



## THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the  
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.  
**OCTOBER 2026**

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

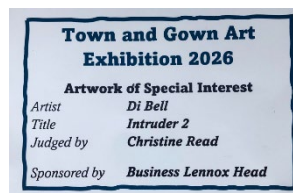
Another month has gone by, Spring has arrived with colourful blooms and dry weather which is enjoyable after our wet winter, and we will be sweltering in the summer heat soon enough.

In this newsletter I wish to acknowledge and thank all our members who have shared the reflections and ideas of their diverse art and craft practices at our monthly meeting during 'Show and Tell' sessions. Each story is fascinating, with beautiful examples of the evolution of one's practice.

In mid-September, I was able to visit the [SWELL](#) exhibition in Currumbin, we made the most of it by being there at sunset. The beachfront was an ideal stage for 87 artists.

Meanwhile you can visit the [\(RE\)CREATE Sculpture Exhibition](#), at the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens (located north of the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre, 313 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore). It is a wonderful display of sculptures that artists have created using recycled, found, or natural objects.

At the recent [Town and Gown Art](#) exhibition in Lennox Head (Lennox Head Lions Club), Di Bell was given the award for the artwork of Special Interest, judged by Christine Read who mentioned the black and white drawing (ink and pencil), having a great composition and perfect balance of light and dark, as well as being full of humour. Business Lennox Head sponsored the award.



Jenny Unwin was also awarded for her photographic entries in the Nimbin Show. Two first prizes and a second place for another entry.



Congratulations to these two members.

Hoping to see you all at our next meeting on the first Tuesday of October.

Have a great month.

**Françoise**

### **WHAT'S COMING UP?**

#### **Monthly meeting of 2026:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 October 2026

**Time:** 5.00pm for 5.30pm start

**Show & Tell:** Amanda Downs

**Location:** Boardroom  
Cherry Street Sports Club  
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets  
Ballina

## Finalising the Copyright Story

**If I advertise a limited-edition print, can I make more copies later?**

Generally, the answer is ... **no**

When a print is advertised and sold as a limited edition, purchasers do so with the expectation that only the stated number of copies will ever be produced. If an artist later creates additional prints, the value of the original edition may be diminished. In some circumstances, purchasers may have grounds to take legal action under consumer protection legislation.

Limited editions help preserve the exclusivity and value of an artwork, which is one reason they remain attractive to collectors.

I was fortunate enough to visit Japan recently, where I attended several art exhibitions and explored the famous *Art Islands*. I was saddened to hear of the passing of renowned Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama**, aged 97.

Known worldwide as the "Polka Dot Artist", Kusama created vibrant, immersive works that celebrated colour, pattern, and imagination. Despite experiencing severe depression throughout much of her life, her art radiated energy, optimism and joy, inspiring countless artists, and admirers around the world.

*Below is a photograph I took at her exhibition in Tokyo.*



## Art News

**Creative Artisans Gallery** will be holding a series of half-day workshops at **Ignite Studios** from **Monday, 2 to Thursday, 5 November 2026**.

Current workshops include:

- **Making UV Resin Jewellery** with Christine O'Leary
- **Mixed Media: Creating a Beach Scene** with Janet Bidewell
- **Artsmart Drawing** with Jamie Hoile, drawing and painting skills inspired by *Kacho Ga* artworks
- **Introduction to Watercolour** with Lesley Ryan
- **Introduction to Silk Painting** with Kim Michelle Toft
- **Working with Coloured Pencils** with Kylie Hadler

The program is still evolving, so keep an eye out for additional workshops and announcements in the coming weeks.

To book or find out more information contact the gallery on 0435 941 591 or drop into the gallery in Wigmore Arcade Ballina.

**Lesley Ryan**

# CREATE WITH HEART

## Creative Workshop Week

2 - 5 NOVEMBER 2026

**BOOKINGS**  
Creative Artisans Gallery  
0435 941 591  
lesleyryanart@gmail.com  
Bookings Close: 23 October 2026

**VENUE:**  
Ignite Studios,  
Crane Street, Ballina

Places are limited.  
Early booking is recommended!

