



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.
JULY 2023

PRESIDENTS REPORT

What a month we have had! Winter has arrived early and has brought cold winds, frosts, and very low temperatures at night however the days have been filled with light and warmth, when one can find a protected sunny spot. With this week's Winter Solstice we can now look forward to longer days and shorter nights.

A lot of our members will be exhibiting their art and crafts at the Grace Cruice Exhibition at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery in Ballina. I am looking forward to viewing everyone's works. The exhibition is from Wednesday, 28 June and ends on Thursday, 20 August, the launch event is Thursday, 6 July at 5:30pm.

and their artworks communicate the rich and ancient history of these nations.'

Transport for NSW is planning a community event involving all the artists and their communities, to be held in the coming months.

For more information visit
www.pacifichighway.nsw.gov.au/drive-songlines

*Thank you
Françoise
Sauvère*



Installation of Coolgardie

nrcg Northern Rivers Community Gallery
& Ignite Studios

28 June - 20 August 2023

A showcase of the best works created by the
BACCI membership in the past 12 months

*The 12th Annual Grace
Cruice Memorial Exhibition*

BACCI

On a personal note, I am still getting over a health issue and recovery is slowly underway. This past week I organised a family get-together in Grafton and travelling South on the Motorway I was able to see the new Aboriginal artworks that have been installed at nine overpass bridges spanning four lanes on the new Pacific Motorway between Woolgoolga and Ballina on the far north coast of NSW.

The new artworks along the Woolgoolga to Ballina Aboriginal Art Trail depict the creation, stories, and ancient travel routes (Songlines) of the Aboriginal nations of the region.

Federal Member for Richmond Justine Elliot says the artworks tell the 'Songlines' of the Gumbaynggirr, Yaegl and Bundjalung nations, reflecting their physical and spiritual belonging, and connection to Country ... 'The artists were selected by local Aboriginal communities and stakeholders,

WHATS COMING UP?

Monthly meeting:

Date: Monday, 3 July 2023
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & Tell: **Geoff Mclean** (artist) will be showing his, yet unfinished, portrait (which is entered into the Brisbane portrait prize)
Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets
Ballina

LENNOX NEWS

Controversy in Art – Archibald time again!

After the articles on Artificial Intelligence (AI) I thought I'd have another look at a well-known art controversy, the winner of the 1944 Archibald prize.

In 1944 the winning decision took the second world war off the front pages of the newspapers and ended up in a bitter court case.



Portrait of Joshua Smith by William Dobell

A controversial painting ... a roll call of Australia's best artists ... a court case, ... and social commentary that divided public opinion in war-time Australia.

What made the win controversial was that Dobell's painting was different to past winners and it was linked to the influences of modernism and caricature. There was also the belief that Smith was rendered in a way that suggested he was gay at a time when homosexuality was against the law.

The Archibald Prize was the world's richest portrait prize and whoever won it became a household name.

Winner: Archibald Prize 2023

Julia Gutman 'Head in the sky, feet on the ground'

(oil, found textiles and embroidery on canvas
198 x 213.6 cm)



Celebrities Crowd Court Dobell Case

SYDNEY.—One of the biggest legal smash ups since Ned Kelly, the Dobell case began its second act today with standing room only.

The Trustees of the NSW Art Gallery were the judges of the prize, and they were a factionalised group comprised of business people, architects and the like. Among them was the Chairman of David Jones and Marcus Clark, who owned another major department store. Another was Jim McGregor, Australia's biggest wool manufacturer. Only two of the Trustees were artists and Lionel Lindsay, the most influential of them, was a controversial figure and strongly anti-Semitic.

The aggrieved artists claimed that some of the trustees owned paintings by Dobell and awarded the prize to him to improve their value. The objecting artists claimed there was no transparency and that the Trustees were playing favourites.

The case has always been spoken about as a breakthrough for modernism because the objecting artists lost the case.

