



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

JULY 2024

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Winter has arrived, bringing with it cold winds, frosts, and very low temperatures at night. However, the days have been filled with light and warmth, especially when one finds a sheltered sunny spot.

The arrival of the whales on their annual migration is always a delight and spotting them from our stunning coastline is a true pleasure.

With the Winter Solstice this week, we can look forward to longer days and shorter nights. Many of our members will be exhibiting their art at [The 13th Annual Grace Cruice Exhibition](#) at the [Northern Rivers Community Gallery & Ignite Studios](#), Ballina.

I eagerly anticipate viewing everyone's works. The exhibition runs from 28 June to 18 August, with a launch event on Thursday, 27 June, at 5:30pm. Hopefully, many of you will join us for the evening.

Recently, I travelled south from Ballina and once again noticed the artworks installed at nine overpass bridges spanning the Pacific Motorway between Woolgoolga and Ballina on the north coast of New South Wales. This Art Trail depicts the creation stories and ancient travel routes (Songlines) of the Aboriginal nations of the region ... I wonder if others have taken notice of these remarkable pieces.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if more public spaces could exhibit artwork? There are so many empty surfaces that could be filled with colours and thought-provoking pieces. One can always dream of an open and proactive council.

A reminder from Rosie our secretary who organizes the artist profile inclusion in the monthly newsletter and in the Ballina Wave: if you haven't sent in your profile yet, please do so. I hope to see you at the NRCG launch.

Have a good month.
Françoise Sauvère



WHATS COMING UP?

Monthly meeting:

Date: Tuesday, 2 July 2024
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & tell: Christine Jones
Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets
Ballina

LENNOX NEWS

Watercolour paints can be expensive, or a very cheap way, to paint depending on your style. I have a Winsor and Newton pan set that I bought nearly 20 years ago, and it is still going strong, and I do use it if I'm working on fine and small paintings. I refill empty pans from tubes, put in the sun and wait for the outer surface to harden, you can replace the pans, but this is the cheapest way to refill. I also use Japanese paints, these are relatively cheap, have large pans and are light fast.

A set of Gansai Tambi paints of 36 colours will set you back \$50 to \$60. I have found the pigments are strong and the colour range is very good. They are available in some art stores, but a significant amount of money can be saved by ordering online – they are at least half the price of Winsor and Newton.

I don't do a lot of fine work anymore and I find that I can use up to 4 full tubes on each painting, this is very expensive process.

I have been looking at ways to reduce this cost and at the moment I am experimenting with making my own watercolour paints from dry powder pigments, so far this has been quite successful. The direct use of pigments allows for beautiful, strong, and clean colours. The powdered pigment is mixed with gum Arabic, then thinned with water if needed.

A jar of 100ml powdered pigment depending on the brand and colour will cost about \$30 and I can get at least the equivalent of 3 or 4 tubes from one 100ml jar.

You can also use pigments to make your own acrylic paints. The pigmented powder is mixed with Gel Medium and water, as required.

The variety of coloured pigments is endless, here I am standing in the biggest pigment store in the world in Japan.



I hope this series has given you some ideas about saving money, but not compromising the quality of paint, paper, and surfaces.

Happy creating
Lesley Ryan

Exhibition

Thanks ...

I would like to give a big shout out and thanks to Di and Jeff Bell for storing our exhibition stuff, and to Barry and Mary Magnay for their car and trailer, which helps with the transportation all the things to and from the hall.

I was part of the putting-it-all-back team at the end of our last show. It is a lot of work to get everything stored away and Di and Jeff were very involved in getting everything into place.

Also, how wonderful, and grateful are we that we don't have to pay storage fees.

Big thanks to all helpers past and present.

Rosie



ARTISTS PROFILE

Rod Ellis

Rod is based in Ballina NSW, he draws inspiration from the coastal areas in Northern NSW and other areas around Australia. Rod has no favourite subject or style, he paints what he likes, and mainly uses acrylics.

While Rod has had minimal training in art his profession as a sign writer/ graphic designer has proved invaluable. Rod relies on skills, with regards to colour and composition, he learnt over the last 40 years or so. Rod has had a paintbrush in his hand most of his life.

Rod started to paint at an older age, and this brought its own doubts and confidence issues, that was one of the hardest challenges he faced, so he started to be extremely self-critical and fearing failure.

Rod's work varies from day to day, and he is very conscious of not becoming stereotyped, so his work varies. He works in his studio garage which has a fridge and an air conditioner, TV and music ... what more can a man want!

Rod's website is rodellisart@gmail.com where past and current pieces can be found, he also sells through Bluethumb.

Rod thanks BACCI where local artists have a chance to exhibit and be supported and he thinks this is important and BACCI does a fantastic job.



CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) for June are:

1. Kay Knights

Finding Balance by Kay Knights

“Don't be afraid to take risks in life. The greatest risk is not taking one.” - Unknown

Finding balance is one of the most important things in life. It is an even distribution of weight, which allows us to remain upright and steady. This balance produces a sense of stability and equipoise – the balance we strike between opposing elements like security and freedom.

