



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the

Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

MAY 2023

EX-PRESIDENTS REPORT

This is my last newsletter, we have a new President, Francoise, she will lead the team for the next year. Congratulations Francoise, I know you will do a fantastic job representing this talented group of artisans.

I chose to stand down as President, due to family commitments and a yearning to use my campervan more and explore our big-beautiful country. My health scare at the start of the year acerbated this decision. Also, I feel that I have done my time as President for the past 2 years. I must admit, the position was challenging in the beginning, but I have grown personally and in confidence.

I am still part of the Exhibition Committee and will be helping with the organisation of our May Show. I encourage you all to invite friends and family to our exhibition and share online. A flyer will be attached to this email if you want to email it to friends.

After the AGM last month, the rest of the Committee positions remain the same, however the Exhibition Co-ordinators position is being run by the Exhibition Team and this way we share the load.

I must acknowledge 2 amazing people helping behind the scenes, and that is Cheryl the Editor for our newsletter. She is very patient and keeps the communication flowing within our group. She also was very helpful with the designing of our new banners and promo material. And Sue Fraser for her help as Public Officer.

Angie Parr has kindly offered to be our Publicity Officer for the October Exhibition. Angie has also offered to Curate our May Exhibition. Thankyou.

Wishing everyone an exciting and creative year ahead, and many more successful Exhibitions.

Signing out, Deb McFarlane

WHATS COMING UP?

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: MONDAY MAY 1

Show & Tell: Kim Michelle Toft
Silk Artist, Author & Illustrator

DON'T MISS KIM'S STORY

Time: 5.00pm social for 5.30pm start

Location: Boardroom, Cherry Street Sports Club, cnr Cherry & Bentinck Sts, Ballina

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello everyone,

I am very happy to have become BACCI's newest president this year.

Since joining the group two years ago I have been involved in exhibiting my art works in all the exhibitions as well as helping on the desks and in the café.

I find that being involved in the group motivates and encourages me to create new pieces.

I particularly enjoy seeing other people artistic expressions in galleries and exhibitions.

I hope that I can depend on every member to continue making BACCI a dynamic creative group in our region.

Thank you Françoise Sauvère

 **ART & CRAFT SHOW**
6 & 7 MAY 9am-3pm FREE ENTRY
MASONIC CENTRE, 56 Cherry Street, BALLINA

DON'T FORGET TO SPREAD THE NEWS
ABOUT OUR NEXT EXHIBITION.



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR MARY RICHARDS

At our AGM we had one very big surprise. It was that the Committee had secretly decided to present Mary Richards with an Honorary Life Membership for her outstanding and tireless work into the development and running of BACCI.



L to R: BACCI committee , Deb McFarlane (outgoing President), Rosie Kaplan (Secretary), Mary Richards (Vice President and Lifetime member) and Andrew Watson (Treasurer)

Mary was one of the original members and we agreed that this award was well deserved. She was presented with a certificate and gift (a beautiful cactus plant), (if you didn't know ... plants are one of Mary's passions!!).

RESPONSE FROM MARY

I wish to thank you all for the honour you bestowed on me at our AGM. To become a Life Member to such a wonderful organisation as BACCI was humbling & such a big surprise. You saw me speechless for once!

I have enjoyed every aspect of the 25 years, with the highs & lows, happily more highs, and the friendships made.

My forte has been mostly in administration which I love but who knows, one day I might paint again.

Again, thank you all, and the Cactus was the icing on the cake.

On we go! Mary

LENNOX NEWS

Firstly I'll list some of the art prizes that are coming up. Entry and conditions can be found on their web sites.

- Naked and Nude, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Entries close 23 June
[Naked & Nude Art Prize 2023 - Manning Regional Art Gallery \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.manningregionalartgallery.nsw.gov.au/)
- Urunga Small Sculpture prize, closes 12 August
[Urunga Small Sculpture Prize - Art Space Urunga](https://www.artspaceurunga.com.au/)
- Waverley Art Prize, closes 14 May
[Waverley Art Prize - Waverley Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/)
- Brisbane Rotary Art show, closes 27 May
[Brisbane Rotary Art Show 2023](https://www.brisbanerotary.org.au/)
- Lethbridge, Small Scale art prize, closes 12 May
[2023 Art Competitions | Art Awards – Calendar for Artists](https://www.2023artcompetitions.com.au/)
- The Doyles Art Award, closes 11 May
[Home - The Doyles Art Award \(thedoylesaward.com.au\)](https://www.thedoylesaward.com.au/)

The following paintings were created by my son and printed onto watercolour paper. They are very convincing.



These are all AI paintings with the simple instructions, colours, type of scene and style [brown, indigo, and orange, seascape, watercolour, and impressionist].

This raises some very interesting questions about how these will be treated in the future and how many are already being entered into exhibitions. None of the entry forms have stipulated any conditions on AI work.

The following article is from Art Prizes Australia:

“Should AI generated art be eligible in art prizes?”

What will art prizes response to AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated art be? In discussions with several art prizes there appears to be a wait and see what happens this year. And it does take time to update the Ts&Cs for a prize.

Or as an artist how do you feel about entries to art prizes that were conceptualised and/or realised by AI?

Anecdotally, my understanding is that artists are totally against AI works because the finished product denies skill on behalf of the artist or because the images are derivative of other artist’s work and lack attribution. For example if the text prompt said “...in the style of Francis Bacon” then the AI would reference a library of images by Bacon and the output wouldn’t credit him.

Some art prizes are already seeking clarification for how to best filter out AI works.