Every year it continues to divide opinions.

If you want to read more about the case which Dobell and the trustees won, there is a new book out "The Case that stopped a nation" by Peter Edwell.

Lesley Ryan

ARTISTS PROFILE

Ann Wheeler

Light has been a constant element in Anne's artwork. Between 1985 – 2005 she designed and fabricated stained-glass windows for domestic, ecclesiastic, and institutional applications (St. Mary's Church, Grafton, Southern Cross University and Carmelite Monastery, Lismore). Light, illuminating coloured and painted glass, imparts its own unique beauty and luminosity and is universally enjoyed.

Since retiring from glass work, Anne attained a degree in Fine Art and Visual Culture through Curtin University. She now strives to depict light as the principle element in her current work, creating acrylic paintings that illustrate light appearing to emanate from within the abstract image. Her work develops using different techniques (fluid paint, mixed media, and glazing) that involve adding layers of vibrant colour and texture to create expressive, lyrical abstractions.

Anne is inspired by the vibrantly coloured light at dawn and dusk, saying

"There is so much joy to be experienced in the ever-present moment, when we create and seek inspiration in the beauty of our environment like glowing sunsets and atmospheric arial impressions of sea and landforms".

Abstraction of these elements promote various interpretations and intends to delight the eye with the unusual yet evocative images and luminescent colours.



Another Shore



Meditation

FROM THE EXHIBITIONS DESK

Greeting members.

Mary and I have just been to NRCG and **WOW WOW WOW**; we were speechless (which is hard for us) when we walked in. The curation of the exhibition shows the professionalism and dedication of NRCG. The groupings are thought provoking and well-considered. The curating team are to be commended, they have taken some challenges to display some objects to a new level and created what we consider the best exhibition yet.

A true Gallery experiences.

Thank you to all the exhibitors that delivered their work for the Grace Cruise Exhibition at the NRCG – it went quite smoothly, although unfortunately 2 members chose **not** to turn up and, disappointingly, didn't notify Mary or myself. As a result, in consultation with the Gallery and hanging team, 2 more artworks were requested. One is larger than the specified size, however after consultation and a specific request by the Curator, this piece was chosen and is being displayed.

Mary and I will be arranging a formal meeting with the Gallery to sort out specifics for 2024 and will pass on information once finalised. We are hoping it will be a positive step forward.

DATE CLAIMER – Thursday, 6 July is the launch night at the NRCG from 5.30pm ... hope to see you there supporting *your* group.

As Winter closes in and the afternoons and nights get colder, it is a great time to be creating and working towards the next BACCI exhibition in early October.

I received a lovely email (see below) from Donna Rankin from Heart to Heart; the charity we supported at the November 2022 exhibition. A reply on behalf of BACCI has been sent.

Hi Dianne, Andrew and Maria

I hope everyone is well.

I wanted to let you know that your donations to Heart to Hear have resulted in the program being kickstarted once again at Kadina High School.

The students have a wonderful team taking them through the program, including a PCYC representative and Northern Rivers Health.

Thank you so much for your support. I will keep you posted as the program unfolds.

Kind regards

Donna Rankin

Not a lot else to report, stay warm, stay safe.



Tickets are still available on Eventbrite for my workshop (see above for details) on Wednesday, 26 July.

I will have a spare seat in my car going up and back. If anyone would a lift, please contact me for details.

Thanks
Andrew Watson (and Mary Richards)

CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) of the month

Tania Marlowe and Kim DelSignore

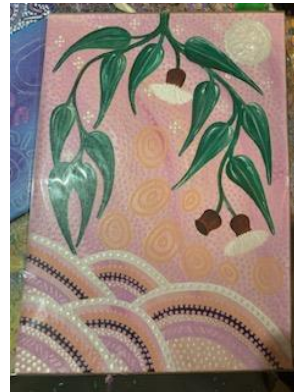
Tania and Kim are 4th generation Nyangbal People from Cabbage Tree Island, their Great Grandmothers were sisters. They are talented artists whose artistic creations reflect the rich cultural heritage and artistic legacy of their ancestors.

