

ARTY FACTS

May, 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

President
Penny Stuart

Vice Presidents
Bobbie Winger
1 vacant position

Secretary
Gloria Lee

Treasurer
Gloria Lee

Gallery Coordinators
Karin Brear
Jean Versace

Exhibitor's Reps
Jean Versace
Yoko Christinson

Exhibition Coordinator
Vacant

Minute Secretary
Suz Monin

Publicity Officer/Arty
Facts: Di Nixon/Jean
Versace
Social Media: Suz
Monin

Junior Art
Jean Versace

Events co-ord: vacant

President Penny Stuart's Report:

Foremost in our minds at the moment are Pam and her family...our heartfelt condolences to them all on Ray's sudden passing. Ray worked tirelessly for the LCACA, from when the Birrells joined in 2004, right up until just a few weeks ago, when he was kept busy with jobs as we worked towards the opening of the 8 x 8.

It has been a busy month to date, with the finalisation of the 8 x 8, a flood planning meeting and the beginning of the removal of the old ferry. I want to thank everyone for their efforts with the 8 x 8 ... Pam and Jean, of course, but those others who, once again, have turned up to help out. Yoko and Vicki did a fabulous job sorting the 8 x 8 works for collection. It is great to see the gallery busy with willing helpers. Thank you, Peter, who, as a new exhibitor, spent that morning cleaning out the verandah cupboards, which were full of rats' nests and flood mud ... welcome to the Gallery, Peter!!

We have sent a letter to Council regarding an upgrade of the car park area. I guess it is a bit of a wish-list, so we can only hope it generates some budget allocation! Interestingly, our letter went to Council on the same day that a letter appeared in the local paper, highlighting the neglect of the Ferry Park area, given that it is the 'Gateway to Maclean'. Thank you to Suz and to those who contacted me with very constructive suggestions for the proposal... it takes a team!

A Flood Plan meeting, on 3rd May, resulted in some positive outcomes. A small group of committee members and Christine Casey will form the 'Flood Group' to make the 'big calls' and organise when members come in to collect their work and/or help with lifting the displays etc. Christine is setting up phone lists to contact people efficiently. Safety is a big issue and we wish to avoid anyone walking through water. Oliver's have a plan around this and Mardi gave us a rundown on their evacuation plan. If anyone wishes to add to this or comment on the minutes from the meeting, the Plan is a work in progress.

Congratulations to Von, our current Artist of the Month, for a captivating display and welcome to our new members and exhibitors.

Penny

Artist of the Month for April: Yvonne Pickens

The daughter of a dressmaker and carpenter, it seems creativity was always in Yvonne's blood. Her earliest creative memory is cutting fabrics and playing with the toy sewing machine her grandfather bought for her fourth birthday.

After a long career as a dressmaker and designer, Yvonne discovered fabric sculpture and it brought about a dramatic change in the way she used fabrics, creating a freedom away from the structures of patternmaking and sewing. From these beginnings she brings to her craft a keen eye for lines and an understanding of fabrics.



Inspired by people as they go about their lives from the exciting to the mundane, her figures are based on the attitudes and emotions expressed by everyday people. This tantalizing blend of garment construction, costume and a natural talent for capturing an expression, mood or attitude has culminated in the creation of these enchanting figurines. Using recycled fabrics, other gathered objects and Paverpol, a water-based fabric hardener, she dresses these delightful little people in costume, high fashion or a whim, while still maintaining the integrity of the material.

Through this process she has found her inner teacher and now holds classes at her studio near New Italy where participants discover the creativity that lives in us all. The classes are simple and everyone is able to complete a wonderful individual sculpture of their very own by the end of the day. Under her gentle guidance the figurines come to life, delighting those who are new to the creative process and accomplished artists alike.



Attention, Volunteers

It is essential that the following day's volunteers are able to start with sufficient cash to get through their day. Lately, they've been left with more \$50 notes than with usable change.

Please make sure that, if there are two or more \$50 notes in the till, they are changed at the bank before the end of the day.

This applies even if there is no banking to be done.

Affiliated Groups' Reports:

Publicity

The Independent newspaper continues to support LCACA with free publicity when they have space to publish our articles. Artist of the Month is always published close to the beginning of the month. As well as our usual weekly paid advert, we had additional paid advertising in the Highland Games/Easter feature edition and the paper gave us more space than we paid for, with additional 8x8 promotion.

Di Nixon

Social Media:

During the month to 29th April, there were 4900 Facebook reaches, with the 8x8 having the most, while 965 people visited our Instagram page with Karen's AOM having the most reactions. On both platforms there have been more comments during this period than before... people are talking!

