



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc. APRIL 2026

PRESIDENTS REPORT

2025 was a good year for BACCI and we welcomed several new members. Our bright new and modern logo is a joyful reminder that we are renewing ourselves, Deb McFarlane and Tashi Dolma were the people who started the ball rolling for setting up the new website. Christine Jones has volunteered to continue managing and updating it as required. We are so pleased to have her in the team, and she has done a stellar job in the past few weeks.

We participated in three successful exhibitions during the year:

- two exhibitions in the Masonic Hall in Ballina,
 - one in the month of May; and the
 - second one in October,
- as well as the Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition during the winter months in the [Northern Rivers Community Gallery](#) in Ballina.

I would like to thank:

- our Secretary Rosie Kaplan, who continues to do a great job.
- Vice President, Mary Richards, who constantly encourages me reminding me of protocols, and helping me through the ups and downs of the yearly challenges.
- Geoff Maclean put up his hand to take on the job of treasurer, and he is getting better at managing the job. As any new task there was a lot to learn to start with. Geoff has also taken on the role of publicity officer, and he has had flyers and posters printed for our May exhibition, as well as publishing an article in the Ballina Wave.
- Another wonderful newcomer who volunteered to manage the Pop-Up Café during our exhibitions is Caroline McKay. She did a wonderful job in efficiently organising it all during 2025.

- We also welcomed Jill Hardwicke who took on the job of Exhibition Co-ordinator for the two BACCI exhibitions in the Masonic Hall in Ballina. We thank her for doing a great job during the year.
- Cheryl Hurnall has continued her role as editor of our newsletter, she is very efficient to start the ball rolling so that the newsletter is always on time. Her attention has been much appreciated.
- Lesley Ryan has been a regular contributor for many years with very interesting articles. I personally always look forward to reading her contributions and all agree that those are an integral part of the newsletter.
- I want to gratefully acknowledge Di Bell who is able to store the associated banners and hanging stands for our exhibitions as well as the café boxes.
- I also want to thank Andrew Watson for continuing his role of managing the Grace Cruice exhibition. Mary Richard and Andrew were able to do a fantastic job of organising the reception and registration all the entries. Andrew has also taken on the administration role for the May Autumn show.
- Alexa Grunner took on the role of Public Officer during 2025, and I gratefully acknowledge her volunteering.

This is the second year that we have had a monthly artist's profile in the Ballina Wave and that is thanks to Rosie's efforts who collects artist's profiles from our members and then sends the documents in time for publication.

On that note we need every member who has not done so yet to write an artist profile. These need to be in before the next exhibition. Cheryl Hurnall has offered her help in composing these. Please contact her if you need more directions in writing your own artist profile.

LENNOX NEWS

During last year's exhibitions, we were able to donate \$1,000 to the Charity 'Momentum' and \$1,000 to 'Ballina Dementia'.

I wish you all a great, successful, and creative year.

Cheers to a great year full of creativity.
Françoise

WHAT'S COMING UP?

April 2026 AGM meeting:

Date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & Tell: Françoise Sauvere
Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets
Ballina

Throughout 2026:

Autum show: Saturday, 9 and Sunday 10 May
NRRG show: Thursday, 20 August to Friday,
11 October 2026
Spring show: Saturday, 21 and
Sunday 22 November 2026

I'm off to Japan for a holiday — an incredible country where ancient customs blend seamlessly with futuristic cities. From centuries-old temples to dazzling metropolitan life, Japan offers an astonishing diversity. Its food, spotless streets, gracious people, and breathtaking scenery make it a top choice for safe and efficient travel. This marks my eighth visit, and each journey deepens my admiration for its cultural richness and artistic legacy.

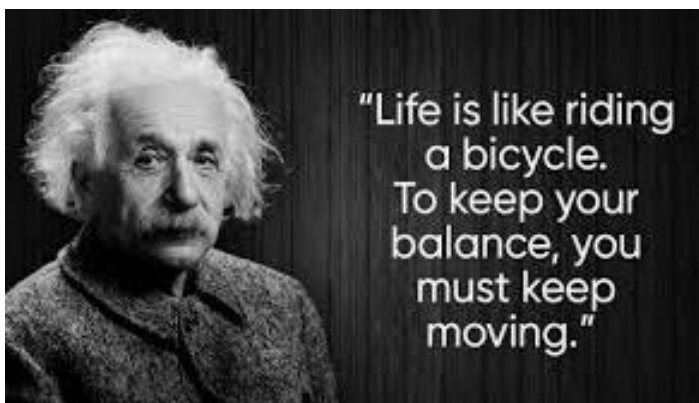
[Katsushika Hokusai](#) (1760–1849) stands as Japan's most celebrated artist, particularly for his *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints. His masterpiece from 1831, *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, part of the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, captivates audiences worldwide with its dynamic fusion of Japanese tradition and Western techniques. Although "The Wave" is often commercialized, Hokusai produced many other significant works that deserve attention.

