



# THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the  
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

**APRIL 2024**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

This change of weather has been interesting and personally my energy and inspiration levels have improved.

During last year I was fortunate to take a little holiday in Brisbane (Meeanjin, the place of the blue water lilies) and I spent some time at the [Gallery Of Modern Art](#).

There was an exceptional exhibition called [SIS Pacific Art 1980 – 2023](#). This series began in 1993 and has been celebrated for its engagement with Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Pacific.

This exhibition is staged in two rotations in the upper galleries. It has been acquired through bequests and is still able to be viewed until September 2024.

The whole exhibition is a powerful reminder of the importance of women artists and the deep sense of attachment and responsibility that each woman has to her land, community, and culture.

Employing an array of approaches across photography, video installation, ceramics, shells, embroidery, recycled copper sculptures, and weaving, SIS shares artworks and practices that negotiate the impact of Western values, ideas and encounters on the peoples and cultures of the Pacific.

It is an exhibition that touched my soul. I just loved it and went to view it twice. Hopefully, you will find the time to visit this exhibition during the year before it ends.

I look forward to meeting you all for the AGM on Tuesday, 2 April.

We will also be talking about the coming exhibition in the first weekend of May and how we can contribute to its success.

Cheers to a great year full of creativity and to a strong dynamic BACCI for 2024.

**Thank you**  
**Françoise Sauvère**



### WHATS COMING UP?

#### **Monthly meeting:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 2 April 2024

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

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

## LENNOX NEWS

I'm continuing on with ways to try and save costs in tight times. Sometimes you have paintings you are not happy with and wish to recycle the canvas:

- Most of us know that repainting the canvas with Gesso will allow us to use the canvas again and again.
- If you have a lot of texture sanding between coats of gesso (I recommend 3), this can bring the canvas back to life.
- Be very careful of using cheap gesso I have found that sometimes the gesso will lift the paint and it will peel off. This can be heartbreaking when you have achieved something with which you are happy.
- I always suggest that you wash a new canvas (particularly a cheap one) with soapy water, then coat with gesso before it is used.
- Adding a bit of colour to the gesso can work as a background too.

Those little wooden things hanging off the back of the canvases have a use too!

Occasionally you may find that the surface has slackened slightly, before or after you have started painting. In most cases, your canvas will come with a bag of wooden canvas wedges (**also known as canvas keys**), which can be used to tighten up the tension of your canvas, if you find it has loosened, it can also help straighten the canvas.



You can make your own gesso (recipe below), it does work, but my preference is to buy a reasonable sized can of white acrylic undercoat paint – often used in art schools when preparing raw canvases.

## HOME MADE GESSO RECIPE

For this project you'll need:

- 3 parts CORNFLOUR
- 3 parts- Baking Soda
- 1 part acrylic glue
- 1 part- White acrylic paint
- 2-3 parts water

### Method:

1. Mix the cornflour and baking soda together, breaking up any lumps in the mixture.
2. Then, mix in your PVA glue and acrylic paint.
3. Finally, add water, a little bit at a time, until you have the right consistency.
4. For a thicker "texture paste", add *less* water.
5. For a more "traditional" gesso texture, add water until the mixture looks like pancake batter.

The only downside to making gesso is that it has a shorter shelf life than store bought gesso. This will last about a week or two when stored in an airtight container.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next month, I'll be talking about how to reduce costs when working with watercolours.

## Other News

The Lennox Lions/Art Team Town and Gown exhibition will be on the weekend of 27, 28 and 29 September 2024

It will sneak up on you before you know it!

## Art Prizes

All the details can be found on their web pages.

- [Stanthorpe Art Prize](#)  
– Entries close 31 May 2024
- [The Doyles Art Award](#)  
– Entries close 24 May 2024
- [Waverley Art Prize](#)  
– Entries close 12 May 2024
- [Sunshine Coast National Art Prize](#)  
– Entries close 19 May 2024

Happy creating  
**Lesley Ryan**

## FROM THE EXHIBITIONS DESK

Time got away on me this month, it is true, the years seem to be going faster.

I am sitting here surrounded by “nearly done” pieces of art and some “just started.” I love the process of cleaning and organising my studio and having everything neat and tidy ... although it never seems to last! I suppose I am just jolly lucky to have somewhere to work in and not have to pack everything away. Nothing quite like being surrounded by bits and bobs to keep the creativity flowing.

Below are the dates for the May 2024, as a reminder. Time is sneaking up fast so please get those entries to me as soon as possible. Refer to documents sent for all details.

### **MAY 2024**

- Mid-March entry forms will be sent to members
- Closing date for entry forms – strictly FRIDAY, 12 APRIL by 7pm.  
ALL entry forms must be submitted completed in full prior to cut off time and sending to me.
- Drop off and set up at Masonic Centre, Cherry Street – FRIDAY, 3 MAY
- Exhibition dates – SATURDAY, 4 and SUNDAY, 5 MAY

The next big event after the May show is, of course, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition held at the [Northern Rivers Community Gallery](#) (NRCCG). By now you should all have the entry forms, please keep an eye on the dates for when things need to be completed. Also, please refer to the document sent with the entry form for full details.

I feel I should be writing more, however I can't think of too much else to pop into this.

As the [BACCI](#) year draws to a close, I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank those members that tirelessly and selflessly put in so much effort to keep YOUR club running. I won't name anyone for fear of forgetting, but well done and huge pat on the back. I sincerely hope that some of you will consider being a little more involved in the BACCI year to come ... many hands make light work.