### WORKSHOP PROGRAM

| TUTOR             | WORKSHOP                                                  | DAY / DATE  | TIME               | COST | MATERIALS               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Kylie Hadler      | Intro to Coloured Pencil                                  | Mon 2 Nov   | 9.30 am - 12.30 pm | \$80 | Supplied                |
| Christine O'Leary | UV Resin Jewellery                                        | Mon 2 Nov   | 1.00 - 4.00 pm     | \$90 | Included                |
| Jamie Hoile       | Artsmart Drawing & Painting based on Chinese Kacho Ga Art | Tues 3 Nov  | 9.30 am - 1.00 pm  | \$85 | Supplied                |
| Lesley Ryan       | Introduction to Watercolour                               | Wed 4 Nov   | 9.30 am - 1.30 pm  | \$85 | Supplied                |
| Janet Bidewell    | Mixed Media                                               | Thurs 5 Nov | 9.30 am - 1.00 pm  | \$95 | Supplied                |
| Kim Michelle Toft | Introduction to Silk Painting                             | Thurs 5 Nov | 1.00 - 4.00 pm     | \$80 | Supplied                |
| Angela Parr       | Pastel-An Eye                                             | Tues 3 Nov  | 1.00 - 4.00 pm     | \$85 | Some materials supplied |

**Four Days of Creative Exploration**  
Join talented local artists and discover new techniques in a welcoming and inspiring studio environment. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, there is a workshop to encourage and develop your creativity.

Learn • Create • Connect • Be Inspired

## CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS



**Creative Artisans Gallery**  
Shop 1 & 8, Wigmore Arcade  
River Street, Ballina

Opening hours are:

- Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 3.30pm
- Saturday: 9.30 am to 12 noon
- Closed: Sundays and Public Holidays

For enquiries and to keep up with exhibitions, workshops and special events, contact us via email at [info@creativeartisans.org.au](mailto:info@creativeartisans.org.au), or follow us on Facebook.

**Cheers**  
**Pauline Rutten**

### **Featured artist for October 2026 is:**

#### **1. Alyssa Black / Awakening**

Alstonville artist Alyssa Joy Black holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Curtin University, with majors in Fine Art and Visual Culture.

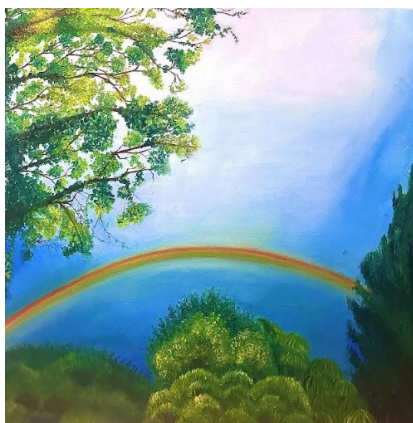
Following a severe episode related to a lifelong mental health condition, Alyssa found solace in the natural beauty of her garden while recovering. The birds, wildlife, and everyday moments of wonder she encountered inspired her current body of work, Awakening.

Through a collection of oil paintings and drawings, Alyssa celebrates the beauty and joy that can be found in nature, even during times of profound personal struggle. Her work reflects a renewed way of seeing the world and invites viewers to share in the sense of hope, delight, and connection that the natural environment can offer.

**Exhibition Series:** Awakening

**Medium:** Oil Paintings and Drawings

**Artist:** Alyssa Joy Black, Alstonville NSW



**CREATE WITH HEART**

# ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

FOR  
*Creative Artisans Gallery*

Ignite Studios, Crane Street, Ballina

**6TH, 7TH & 8TH NOVEMBER**

Opening Night: Friday 6th November • 6.00 pm  
**\$10 Entry • Includes Drink, Food & Prizes**

Weekend Exhibition 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

**ENTRY: GOLD COIN DONATION**  
*Raising Funds to Keep Gallery Open*

**0435 941 591**

**CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY**  
Unique pieces by talented artists and artisans of the Northern Rivers

# **A SHORT HISTORY OF BACCI**

**by Mary Richards - Vice President**

In February 1998 Grace Cruice put a tiny ad in the then Ballina Advocate. Just one column wide, three centimetres high in a black box, titled *'Anyone interested in an Art Gallery for Ballina, phone Grace (with her number).'* Twelve people answered & the Dream began!