Japanese art has profoundly influenced my own watercolour practice, and learning from a master woodblock artist in Tokyo was a highlight of my creative life.

I've booked a visit to Team Lab, famous for immersive installations that transform vast spaces into interactive digital landscapes teeming with plants, animals, and stunning patterns of light—a true Disneyland for artists!

I'll be taking a break from writing in May, but I look forward to sharing stories from my trip in June

Happy Easter and keep safe
Lesley Ryan



ARTISTS PROFILE

Nicole Flamekeeper Art, Astrology and Angel mail club

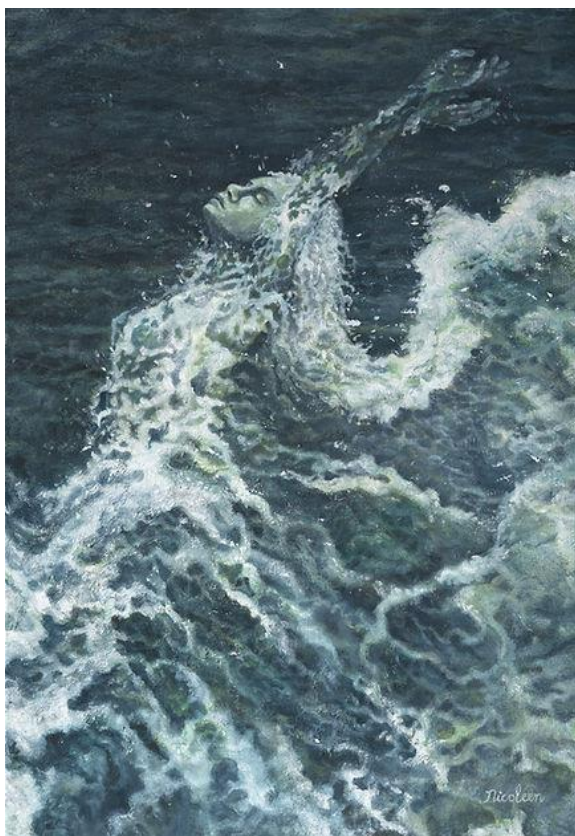
If you'd love to invite a little magic into your everyday, local artist Nicoleen Flamekeeper has created an opportunity for you to deepen your intuition and receive beauty and whimsy straight to your door.



"Flame Mail" is Monthly Magic, and for \$25 a month you will receive:

- a monthly seasonal art print astrological; and
- angelic insights into the months energy resources to help you navigate the year with grace.

To find out more and become a part of an aligned community please join us at theflamekeeper.com.au/flamemail



CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) for April 2026 are: Artist of the Month – Jennifer Unwin

Creative Artisans Gallery is proud to feature Jennifer Unwin as our Artist of the Month.

Jennifer's work explores the relationship between nature and printmaking, highlighting elements of light, structure, and form.

Through botanical printmaking and fibre techniques, she creates organic patterns and textures inspired by the plants and natural environments around her.

Using age-old processes combined with contemporary interpretation, Jennifer's work reflects her deep connection to nature and the stories found within it.

A multi-disciplinary artist, Jennifer has work collected locally, interstate and internationally.

She lives and works on Bundjalung Country in the Northern Rivers of NSW, where the surrounding flora continually inspires her creative practice.

When not creating Jennifer travels to festivals and contributes to a range of community initiatives and advisory boards. She is also currently collaborating as illustrator and photographer on an upcoming cookbook series.

We invite you to visit the gallery and experience Jennifer's beautiful and expressive works.



