



PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

August 2025



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In this issue:

- President's Report
- People's Choice
- Up Coming Holidays
- Raffle Co-ordinator
- Embroidery Group
- Thursday Patchwork
- Exploring Art
- The Art of Sketchbooking
- Garden News
- Secretary News
- Tuesday Patchwork
- Gallery Manager
- Mosaics Group
- Spinners & Weavers
- Photography Group
- Mixed Media
- Papercraft
- Social Saturday
- Painters Exhibition Team
- Monday AM Painters
- Featured Artist
- Upcoming Events Flyers
- Featured Potter

Up Coming Holidays

NSW School Holidays
Monday 29 September to Friday
10 October

Monday 6 October Labour Day
GALLERY OPEN

President's Report

As we move closer to spring, I'm excited to see the synergy of all our groups coming together to present the welcoming and creative community that is PSCAC. Our upcoming events are a wonderful chance to show the wider public the diversity of talents that flourish within our Centre.

First up is **Open Week – "Step Inside Creativity!"** from Monday 4 to Saturday 9 August 2025. Across the week, visitors can meet our makers, chat with artists, and watch demonstrations from all our creative groups. From painting, patchwork, pottery, woodwork, and embroidery to bonsai, mosaics, and spinning and weaving, every corner of PSCAC will be alive with inspiration.

Open Week is about more than sharing our art—it's about welcoming the community into the heart of what we do, showing the spirit of collaboration that binds us together.

Looking ahead, our **Spring Affair** on 20 September promises to be another highlight, with all groups participating. Rosters are now available in the Westralia Room for activities on the day, so please pop in and sign up.

Together, let's continue to inspire, connect, and grow as a community that truly lives and breathes creativity.

East Asian Fly Way festival - Shorebird Migration Art Competition



Anyone interested in helping formulate a plan for an impactful East Asian Fly Way festival - Shorebird Migration Art Competition run by Port Stephens Community Arts Centre. The project will be a collaboration between PSCAC, Port Stephens Sister Cities, Port Stephens Eco Network and Hunter Bird Observers. The winning artwork will be displayed on Banners to be used in a yearly community event that celebrates the remarkable migration of shorebirds to the Mambo Wetlands. Raising awareness of threatened species and the ecological importance of the region. The annual event will be fostering community engagement with art and environmental conservation across the Tomaree Peninsula. If you would like to be part of this planning team, please contact me.

Meryl

People's Choice Award

Congratulations to Judy Jones the winner of the People's Choice Award for exhibition period ending 17 June, for her painting Floral Fantasia. It was a close run thing with multiple votes for runners up, Michelle, Christine, Nada, Diana and Moira.

Knitting and Spinning &



Weaving also featured prominently in the voting.

Desk Duty volunteers don't forget to bring the People's Choice award to the attention of our visitors – it encourages them to look at all areas of the Gallery.

Mel Delaney

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Raffle Coordinator

Thank you, Margaret Polack, for coordinating our raffles since the start of 2023.

We are looking for a volunteer to come forward to take over this role from Margaret. The role involves sourcing five items to be raffled annually, coordinating the process, displaying the items, notifying participants, and publishing the names of the winners.

Raffle Number	Time Frame
1	Mid Jan to late Feb
2	Mid-April to End May
3	Beg July to Mid-August
4	Mid Sept to End October
5	Mid November to End Dec

A big thank you to Nada for organising and coordinating the selling of raffle tickets at Salamander Bay Square for each raffle. Recently the volunteers at Salamander Bay Square sold \$160 worth of tickets in one day! Congratulations and thank you to the volunteers.

The latest Raffle is a lovely quilt donated by Thursday Patchwork Group. (photo on the next page)



Embroidery Group

Our embroidery numbers have been down because of holidays, school holiday childminding and the weather but here are some photos of completed projects and some ongoing.

Noela is very happy with this beautiful bag she embroidered (right).



And I am decorating baby bibs donated by a friend (right).

Penelope and I recently completed our Monet the Mouse books (10 pages) for our grandchildren. (below)



We were quite chuffed until we discovered Nell has made all three books in the series- such a talented lady.

Kathy Retalic



Lyn has made this Assisi needle case (left). And is currently

working on a very interesting Indian Kantha sample piece (right).

Sharon is perfecting leaves in her embroidery (below).



