

PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

August 2026



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President's Report

A Huge Thank You!

A sincere thanks to everyone who lent a hand with the recent clean-up of the Gumleaf Studio. Having a fresh, decluttered space makes such a wonderful difference to our working environment and creative flow. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to take on an extra desk duty shift each month. Having three people rostered on each shift makes a tremendous difference, ensuring our gallery doors can stay open even when unexpected absences occur. The Gallery is a vital cornerstone of culture and tourism in Port Stephens, and your dedication ensures we can continue showcasing our region's extraordinary talent to every visitor who walks through our doors.

Gumleaf Studio Security Update

The Gumleaf Studio has now been fully connected to the main Gallery alarm system. The studio features its own separate alarm keypad, and each group using the space will be issued a unique code to disarm and set the alarm. Further details on operating procedures and code distribution will be shared with group leaders shortly.

Looking to the Future: A Call for Our Next Vice President

As we prepare for our Annual General Meeting, I want to invite you to consider an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of our vibrant Centre.

We are actively seeking a new committee member to step into the role of Vice President, with a view to transitioning into the Presidency in September 2027.

Being part of the committee is a wonderful chance to bring fresh ideas, spark new creative directions, and fulfill a leadership role that directly supports and enriches the lives of our members. Stepping into the Vice President role now offers a smooth, supportive runway to learn the ropes alongside our dedicated team before taking on the President's mantle next year.

If you are passionate about the arts, care deeply about our community, and want to make a lasting, positive impact, we would love to have your voice at the table.

If you are interested or would like to have an informal chat about what the role involves, please feel free to reach out to me directly or speak with any member of the current committee. Together, let's ensure the Centre continues to thrive for years to come! The Arts Centre cannot survive without a full functioning committee.

Save the Date: Port Stephens Art Prize 2027!

Mark your calendars! The Port Stephens Art Prize will be running from 5th March to 21st March 2027. It's time to get those creative juices flowing—whatever your 2D medium of choice, there will be a category for your artwork!

We are currently securing prize sponsorships across our six competition categories. If you know of a local business or contact who might be interested in supporting this flagship event, please reach out to Meryl or Jane. Let's make the 2027 Art Prize our best one yet!

Meryl

NSW School Holidays:

**Spring: Monday 28 September 2026
to Friday, 9 October 2026.**

**Daylight Saving starts –
Sunday 4 October 2026.**

East Asian Australasian Flyway Art Competition: Banners for Migratory Birds

Following the 31 July closing date, all entries will be submitted to our judging panel. In an exciting international collaboration, our Sister Wetland partners in Kushiro, Japan, have invited their local community to participate in the judging process, allowing your artwork to be shared with a global audience.

You're Invited: Winners' Announcement & Community Day

We warmly invite you to join us for the official presentation and a celebration of our local environment.

- **When:** Sunday, 13th September 2026 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Prizes presented at 12:00 noon)
- **Where:** Roy Wood Reserve, Corlette

Event Highlights:

- **Art & Nature Displays:** View a showcase of the winning entries alongside an educational display tent hosted by National Parks & Wildlife.
- **Birdwatching:** Join the Hunter Bird Observers Club for guided shorebird spotting along the beautiful waterfront.
- **Charity Lunch:** Enjoy a delicious lunch provided by the Marine Rescue Food Truck, with all proceeds directly supporting Marine Rescue's vital work.

Parking Information: Parking is limited inside Roy Wood Reserve carpark. If the lot is full, we highly recommend parking along the waterfront side of Sandy Point Road.

