

ARTY FACTS

January/February 2023

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

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Vacant

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Penny Stuart
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Gloria Lee

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Karin Brear

Exhibitor's Reps
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Penny Stuart

Exhibition Coordinator
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Suz Monin

Publicity Officer/Arty
Facts
Di Nixon/Jean Versace

Junior Art
Jean Versace

Events Coordinator
Vacant

Vice President Penny Stuart's Remarks from Feb 10 Meeting:

Welcome back to Ferry Park for 2023.

It seems we have had a very successful summer holiday period at the gallery, with good sales figures and lots of visitors through the doors. It is very encouraging after the trials of last year and a credit to all who have contributed to our post flood and post covid recovery. Visitors' compliments about the work and display have been very positive.

In December, we were presented with a beautiful quilt, designed and made by the members of the Patchwork and Quilters' Group, which was subsequently presented to June Alexander, as a token of our appreciation for her long commitment to LCACA. She still contributes to the Gallery, having donated to us the master drawings for her very popular cards and bookmarks, along with some paintings.

Welcome to the new exhibitors and members who have joined us in the last couple of months, Yoko, Jean, Michael, Jenny and Vicki.

The LCACA AGM will be held in the Members' Room on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 11am. There is a box on the sign-in table for nominations, which are due in by 4pm, February 24. Please consider a position...they are all vacant!

It takes many hands to keep the Association and Gallery rolling along smoothly. Position roles are also available, beside the nominations box.

Penny Stuart



Artist of the Month January:



Karl Rubli presented an exciting exhibition of wood sculptures for our first members' exhibition of the year.

While Karl studied engineering in Switzerland as a young man, he also visited art schools, and both styling and design became part of his busy life. His favoured medium of wood carving became a major hobby following his retirement. His stylized forms begin their existence in his sketchbook and his mind and thence into the beautiful and simplified forms he loves and that Ferry Park Gallery has been privileged to host.



We are sad to say that Karl and Ursula will be returning to Switzerland to live later in the year, and these works in the gallery may be your last opportunity to purchase Karl's work.

Artist of the Month February:

Diane Valerie Nixon (aka DivaNix) presents her unique and eclectic wearable art jewellery and fashion pieces at Ferry Park Gallery this month. Di's jewellery is hand-crafted using gems, glass and pearls on string, wire, leather and whatever comes to hand, producing distinctive designs. Asymmetrical features are characteristic of her work.

Di also hand dyes silk to create one-off scarves and wraps and has added another dimension to her botanical dyed silk using fine merino wool. These award-winning pieces are richly coloured, luxuriously soft, stylish and collectable.

Her eclectic nature makes her an op-shop tragic.

She sources quality pre-loved, vintage and contemporary clothing and textiles which she strings and wraps with Japanese Shibori techniques, then dyeing them in indigo. This range includes women's, men's, baby wear and exquisite table linens. Come into the gallery to see the DivaNix range of delights this month.



Associated Groups' Reports

Publicity and Social Media:

Our publicity officer continues to liaise with the Independent and local radio stations.

Diane Nixon

Social media is continuing to attract many reaches on both Facebook and Instagram.

Both Karl and Diane's Artist of the Month posts have attracted many likes and comments.

Highest reach was for 8x8 posts attracting a reach of over 3000.

This shows that the more people react and share to our posts the more our gallery is advertised.

Suz Monin

Exhibitors' Representatives:

A successful meeting of the exhibiting jewellers, on January 6, saw some unanimous decision-making around the arrangement of the new cabinets and lighting. We have received lots of good feedback from customers, including a comment from a wheelchair user who found the arrangement very convenient for viewing all the work.

The cabinet lighting is underway and will be finished soon. Thank you to Bobbie and Bill for your valuable help with the installation, complicated by the blackout which occurred for some hours during the process! For your information, the blackout involved an osprey and a fish, just a short distance up river!

Just a reminder to all exhibitors, please make sure that all your stock has a price tag, with your Ferry Park ID number and price, clearly marked. There has been some confusion and some stock with no tags.

Penny and Jean

Gallery Coordinators:

This report is really two months rolled into one, so first of all - a big thank you to all exhibitors who took part in the Christmas display – everyone rose to the occasion and the colourful display helped spread the Christmas spirit.

In January, Karl Rubli's ever-popular woodwork and sculptures gave us a chance to show off his winning entry in the Coraki Art Prize, along with a myriad of amazing works – congratulations Karl.

This month, Di Nixon takes the spotlight with her exquisite felted wraps and unusual jewellery.