We should never be afraid to take risks, as life is naturally full of them. Taking risks may seem daunting, but they can lead us to great opportunities and a better future. Even if we fall, we can learn from the experience and find ourselves in a better place, which makes falling a good thing.

This abstract series, based on balance and falling, is my exploration of these states of 'being'. These monoprints, created with acrylic paint in a series of layers, are unique and one-of-a-kind. They showcase the beauty of balance and falling and serve as a reminder that taking risks in life is essential for growth and success.

So, let us embrace the risks of life and find our balance ... as the famous quote goes, “What if I fall? Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?” Let us all fly high and find our true potential!



2. In Honour of NAIDOC week we will have artwork by Tania Marlowe and Kim DelSignore :

The 2024 NAIDOC theme is 'Keep The Fire Burning! Black, Loud & Proud'.

The Garrima CPL Elders group have produced works reflecting this year's theme using mixed medium, acrylics to canvas, acrylics to art paper using different techniques including 3D artworks, produced on small canvases. Also works of coloured ochre on blackened canvas. The colours in these works reflect colours of Country. The Elders are looking forward to these artworks being on display, to 'keep the fire burning'.

3. Kim Michelle Toft

During the middle 2 weeks of July 2024 Kim Michelle Toft will have a space in Shop 8, Wigmore Arcade to launch her new book, her paintings and books will be available to view and purchase.

Kim's journey as an artist is a testament to the power of dedication and passion. Over the course of more than 40 years, she has explored various facets of the artistic world, wearing many hats such as teacher, graphic designer, silk painter, illustrator, author, and publisher. Each phase of her career has contributed to her growth and versatility as an artist.



Living in rural Australia, Kim finds herself reflecting on her path with gratitude. She feels blessed to still harbor a deep love for creating, which not only sustains her emotionally but also allows her to make a living. Her story underscores the importance of continuous practice, patience, and persistence in achieving success in any field.

Kim's philosophy centres around passion—she believes that having a passion for the things you engage in daily is the key to a fulfilling and happy life. Her words inspire others to pursue their interests with enthusiasm and dedication, reminding us that a heartfelt commitment to our passions can lead to a rewarding and joyful existence.

Cheers
Pauline Rutten

Ballina Wave Magazine re 'Artist of the Month'

Ballina Wave have kindly agreed to give a monthly space to a BACCI member, titled '**Artist of the Month.**'

Details needed for article are:

- First come first served!
- 200 words about you and your work (it would also be great if you could mention BACCI)
- 2 x JPEG photos (these can be of you and your work or just your work)
- email your pictures and your Ballina Wave artist profile to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com), as a WORD DOCUMENT please, **not** a PDF by the 1st of the month.
- if you don't know how to do the above, a family member could help you
- also please email to Maria (mariaheaton@hotmail.com) as she will post this on BACCI's Facebook page
- email to Andrew Watson (baccixhibitions@gmail.com), he will update our artists profile book which is on display at our exhibitions
- to take advantage of this opportunity you need to email something to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com), please!

It would be great to feature one of your stories, and pictures, in a 2023 newsletter.

Do you have anything to share, (eg art info, travel adventures and/or photos)?

contact Andrew or Rosie about your story – you can either mail or email your story and photos, (remember to include your name) to:

The Secretary BACCI
PO Box 111
Ballina NSW 2478

OR

E ballinaartsandcraftscentre@gmail.com

**TURSA Art Prize, North coast
National Lismore**
Thursday, 17 to Saturday, 19 October 2024

The North Coast National Lismore is on from Thursday, 17 to Saturday, 19 October 2024.

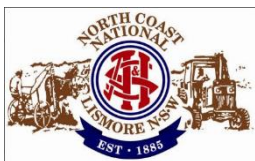
Click on [Tursa Art Prize](#) and it will take you straight to the Schedule, and entry form.

A special evening is being planned for the Prize this year, hope you are able to make it.

Good luck with your entry.

Kind regards

Mark Sollom – Secretary



TURSA ART PRIZE
2023 SCHEDULE
& YOUTH ART AWARDS
19-21 OCTOBER 2023

CASSINO GALLERY PRESENTS
An Acquisitive Prize Watercolour
Competition 2024

\$2300 FOR FIRST PRIZE SOLO WINNER

Exhibition runs for 3 weeks, with
Watercolour Workshops

CASSINO GALLERY PRESENTS
SEPT/OCT 2024
WATERCOLOUR
COMPETITION

Aquisitive Prize
\$20 per
Artwork Entry

Upto Three Artworks
per Artist

Entry Forms in before
August 10th

Artworks in
Sept 10-14th

SPONSORED BY:
Richmond
Valley
Council

\$2300
PRIZE MONEY

For Full T&C's Email:
cassinoartgallery@gmail.com