The Artist of the Month tends to have a higher reach at the beginning of the month even though posts are put up throughout the month. The 8x8 continued to gather interest throughout April. The highest number of reaches for the 8x8 was the winner of the 12-16 section, Imogen Lee (a talented artist who is now exhibiting in our Junior Art section).

Karl and Ursula's post reaches was high – indicating that the “human” aspect of the gallery draws attention.

Suz Monin

Gallery Coordinators:

The window displays of two cabinets of selected exhibitors' items and the large easel displaying an eye catching artwork are a success. When on duty I can see how people look in and the display entices them to take a closer look at all what the gallery has to offer. We are still looking for ways to utilise the front foyer. Any suggestions and new ideas are welcome. When the 8 x 8 junior artwork was displayed there, it brought many people further into the gallery.

Thanks to the artists who have bought in fresh and new artwork to be displayed and changed at the end of each month. To other members, a big thank you also for keeping your work fresh and tidy. The jewellery cabinets look wonderful, thanks to the electrician who neatened the electrical cords, giving our gallery a more professional look.

We have three bookings for Artist of the month for 2024, so if anyone is interested please let Jean or me know. Fill out an application form which can be found in the office. On completion, please put your form into the 'Gallery Coordinator's' box. It certainly is a great way of displaying more of your work to entice visitors to the gallery. I personally was successful last month as few of my artworks were sold. You can combine with other members; you don't have to go solo. Something to think about. **Von's display looks fabulous, such a variety. Well done!!**



Jacqui, Bonnie Bide, held a free community macramé workshop for six participants last Sunday. The six ladies enjoyed the afternoon, chatting, making new friends and they came home with a wonderful macramé pot hanger. No one who participated had ever been into the gallery, so these workshops are a great way for more people to know how fabulous it is. Hopefully the word will spread. Jacqui is holding a few more workshops, so if you are interested there is a brochure on the notice board. There are lots of workshops to attend, this year and next year.

Karin Brear and Jean Versace

Tuesday Arters:

We were very saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Ray Birrell. Our deepest and heartfelt sympathy goes to Pam and her family. Ray will be missed by so many and we as a group know this to be so very true.

April was a 'holiday' month for the group as the hall was not available to us for three weeks. During that time though several of the members sold one or two works of art that was exhibited at Ferry Park, Cowper and Coldstream Galleries and the Woolli Easter exhibition, so it was quite exciting news to share when we got back together first week of May.

Our focus now is on working towards the June Artist of the Month exhibition. **Sandy Burnett**

Patchwork and Quilting

The group continues to meet at the Maclean Uniting Church Hall on Tuesday mornings, sharing stories and skills.

A bus is being organised to attend the Brisbane Quilt Show on Friday, 12th October. Cost will depend on numbers, so if interested please give your details to Chris Bale on 0428 859 942.

Our group is looking forward to a visit to Lismore Quilters on Monday, 5th June.

Chris Bale

8x8 Small Works Exhibition

Records might have been broken with our Small Works exhibition this year: numbers sold (34, which included several junior works); numbers at our bustling openings; and the number of junior works on display. And we had a small profit to boot.

While our open section was down a little on past years' numbers, the quality, as always, met and exceeded our expectations. This is such a popular exhibition, with visitors enjoying the work to the very last hour, with sales on the last day. To be greeted by 160-odd junior entries in the foyer was a delight to so many, and they followed up with their walk through the gallery to the meeting room and its open entries.

Because of Ray's illness, Pam was unable to be there for the dismantling of the 8x8s, and I had certainly underestimated the work involved. Thank you Suz and Penny for your guidance and help when you both should have been elsewhere. Huge thanks to Vicki Johanson and Yoko Christinson who did the whole of the junior sections. What a mammoth task that was!

Jean Versace and Pam Birrell

Exhibitors' Representatives

Our new exhibitors' work is on display around the gallery, adding to the great variety already attracting visitors and sales.

The jewellery cabinets and their contents look so good with their lighting fittings now installed. The alarm system is up and running again, catching one over-anxious person trying to enter out of hours.

The ferry is on its last journey. We will await its replacement with interest.

A reminder to exhibitors to remember which areas of their art and craft have been approved by committee. If you wish to exhibit outside these approvals, or include another medium, you must make a further submission. Each exhibitor is able to display work in TWO mediums, subject to committee approval.

Jean and Yoko Christinson

Junior Art

We have lift-off! As a direct result of our enormous 8x8s response from junior artists, we now have new work on our Junior Art Column.

Several works have sold in recent months, so it's to be hoped that this trend will continue.

Jean Versace