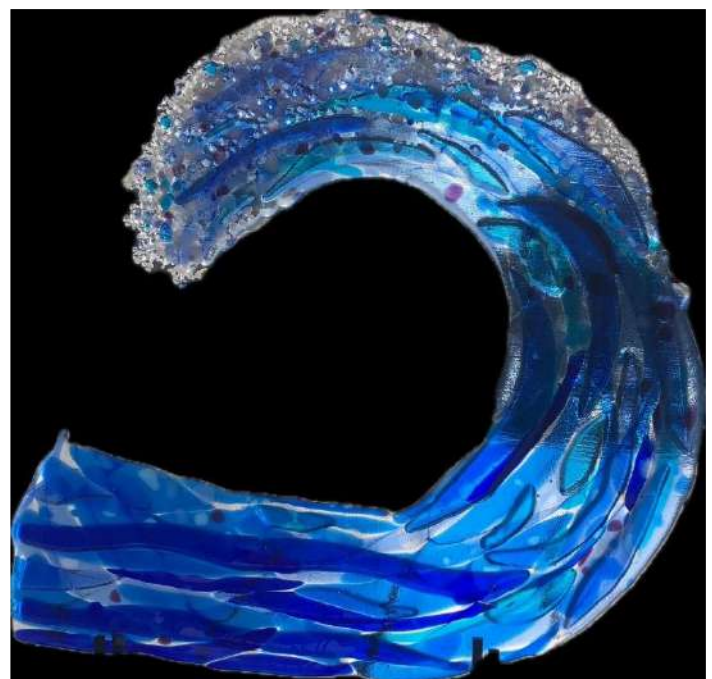
We look forward to celebrating with you on 13 September, and to seeing the winning entries.

People's Choice

Congratulations to Francine Inglis winner of the People's Choice for her beautiful quilt **'Edenvale Mystic Morning'** (bottom left) with four votes, as part of the Fibre to the Thread exhibition. Runners up were Meri Andric with the **'Journey of the Dragonfly'** and Kathryn Davies with her quilt. There were also multiple votes for different items by Wendy Barwick and Tracey Tancred. A total of thirty votes were counted across all the fibre groups.

For the second display period **'Botanicals'** ending on 21 July our winner is Yvonne Morrison with six votes, for her painting **'In the Woods'** (below). Runner up was Gay Stehr with four votes for **'Glass Wave'** (bottom right), followed by Metta Henderson with multiple votes for different items as part of the 3D featured artist. There were a whopping total of eighty-five votes across nearly every group including Polymer Clay – Donna they loved your Giraffe earrings!

Melanie Delaney



Social Saturday

Social Saturday attendance continues to grow with members enjoying the relaxed environment and variety of activities. There's no fixed format and people bring along their own craft skills. In addition, Special Workshops are arranged for members of our Gallery groups to showcase their individual craft.

Last Month Judy Jones facilitated a Workshop focused on transforming **'Old to New'** items. These ranged from recovering a jewellery box, mosaic on an old plant pot (below right), decorating ballet slippers (top right) and covering wooden boxes with paper flowers (far right).

On Saturday 8 August Tom Godfrey will be facilitating a **'Watercolour Workshop'**. This has been so popular that all places have now been filled.

A **'Decoupage Workshop'** making Christmas Coasters will be facilitated by Ruth Conley on 5 and 12 of September. This Workshop will also have limited numbers and has a cost of \$10 to cover materials. Further information will be on the Notice Board shortly.

We always welcome new members to join us on Social Saturday.

Judy Jones



Papercraft

Our theme for July has been making cards and goodies for the Spring Affair (right). Here are some of the wonderful easel cards that will feature on our stand (below). In August we plan to make a headstart on Christmas cards.

Antonia Creese



Creative Crawl Competition

The Creative Crawl Competition was very successful with plenty of visitors and members taking part. Many local people have now been introduced to the numerous small creative outlets in our area. The competition winners were: Cara Edgerton - Moonshadow Cruise; Margaret Gardiner - Little Beach Boathouse; Peter Donaldson - Little Beach Boathouse; Rose Zhang - \$250 voucher. Thanks to Alison Rogers from Reader's Retreat for instigating this venture.

Di Adamson

Painters Exhibition Team

Black & White Exhibition

A huge congratulations to our members exhibiting during the Black and White Exhibition! The artwork on display is truly amazing—each piece brilliantly explores depth, tonal range, and texture.