**Cheers
Pauline Rutten**



Creative Artisans Gallery Workshop:

Below are details for the 2026 CAG workshop:

<p>Play, Pour and Create: UV Resin Jewellery Workshop – Christine O’Leary</p> <p>Workshop Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: Cherry Street Sport Club • Date: Thursday 7th May 2026 • Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon • Fee: \$60.00 per participant • Maximum participants: 8 • Clothing: Please wear old clothes 	<p>Beginner Weaving Workshop with Christine Jones</p> <p>Workshop Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: Cherry Street Sport Club • Date: 14/03/2026 • Time: 9.30am – 1.30 pm • Cost: \$120.00 maximum number of participants 6
<p>Hints Tips and techniques in Watercolour. Lesley Ryan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue Ignite Studio- Cherry Street Ballina • Date Saturday 2nd May • 9.30am to 2.30 pm • Max number 12 • Fee \$120.00 <p>This workshop is currently booked out – Waiting list only</p>	<p>Wildlife Techniques in Pastels With Angela Parr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: Cherry Street Sports Club • Date Friday 15 May 2026 • Time: 9.30 am to 4.30 pm • Fee \$195.00 • Max number 12
<p>Mixed Media with Janet Bidewell- Creating a beach scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue Cherry Street Sports Club • Date: Thursday 21 May 2026 • 10.00 am to 12.00 noon approx. • Max number 8 • Fee \$75.00 	

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) by the 1st of the month
- also email your document and pictures to Maria (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,



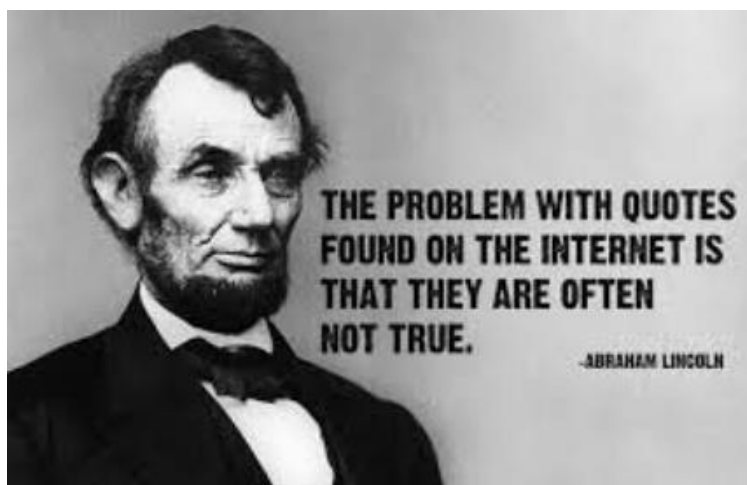
Please email your document and pictures to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com)

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



COUNTRY LIFE ART EXHIBITION

18th April - 30th May 2026

Art Exhibition with a Country Theme
presented by

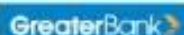
CASSINO GALLERY

148 Barker Street, Casino

Celebrating Beef Week

with a diverse array of artworks - many available for sale.
Paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography and kids' art.

Kids' prizes courtesy of



Opening Event:

Sat April 18th 2-4pm
Entry: \$10 pp, kids free
incl nibbles and a drink

Gallery Hours: (During Exhibition)

Thursday, Friday, Sat 10am-3pm
Sunday 10am - 2pm
Gold coin donation



 CASSINO GALLERY

cassinogallery@gmail.com
cassinogallery.org.au
facebook.com/cassinogallery

COUNTRY LIFE ART EXHIBITION

We're inviting artists of all ages, including school age children, to take part in our next exhibition

COUNTRY LIFE

held from April 18th to May 30th 2026 at
Cassino Gallery, 148 Barker Street Casino

This exhibition features a country theme and will add to the celebration of Beef Week. We are showcasing paintings, drawings, photos, sculptures and artworks in any medium.

Under our Youth Creative project and by courtesy of the Greater Bank, we are offering prizes to each of three age categories: kids age 5-8 years \$50, 9-12 years \$150 & 13-16 years \$200, a total of \$400 prize money.

Entries close April 4th. Entry forms can be requested from cassinogallery@gmail.com or downloaded from

www.cassinogallery.org.au

There are no exhibiting fees. Entries should be delivered to the gallery on 11th April 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. No commission on sales of kids' art.

For enquiries: **Maree Beek 0439308620**

 CASSINO GALLERY

cassinogallery@gmail.com
cassinogallery.org.au
facebook.com/cassinogallery



REGIONAL ARTS ROUNDUP

FROM REGIONAL ARTS NSW

Welcome to 2026

[Regional Arts NSW](https://regionalartsnsw.com.au) (<https://regionalartsnsw.com.au>) 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!



RALLY ASSEMBLY

April 23-24 2026
WAYOUT Artspace, Kandos
FREE (register online)

[RANSW](#) and Cementia invite our community to the 2-day RALLY Assembly. This free event will be an opportunity to learn from experts, share practice and to generate new ideas that will contribute to our regional towns becoming vibrant and active places.

- 23-24 April 2026
- WAYOUT Artspace, Kandos
- FREE (registration required)