



# THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the  
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

**MARCH 2024**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Although the weather is still very warm the light has noticeably changed in the past couple of weeks. The shadows are longer, and the light has become more golden. The cooler mornings have also been appreciated.

After the Show and Tell that Geoff shared with us at the first meeting of 2024, I hope that you were all energised to act on some of those ideas.

To clear up some misinformation, the only reason you would be **ineligible** for Ballina Wave's Artist of the month is if you **do not** attend meetings, contribute to the exhibitions, or write an article for the monthly newsletters.

In other words, to be eligible, you have to do something with BACCI, other than just pay your membership or exhibition fees. We all need to remember that an organisation can only be successful if all members actively participate.

The Ballina Wave editor has already told us that they will not accept an artist who has been published in their pages during the last 2 years.

I look forward to your goodwill in making BACCI a strong dynamic group for 2024.

Cheers to a great year full of creativity.

**Thank you**  
**Françoise Sauvère**



*"My opinion? Well, as I'm sure you can appreciate, it is gallery policy not to comment or editorialize in regards to the quality or cultural relevance of any given artwork."*

### WHATS COMING UP?

#### **Monthly meeting:**

**Date:** Monday, 4 March 2024

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

**Location:** Cultural Street Area  
(outside on the verandah)  
Cherry Street Sports Club  
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets  
Ballina

## LENNOX NEWS

Times are tough and art supplies are getting more expensive, I started thinking about ways we can save money on art supplies. Some ideas you may know about, but other ideas may help. I always advocate using the best materials and paints you can afford; you will achieve better results and it will be easier to paint, (cheap acrylic paint has less pigment and you will need more layers to achieve a good result). I'm starting off with acrylic art and I will cover watercolour and drawing in future newsletters.

I'm not putting these ideas in any particular order, but I think the first idea is the most beneficial.

1. Buy in bulk – easier said than done!
  - a group of like-minded friends get together and buy bulk supplies of paint or canvases etc.
  - you could also approach an art group you belong to and ask them if they would be interested in supporting this initiative.
  - buying on bulk offers discounts, decreased transport costs etc.
2. Learn to mix your own colours – there is no need to buy a tube for every colour, you can operate very successfully with 8 colours:
  - warm-red, blue, and yellow,
  - cool-red, blue, and yellow,
  - mineral colour, eg burnt Siena and, lastly
  - white
3. Store paints properly, put the tops on even though you are tired. I have a pair of pliers with me all the time, this saves time and makes me more likely to do this important job.
4. I wrote about using a wet palette in a previous edition this saves an enormous amount of paint and you don't need to match and re-mix colours. Another way to store mixed colours is to put them in a tablet box (see pic below). These usually have very good seals, and you can use one colour at a time, keeping the rest sealed.



5. Use a pasta machine to squeeze out all the colours in a tube.

More tips to come next month.

Some quick info on art prizes coming up:

- Stanthorpe Art Prize
- JADA entries close June 30
- Muswellbrook Art Prize
- Hadleys Art Prize
- Information and entry forms on their web sites

**Lesley Ryan**

## FROM THE EXHIBITIONS DESK

It only seems like yesterday I was thinking about New Year's Eve and here it is coming up to March 2024. We will all be glad to see the end of Summer and the humidity, well at least I know I will!

We have our 2024 exhibition dates locked in, so please put these dates in your diary and work towards some fabulous exhibitions. I look forward to seeing the incredible array of talents you all show.

### **MAY 2024**

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

### **GRACE CRUISE JUNE 2024**

- High-definition photos due (**date to be advised**) late April to early May, high-definition JPEG will be required.\*
- Entry form due to Andrew 3 June 2024
- Drop off to Community Gallery 9am – 10am Monday, 24 June
- Exhibition runs from Wednesday, 26 June to Sunday, 18 August
- Launch evening – Thursday, 27 June
- Pick up of unsold works Monday, 19 June

**NOTE – COMMISSION ON SALES WILL REMAIN AT 40% for this exhibition.**

**SIZE RESTRICTIONS – 1 hanging piece maximum 60cm width x 60cm high (outer dimensions including frame or 2 x smaller pieces 30cm width x 30cm high.**