Reminder - please do not remove any paintings from the walls. Members can collect their paintings from the storeroom only. Each Exhibition remains in place until the formal changeover occurs. See Painters Exhibition Yearly Planner.

Important Note from Leadership

On a more serious note, I would like to address a few matters that have raised concern among some of our members:

- **Hanging Team Volunteers:** We are in need of more permanent helpers to assist with artwork hanging. If you can lend a hand, your help would be immensely appreciated! Refer to Exhibition Planner for dates to commit.
- **Working with Team Leaders:** Please ensure you are following the guidance of your assigned Team Leader in all aspects of PSCAC operations. Team Leaders carry the responsibility of executing a structured plan to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- **Respectful Communication:** If you ever have questions, concerns, or disagreements regarding decisions made by your Team Leader, please discuss them respectfully in a private area of the Arts Centre.
- **Upholding Our Image:** We frequently have visitors and members of the public throughout the Centre. It is vital that we maintain a welcoming, professional atmosphere and uphold our strong reputation within the community.

Team Leaders give their absolute best to make PSCAC a welcoming place. Let's support one another and continue working together with mutual respect and teamwork!

Marianne Newton



Secretary's Desk

A Warm Welcome to our new bunch of Members:

Linda Jury, Sarah Tong, Lynda Peterson, Carly Lines, Jean Richardson, Victoria Silva Moreno, Joel Crowther, Katrina Mason, Daina Abbott, Judy Cresp, Linda Lees.

Membership Renewals: Just a reminder renewal invoices were sent out on 4 June and were payable 1 July. If you haven't already renewed, please pay as soon as possible so you can continue your creative journey with our wonderful artistic community. If you can't locate your invoice or need to change your contact details, please email admin@pscac.org.au and we can send you another copy.

General Meeting and Annual General Meeting: Save the date Thursday 1 October 2026 from 10 a.m.

Jane Parker



Mosaics Group

Mosaics is going along very well with a few new members but unfortunately, we have lost a couple of our members due to health reasons. We also have a few ladies travelling overseas to warmer climate.

Madeleine Quinlan and I have been working on the Gumleaf Studio mosaic sign (right) to be erected in the next couple of days. This was quite a project and took many hours/days to complete. We hope you'll pop up and view the sign and visit us.

We are preparing for our exhibition which won't be held until January 2027 but as several of us are travelling overseas and caravanning, we need to start on these projects now.

Here's hoping the warmer weather commences soon as working in the Gumleaf Studio can be rather fresh at times.

A reminder that we are at the Studio every second and fourth Wednesday, from 9.30 to 12.00.

Kim Reilly



Tuesday Patchwork Group

We have had an increase in numbers as some of the Monday crafters have joined us. Welcome to those ladies, you have brought with you a wealth of experiences for us to share.

We hosted the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea in June, along with the Thursday Patchwork group. We had approx. 37 attendees and we raised a total of \$432 for the Cancer Council, a great result for a couple of hours of friendship.

Wendy Harvey

Thursday Patchwork

Our ladies have been doing a few different things over the last couple of months. Linda has finished two quilt tops, and a few have been doing some English piecing, Sashiko and Embroidery blocks.

Three ladies have finished their quilted jackets (right) and a couple are still in progress.

Sally O'Neill



Garden Group

Our beautiful Wattle is about to burst into flower especially after the rain. Make sure you check it out over the next few weeks.

It's that time of year that we are collecting plants for our annual Spring Affair so if you have any potted, healthy good plants that you can donate, give me a call and we can organize a drop off – 0415646060.

Helen Love



Woodies

Woodies held their AGM on 14 July with 16 people attending. The Executive Committee were re-elected unchanged as:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • President | Len Lollback |
| • Vice President | Graham Miller |
| • Treasurer | Keith Bryars |
| • Secretary | Ros Leitch |
| • Workshop Manager | Greg Cumberland |
| • Publicity & Community Liaison | Rod Wither |
| • Elected Member 1 | Roger Delaney |
| • Elected Member 2 | Geoff McClelland |

The Club has nearly 80 members and the meeting agreed to increase the annual fees to \$50 and the daily fee to \$3.

