



# THE CRAFTY ARTIST

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

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

2024 was a good year for BACCI and we welcomed several new members. Our bright new and modern logo is a joyful reminder that we are renewing ourselves, we are grateful to Rosie Kaplan for designing the logo, and thanks to Tashi Dolma for organising and renewed our website. We need someone to manage and update the website as required. If you are able to do this, or you know somebody who could fill in this position, please let the committee know.

We participated in three successful exhibitions during the year:

- two exhibitions in the Masonic Hall in Ballina,
  - the first one was in the month of May; and
  - the second one in October,
- as well as the Grace Cruise Memorial Exhibition during the winter months in the Northern Rivers Community Gallery ([NRCCG](#)) in Ballina.

I am very grateful to all the members who have helped BACCI over the past year to keep it dynamic:

- Mary Richards, Rosie Kaplan, and Geoff Maclean who form the committee and who keep our organisation going
- Caroline McKay has organised the Pop-Up café
- Jill Hardwicke who has taken on the job of exhibition co-ordinator
- Cheryl Hurnall is editor to our great monthly newsletter
- Lesley Ryan contributes each month to the newsletter
- Alexa Grunner has taken on the role of Public Officer

Di Bell kindly stores all our exhibition equipment in her shed. Also, our social media publishers help to diffuse the BACCI publicity.

Thank you to Andrew Watson who is continuing his role of the Grace Cruise exhibition co-ordinator.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our AGM on 1 April at 5.30pm in the meeting room in the Ballina Indoor Sports Centre, on Cherry Street in Ballina.

May 2025 bring you many creative endeavours.

Cheers to a great year full of creativity.

*Françoise*



### WHAT'S COMING UP?

#### **AGM is (note location):**

**Date:** Tuesday, 1 April 2025

**Time:** 5.30pm start

**Location:** [Ballina Indoor Sports Centre](#) (BISC)  
63 Cherry Street [View Map](#)  
Ballina

## LENNOX NEWS

I was reading an article in which people were saying they are going to sell their Tesla cars, and many others have decided to go with other brands. Their reasoning being they don't like Elon Musk. It got me thinking about the "bad boys in art" and the question of should we exhibit the art by bad people?

It's a very tricky question, should we, and can we, separate the art from the person?

### Egon Schiele (1890-1918)

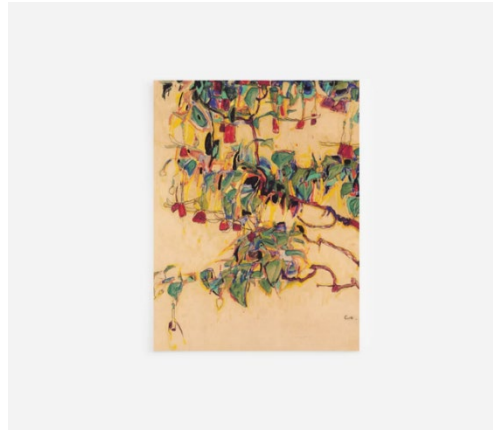


*Self-Portrait with Physalis, 1912*

I'm not afraid to admit he's one of my favourite artists. In 1912, Schiele and his (then partner) Wally Neuzil moved to Neulengbach, attempting to find new inspiration away from Vienna. While the respectable citizens of the town avoided Schiele, local children from poor families were fascinated by the artist. Schiele sometimes paid teenage girls to pose for him, to the great outrage of their families who believed that modelling was a synonym for sex work.

After an incident involving one of Schiele's models, he was imprisoned for a month and forced to leave Neulengbach. The girl asked Schiele and Neuzil to take her to Vienna to live with her grandmother instead of her parents. Soon after arriving in the capital, the teenager got sick, and the trio returned to Neulengbach. By then, the girl's father had already filed a report of rape and kidnapping, accusing the artist. While no proof of sexual misconduct was found, the town authorities still convicted Schiele for *public immorality* and for demonstrating his art in locations accessible to minors. He spent 24 days in jail. He still managed to create a sculpture of bread and spit.

Schiele died from Spanish flu at the age of 28, after nursing his young pregnant wife.



*"The Sun Tree" by Egon Schiele 1912*

He produced work of great beauty and great power, and I wonder what he would have produced if he had lived longer.

His work is now revered, and galleries fight over ownership, but he was once labelled evil and contemptuous.

Next month I'll write about another bad boy Pablo Picasso.

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### Art Prizes

A good site for looking up what is happening in the art prize world is [Art-Prizes.com](http://Art-Prizes.com).

The Art prize season is getting into full swing. Some of the more notable ones are:

- [Waverley Art Prize](#),
- [Milburn Art Prize](#),
- [Sunshine Coast National Art Prize](#),
- [Olive Cotton Award for Photography and Naked and Nude](#).

All the details are on the respective web sites.

*Happy Arting*  
*Lesley Ryan.*

## ARTISTS PROFILE

This is the second year that we have had a monthly artist's profile in the Ballina Wave and that is thanks to Rosie's efforts who collects artist's profiles from our members and then sends the documents in time for publication.

On the above we need every member who has not done so yet to write an artist profile. These need to be in before the next exhibition.

Cheryl Hurnall has offered her help in composing these. Please contact her if you need more directions in writing your own artist profile. Cheryl's contact details are 0425 214 674 or [churnall@gmail.com](mailto:churnall@gmail.com)

## A POTTED HISTORY OF BACCI

### Written by Mary Richards

In February 1998 Grace Cruice put a tiny ad in the then Ballina Advocate. Just one column wide, three centimetres high in a black box. "Anyone interested in an Art Gallery for Ballina phone Grace (with her number). Twelve people answered & the Dream began!