**CRAFT EXHIBITORS – please note, your works will be displayed appropriately by the gallery according by NRCG. No “shop” like props will be accepted or required by the gallery for display purposes.**

## OCTOBER 2024

- Mid-August entry forms will be sent to members.
- Closing date for entry forms – will be Friday, 20 September before 7pm.
- **ALL** entry forms must be completed in full and submitted to me prior to cut off time.
- Drop off and set up at Masonic Centre, Cherry Street – FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER
- Exhibition dates – SATURDAY, 12 and SUNDAY, 13 OCTOBER

\*I understand that a lot of you may struggle with getting images of completed works for the Grace Cruice exhibition by the required dates. PLEASE start on your works NOW or soon to have them completed in time. The committee can help you with taking a professional photo and converting to a JPEG file for submission.



\*\*\*\*\*

The above is just a brief outline of the year.

Each event will be a topic of discussion at BACCI meetings.

I am proposing that members are notified of dates prior so you can attend meetings where details we be discussed,

See you at the March Meeting.

Thank  
Andrew Watson

## Article of interest **JAPAN ADVENTURES OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2023 – by Andrew Watson**

Boarding a flight from Sydney to Haneda Airport (Tokyo) is always exciting, particularly when you turn left at the door! Japan Airlines staff are impeccable in their welcome and genuinely friendly interactions. The food and beverages offered on board were so delicious, just the thing to get us in the mood for our beloved Japan.

Arriving in Tokyo 9 hours later, clearing immigration and customs was a breeze. A few kombanwa (good evening) and arigato (thank you) later and bam, you are officially in Japan.

**Travel tip:** *if travelling to Japan in the cooler months, the heating of buildings and public spaces is over the top to the point that you need to dress in COOL clothing that can be layered up later.*

Two nights in Tokyo staying in the Asakusa at Hotel, Monday was a great start. The room had a giant king bed (some apartments are smaller than this bed in Tokyo, I kid you not!). We chose this area to explore Kappabashi Dori (street) which is also known as Kitchen Street.

**Travel tip:** *Remember when travelling in Japan, a lot of stores don't open until at least 10am and can be closed on random days not listed on websites (if you read Japanese) or don't come up as closed on good old Google Maps.*

We were very pleased to find our favourite coffee shop (Sensing Touch of Earth) had survived the pandemic and was busier than ever. This coffee shop is very hip, don't worry not being hip in Japan, doesn't matter. There was a staff member there that remembered us from a photo pre-pandemic, how good is that!



We boarded the Shinkansen (bullet train) for Kanazawa on a coolish morning (Green Car was well worth the upgrade of the JR pass, it is a bit like business class on a plane, but no food or drinks just a huge amount of space and superior comfort and quiet). The tradition of purchasing a Bento had us mulling over Bento Boxes (lunch boxes) as well as drinks and sweets with the plethora of choices overwhelming.

**Travel Tip:** Bento Boxes often have a seasonal and local theme, worth searching out and purchasing. Do a lap of all the choices and then do another and another, if you have to, prior to making a selection.

If you have ridden a Shinkansen, or any small train in Japan, you will understand the love for them that I hav, if not, put it on your bucket list to do. The Japanese rail system is SO efficient.

**Travel Tip:** Don't be late, not even by 30 seconds, you will be standing on the platform seeing your train pulling away from the platform. Fun fact, in 2022 the entire JR Rail system recorded a total of 11 seconds delay from schedule – super efficient!

The journey across to Kanazawa on the west coast was smooth and seamless and with top speeds of 275km per hour ... fast! Kanazawa is home to Kenroku-en Gardens, one of the top 3 gardens in Japan. Plan at least a 5 hours to wander these gardens, if not longer if you want to sit, admire and have lot's of "zen" moments. Take your little sketching pad and water colour block and capture the beautiful scenery.

**Travel tip:** If travelling in Autumn, coincide a visit with the illumination festival.

There are, of course, so many wonderful sites to see in Kanazawa, and the Museum of Modern Art is an amazing building in itself. Don't miss the Omicho Market (fresh seafood and produce markets), Higashi-Chaya District (old town with lots of Tea Houses where Geisha still performs), and Nagamachi district (Samurai district). There is a convenient loop bus travelling clockwise and anti-clockwise between all the tourist sites.