Their creative journeys are interwoven with the stories and traditions passed down through generations.

Kim paints memories inspired by her childhood spent on Country fishing, gathering oysters and pippies, flowers, gum nuts, and other traditional foods all with respect for Country, leaving as little impact as possible on the environment by only taking what could be used.

Tania is a passionate cultural weaver, using the weaving techniques and fibres of her ancestors to create traditional style baskets and art pieces. Tania was recently commissioned by the Ballina Council

to create a woven installation for the Ballina Airport, was awarded the 'Arts and Culture Award' at the Ballina Council Australia Day ceremony and has been proactively involved in preserving the local Nyangbal dialect of the Bundjalung nation.



Toys Change Lives (TCL)



TCL (www.tcl.org.au) is a workshop created for youths to build a pathway for reforming indigenous youth, assisting them to break the cycle of re offending and detention.

The TCL crew are local Wahluwal / Gulibul people in Galibul country in the Bundjalung Nation.

TCL creates contemporary Arts and Crafts such as toys / cut-outs, boomerangs, paintings, and cards.



Jai (Darby) Walker

Jai (Darby) Walker began working as an artist in 2007 at the Jambama Aboriginal Art studio and gallery in Casino. Jai is proudly Bundjalung.

His style is largely self-taught. He draws and paints the old people, haunting images of the ancestors who formed the Bundjalung nation. Jai is a unique artist with the ability to create images of his ancestors that move and speak through their eyes, bringing into focus the men and women of the past, lost but not forgotten.

Jai experiments with new techniques continuously producing work that evolves and grows with each time he produces new works. He is an inspired young artist and leaves a mark with the work he produces.



Cheers
Pauline Rutten

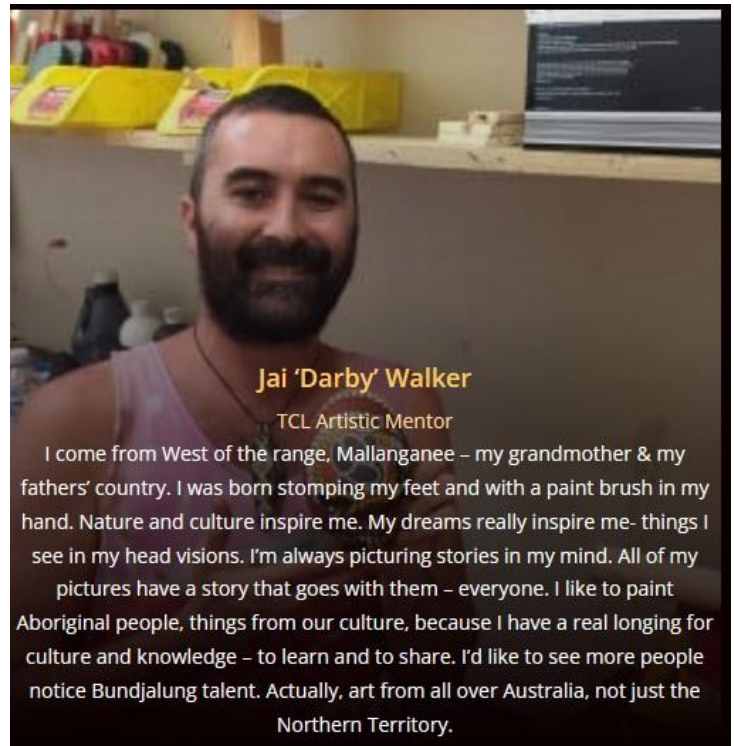
Do you have anything to share, (eg art info, travel adventures and/or photos)?

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

Also, any correspondence relating to BACCI exhibitions, etc, please use bacciexhibitions@gmail.com



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, maybe 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 (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), please!