A Public Meeting was held on the 22 May under the umbrella of the Ballina Arts Society. An inaugural meeting in August formed BACCI & by March 1999 we were incorporated as Ballina Arts & Craft Centre Inc.

The next seven years were spent fund-raising with an Annual Exhibition at the RSL, Street Stalls, raffles, stalls in Shopping Centres & selling Bricks which raised \$4,500.

We applied for grants & Government funding & in the end had raised \$577,500. By 2004 four proposed sites were overruled by Council even with the then Committee of four turning the 'first sod', unknown by most members, at Treelands Reserve. Then the Council determined that it be the site for the Community Services Centre.

We lost Grace in 2005 but kept going with her dream.

In 2006 we applied to Council to use the Old Council Chambers in Cherry Street. When accepted the Council matched our funds with a further \$500,000. Restoration commenced in May & on October BACCI held its first Exhibition in the new gallery.

Unfortunately, that was the beginning of the end. The then Committee had its own agenda to be paid to manage the gallery. So we were out. They formed a volunteer group Friends of the Gallery to work it. Council knocked back their proposal & hired a paid Curator.

In 2008, BACCI as you know it today was reformed. Centre less, cash less, but ready to move on. Two Exhibitions a year, bus trips, workshops, social get togethers and no fundraising! But each Exhibition caters for a Charity. A wonderful group of people who support each other.

In 2010, Lesley Ryan, Secretary & myself made a deputation to Council on the 22 July, for our One Free Exhibition each year in the Gallery. Lesley couldn't be there, but Edna Moss came with me. Scary, but we had a win. June 2011 saw our first 'Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition for two weeks begin. Now two months long & our 14th Year.

BACCI Membership has fluctuated over the years from 120 to the present 63. The sad loss of a lot of our original members, & others moving on. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Cherry Street Sports club for social catch up at 5pm, meeting at 5.30pm. As well as the annual Grace Cruice Memorial Exhibition we hold two other Exhibitions for our members at the Masonic Hall, Cherry Street, (since 2018). We have wonderful, informative, Monthly Newsletters & New Members are always made welcome.

We thank all of you who have been here for the long haul & have worked so hard to keep us strong, & a big welcome to all our newer members. The hard work is done but we need you all to step up & help keep our 'Big Adventure' going forward.

*On behalf of BACCI & Grace's Dream I would like to thank you.*

**Mary Richards.**

Money raised by BACCI - \$77,000

GRANT: Art NSW-Planning NSW - \$110,000

GRANT: Government DOTARS Sustainable - Regions - \$390,500 (this was granted to build on Treelands Reserve but was transferred to the Council Building).

**Total - \$577,500**

# CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) for April 2025 is:

## 1. Stedroy Farrell

Stedroy's unique artworks are created using timber objects with the idea of helping the environment.

He has always had an affinity to timber, enjoying the medium since he was a boy. He was to find endless inspiration in the diversity of shape and texture each piece offered and was led to make his first guitar as a teenager.

With retirement looming, Stedroy seized the opportunity to dedicate his time to his childhood passion.

'As a retired software engineer, the thought of retirement without a plan worried me' said Stedroy. 'So, several years prior, my wife and I planned where we would live and what I would do with my time' ... hence my workshop was born.

Here I spend my days creating objects from salvaged timber. I let the wood talk to me to determine the article I will create. It might be a box, a chopping board, a chess set or a lamp stand. Even odd pallets can become vertical gardens... 'waste not, want not is my mantra.'



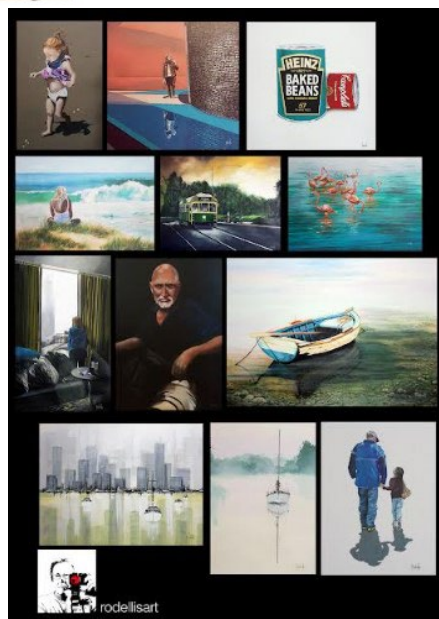
## 2. Rod Ellis

Rod's background is in sign-writing and graphic artist, working and living in Melbourne and then WA, before finally moving to Ballina in the 1980's.

Relying on his skills from the last 40 years, bringing colour and composition into his work, he has progressed into the arts.

*'I have no favourite subject or style, I just paint what I like, usually in acrylics. You could say I have had a paintbrush in my hand most of my life.'*

*However, having started painting at an older age brings its own doubts and confidence issues. I decided that if I am going to fail, I might as well do it in spectacular form, so I picked the hardest subject I could and painted it in oil. The reason being, that even if I could, maybe, make it look like some form of art, I might have a chance.'*



**Cheers  
Pauline Rutten**



## 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 and \$20 for non-members.

[Become a RANSW individual member for just \\$25.](#)

The first workshop will be on the arts ecology of regional NSW, facilitated by RANSW CEO Tracey Callinan, and will take place on Friday 28 February, 1-2pm. Tickets are available now (free registrations also required).



For upcoming events, please visit [Regional Arts NSW](#)

## 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>



## **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)