Thursday Patchwork Group

Thursday group hosted The Biggest Morning Tea on June 19. It was an enjoyable morning with lots of delicious food and great company. We were so happy to have Christine Byrne come along as a special guest. Christine brought along some of her beautiful quilts to show. Think we all got a little inspiration from her lovely work. We raised \$367.00 for cancer and thank you to everyone who donated.



Our ladies have made a lap quilt for the current raffle for the Art Centre (above). Tickets are on sale now so don't miss out.

Linda Brett has been busy making a few quilts of late. She made a beautiful scrappy quilt from donated fabric (right). Then she did an Apple Core lap quilt that she donated to Regis Nursing Home as a raffles prize for their Biggest Morning Tea. (far right)

Wendy Nutt brought in a very large modern quilt that she finally finished and was beautifully quilted by Linda (bottom right).



Sally O'Neill

Exploring Art

Using a photo reference, we explored drawing the face with graphite and charcoal with very pleasing results.

Christine Leaming



THE ART OF SKETCHBOOKING

At the beginning of July we invited Amanda McLean, a pastellists and sketchbooker, to run a workshop at our Art Centre. Sketchbooking is a valuable aid to our art



sketchbooks. The workshop was fully subscribed and the tutor has expressed interest in returning next year!



practice as it is a record of plein air and travel moments which can then be expanded into a future work of art.

We learnt pen and ink techniques along with using watercolour and gouache to illustrate in our toned paper

Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Garden News

Spring is just around the corner and, with all of the rain we have had in the recent months, I expect lots of bulbs and blooms appearing soon. Our big, beautiful wattle at the propagation area is about to burst into colour. Make sure you check it out this year and let's hope we get lots of bees.

Our Spring Affair is just under a couple of months away so we will be busy composting then mulching the gardens to get everything looking spiffy! If anyone has any healthy plants they want to donate for the stall, you can leave them up at our propagation area or in the garden in front of #2 store room downstairs. We very much appreciate the donations our members give us. It keeps our little stall in stock with lots of different plants.

Thank you everyone and if anyone wants to join our garden group, please call me on 0415 646 060.

Helen Love



Secretary News

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kim Ainsworth, Sue Bray, Annette Brittain, Marisa French, Karen Groening, Neil Hall, Liz Herring, Jennifer Jenkinson, Gerry North, Sue Patterson, Jane Thomsen, Louise Salvage, Julie Sattout, Barbara Wiggins and Robbi Wymer.

All members - Please assist and mentor our new members so they can enjoy interacting socially as well as creatively within our many groups.

REMINDERS - Special General Meeting to consider Constitution 14 August 2025 11am Kanimbla room.

Membership Renewals were due 1 July 2025. It's not too late – please renew now!

IN MEMORIAM: Remembering our members Cynthia Curtayne, Janet Laurent and Pam Tate and their contributions to our Arts Centre recently and in the past. Our special thoughts are with their families and friends.

Jane Parker

Tuesday Patchwork Group

Photo of some of our group being productive. Two in the photo have now left (below).

Anne with her completed quilt made for her great granddaughter (right).

Wendy Harvey



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Gallery Manager

Spring Affair

I would like to thank all groups that are contributing to our annual event - Spring Affair 2025, scheduled for Saturday 20 September 2025.

Please check the proposed activities and roster sheets available in front of the Westralia Room.

Join us in celebrating our diversity and creativity.

Call for Creative Ideas and Participation

The preparations for the Exhibition Calendar for 2026/2027 will commence in October this year.

Each group is encouraged to consider this opportunity to display their craft/art either in the Annex area or as a Special Event.

Also, individual members are welcome to apply to display their creations in the Featured sections.

The applications will be open from September 2025.

Dates for the Diary to October 2025

Annex Display

30 Jul - 09 Sep Watercolour PM Painters

10 Sep - 30 Oct Clay on the Wall

Special Events

30 Jul - 09 Sep Mosaic Pots

20 Sep Spring Affair

04 - 06 Oct Bonsai Exhibition

Your creativity is a gift that inspires and touches peoples lives.

Meri Andric



Mosaics Group

Hoping the weather improves but I guess this is winter, although spring is just around the corner.

The **Mosaic Pots** display on till the next changeover near the Annex room, features many different types of pots from our talented mosaic artists. Many sizes, colours and designs are being exhibited.

We've had a number of new people join our group which is always wonderful. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 9.30 to 12.00 or so. Our group work well together and help and encourage each other with their projects. People are more than welcome to pop up to the barn on our days to see how we work.