A Public Meeting was held on the 22 May 1998 under the umbrella of the Ballina Arts Society. An inaugural meeting in August 1998 formed BACCI and by March 1999 we were incorporated as Ballina Arts & Craft Centre Inc.

The next seven years were spent fund-raising with an Annual Exhibition at the RSL, Street Stalls, raffles, stalls in Shopping Centres and selling Bricks which raised \$4,500.

We applied for grants & Government funding and in the end had raised \$577,500. By 2004 four proposed sites were overruled by Council even with the then Committee of four turning the 'first sod' (unknown by most members) at Treelands Reserve. The Council then determined that Treelands Reserve be the site for the Community Services Centre.

We lost Grace in 2005 but kept going with her dream.

In 2006 we applied to Council to use the Old Council Chambers in Cherry Street. When accepted the Council matched our funds with a further \$500,000. Restoration commenced in May 2006 and in October 2006 BACCI held its first Exhibition in the new gallery.

Unfortunately, that was the beginning of the end. The then Committee had its own agenda to be paid to manage the gallery. So we were out. They formed a volunteer group, 'Friends of the Gallery' to work it. Council knocked back their proposal and hired a paid Curator.

In 2008, BACCI, as you know it today, was reformed. Centre less, cash less, but ready to move on. Two Exhibitions a year, bus trips, workshops, social get-togethers, and no fundraising! But each Exhibition caters for a Charity. A wonderful group of people who support each other.

In 2010, Lesley Ryan, Secretary and I made a deputation to Council on the 22 July 2010, for our One Free Exhibition each year in the Gallery. Lesley couldn't be there, but Edna Moss came with me. It was scary, but we had a win!

June 2011 saw our first *'Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition'* for two weeks to begin, it is now two months long and we are in our 19th Year.

BACCI Membership has fluctuated over the years from 120 to the present 50 - 60. The sad loss of a lot of our original members, with others moving on.

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Cherry Street Sports club for social catch up at 5pm, meeting at 5.30pm.

As well as the annual *'Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition'* we hold, since 2018, two other Exhibitions for our members at the Masonic Hall, Cherry Street.

We have a wonderful, informative, monthly Newsletters and new members are always made welcome.

We thank all of you who have been here for the long haul and all who have worked so hard to keep us strong, and a big welcome to all our newer members. The hard work is done although we need you all to step up and help keep our 'big adventure' going.

*On behalf of BACCI and Grace's Dream, I, Mary Richards would like to thank you.*

**Money raised by BACCI to date - \$77,000**

**GRANT:**

- Art NSW-Planning NSW - \$110,000
- Government DOTARS Sustainable - Regions - \$390,500  
*(this was granted to build on Treelands Reserve but was transferred to the Council Building).*

**Total - \$577,500**

## **RANSW Community – 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**

It's our 80th birthday this year! One of the things we're doing to celebrate is running a public fundraising campaign for AusArt Day (Creative Australia's national giving day to the arts). Our goal is to find 80 donors to celebrate our 80th year, who will be called our 80 x 80 Collective.

We're hoping to involve our community in this campaign because we received such overwhelming support from you all last year.

We're looking for 6-8 'ambassadors' to:

- Make us a video (according to a short brief) for a '80 seconds with [artists name]' Instagram reel series (posted as a collaborative post with RANSW)
- Post the campaign on their social media stories 3 times over the course of October
- Host a 'Crowdfraisers' page for our campaign to direct your followers to for donations

**This is a paid opportunity. We are offering each creator \$150 to deliver the above content & posts.**

Clear instructions & a brief for the video will also be provided.

