



## THE CRAFTY ARTIST

### Newsletter of the Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc. **AUGUST 2025**

#### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Winter has arrived, bringing with it cold winds, frosts, and low temperatures at night. However, the days are filled with light and warmth, especially if you find a sheltered sunny spot.

The arrival of the whales on their annual migration is always a delight and spotting them from our stunning coastline is a true pleasure.

At the beginning of last month, my family caught up in Grafton where we visited the [Grafton Regional Gallery](#).

In one of the spaces of the gallery, there was a fabulous exhibition by [Michele Beevors](#) named *Anatomy Lessons*. Featuring meticulously-sculpted, life-size, skeletons, each piece – a real animal – is painstakingly measured, drawn, sculpted from steel, wire, and foam, and covered entirely in hand-knitting; a fine-art softening of the subject beneath.

An exhibition 17-years in the making, from the towering giraffe stretching 4.4 metres in height, head raised to the windowed ceiling to the army of 50 plus delicately rendered frogs, is astounding. *Anatomy Lessons* describes humanities' dark connection to the lives of animals and the living planet, expanding on the wider themes of human culpability, asking us to care. Her website is worthwhile exploring ... I loved her work.

I have been very fortunate to catch some amazing exhibitions that have been shown in our area:

- the [2024 Archibald Portrait Exhibition](#) at the Lismore Regional Gallery. The exhibition is extensive and of high quality and really needs to be supported ... the gallery is an amazing space.
- a poignant photographic exhibition, [‘Through the Heart’, by Jacklyn Wagner](#), an award-winning photojournalist. This exhibition showcases photographs of survivors and the unimaginable aftermath of the 2022 floods across Northern New South Wales. It is a very powerful exhibition.

- a meditative audio-visual artwork by internationally regarded artist [Lisa Reihana](#) named *‘Groundloop’*.

I thought, after seeing the exhibition by Lisa Reihana, that it was a beautiful way to end my visit to the gallery.

At our last meeting Jenny Unwin offered to do a Show and Tell for our next meeting and for our September meeting Alexa Grunner will present us her work. I hope, and encourage, that for our October meeting an artist and craft person may volunteer to do a show and tell. Thank you.

***Have a great creative month and stay warm.  
Françoise***



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

##### **Next monthly meeting is:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 August 2025  
**Time:** 5.00pm for 5.30pm start  
**Show & Tell:** Jennifer Unwin  
**Location:** Boardroom  
Cherry Street Sports Club  
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets  
Ballina

# **LENNOX NEWS**

## **The art of Forgery**

One of the most fascinating aspects of art is the “art of forgery”. Why do such talented artists who are good enough to create art that is almost indistinguishable from the real thing, spend their obvious talents copying other artists?

Even such an esteemed talent as Michelangelo was no stranger to forgery.

The Renaissance ushered in the rise of Humanism, a movement that emphasized individuality and the importance of earthly, rather than divine, matters. During this time, it became more common for artists to identify their works, as buyers desired authentic pieces by recognized artists. The resulting concept of individual genius and talent is perhaps best embodied by the Italian sculptor and artist [Michelangelo](#). Ironically, however, Michelangelo himself created forgeries. In 1496, he sculpted a sleeping cupid and then buried it to make it appear older. Michelangelo sold the sculpture to a cardinal, who eventually discovered that it was artificially aged. The cardinal demanded a refund from the dealer who sold him the piece but allowed Michelangelo to keep his portion of the proceeds because he was so impressed with the work. The incident added to Michelangelo's fame and was praised as a “triumph over antiquity”. (The Renaissance master also had a proclivity for copying other artists' drawings, keeping originals and returning copies in their place.)

Another well-known forger was **Nan van Meegeren**

The fascination with a forger double when their work has duped Nazi agents. Han van Meegeren, a popular painter in the Netherlands who was criticized for being derivative, set out to prove his talents by forging famous artists. He planned to wait until his paintings attracted critical acclaim, and then he would reveal their true origins, exacting revenge on those who had doubted his talents. Once he achieved financial success from his forgeries, however, the temptation was too great, and he continued his criminal activities — activities that went unnoticed even as his work grew sloppy due to alcoholism and a morphine addiction. Eventually one of his [Vermeer](#) forgeries made its way into the collection of Hermann Göring, a central member of the Nazi high command. When World War II ended with German defeat, van Meegeren was arrested in his home country for selling Dutch cultural property to the Nazis, an act of treason punishable by death.

Confronted with this punishment, van Meegeren confessed. In November 1947, after a highly publicized trial, he was convicted of falsification and fraud charges and was sentenced to one year in prison. (He never served his time, dying before his incarceration.) In 1947, a newspaper poll found van Meegeren to be the second most popular man in the Netherlands, after the prime minister.