It was another busy year with the most notable achievements being:

- Massively increased timber storage downstairs
- New kitchen installed by members
- Improved tool room storage
- Improved dust management
- Improved security with 5 high-definition cameras
- Improved insurance cover through the Australian Men's Shed Association.
- Working with local school and charities and, for the first time, with National Parks.

Roger Delaney

Exploring Art/Pastels

July has been all about exploring surface techniques to form a background on which to apply Pastels.

We have used inks, acrylics, watercolours, stencils, alcohol, moulding paste, pumice gel and Pan Pastels on the substrates of Pastelmat, Mountboard, Colorfix pastel paper and watercolour paper.

These experiments teach us new boundaries as can be seen from the samples, and resources which can be adopted in our future artwork.

Christine Leaming

Watercolour Group

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Jean and Judy who have recently joined our Watercolour Group. It's wonderful to see our group expanding with new members and to have most of our current members return after sickness, travel and family commitments. The room is a hive of activity once more.

On a sunny afternoon in July, a few of us embarked on a Creative Crawl in lieu of our usual painting session. We visited Lion Studio, Port Stephens Pottery, Sensory Art Studio, Artisan Collective and of course we finished the afternoon off with the obligatory coffee and cake! Not only was it a great experience to see these local venues right here on our doorstep, but it was also a fun way to learn more about each other. If you are intending to visit the places in the Creative Crawl Passbook, check opening hours as several are closed on Mondays.

Sarah Locke & Roslyn Clarke

Spinning and Weaving Group

The Spinners and Weavers have been busy working on individual projects during the winter months. Helen has started to spin some white Samoyed dog hair (right) given to her by a friend with these pet dogs. We are interested to see what she will make with this yarn. Tracey has been busy dyeing her hand spun yarn (far right), for a Sock-Knit-Along, and has also made a beautiful cowl in a floral pattern in double knitting from hand spun, hand dyed wool (right). Mel has been busy getting ready for her exhibition as featured 3D artist which is now up in the gallery. Our group has been very happy to welcome a new member Elitta to our group. Elita is a former spinner and is brushing up her skills.



Monday PM Mixed Media Group

As we head into the cooler months of winter, we are so lucky to have such a warm, friendly and inspiring space to gather. Thank you all for making this group an absolute pleasure to lead!

Spring Affair Art Donation Request

We are officially working towards our annual Spring Affair on 29 August!

To help support the ongoing running of our Centre, we would be incredibly grateful for your donated artworks.

- Price clearly marked: Up to \$100
- Size: Approx. A4
- Medium: Any medium
- Format: Framed or unframed
- Labelling: Please ensure your artwork has pink labels attached for donation reference.

Upcoming Social Saturday Workshop

I am planning to host a Large Canvas Abstract Workshop on an upcoming Social Saturday!

If you are interested? Please see Judy for further details and to express your interest.

Bev Henry

The Potters Groups

The Great Gumleaf Studio Cleanout!

Our big news is the huge cleanup and chuck out at the Gumleaf Studio, organised by the Potters' Groups at the end of June.

This was literally the cleaning of the Augean stables—a Herculean task undertaken by all three of the Potters' Groups over several days. Decades of stuff sorted and inspected, hefted and chucked, and what's left scrubbed to within an inch of its life.

Our workspace now sparkles, reinvigorates, and inspires us all!

Heroes Everywhere!

As you can see, there were heroes everywhere:

Masked crusaders washing the glaze pots and sorting the library. (top right and above right)

Brett up in the ceiling. (right)

John tromping in the skip. (far right)

...and Dave has found a new hobby! (right)

Photos by Julia Glendenning and Colleen Sessions.

Carole Driver

Plein Air

Plein air has been plagued by bad weather and poor health, so I will post new venue on notice board when we are ready to restart.

