



# THE CRAFTY ARTIST

## Newsletter of the Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc. FEBRUARY 2026

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello everyone and welcome to a new year of creative endeavours.

May 2026 bring peace and joy to you and all of humankind.

These long summer days have brought extremely hot, humid weather, perfect for slowing down, relaxing, swimming, eating, reading, and having time to appreciate our wonderful environment.

Recently I visited the [Tweed Regional Gallery](#) and saw some brilliant exhibitions. Each room of this fantastic gallery is thoughtfully organised so that the spectators can totally engage themselves in the works.

The first room presents a selection of portraits, focussing on artists as both the subject and portraitist. This exhibition is largely drawn from the gallery collection.

The [Margaret Olley gallery](#) is exhibiting a celebration of important still life paintings by Margaret Olley together with new work by Gadigal/Sydney based artist, Sally Anderson. She interweaves deeply personal experiences and themes of domesticity, care, maternity, and mortality, whilst inviting us to reconsider Olley's still life paintings in a new light.

Another exhibition, called [reJOY](#), was the ceramic one by Vipoo Srivilasa. A Thai-born Australian artist, that honours and celebrates the multi-layered personal migration stories of people from all over the world and who have made Australia home. His excellent accompanying video helps us to navigate the processes of his work.

Let's make 2026 a wonderful year for BACCI.

Looking forward to working with all of you to make BACCI stronger, better, and ever more interesting.

Cheers  
*Françoise*



Vipoo Srivilasa  
*Dance of Dreams 2024*  
ceramic and mixed media  
62 x 29 x 20 cm  
Photo: Simon Strong © The artist.

### WHAT'S COMING UP?

#### **First 2026 monthly meeting:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 3 February 2026  
**Time:** 5.00pm for 5.30pm start  
**Location:** Boardroom  
Cherry Street Sports Club  
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets  
Ballina

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#### **Throughout 2026:**

**AGM:** Tuesday, 7 April 2026  
**Autum show:** Saturday, 9 and Sunday 10 May  
(Exhibition co-ordinator needed)  
**NRRG show:** Thursday, 20 August to Friday,  
11 October 2026  
**Spring show:** Saturday, 21 and  
Sunday 22 November 2026

## **LENNOX NEWS**

### **Celebrating New Beginnings and Challenging Ageism in Art**

Happy New Year, everyone! Another year has flown by, and as we welcome 2026, I hope this finds you all well and hopeful for what's ahead. I've kept my New Year's resolutions simple this time around – there's just one on my list: to see more art, both here in Australia and wherever my travels may take me overseas. Art, after all, has a wonderful way of connecting us to the world and to each other.

#### **Portrait Artist of the Year – An Inspiring Win**

Over the holidays, I found myself drawn into the brilliant TV series Portrait Artist of the Year. While I didn't always agree with the judges' decisions, I was absolutely delighted to see a very talented 77-year-old woman take out the top prize. Her win was a breath of fresh air and a reminder that creativity doesn't fade with age. If anything, it can deepen and flourish. The winner of ABC Portrait Artist of the Year 2025 in Australia was Jenny Croom, a 77-year-old Melbourne artist, who painted renowned chef and restaurateur [Kylie Kwong](#) for the winning portrait, beating out other finalists to take the inaugural series title.



#### **Ageism in Art – A Subject Close to My Heart**

Witnessing her success made me reflect on an issue that's close to my heart: ageism in the art world. Far too often, the limelight is reserved for young artists, with many prizes and exhibitions explicitly geared towards those under 40. Until fairly recently, even the UK's prestigious Turner Prize had an age cap — nominees had to be under 50, a rule only dropped five years ago.

This focus on youth isn't unique to art, but it does beg the question: why do we so rarely celebrate the work of older artists? Creativity doesn't have an expiry date. Artists bring a lifetime of experience to their work, and older artists offer perspectives shaped by decades of lived experience, cultural change, and personal growth. Their stories and visions are every bit as vital and innovative as those of their younger peers.

#### **Time to Celebrate Artists of All Ages**

As we embark on a new year, let's take the opportunity to seek out and celebrate creativity in all its forms and across all ages. Whether it's visiting a local gallery, supporting older artists, or simply keeping an open mind about who gets showcased, we can all help to broaden the conversation and challenge the biases that persist in the art world.

Wishing you all a vibrant, art-filled 2026! May this year inspire you to see beauty and creativity everywhere — no matter who or where it comes from.