A fake Vermeer, below, “Supper at Emmaus”. They are now exhibited in museums as “after Vermeer”. He proved his innocence by painting a picture at the trial!



I have listed below the most popular art prizes measured by enquiries.

Further information is on their web sites:

1. [Craft and Design Canberra Daily Creative Challenge 2025](#)
2. [Fisher's Ghost Art Award](#)
3. [Paddington Art Prize](#)
4. [Lethbridge 20,000 Small Scale Art Award](#)
5. [Portia Geach Memorial Award](#)
6. [Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize](#)
7. [Hawkesbury Art Prize](#)
8. [Australian Artists Awards for Emerging Artists 2025](#)
9. [Mosman Art Prize](#)
10. The Lester Prize for Portraiture

Happy creating  
*Lesley Ryan*

## ARTISTS PROFILE

### **Penny Moore**

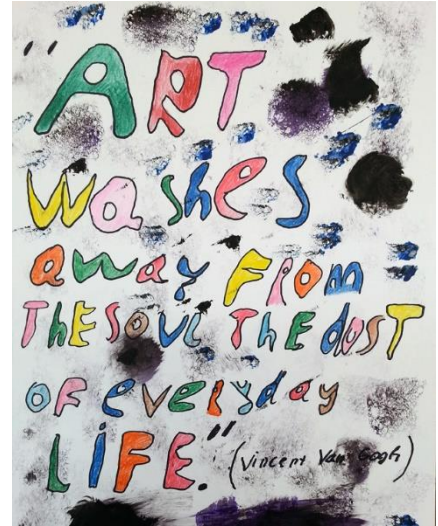
I have been interested in art and craft all my life and from an early age my family got involved in art and craft workshops around Sydney. There was also plenty of outings to galleries and exhibitions. Dad got me interested in water colour painting, but it wasn't until moving to the north coast that I had the opportunity to take classes, where I met other keen watercolourists.

Having started about 20 years ago I have exhibited numerous times at the Roxy gallery in Kyogle and numerous local art shows and have been lucky enough to receive some awards.

Watercolour is still my first passion but have gone onto explore other mediums, such as pastel, collage, gel plate and mixed media. I am now combining different techniques and mediums together. The main subjects are gathered from photos taking locally and overseas.

I have recently been combining gel plate prints with watercolour and also gel plate prints with collage and mixed media.

In late 2024 I joined BACCI and look forward to exhibiting with them.



## A POEM CAPTURING THE ARTIST'S STRUGGLE, TRANSFORMATION AND EVENTUAL RESOLUTION

### **By Rod Ellis**

As the paint flows with scratchy resistance onto  
my canvas,

I am overcome with the challenges in front of me.  
The colours swirl and fight against each other,  
Without reason or purpose,  
And I am exposed to indecision as to where I am  
going.

My brush hesitates, caught between impulse and  
doubt,  
Each stroke a question, each hue a fleeting  
thought.  
Lines blur, shapes dissolve,  
The chaos of creation pulling me deeper,  
A battle of light and shadow raging on the surface.

Yet in the turmoil, whispers of form emerge,  
Echoes of vision hidden beneath uncertainty.  
I step back, breathe, and surrender—  
Not to control, but to discovery,  
Allowing the paint to lead where my mind resists.

The strokes grow bold, the colours find harmony,  
What was once confusion now dances with intent.  
From doubt, a story unfolds,  
From struggle, a masterpiece takes shape

—  
Not perfect, but alive,  
A mirror of the artist, forever in motion.

**Rod Ellis**

# **CREATIVE ARTISANS** **GALLERY NEWS**

## **Featured artist(s) for August 2025:**

### **1. Lesley Ryan**

Lesley Ryan is a local artist, she has won many awards, including the Coraki Art Prize.

Her work is held in private, corporate and government collections. She has exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.

As our featured artist in August, Lesley will be exhibiting a series of abstract watercolour landscapes.

Lesley's work is influenced by her love of Japanese woodblocks, the simplicity of line, and the reduction of landscape to its basic form.

Watercolour allows her to develop a visual language of mood and serenity. The free-flowing movements in her images, leave the viewer the decisions, about where and when.

While the work is executed in watercolours it is rarely touched by a brush. Her painting implements can be a fork, a feather or a plastic card.

She has studied with Japanese woodblock master carver [Motoharu Asaka](#) in Tokyo and his influence and subtle use of line can be seen in these works.



### **2. Penny Levett**

Penny Levett is a visual artist now based in the Clarence Valley, having spent 20 years in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. A qualified graphic designer by training, Penny embraced watercolour and mixed media later in life, drawn by the tactile joy and expressive potential of hands-on artmaking.