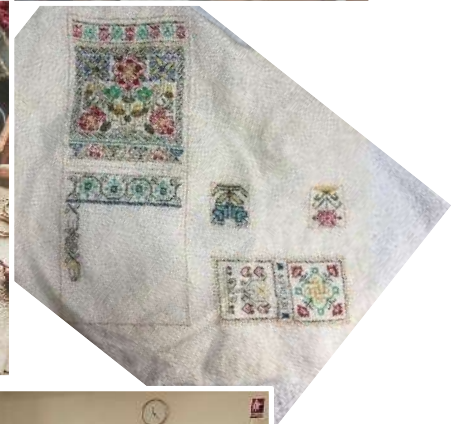
Robyn Bailey



Embroidery Group

A group of the Embroiderers had a three-day retreat at Tocal in June (photo top right). We all enjoyed the experience and did a lot of work. The item we are working on is a Stuart Reticule from the Inspirations Magazine. The project is worked with many different stitches on linen and contains a scissors fob, needle book, and a small bag (Photo of the finished project and my work in progress). Noela made a lovely duck shaped and embroidered door stop, that had already sold before I could get a photo!

Penelope Highland



Karingal Pre-School Visit

On the 22 June, members of the Monday AM painting group welcomed our Karingal Pre School friends for their annual visit to our Arts Centre.

It is a joy to meet them at our front door and to see their beautiful faces full of anticipation and wonder.

The children separate into groups so all can visit the garden /fairy garden the gallery and do some painting with us in the Westralia room. Yes, it's a wonderful adventure to see what older people do.

When painting, the children need no instruction just positive encouragement and soon their A3 pages fill with colourful abstract creations. They are always so proud of their work, especially when we deliver it to Karingal the next day.

It never fails to amaze me how their unblemished imagination combined with natural ability result in beautiful creations. The next generation of artisans in our area able to express their artistic creativity is well covered. We look forward to welcoming the Karingal again next year.

Robyn Killen



Fusion Group

Most of our past Month has been sorting textiles, beads, tapestries etc that have been donated from deceased estates or crafters downsizing. It is sorted and re-homed to individuals, the Sewing Basket, Days for Girls, Vinnies etc with the balance (deemed unworkable) to Textile Problem Waste at Salamander Bay.

Our project for the month was making tassels. Antonia made some cute little red ones for Christmas decorations, and another example in plain white, with others used on items in the Fusion room.

Colleen Maloy & Sue Emmerson



Bonsai Group

Our membership continues to grow, and our newest member is Joel Crowther who is a very experienced bonsaier having had tuition with Hugh Grant so welcome Joel.

At our first meeting in July, we had a demonstration on wiring by Jeff Bird and Joel Crowther, they made it look so easy – Jeff with his “creative wiring” and Joel with more traditional wiring.

We are coming into the busiest time of year with re-potting about to be in full swing and now the deciduous trees have lost their leaves we can see their structure and correct any faults before the new leaves come out.

