



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the

Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

JUNE 2023

PRESIDENTS REPORT

We have had our wonderful BACCI May Exhibition and now the weather has turned almost overnight to winter temperatures.

Such a change after our long warm summer!

I was very happy to contribute to a successful Pop-up Café at the exhibition and as organiser I wish to thank all the wonderful women who volunteered their time in serving in the café. We made a very efficient team and Wanda's previous experience was essential for the success of the event. Thank you also to everyone who cooked and donated delicious cakes and biscuits to grace our table.

As I write this report, I am laying low with a tropical ulcer on my ankle but hope to be up and running very soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone's wonderful works at the Grace Cruice Exhibition.

Thank you
Françoise Sauvère

WHATS COMING UP?

Monthly meeting:

Date: Monday, 5 June 2023
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & Tell: Melanie Dilday
Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets
Ballina

LENNOX NEWS

The Artificial Intelligence [AI] debate continues. I've attached a copy of the winning entry in an art competition which as generated by AI, followed on by the artists comments and justification for his entry.

The Colorado State Fair's annual art competition gave out prizes in all the usual categories: painting, quilting, sculpture.

But one entrant, Jason M. Allen of Pueblo West, Colo., didn't make his entry with a brush or a lump of clay. He created it with Midjourney, an artificial intelligence program that turns lines of text into hyper-realistic graphics.

Mr Allen's work, "Théâtre D'opéra Spatial," took home the blue ribbon in the fair's contest for emerging artists — making it one of the first AI-generated pieces to win such a prize, and setting off a fierce backlash from artists who accused him of, essentially, cheating. Mr Allen defended his work, he said that he had made clear that his work (which was submitted under the name "Jason M. Allen via Midjourney") was created using AI, and that he hadn't deceived anyone about its origins.



Another aspect of this type of work is who owns the copyright? As AI often uses other artists works in the "creative" process. So far what I have discovered in Australia is that:

"AI tools do not currently have legal status and cannot own copyright. Works solely created by Artificial Intelligence are therefore not eligible for copyright provisions in Australia".

This means that anyone can use your AI art. This area is going to get even murkier as there are currently legal cases where a non-AI artists work has been used in an AI image and the court has ruled that copyright has NOT been broken ... a surprising result!

Art Prizes coming up, and, as usual, more information can be found on their web sites:-

- [**Naked and Nude, Manning Regional Art Gallery**](#), Entries close Friday, 23 June 2023
- [**Calleen Art Award**](#),
Entries close Friday, 21 July 2023
- [**2024 Grace Cossington Smith Art Award**](#)
*Entries close midnight,
Saturday, 2 September 2023*
- [**Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award 2023**](#)
Submissions close Friday, 30 June 2023
- [**Naked & Nude Art Prize**](#)
Entries close Friday, 23 June 2023
- [**National Capital Art Prize**](#)
*Entries close 7pm (AEST),
Friday, 30 June 2023*
- [**Paddington Art Prize**](#)
Entries close Sunday August 27, 2023
- [**STILL: National Still Life Award**](#)
Entries close Sunday June 4, 2023

Happy creating
Lesley Ryan

"if you don't
know where you
want to go,
then it doesn't
matter which
path you
take."

alice in wonderland



ARTISTS PROFILE

Maria Heaton

Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre (BACCI) has recently celebrated 25 years!

Maria is one of its original members – her love affair with paint began almost 40 years ago when she began to paint as a hobby. It organically grew to an art career of painting and teaching.



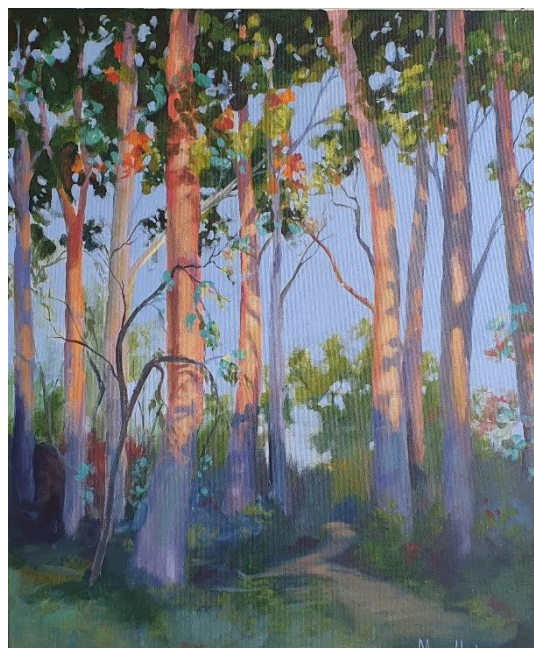
Always keen to extend herself, learn new brush, and paint skills, Maria travels to study in workshops with many of Australia's best artists.