Kim Reilly



Spinners & Weavers

We have been enjoying some more dyeing- lots of lovely colours.

We recently celebrated Lyn Grigor's special birthday with a morning tea followed by lunch at the Diggers.

Helen Diemar



Photography Group

The small photography group has made some changes to their exhibition spaces. We have given up the hall space to accommodate more paintings and now have a new exhibition board between the Manoora and Westralia Rooms.

The display stand for unframed photographs has been removed and we are hoping for a small 'concertina' type display, more in keeping with commercial art gallery practice. This space now looks cleaner and clearer, and hopefully attracts attention as visitors move down the hallway. The Annex corner space remains in place. This is a very small group and does not meet as other groups do.

Kay Hathway



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Monday PM Watercolour Painters

Monday Afternoon watercolour attendance has been really good, however a few have taken time off for travel, including Sarah Locke our group Leader. The Watercolour group will be

having an Exhibition in the Annex from 30 July to 9 Sept 2025. Up to three small framed paintings and three mounts.

Happy painting

Roslyn Clarke



Mixed Media Group

The Heart of Monday PM Mixed Media Group:

The Monday PM Mixed Media Group, under the invaluable guidance of Bev, offers a truly special and productive space for its members. Each week, attendees consistently express the profound impact these art sessions have on them.

Bev's selfless dedication and generous contribution of her time and energy are the cornerstones of this group's success. Her commitment fosters an environment where individuals can freely explore their creativity and develop their artistic skills.

The personal achievements of those who regularly attend are clear to see, reflecting the tangible benefits derived from their participation.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Bev and PSCAC for creating and maintaining such a wonderfully productive and enriching space for all.

The following comments are from regular attendees -

What do you LOVE about Monday PM Mixed Media Group?

- Wonderful place to share ideas and meet new people.
- Lovely people, helpful and talented.
- Inspiring group who love creating together.
- Always enjoy - everyone helps and are very friendly.
- I love the calm and creative energy which fills the room each Monday.

- I love the companionship and friendliness and help with my paintings.
- Its a wonderful atmosphere to share ideas in friendship.
- Its an amazingly warm and friendly group with plenty of chirpy banter and laughter.
- I like this afternoons' group because it makes me feel peaceful and happy.
- Its relaxing and fun with friendship.
- Wonderful Bev - Inspirational! Wonderful People - my happy place.
- The camaraderie along with Bev's talented instruction gives me the opportunity to express myself through Art (mixed media).
- Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful.
- Love Bev's mentoring and positivity. It's why I keep returning.
- Nice to share ideas with others.

Such a wonderful and relaxed atmosphere. The perfect opportunity to indulge yourself in art. Thank you to Bev and the entire group.

Marianne Newton

Papercraft

As the days have cooled a little, the papercrafters have relocated into the cosiness of the Manoora Room. However our last challenge in the Westralia Room was to make tiered fold boxes. A wonderful gift and container all in one! The fun now comes in deciding who might be the receiver of this clever invention, and what might it contain? Chocolates, jewellery (we wish!) or bric-a-brac (and we all have plenty of that!)? We all had to concentrate, but it was an enjoyable, albeit quiet, afternoon!

Antonia Creese



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Social Saturday

An Emu Egg Painting Workshop was conducted by Judy Jones in July with 10 people attending. There were a variety of designs including Flowers, Owls, Eagles, Butterflies and Abstract designs. The finished Eggs were mounted in Display Boxes to take home.

The next Workshop is 'Making a Paper Note Book'. The facilitator will be Wendy Lane.

The Workshop will be in the Kanimbla Room on Saturday 23rd August, 10am to 1.00 pm.

Congratulations to Susan Zhou for selling her '**Garden**' painting in the last exhibition.

New Members are always

welcome.
Contact Judy Jones or just come and join us.

Judy Jones



Painters Exhibition Team

This "Environment" exhibition is more than just art; it's an invitation to consider our planet. It highlights the incredible imagination within PSCAC, offering fresh, engaging ways for visitors to appreciate what our world offers and reflect on our connection to it.

From detailed miniature worlds to powerful pieces, the art inspires us to value nature's beauty and gifts. These works have encouraged thoughtful living and a deeper bond with our environment.