Happy Bonsaiing

Carol Rigby

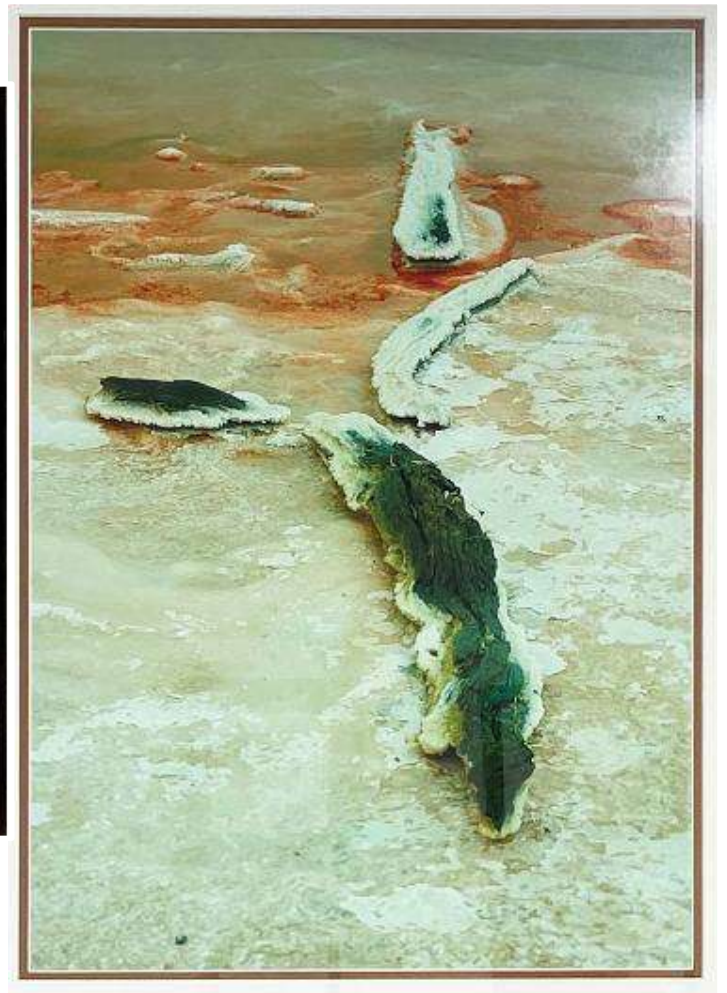
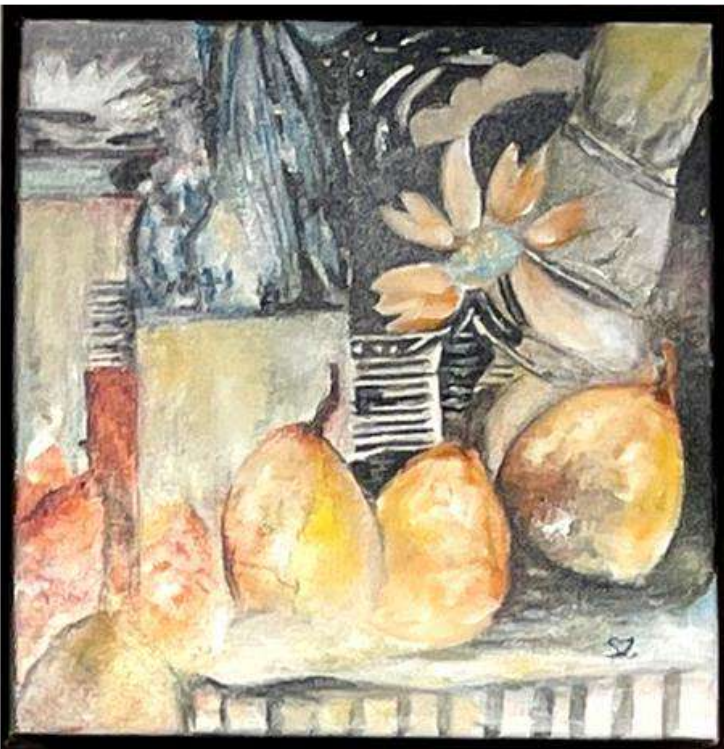


Featured Artist – Susan Zhou

Susan is an Artist residing in Salamander Bay NSW, who has a lifelong passion for art.

A skilled photographer and graduate in graphic art design. She spent over a decade collaborating with a fashion designers and Pattern Makers. Her primary interests lie in seascapes, landscapes and photography.

Painting has recently become her new passion which began years ago. She draws her inspiration from the natural world which is vividly reflected in her work. Her collection features stunning colourful depictions of oceans, mountains, birds and flowers. Crafted using a variety of mediums including Watercolour, Acrylic, and Cold Wax.



3D Artist - Melanie Delaney

After many years working in IT and several years out of the workforce raising children, Melanie decided on a career change. A Diploma of Horticulture (Landscape Design) and a Certificate of Construction at Ryde TAFE provided the opportunity to start her own business and follow her lifelong interest in gardening and horticulture.

In 2004 Melanie was invited by Gardening Australia, along with two other Ryde graduates to design and construct a Show Garden at the up-and-coming Gardening Australia Live show at Homebush. The subject was Peter Cundell's Favorite Plants, a recently published Gardening Australia magazine article. They were awarded the Bronze Medal, competing against many well-known landscape designers.

