

ARTY FACTS

December 2022

Lower Clarence Arts and Craft Association
Ferry Park Gallery PO Box 194, MACLEAN, NSW, 2463
Email: info@ferrypark.net Website: www.ferrypark.net

OFFICE BEARERS

President
Vacant

Vice President
Penny Stuart
Bobbie Winger

Secretary
Gloria Lee

Treasurer
Gloria Lee

Gallery Coordinators
Pam Birrell
Karin Brear

Exhibitor's Reps
Jean Versace
Penny Stuart

Exhibition Coordinator
Vacant

Minute Secretary
Suz Monin

Publicity Officer/Arty
Facts
Di Nixon/Jean Versace

Junior Art
Jean Versace

Events Coordinator
Vacant

Vice President Bobbie Winger rounds out the year's events:

As this is the last meeting of the year, I would like to mention a few high and low lights of 2022.

In January, mostly due to the initiative of our previous President Ainslie Langshaw, we held a successful exhibition of artwork, woodwork, and jewellery after an absence of two years due to Covid. The quilters followed up with their own exhibition in July that attracted many colourful and professional entries. It is sad that no one has volunteered to run an LCACA exhibition in 2023, and it may be the end of an era for our annual exhibition.

The 8x 8 Exhibition saw the departure of long-term stalwart organisers Penny Stuart and Suz Monin in 2022, and despite floods the show opened only a week late. Pam Birrell, Jean Versace and Bobbie Winger took on the steep learning curve of running the exhibition and managed to continue it for the 8th year. Pam and Jean have taken up the baton and are well on their way to a successful 2023 8 x8 show.

We had floods again in late March which went through the gallery to the height of about a foot or more. Thank you to all the Maclean locals who were able to lift many of our displays above the flood level and keep our art and craft work safe. Also, many thanks to CVC who provided much needed support during the clean-up, and to all the members who helped with getting the gallery cleaned and open again.

Special thanks to Gloria Lee and Penny Stuart who negotiated grant applications, insurance claims, and multiple levels of bureaucracy to get the funds we needed to continue operating the gallery after the flood. How successful they were is indicated by our November sales, which were the best they have been since 2016 for November.

More recently, the Men's Shed in Grafton were contracted to build some new shelving for the rear of the gallery, and new jewellery cabinets were sourced to replace the ones damaged in the flood. We had a fun IKEA assemble day on December 1 putting the jewellery cabinets together and I think they look very smick.

I am sure there are many important activities I have neglected, and many more people who deserve individual thanks, so please take a bow if I have missed you. We are looking at ways of reducing our costs and attracting more exhibitors and visitors. We considered NSW government grants to install an EV charger, but our building configuration and the relatively low level of funding were among the reasons we felt this would not work for us. We hope to investigate solar panels to supplement our power use in 2023, which could mean a big saving on power bills.

I have mentioned this before, but I would personally like to thank Gloria Lee who has taken on the role of both Secretary and Treasurer, as well as running our Phyllis Austin Exhibition with the help of Marlene. She put in hours of work when we had to move our accounts to BCU (Banana Coast Credit Union) when the local Commonwealth Bank closed. This was another of those unseen but major and often frustrating and time-consuming undertakings that members may not be fully aware of. And during the transition we all continued to get paid. Thank you, Gloria.

I would like to finish by asking members to think on the words of the late John F. Kennedy, former US President. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country". I think we all need to ask what we can do for Ferry Park if we want it to continue as a showcase for our local art and craft. Thank you,

Bobbie Winger

Phyllis Austin Perpetual Memorial Trophy:



Congratulations to **Suz Monin** who is a well-deserved winner of this annual Award. Suz's collage, 'Tokyo Moon' is a beautiful piece, inspired by her recent visit to that city on the night of the blood moon. Judge, Regional Gallery Director, Niomi Sands, also awarded two Highly Commended certificates to Jacqui McLeod for her remarkable textile art, 'Ocean Touch', and Alan Bishop with his whimsical 'Librarian Bird' in jacaranda wood.

Patron and Mayor Ian Tiley also spoke to the small group of attendees.

The Phyllis Austin Perpetual Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to a member of the association for an exhibit of outstanding quality and creativity. This year 12 members entered the competition with beautiful work on display.



December Artists of the Month:

What a wonderful display this is! Christmas at Ferry Park Gallery, with such a variety of art and craft on show. As Pam Birrell and Karen Brear can tell you, enthusiasm for gifts was overwhelming and sales have continued through the month.



Associated Groups' Reports

Gallery Coordinators:

This month we said goodbye to the Quilters exhibition in the members' room and welcomed the Phyllis Austin Award exhibition, which was arranged by Marlene and Gloria – well done ladies, it looks great.

As a result of the successful working bee, the new jewellery cabinets to replace the flood damaged ones are in place and looking spick and span.

It's heartening to see that although we occasionally lose an exhibitor or two, there is usually someone new to fill the vacancy, and this month we have two new collections on display. Rita Gaul, who paints in pastel and oil, has some delightful new paintings, and Yoko Christinson, who specialises in "amigurumi" (the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting stuffed yarn toys). Her cute little items are proving very popular and selling as fast as she can make them. Good to have you both on board!