See you at the AGM and meeting.  
Andrew

## ARTISTS PROFILE

### Judith Leuenber

I have taught art for over 30 years in high schools all over the world. I am now producing my own paintings and textile work which I call “Klematte.” My paintings focus on landscapes which emanate a particular mood. The paintings often have large areas of sky with stormy clouds. My intention is to create an atmosphere of swirling energy.

Light is very important in my work ... how light is created, how it transforms everything it touches. My paintings are all about light.

My Textile work is based on an ancient craft that my grandmother taught me when I was five years old. Each piece is quite large and can be hung either way. One way looks like an indigenous dot painting. The other side has glorious textures with the loose fabric.

I attach pictures of both my paintings and My Textile work.

My website is [judithleuenber.com](http://judithleuenber.com)

Email [judithleuenberger1@gmail.com](mailto:judithleuenberger1@gmail.com)



## VALE DIANE CALLAGHAN



It is with sadness that we farewell Diane who, along with her twin sister Denise, and sister Edna, were early and very active members of BACCI. Diane took on many roles over the years including hanging the exhibitions. She also organised street stalls to raise money for the local gallery. She loved to paint frangipanis in the early days as an artist. Diane was still exhibiting in BACCI until very recently.



Diane was also involved in the Alstonville Art group for 20 years and she always said that she enjoyed the other artists she painted with once a week. She had many friends there and found this art group was a very rewarding learning and teaching experience.

Diane was a willing and capable organiser for the Art Section of the Alstonville Show for many years as well as being a constant exhibitor herself.

Being a perfectionist her artwork was always of a professional standard, and she loved to use bright colours in her pop art acrylics on canvas. Her recent favourite subject matter was painting women's faces and also flowers, to which she gave her very own contemporary style.

The other passion Diane had was to draw using graphite on paper. She sold many of these and they were again slightly abstracted, geometric, and very well drawn. Diane really loved to use the darkest pencil, the 10B to give her drawings a lot of contrast and drama.

Diane was a successful selling artist.

Diane was very lucky to meet her loving sole mate, Gary, in her later years and they enjoyed many years together, travelling with their dog Milo, in their mobile home. Travelling Australia was one of Diane's passions and she loved the lifestyle, while still managing to paint and draw for exhibitions while on the road.

As well as being a valued artist, Diane was a true friend and loved to mix with her friends socially for coffees and lunches.

Diane loved her girls and grandchildren and enjoyed seeing them regularly and her family was very important to her.

A life well lived with passion but gone too soon.

Diane will be sadly missed by her friends in the local art scene, and we cherish her contribution to furthering art in Ballina and Alstonville.

VALE DIANE CALLAGHAN



# **CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS**

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

### **1. Rosemary Bambrook**

Rosemary has lived in the beautiful Northern Rivers for over 20 years. This creative region has stimulated her to further her passion for pottery.

She has been passionate about art for many years. Prior to living in the Northern Rivers, Rosemary completed a Fine Arts degree at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) where she majored in ceramics.

Rosemary was a secondary school teacher and, in her role as Head of the Arts Faculty at a girls' college in Melbourne, she co-ordinated numerous exhibitions and events, organised artists in residence and worked with a Japanese museum co-ordinating children's art works.

She has also been a contributor to various exhibitions, and had work exhibited at the National Gallery in Melbourne, smaller galleries around Melbourne and the Murwillumbah 'Mud and Art Trails.' Currently a member of the Murwillumbah Potters' group and for a few years was a volunteer at the Northern Regions Community Art Gallery.

She uses both wheel and hand building techniques to form practical kitchenware and has a passion for creating delicious food that looks and tastes great. Her dishes are decorated with vibrant colours using interesting patterns and designs taken from nature. These are always changing as new ideas are prolific.



### **2. Jennifer Unwin**

Based in Northern Rivers NSW Jennifer is an emerging artist.



Using a blend of techniques such as photography combined with a curious love of other art & design elements reflect in her practice. Jennifer also highlights the world around her through printmaking techniques and influences.



Cuchuleain Sentinel 2 (Detail)  
by Jennifer Unwin

Drawn to colour, design, shape & textural elements, Jennifer's work is everchanging.

Exhibiting across the Northern Rivers of NSW, Jennifer invites the artist within to explore the rich & gentle elements that abound, taking the viewer on a thought - provoking journey where possibilities are endless.

A recent highlight has been to collaborate on an online story book ([ifwecarewecan.com.au/bungabee](http://ifwecarewecan.com.au/bungabee)) detailing Bungabee Forest and it's beauty.

***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](mailto: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](mailto:mariaheaton@hotmail.com)) as she will post this on BACCI's [Facebook](#) page
- email to Andrew Watson ([bacciexhibitions@gmail.com](mailto:bacciexhibitions@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](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)), please!

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

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

Please contact Andrew or Rosie about your story – please email your story and photos, (remember to include your name) to:

The Secretary  
BACCI  
PO Box 111  
Ballina NSW 2478  
E [ballinaartsandcraftscentre@gmail.com](mailto:ballinaartsandcraftscentre@gmail.com)

Also, any correspondence relating to BACCI exhibitions, etc, please use [bacciexhibitions@gmail.com](mailto:bacciexhibitions@gmail.com)