Her work is inspired by the interplay of colour, shape, and texture, which guide her choice of subject, composition, and medium. A passionate traveller and photographer, Penny incorporates keen observation and personal experience into her creative process, often capturing the beauty of everyday moments with sensitivity and flair.

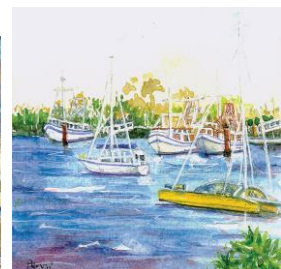
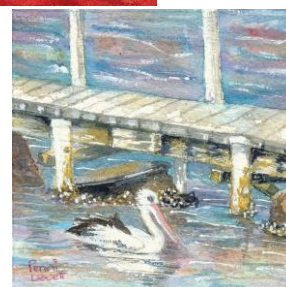
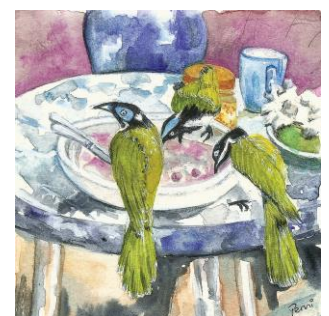
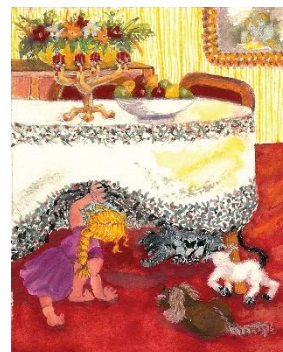
With a foundation in graphic design, Penny brings a strong sense of detail and design to her art. This is evident in her refined drawing skills, the use of stylisation and pattern, and occasional explorations in pen and ink techniques.

Over the years, Penny has been recognised with numerous awards and prizes and has exhibited widely in group and solo exhibitions. Her work has been acquired by private collectors and commissioned extensively.

Notable exhibitions include:

- Solo Exhibition, BDAS Gallery, Bowral (2007); and
  - Links House, Burradoo, NSW (2020),
- plus many more across regional New South Wales

Penny continues to explore new themes and techniques, always evolving her distinctive style while maintaining a deep appreciation for the fine details that bring her work to life



*Cheers  
Pauline  
Rutten*

## Nature Printing Workshop with Andrew Watson Alstonville Saturday, 6 September 2025

Join in a beginner's workshop in Nature Printing. Learn the basics of this "borrowed" technique working towards your own take home finished work. You will be guided through the basic practices that I have developed.

The workshop is delivered in a small group to keep tuition more personal.

### Materials included:

- Block printing ink and inking stations
- Brayers (rollers) \*
- Paper Access to some acrylic paints and water colours for use on the day

\*Please note that the brayers are not take-home items for this workshop.

### What to bring:

- Acrylic and water colour paints (if you only have acrylics that is fine)
- Some plants that you might like to use in the printing process – just small pieces (around 20 – 30cm in height)
- Brushes
- Apron and gloves (optional)
- Lunch and snacks
- A sense of fun

**Date:** Saturday, 6 September 2025

**Time:** 10.00am to 4.00pm

### No. or participants:

- Maximum 4
- Minimum 2 (for workshop to proceed)

Phone or SMS Andrew Watson on 0409 337984 for bookings and enquiries

### Cost:

- \$85 BACCI Members
- \$100 non-members



## 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)





## RANSW 2025 Workshop Program



In 2025, Regional Arts NSW is running a monthly program of online industry workshops to provide regional artists and arts organisations with advice and guidance.

The workshops will cover a different subject each month, run by different experts from across the industry, and will be free for RANSW Members.

Tickets are available now, click on this link ([Regional Art NSW](#)) to view workshops and registration



### Correction from July's newsletter:

We have received an email from Regional Arts explaining that as a member of BACCI we are automatically members of Regional Arts NSW. (RANSW) The information in the recent newsletter was incorrect.

## Lismore Art Club

Hi All

If you're interested in Visual art, then become a part of the Lismore Art Club.

Info on our new look website ...  
<http://www.lismoreartclub.com>

Explore your creative side.

New members and beginners welcome.

*Linnea Hannan*

Secretary Lismore Art Club.inc

15 Casino Street.

South Lismore. NSW 2480

E [lismoreartclub@gmail.com](mailto:lismoreartclub@gmail.com)

W <http://www.lismoreartclub.com>



If you would like more information regarding this exhibition , please contact:

Maree Beek

President

Cassino Art Gallery

0439308620