From Kanazawa we boarded the Thunderbird (express train) for Kyoto where we stayed for 14 nights.

Kyoto is an amazing City, being the old Capital of Japan there is so much to see and do. Fourteen nights might seem a long time to spend in one city, however our intention was to fully immerse ourselves in the culture of this City and use it as a base to explore beyond.

We rented a Kyo-Machiya, which is a traditional Japanese town house (often referred to as “Eel Nests” due to their long and narrow layout). Our Kyo-Machiya was rented through Shiki Properties which have quite a few well-appointed properties on their books. We rented Zen Fuyacho which was only a 10-minute stroll to Shijo Dori (street) which is one of the main arteries in Kyoto City; convenient for everything.

Of course, being Autumn, the colours of the changing leaves were just everywhere, all-be-it not in full colour as the season was a little later as the summer dragged on. We still had spectacular viewings of Autumn leaves at all sites we visited. Honestly, the mix of reds, oranges and greens was such a pleasant experience.

My travel companion and I are very lucky to have the acquaintance of Hinako (a Kyoto based Japanese girl) that we met on our travels a couple of years ago and have remained close friends. Hinako took 3 days off her work to show us the sites of Kyoto and temples and pavilions within temples that we would have never known about. The highlight of our times with Hinako were many, however 2 will stand out.

The first, never to forget experience, was a full day spent in TAKAO area in the mountains about one hour by bus from downtown Kyoto. We visited the 3 temples Jingo-ji, Saimyo-ji and Kozan-ji in this region and saw priceless Japanese treasures on show that only come out for public viewing every few years.

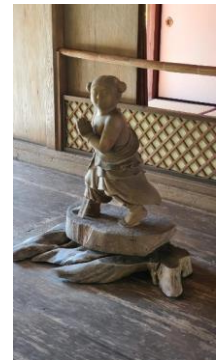
At Jingo-ji you can toss small unfired ceramic discs from the lookout to rid yourself of bad karma, lots of fun. At Jingo-ji we witnessed the most stunning Buddha sculpture, which is open to the public for 7 days only about every 8 years. We were the last to visit the pavilion on day 7 and were invited to stay for prayers and chants with the head priest. A truly magical experience – all beautifully translated by our friend Hinako and other priests.

**Travel tip:** Be prepared for literally hundreds of steps but also be prepared to be blown away by culture, friendly locals, and scenery. Take the time to learn a few phrases and locals will try hard to chat with you.

The other never to be forgotten experience was a private tea party conducted by Hinako for Jane and me. The tradition of the school used for this tea house was expertly explained and we were honoured to be part of it. The ceremony was sublime and so beautifully conducted. We will never forget it.

On Saturday, 11 November, we travelled to Hiroshima and visited the Peace Park.

The overwhelming shock of seeing the A Bomb Dome memorial building is hard to explain. On the dot of 11am I laid flowers at the Cenotaph. Strangely up to that time the Cenotaph had been very busy, however moments prior the crowd parted, and I was almost all alone to have my minute of silence and silent prayers. Please never again.



Of course, there are so many things to see and do in and around Kyoto I could author a book.

**Travel Tip:** If travelling to Kyoto, do you homework, avoid the tourist traps such as Arashiyama Bamboo Forest (one of Kyoto’s top sights), and Fushimi Inari Shrine, to name a couple. Go slightly off the beaten track and you won’t be disappointed.



## ARTISTS PROFILE

### Lesley Ryan

Lesley Ryan has lived in the Northern Rivers for 22 years.

She studied at:

- Wollongong University
- East Sydney Technical College
- The London School of Art
- Seaforth Technical College; and
- in Tokyo, Japan.

Lesley has been instructing private students for 18 years and is a tutor at the Ballina Art Society. She has exhibited overseas and is represented in collections throughout Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Her work is held in private and public collections.

Lesley's current work is heavily 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 landscape images, leave the viewer the decisions, about where and when.

Lesley has been a member of Ballina Arts and Crafts Centre Incorporated (BACCI) for 18 years.



## CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

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

### 1. Richard Arnot (woodwork)

I grew up in South Africa and Rhodesia (Zambia) and have enjoyed woodwork since I was a schoolboy.

After a 55 year hiatus when I was more occupied cutting up humans (as a surgeon) while I was at sea, and in Africa, Arabia, Great Britain, and Australia than trees, I finally have the time to return to my first love.

I enjoyed working in my garage corner work bench until I joined the Ballina Community Men's Shed in 2022 and my woodwork has taken off, thanks to the expert advice and supervision of members of the shed.

From day one, every project I started would be surrounded by half a dozen well-meaning experts (not unlike chooks picking at grain in the chookshed) "Not like that Richard, this is the way to do it" and so on.

At the men's shed I have developed skills in cabinet working, making dovetails, and more recently woodturning on a lathe, and retirement has taken on a whole new meaning. I appreciate places like Creative Artisans Gallery to demonstrate my skills!!



## 2. Penny Levett

(Diploma of Graphic Design and Fine Arts)

Penny is a qualified Graphic Designer who has taken on the challenge and the joys of working hands on with watercolour and mixed media in later life.



Colour, shape and texture inspire her the most and determine her choice of subject, composition and medium.

Travel and photography play a role in the creative process.

Her background has instilled a need to represent detail, highlighted by drawing techniques, pen & ink work and use of stylisation or pattern.

### Highlights of her journey so far are :-

- Two Solo Exhibitions: 2007 'Paintings for the Birds' Fettle's Shed Robertson
- 2012 'Spice – the Colours of Life' BDAS Gallery Bowral
- Curator and exhibitor:-
- 'All Things Great Are Small' - Miniatures & Small Artworks, Old Town Hall Building Bowral entering 13<sup>th</sup> year
- Acceptance into Tasmanian (2016) and NSW Miniature Art Societies (2019)

### Prizes, Awards etc:-

- July 2019 ASMA (NSW) National Miniatures Awards Exhibition
- Winner Coleman Award Self Portrait
- 'Self Portrait Penny' miniature watercolour
- November 2018 Art Edit feature and website launch: 'Bird Song Series' watercolour miniatures
- Sept 2018 Launch of Wearable Art product online shop = a collaboration with VIDA:  
<https://shopvida/collections/lovethatartmail>
- May 2017 Camden Art Prize
- 'Magical Forest Floor' Framed A1 Watercolour - Sold \$1,200
- June 2016 ASMA (NSW) National Miniatures Awards Exhibition
- Winner Coleman Award for Still Life
- 'Collection of Timeless Treasures' miniature watercolour
- February 2016 Fettle's Shed Heritage Art Prize
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Teknemosus Built Environment Section
- 'I Love Bowral' pen, watercolour & gouache, miniature triptych
- January 2016 ASMA (TAS) Miniature Annual Award Exhibition

- Bronze Award Still Life/ Interiors 'Tickle The Senses' miniature Watercolour
- Gold Award Fiction Fantasy and Floral 'Perfumed Romance' miniature Watercolour
- May 2015 Shoalhaven 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Prize Exhibition
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Life Form Section C
- 'Great Expectations' Watercolour
- February 2015 Fettle's Shed Heritage Art Prize
- Highly Commended Teknemosus Built Environment Section
- 'The Grass is Greener' Inks on handmade paper
- Highly Commended RHRSI Open Section - 'Shades of Grey' Watercolour
- March 2014 Fettle's Shed Heritage Art Prize
- Highly Commended 'Grandmas Work Basket' Watercolour
- February 2010 Robertson Agricultural Show
- 1st prize Works on Paper, printmaking & mixed media section
- 'Sunset Water Frolic' Mixed Media
- May 2008 Camden Art Prize
- Winner Watercolour section 'Feathers on Blue'
- September 2006 Annual Hills Grammar Art, Craft and Garden Show I – one of 12 finalists 'Enjoy The Garden' pen & ink drawing



**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)

### **The Mad Hatter**



"This is an unbirthday party!"

"What a small world this is!"

"Oh, what a delightful child!"

"We never get compliments, you must have a cup of tea!"

"I shall elucidate."