This theme has not only pushed our artists but also sparked

meaningful conversations about our place in the world. The positive response shows the exhibition is truly resonating, encouraging a more appreciative and considerate view of our environment.

Ultimately, this successful show underscores PSCAC's commitment to nurturing creativity and providing thought-provoking experiences that go beyond the canvas.

Thank you once again, to our dedicated team who bring each Exhibition to life for everyone to enjoy.

Marianne and The Team



Monday AM Painters

We are all enjoying our very friendly mornings painting and chatting. As the Oil workshop was deferred, everyone enjoyed a day painting landscapes with Robyn and they are looking forward to the workshop with Kay McFarlane-Smith in August.

I would like to welcome our new members Michelle, Amanda and Robbie. Our little Kindergarten Children are coming on Mon. 28th July. That's always a lot of fun.

Maira Coulston

Featured Artist - Carol Young –

Carol was born in South America, grew up in East Africa until 10 years old and then moved to the UK.

Carol trained as a registered nurse in London and moved to Melbourne in 1985. She married in 1987, has three children and one grandchild. Carol moved to Sydney in 1997 and then to Brisbane in 2002 with the family.

Carol has always been involved in craft activities including ceramics, scrap booking, card making, sewing and knitting.

Carol moved to Fingal Bay in 2016 with her husband, discovered the art centre and began watercolour painting under the tutorage of Nada Younge. As a painter she continues to learn constantly, attending workshops wherever possible.

Now retired she is trying to spend more time on her art.

She loves painting a variety of subjects including wildlife, fauna, & local scenes of Port Stephens.



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Newsletter

Port Stephens
Community Arts Centre

Presents

ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

4th 5th 6th October

Demonstrations:

Steve Royce Saturday 11am
Melanie Delaney Sunday 11am

Trees for Sale

Raffle

Café Open

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 2pm

Don't
miss it!

The Details:

Open Saturday 4th 10am – 4pm

Sunday 5th 10am – 4pm

Monday 6th 10am – 2:30pm

Free Parking & Free Entry



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre
Cultural Close, Nelson Bay (up the hill behind the oval)
For further details contact Michelle at
secretarybonsai@gmail.com



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre
Cultural Close off 100 Shoal Bay Road Nelson Bay

Step Inside Creativity!

Open Week · Monday 4 – Saturday 9 August 2025

Drop in, watch our members at work, and discover
a community that lives and breathes creativity.

We'll be delighted to welcome you.
Come and experience what we do –
perhaps you'll be inspired to join us.



What's on

Monday 4 August	General Painters Mixed Media Painters Watercolour Painters	10:30am – 12 noon 1pm – 3pm
Tuesday 5 August	Patchwork & Quilting Pottery Woodwork	10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon
Wednesday 6 August	Exploring Art & Pastels Fusion (Creative Textiles) Bonsai Mosaics	10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon
Thursday 7 August	Spinning & Weaving Patchwork Papercraft / Card Making	10:30 am – 12 noon 1pm – 3pm
Friday 8 August	Pottery Embroidery Pottery	10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon
Saturday 9 August	Life Drawing Social Saturdays (various arts & crafts)	10:30 am – 12 noon 10:30 am – 12 noon

Meet the Makers – Chat with painters, potters, quilters and more.

Hands-On Inspiration – Watch members at work, and pick up fresh ideas.

Start your visit at the **Gallery sales desk**—our friendly volunteers
will guide you to whichever work area interests you most.



Port Stephens Community Arts Centre
Cultural Close Nelson Bay (up the hill from Bill Strong Oval)

Spring Affair

Saturday 20 September 10am – 3pm

Arts Crafts Plants
Café BBQ Cakes

Try our free creative activities
for
adults and children

Look for the *Pink Ticket specials* on sale in the workrooms

We have 18 different creative groups
Come and meet the makers



Featured Potter - Janet McDonell

I moved to the Bay in 2020 to enjoy my retirement and was immediately drawn to the welcoming and friendly community. I've always enjoyed dabbling in arts and crafts, so discovering the PSCAC Art Centre was a wonderful surprise.

I soon joined the pottery group led by Michael. It is a warm, supportive, and inspiring group where everyone is happy to share ideas and techniques. Pottery has become a deeply satisfying creative outlet for me. There's something magical about shaping a simple block of clay into something beautiful and useful. I'm always learning, and that keeps the experience fresh and exciting.

I truly love it, and I hope you enjoy our displays as much as I've enjoyed creating them.