Pleased to report the list for Artist of the Month for this year is complete.

Good to have two new exhibitors –Michael Jameson with his plaques and signs, and Jean Visser displaying her specialised line of "natural product" bags with (I believe) millinery and fascinators to follow. That should bring a touch of sophistication to the gallery!

We have had lots of favourable comments about the new configuration for the jewellers' showcases, and now they are illuminated (thanks to Bobbie, Bill and Penny) they look even more attractive

We had a suggestion that, to keep the gallery looking fresh and inviting, we could occasionally move exhibitors around, possibly when rearranging after Artist of the Month displays. Although it will not always be practicable, we trialled it by just moving Di's and Marlene's displays and already have had some complimentary comments. These suggestions and new ideas are most welcome, so if you have any thoughts on how we can improve the gallery's appearance, please let us know, as a fresh look seems to attract more customers and possible sales.

Pam & Karin.

Art:

It was lovely to have 15 attending our first art session on February 7 at the Showgrounds. We welcomed two new faces: Barbara and Michael who joined us for the first time. With several people still not back yet, it seems we might have to revise our workplace arrangements. Such a happy problem!

Jean and Vicki delighted us with their Show and Tell.

Several members are attending regular art classes in Grafton, while others exhibited at Cowper Collectables over the Christmas/New Year period. Ferry Park, Cowper and Coldstream Galleries have all sold work for our art group members. Congratulations to those of you who have benefited.

Pam reminded us that 8x8 entries will be due soon and requested that members assist with providing food for the opening on April 1st.

We look forward to an exciting year and are envious of those who have begun 2023 with trips away.

Jean Versace and Robyn Germon

P & Q:



Maclean Patchwork & Quilting have begun 2023 with lots of enthusiasm and we are planning and looking forward to a happy productive year.

Pictured left is the quilt made for June Alexander in recognition of her long years of service to LCACA.

Some of our members were quite busy during the Christmas break and the "show and tell" segment has shown us all the extent of talent within the group with beautiful quilts being shown.

We have had a day helping Sue make a lovely quilt to donate to the RSL for them to raffle before Anzac Day. We are planning our "Airing of the Quilts" for this coming Easter break. We will have more information on this event soon. Last year's "Airing of the Quilts" was very successful and enjoyed by many people. Our monthly in-house workshops will begin in March. The first one will be: Making and using Bias and will be conducted by Alison Merrin. The Art Quilt workshops will begin again at the end of the month.

The first general meeting was held on February 7 and our AGM will be held on March 21. All positions will be vacant and we are looking forward to a new Committee being elected at the AGM. **Claudette Hough**

S & W:

Even though we are a small group there is lots of enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn different techniques of spinning etc. We actually have 7 women now when we all attend. We welcome anyone wishing to join us at Ilarwill. **Nita Barnsley**

8 x 8 Small Works Competition

There has been an amazing response to our 8x8 competition this year, with 300 canvases bought and sold. Latecomers are acquiring their own 8x8s and paying their entry fees on top.

Pam, who has entered the sale details on the spreadsheet (with most juniors still to come), reports 114 Open entries, with the expectation of about 180 Juniors. Because of this, we will need the pegboard stands from the Showgrounds and will be happy to hear from anyone able to help in transporting these. As well, some or all may need a touch-up with paint.

Because Bobbie will be away at the time of the launch, we now need someone with a Responsible Service of Alcohol qualification to attend. Any thoughts on this? A couple of people have promised to check if the status of their RSAs, but are doubtful of their validity.

Thank you to all volunteers who have taken the entries over the past few months. And special thanks to Pam for her diligence with the spreadsheet. We're crossing our fingers that completed canvases come in gradually, ahead of the cut-off date. **Jean Versace and Pam Birrell**

SAtracting Visitors to our Gallery:

The December meeting put a call out on how best to attract people to Ferry Park Gallery. There was some discussion on this at the February meeting, including Facebook and Instagram posts that promote limited-priced items.

Please have your say if you have some thoughts on promotions for the Gallery.

REMINDER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FPG Members' Room March 10, 2023, at 11.00am

- Associated groups are reminded that reports should be presented.
- Representatives to the committee are to be named at the AGM.
- There is a box on the sign-in table for nominations, which are **due in by 4pm, February 24**. Please consider a position...they are all vacant!
- It takes many hands to keep the Association and Gallery rolling along smoothly. Position roles are also available, beside the nominations box.
- **A nomination has been received for Honorary Life membership and this is to be voted on at the forthcoming AGM.**