**If you are interested in being a part of this project, please reply to this message as soon as possible, and include a link to your public Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Beatrice Waller**

Operations & Engagement Manager  
Regional Arts NSW

Email: [beatrice@regionalartsnsw.com.au](mailto:beatrice@regionalartsnsw.com.au)

Phone: (02) 9270 2500

REGIONAL  
ARTS  
NSW



**Cassino Art Gallery**



**Cassino Gallery**

Invites you to our

*En Plein Air Day*

To be held on e

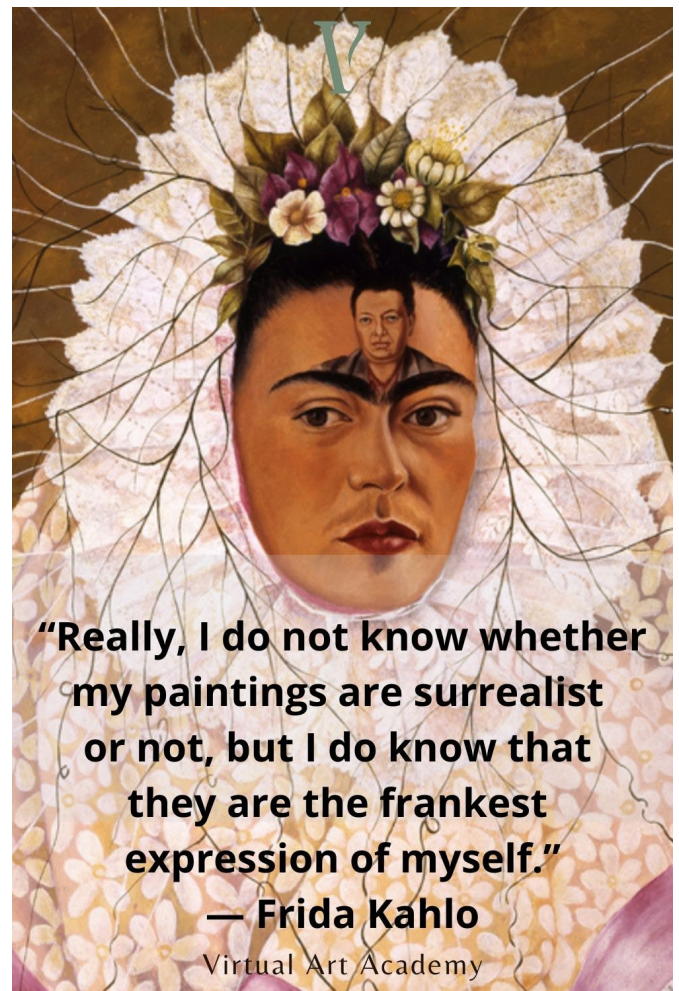
**Wednesday 7th October at the Gallery  
148 Barker Street, Casino**

**Morning Tea will be provided**

**RSVP: [cassinoartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:cassinoartgallery@gmail.com)**

**Or**

**Ph: 0422 014 276**



**"Really, I do not know whether  
my paintings are surrealist  
or not, but I do know that  
they are the frankest  
expression of myself."**

**— Frida Kahlo**

Virtual Art Academy

## 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 (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 Ballina Wave artist profile (as a word document) and your pictures and to Rosie ([ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)) by the 1st of the month
- if you are unsure how to do the above, maybe a family member or friend could help you
- please also please email this 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)

## Information from North Coast National and TURSA

On behalf of the North Coast National and TURSA, I would like to invite you to enter the 2026 TURSA Art Prize at the Lismore Show from Monday, 5 to Saturday, 17 October 2026.

Entries are now open and the Schedule is attached to this email

If you would like more details please contact me on the number below

Leah Worboys  
North Coast National A & I Society Inc  
The Lismore Showground  
T 0403 538 800  
E [office@northcoastnational.com.au](mailto:office@northcoastnational.com.au)  
W [www.northcoastnational.com.au](http://www.northcoastnational.com.au)