Maria is a local award-winning and internationally collected artist and enjoys painting many styles. Earlier in her career she mostly painted birds, animals, and flowers but the last decade has seen her move to both traditional and more creative still life, landscape, and seascape styles. Maria's paintings are infused with luscious light and shade!

"It's a lifetime of learning" is Maria's favorite saying.

Over the years Maria has developed a fine foundation of skills in acrylic and oil and has shared her knowledge with countless students. Although COVID brought a reduction in the amount of time Maria teaches now, she keeps a foot in the door at local art clubs occasionally teaching.

"I love to keep people guessing" Maria muses
"I refuse to be pigeonholed!"



Exhibition Wrap-Up 2023

The May 2023 BACCI show has come and gone, and I hope you all join me in saying **WOW** what a great turnout. The quality of the hanging works and the craft tables was exceptional.

We had one of the highest visitations at this show however, we must lament sales numbers were well down. There are possibly many reasons this is so, with the cost of living being a common theme throughout everyone's comments.

We will be proudly donating \$1,000 to Ballina Marine Rescue, with photos to be taken and published ... if all goes to plan – watch this space!

Thank you to EVERYONE involved in bringing the show together, there are so many of you, I will not even attempt to start to name you all as I may probably miss someone. All the usual stalwarts were there helping. If you have ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes to pull a show together, take time to speak with a committee member and you may just be surprised at the hours put in, which is all voluntarily.

To those on the Front Welcome Desk, thanks for taking time to ask, "How did you hear about our show?". The statistics that came back were very interesting and are listed below ... I think you can see a clear trend – Banners and Word of Mouth.

The percentage is based on the number of responses, I believe the number captured is about 25-30% of the numbers through the door:

Northern Rivers Times	22	10%
The Byron Shire Echo	7	3%
Word of mouth	50	23%
Banners	56	26%
Driving / walking past (drop-ins)	17	8%
Flyer in a window	15	7%
Flyer handed out by Member	10	5%
Non-exhibiting Member	3	1%
Facebook	27	13%
Ballina Information Centre	2	1%
Radio (Paradise FM)	16	8%
Marine Rescue email	1	0%
Internet	1	0%
Andrew	5	2%
Ballina Wave Magazine	8	4%
Rosie	2	1%

Again, a huge thank you to all those that gave up their time and to you, our members for supporting BACCI and showing your incredible works.

The next big event is the 12th ANNUAL GRACE CRUICE MEMORIAL EXHIBITION at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this newsletter, and if you haven't got your entry in, sorry you are too late for this year.

For those exhibiting, keep an eye on your inboxes for more information regarding drop off works.



Article from Andrew Watson ... **'From Guide to Artist'**

The opportunity to guide guests to some of the most beautiful places has been a blessing to me.

One place that is always dear to my heart is Lamington National Park (some of you may know O'Reilly's and Binna Burra Lodge). I took my first bird walk and guided walk at O'Reilly's when I was 14 years old. A skinny awkward kid taking paying guests walking ... I must have done something right as I was asked back and went on to be a guide for many years.

After studying Post Graduate studies in Outdoor Education, I became affiliated with the other side of the mountain, Binna Burra Lodge, where I guided for many years also.

Tragically, Binna Burra Lodge, and all the history, burnt to the ground during that terrible season of fires in September 2019.

As part of the resilience and recovery, Binna Burra Lodge introduced the Art, Science and Nature program in 2022 with Dr Renata Buziak ([Artist-in-Residence at Binna Burra, article in Ocean Road Magazine, 2022 - Renata Buziak](#)) as the artist in Residence for the first year, it is now an ongoing project.