A vacancy has occurred in next year's Artist of the Month program for May. It is open to any exhibitor who hasn't had a turn this year – just contact me or fill in the application form in the office.

A big thank you to all the exhibitors who contributed items for the Christmas display. As usual we were apprehensive as to whether we would have enough, but on changeover day magic happened and shelves were loaded. We had so much that we even had to enlarge the display area! Customers were grabbing items from the trolley before we could display them, and the Christmas spirit pervaded the gallery once more. A big thank you to everyone concerned.

May we finish up by thanking all members for their co-operation throughout the year and wish them a very safe and peaceful Christmas.

Pam & Karin





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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| Entry Forms: | Available at Ferry Park Gallery, Maclean |
| Entry Fees: | Open \$12.00; Youth (under 16) \$7.00 Both include 8x8 canvas |
| Entries Close: | 4.00 pm Friday, 17th March, 2023 |
| Opening and Awards: | Friday 31st March, 2023 (Open) Saturday 1st April, 2023 (Juniors) |
| Contact: | Jean: 0407378982 Pam: 0417815410 8x8@ferrypark.net |



8x8 Small Works:

Replacement canvases arrived last week, to cover the Ulmarra Public School order, and have been selling slowly, with 50-odd more out in the world awaiting their owners' inspiration.

Pam has been entering these into the computer, which is no small task, and much appreciated. Our expression of interest has been submitted for the Plunge Festival and will be followed up closer to the closing date. Thanks to Di and Suz for promoting the 8x8 competition through the media for us.

Don't leave it too long before you call at the gallery for your canvas/es for this special exhibition. It's surprising how quickly March comes around after all the bustle of Christmas and New Year.

Pam Birrell and Jean Versace

Tuesday Arters:

Art Group membership continues to grow with Jenny and Vicki joining us and Robyn Bowden back in town. The room is getting quite full if everyone attends.

Jean, Betty, Pam and Suz are showing their work at **Cowper Gallery and Studio's Christmas Exhibition.**

Oil painter, Kim, is excited to have his work on show in the window of **Maclean Framing and Gallery.**

Rita is now exhibiting at **Ferry Park Gallery.** Congratulations to Suz for being awarded the **Phyllis Austin Award.** Her stewardship of the Platypus Trophy until next year is a special thrill for her.

Everyone is looking forward to our end of year lunch to be held next week.

Suz Monin (with a bit from Jean)

Patchwork & Quilters

The year is coming to a close and we had our Christmas breakup party last Tuesday 6th December. It was a fun day and well attended. The winner of the Christmas Challenge of two heart blocks was Penne Carr and the runner up was Marcia Rutledge.

We had a Friendship Day visit from Lismore Quilters on 15th November. These people were affected by the floods earlier in the year and have lost their meeting place to flood damage. At present, they are meeting in the Lismore Bowling Club. It was a beautiful day and we gave them gifts and more to take back to other needy quilters who lost their supplies in the floods. We donated another 17 quilts for those in need. The Lismore Group have distributed over 1000 donated quilts from all over Australia to families affected by the floods in the area.

Our Group has had a busy year this year. Our last meeting day for this year is Tuesday 13th December and we will resume meeting on 17th January 2023.

**We have a blog - Maclean patchwork and Quilting@ Wordpress.com
Check it out!**

Claudette Hough

Spinners and Weavers:

Our small but eager group are still meeting at Ilarwill each week. Last Wednesday was our Christmas luncheon at the Cardiff Alpaca Farm. After a very nice lunch we walked down to the alpacas and llamas to feed and pat them.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. We will resume next year after a short break

Publicity:

I continue to liaise with The Independent and local radio stations. Looking to have space in SCENE magazine through The Independent. Social media statistics show more coverage for the gallery.

Maclean P&Qs have a blog - Maclean patchwork and Quilting@ Wordpress.com (It is worth having a look!)

Di Nixon

Attracting Visitors to our Gallery:

The December meeting also considered how best to attract people to Ferry Park Gallery. The disappointingly small attendance at the Phyllis Austin and Christmas Break-Up was a case in point, with very few people attending – either members or non-members.

With no one putting their hand up to co-ordinate the 2023 Exhibition, this will not go ahead. The constitution requires the LCACA to be inclusive of and for the benefit of the community. This is fulfilled by the Small Works 8x8 Competition and Exhibition; however, the loss of next year's major exhibition is unfortunate in the extreme.

There was discussion how best to utilise the Members' Room for exhibition and/or workshop use beyond the current regular use of it by embroidery and quilting groups. We welcome any suggestions.

Bobbie raised the possibility of an Arts and Crafts Car Boot Market in the back car park. She will look into this.

Any ideas for attracting patronage to the Gallery is welcome. Please give this some earnest consideration.

*A Happy Christmas
and
Wonderful New Year
to
Everybody.*



We'll see you all in 2023.