and settled in Port Stephens. She created a lot of pottery when living in Trangie and Cowra much to the hilarity of her family, which now adorn various gardens in those centres.

Diana has four adult children, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She took up art on her retirement.

Initially joining the Orange Art Society and taking part in their weekly water colour workshops plus alternative medium workshops around the Central West and Far West from Bathurst to Bourke.

"Art has taught me to be far more observant of the physical attributes of my surroundings and to appreciate the subtle changes in tones and colours" she says.

Diana was invited to join an eclectic group of artists in Molong, where a qualified Art Teacher tutored them in the skills of oil painting and Diana has successfully exhibited and sold a number of paintings through both private and regional art galleries. Landscapes, seascapes, portraits of people and animals have been sold around the state of NSW. When she and her husband came to Nelson Bay, Diana approached the



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre to join and is so glad she did. "Most of my new friends are through the Centre and through Probus."

Diana moved to Port Stephens in 2016 and is a member of the Port Stephens Art and Craft Society. Diana is inspired by the works of Australian Masters such as Tom Roberts,

Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton. She has now ventured into acrylics and experiments with Pastels and sketching but prefers to work with oils.

deeatkinson@bigpond.com

Featured Potter - Lorraine Edmunds

My interest in ceramics began over 45 years ago when teaching in Hamilton, New Zealand. After enrolling in a night class course and learning the basics of throwing, I bought my own wheel and was hooked.

During a holiday in Nelson Bay I met Mark, my now husband and a year later I moved here, without my wheel.

I joined the Arts Centre in 1981. It was a very small group then.

Life, work, children meant pottery was put on the back burner for 40 odd years.

Now I'm back with even more enthusiasm than before. I am enjoying the craft, companionship and guidance that this centre provides to us all.

Most of the pieces I make are domestic tableware, wheel or slab built, high fired, simply decorated and mainly using porcelain clay.



Bonsai Group

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope we are ready to have another fulfilling year at Bonsai.

Unfortunately, I have some very sad news to report – two of our loved members lost their spouse in December. Marilynne said goodbye to her beloved husband Kerry after a long illness and Steve lost the love of his life Anna after only a short illness. We offer our condolences to each of them. There will be a memorial for Anna on Friday, 7 February 2025 at 2pm at 4 The Bollard, Corlette. Please RSVP to theroyces@yahoo.com or text 0413 705 370.

Our first day back was during the blackout so no lights and worse no morning tea! Steve bravely gave a demonstration on figs and repotted and redesigned Cheryl's fig to be a credible bonsai. He also removed the arial graft he had done last November on the Ficus Benjamina at the entrance to the barn. We were suitably impressed by the amount of roots already grown and Steve potted it up and trimmed it ready to start its life towards being a bonsai.

The trip to Jilliby was postponed due to the inclement weather



so we will discuss another date at our next meeting on 5 February 2025.

Happy Bonsaing!

Carol