***Cheers  
Lesley Ryan***

## ARTISTS PROFILE

### **MaryJoy Payten**

As a child I loved painting and when I reached my teens went to classes outside school hours on Saturday to the Sydney College of Art at Darlinghurst.

After travelling and living overseas, including Mexico, London, and India I started painting with Oils. Scenery, and still life was the usual until I developed an interest in Portraits.

After moving back to Australia, as a single mother with 2 children it was many years before I took up painting after moving to Noosa.

Later Gold Coast I joined Royal Queensland Art Society group. We generally painted in a group with an exhibition change over once a month to show our art.

Now in Ballina, I have joined BACCI to get to know other like-minded people interested in Arts and Crafts.



## CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

**Featured artist(s) for February 2026 are:**

### **Braidin Dasnov – artist / printmaker – Limited Edition Lino Prints**

Since beginning his printmaking practice in 2017, Braidin has developed a distinctive style that seamlessly blends the precision of lino printing with the expressive qualities of watercolour. Originally working in watercolours, the transition to printmaking opened up new creative possibilities, allowing both disciplines to work in harmony.

Much of the Braidin's work draws inspiration from the fragile coastal environment, with a strong focus on native flora and fauna. These subjects are captured with care and respect, reflecting both the beauty and vulnerability of the coastal zone.



**Cheers  
Pauline Rutten**

## **Ballina Wave Magazine** **re 'Artist of the Month'**

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

Details needed for article are:

- 200 words about you and your work (and a mention of BACCI would be great)
- 2 x JPEG photos (these can be of you and your work or just your work)
- email your Ballina Wave artist profile (a word document) and your pictures to Rosie ([ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)) by the 1st of the month
- also email your document and pictures to Maria ([mariaheaton@hotmail.com](mailto:mariaheaton@hotmail.com)), she will post this on BACCI's [Facebook](#) page
- it would be great if all members could take advantage of this opportunity,



**Please** email your document and pictures to Rosie ([ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com))

**Do you have anything to share,** (eg art info, travel adventures, and/or photos)? If so, please contact 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 [ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)

## **Cassino Gallery**

Welcome to 2026 and a Happy New Year.

The first weeks of the New Year has already past and with just a few weeks until the opening of the sensory exhibition "Fibre to Fabric."

Following is the information about entry form, terms and conditions, and invitation:

- entry forms to be in by Saturday, 31 January 2026
- artworks to be at Gallery on Saturday, 7 February 2026 between 10.00am and 2.00pm; and
- exhibition opens on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

There will be brilliant works of art, and we ask you to make them even more interesting by writing an Artist's Statement, in 100 words or less, about the pieces you are submitting.

Maree Beek  
President  
Cassino Gallery (0439 308 620)

A poster for the Cassino Gallery exhibition 'Fibre to Fabric'. The poster has a teal background with yellow decorative elements like swirls and flowers. The text is white and black. At the top, it says 'CASSINO GALLERY' with a logo and '148 Barker Street, Casino'. Below that, it says 'We're inviting everyone who works with and loves fibre and fabric, to take part in our next exhibition'. The title 'FIBRE TO FABRIC' is in large, bold, black letters. Underneath, it says 'held from FEBRUARY 14th to APRIL 4th 2026 at Cassino Gallery, 148 Barker Street Casino'. The poster describes the exhibition as featuring fibre art, hand woven pieces, painted and decorated fabrics, embroidery, patchwork, crocheted and knitted artworks, and so much more. It encourages visitors to let their imagination soar and showcase their creations. It also mentions that entries close on January 31st and provides contact information for entry forms: requested and emailed from [cassinoartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:cassinoartgallery@gmail.com) or downloaded from [www.cassinogallery.org.au](http://www.cassinogallery.org.au). There are no exhibiting fees, and entries should be delivered to the gallery on February 7th between 10am and 2pm. The final acceptance of all artworks submitted will be at the discretion of the Cassino Gallery. Artworks can be offered for sale with 20% commission of the sale price paid to Cassino Gallery for any work sold. For enquiries, contact Maree Beek at 0439308620.



# REGIONAL ARTS ROUNDUP

FROM REGIONAL ARTS NSW

## Welcome to 2026

[Regional Arts NSW](#) expect 2026 to be a huge year. We're coming up to our 80th anniversary and are so proud of what our organisation has achieved so far. We'll be celebrating this huge achievement and the regional artists we work with throughout the year, so stay tuned.

We also have the NSW Government's Regional Arts Strategy launch coming up, as well as the continuation of our RALLY regeneration program and continued delivery of the Regional Arts Fund grants and the Windmill Trust Scholarship.

Follow us on social media to stay in the loop!