Melanie's interest in bonsai was sparked by a client commission to design and construct a Japanese courtyard garden, incorporating several bonsai. Melanie then joined the local Bonsai Study group and was fortunate to be tutored by Elizabeth Simenoff, a pioneer of bonsai in Australia. Subsequent visits to Japan and the bonsai pine nurseries of Takamatsu have followed.

An increasing interest in using Australian native plants has resulted in many different species being styled as bonsai, providing plant material more suited to our climate and uniquely Australian.

In 2014 Melanie moved to Nelson Bay and joined Port Stephens Community Art Centre, where she participates in both the Bonsai and Spinning and Weaving Groups. Melanie says, 'It has been a great opportunity to work with many talented and creative people with shared interests. Samples of her work are illustrated here.'



Meet the Maker

Metta Henderson held her 3-D exhibition at the gallery during July. Her Meet the Maker session was very informative, and well supported by a number of visitors and members. Metta is such a creative, multi-skilled person who is keen to share her skills with others.



Come and meet the makers from our many art and craft groups

Café morning tea & snacks Demonstrations Activities
Cake Stall Raffles Plant Sales Pink Ticket Specials

Cultural Close, off Shoal Bay Road, Nelson Bay
Free entry Free parking Details at www.pscac.org.au



Spring Affair - 2026

GROUP	LOCATION	DISPLAY	ACTIVITY	TIME
Bonsai	Gumleaf Studio	Trees on Display	Members discuss their craft with visitors	10 am – 3 pm
Café			Scones jam & cream, Tea & coffee Light lunch	10 am – 2.30 pm
Cake Stall	Westralia		Cakes, biscuits, slices for sale	10 am until sold out
Collage Art	Westralia		Heldi Harber: Using art fodder & mixed media to create a collage on A4 paper	11.00 am – 12.00 noon 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm
Creative Textiles (Fusion)	Manoora	Finished Items on display	Members working & chatting with visitors	10 am – 3 pm
Garden		Plant sales		10 am till sold
Garden			Fairy Garden letter writing facilities	10 am – 1.30 pm
Mosaics	Gumleaf Studio	Finished items on display	Members working on their own projects	10 am – 2 pm
Oodles of Doodles	Westralia		Visitors creating doodles on 'sticky notes' for a display board	12 noon – 2.00 pm
Painters	Westralia		Bev Henry: Acrylic Demonstration Mixed media Demonstration Pallet knife Oils Demonstration Christine Leaming: Pastels Demonstration Jane Parker & Sarah Locke: Watercolour Demonstration	10.00 am – 11.00 am 11.00 am – 12.00 noon 1 pm – 3 pm 11 am – 12 noon 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm
Papercraft	Westralia	Finished items on display	Members working on a variety of techniques	10 am – 2 pm
Patchwork, Embroidery, Craft	Manoora	Displays of embroidery and patchwork	Working members chat with visitors	10 am – 2 pm
Polymer Clay	Manoora	Unique items on display.	Members demonstrating	10 am – 11am 1 pm – 2 pm
Pottery	Gumleaf Studio		Demonstrations of hand building, wheelwork free activities for children	10 am – 2 pm
Printmaking & Photography	Westralia	Display of work		10 am – 3 pm
Spinning & Weaving, Knitting	Manoora		Spinning and Weaving demonstrations using both full-size wheel and small looms	10 am – 2 pm
Tai Chi			Demonstration in skate board park	11 am
Woodwork	Outside Gumleaf Studio Woodies Shed	BBQ Sausage Sandwich \$5 Can of drink \$3 Display and Sales of Quality Timber Items	Note: items can be purchased as kits & help given in construction or bought as completed items Assembling Timber Kits: Bird Feeder \$15 Dog \$20 BBQ Caddie \$15 Bee Hotel \$15 Nesting Box & Possum Box \$15 - \$55 Christmas Tree \$20 Reindeer \$20	From 10 am 10 am – 3 pm