Chalahn Falls
(photo credit – National Geographic)

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!

CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY **NEWS**

Featured artist(s) of the month

Angela Parr

Angela has been drawing and painting for as long as she can remember but of course all this took a back seat during those hectic career and parenting times. Now it's all systems go, although she does have 10 grandchildren, a 5-acre property and an Air BnB to look after, plus her husband's business accounts and media releases.



Binna Burra Lodge prior to 2019
Forest Dreaming – Andrew Watson 2022



Photo Credit Binna Burra Lodge
Photo Credit - artist

I was extremely fortunate to have run a successful workshop in July 2022 tutoring ‘Nature Printing’.

I can confirm the date for my 2023 workshop tutoring ‘Nature Printing; is on Sunday, 23 July 2023.

Keep an eye on Eventbrite for the workshop.

Numbers will be strictly limited so one-on-one tutorship can be offered ... love to see you there.

Andrew Watson

Two years ago, a small purpose-built gallery and studio was built on her property, this has been a blessing for her creative pursuits, and she does occasionally manage to find time to get in there and create.

In the past Angela has used all mediums in her artworks, but a few years ago a fellow artist suggested she try pastels ... well, since then she's hardly used anything else.

The pastel medium seems to suit her style (which is completely self-taught), and subject matter. Angela still picks up a brush from time to time and has also recently discovered the wonderfully creative process of Art Journaling and is also trying her hand at oils.

Angela's great passion is animals, and her artworks reflect this. Australian birds and both African and Australian mammals feature strongly in her works, but she has also been recently branching out into portraiture with great success.

Angela has held several solo exhibitions (including one in the NRCG). She competes and exhibits regularly both locally and interstate and has achieved numerous prestigious awards in recent years, most notably twice being selected in the Holmes Acquisitive Art Prize for Excellence in Realistic Birdlife Art Prize, Australia's highest prize for bird artists.

Other major awards have included:

- Winning the Pastel / Drawing Section and People's Choice – Ocean Shores Art Comp
- Finalist in the Dean Cogle Portrait Prize (Gold Coast)
- People's Choice – BACCI Spring Exhibition
- People's Choice – Pastel Society of Australia Annual Awards (twice)
- Winner Casino RSM Acquisition Prize
- Bentley Art Prize, People's Choice
- Southern Cross Art Show

WORKSHOP(S)

David Taylor's 4-day Watercolour Workshop

There are still a few places left for this workshop, from Tuesday, 4 to Friday, 7 July 2023 (**note**, this workshop is for intermediate to advanced students).

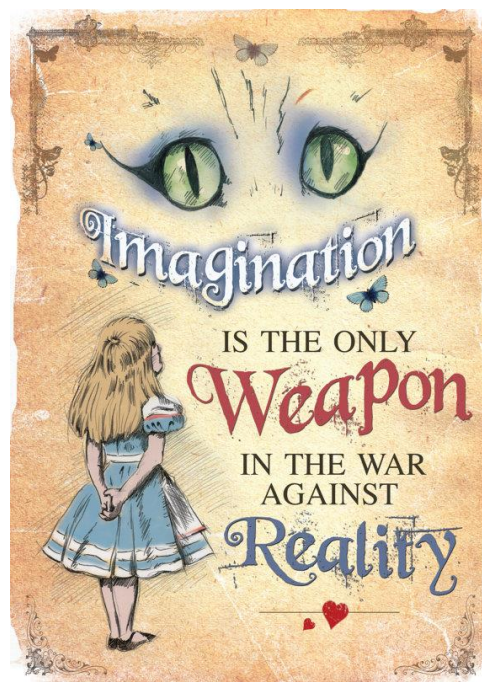
The cost is \$600 (lunch, tea & coffee each day is included).

For more information, contact Pauline 0435 941 591

Also, Ballina Art Society is looking for a tutor to teach drawing – if anyone is interested or you know someone who may be interested, would you please contact Narelle on 0408 082 388.

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 ballinabacci@gmail.com