Either way, the enhanced potency of technology in the visual arts and video means that there will continue to be disruptors in the visual arts - from magazine illustrations through to curated exhibitions.

But here’s another way of looking at it - prizes could have a discrete category for AI generated work which would effectively redirect these works into their own section.

What do you think?”

Sooner rather than later, art prizes, art societies and art clubs are going to have to make some decisions about how this work will be treated in the future.

Thanks
Lesley Ryan

ARTISTS PROFILE

Tashi Dolma

I live and paint in paradise! The idyllic Byron/Ballina Shire coastline and Northern Rivers region are my inspiration. The ocean and all her moods are my muse.

My background as a traditional oil painter informs my current exploration of more contemporary themes, expressing the spirit of things, the essence, the majesty, the power, and the ambiguity of this ever-changing life-source.

My antidote to most things in these uncertain times is in creating beauty. It sustains me and hopefully inspires and enlivens something essential for the viewer. I’d like to think that my unique way of seeing things is of some benefit to others, a reminder of the natural world and the magic, mystery, and responsibilities of humanity.

I started painting in 1993 and my work is held in private and civic collections both in Australia and abroad. I’ve won many prizes and awards and exhibited widely. I wrote for the national art magazine and have taught master classes and workshops up and down the east coast.

Painting is my joy, my teacher, and my gift.

My work will be exhibited at the upcoming BACCI AUTUMN EXHIBITION, to be held on the Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May at the Ballina Masonic Centre, 56 Cherry Street, Ballina.

You can also purchase my paintings at:
<https://bluethumb.com.au/tashi-dolma>

... and follow my journey at:
<https://www.instagram.com/northernriversart>



VALE: BETH JOSH

With regret we wish to let BACCI members know Beth passed away last week. Beth was a popular long time member and we send our condolences to the family.

EXHIBITION INFO

Just over a week away for our next exhibition. It is getting very exciting. Just a few reminders for you.

- Delivery to the Masonic Centre Hall between 2 and 2.30 pm on Friday 5 May.
- Craft tables to be set up and completed Friday afternoon, ready for opening 9am Saturday.
- Collection of unsold work and pack down Sunday 7 May between 3 and 3.30pm (not before)
- Entry is FREE however a gold coin donation is optional
- We will be selling raffle tickets at the door. Wonderful prizes as usual. \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All the proceeds from this raffle go to our chosen charity, Ballina Marine Rescue.
- Don't forget to clearly label on the back of your artwork - Name, Title, Phone number, Medium and price.
- Please present your artwork in good condition as the committee have the right to reject any artwork not suitable for display.
- It would be wonderful if you can bake something for our pop-up café. Delivery can be Friday afternoon (when delivering artwork, or Saturday morning.)

Any enquires please call Andrew on 0409337984 or Deb 0432105540

BACCI CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

A great night was had by all at the Cherry Street Sports Club to celebrate the 25th anniversary of BACCI. It was a very relaxing evening and lovely to catch up socially and meet some of the new members. The food supplied by the club was very tasty.

25 years ago Grace Cruice called for interest in starting a local arts and crafts group, 12 people turned up and BACCI was born. Over the years, membership has fluctuated between 70 and 120 artists, who have many different BGs and art and craft styles.

From the beginning the organisation worked tirelessly to raise funds for a new gallery and were instrumental in opening the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, which is now run by Ballina Council.

Sadly, Grace passed away in 2005 and in 2007 the inaugural Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition was held at the NRC Gallery in her honour. In July and August this year, the 12th exhibition will be held.

So, Happy 25th Birthday BACCI and here's to another 25 years of showcasing budding and established artists in the Ballina region.

Photos taken at the 25th BACCI Celebration



L to R: Helen Dunn, Di Bell (former President), Kim Michelle Toft



L to R: Maria Heaton, Barry Magnay and Lorraine Spring



L to R: Mary Richards, Harold Fauske (original member) and Pam Paterson (former President and original member)

Ballina Wave re Artist of the Month

Ballina Wave have kindly agreed to give a small monthly space to a BACCI member. It will be titled 'Artist of the Month.' What a fabulous opportunity to promote your artwork and our group.

Details needed for article below:

- It's first come first served!
- 200 words about you and your work – would also be great if you could mention BACCI
- plus 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 (info@bacci.com.au) AS A WORD DOCUMENT please, **not** a PDF by 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) to go on our [Facebook](#) page
- please email to Andrew Watson (bacciexhibitions@gmail.com), he will update our artists profile book which is on display at our exhibitions
- to not lose this opportunity **you** need to email something to Rosie, please!

CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist of the month

Christine O'Leary - RESIN Artist/Artisan

Christine comes from a background of dress and interior design, art, décor, and homewares, and now jewellery. Colour has been a major part of her creative life and she brings colour into all her works. All of Christine's individual unique works are created in her studio in Lennox Head where she takes inspiration from the ever-changing colours of her surrounds.

Christine's latest medium is RESIN - creating a wonderful collection of jewellery and homewares using vibrant colours and as much locally sourced products as she can find. One of her ranges of jewellery has local timber shavings incorporated within the RESIN, which gives the jewellery natural light and dark shades - rosewood and camphor are just two of the recent timbers Christine has used.

RESIN is a hard wearing yet light accessory which will brighten your day.

CAG WORKSHOPS

David Taylor's 4-day Watercolour Workshop

4 - 7 July 2023 ... this workshop is for intermediate to advanced students.

Cost \$600 (which includes lunch, tea & coffee each day) ... only a couple of places left.

For more information contact Pauline 0435 941 591

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 info@bacci.com.au





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