

Lower Clarence Arts & Crafts Assn.

ARTY FACTS

AUGUST, 2025



Our jewellery range is so extensive that you're sure to find the perfect gift.

From President Penny Stuart

Our Life Member, friend and stalwart of the Gallery, **June Alexander**, passed away peacefully on 18th July. It was only fitting that a Farewell to June be held at the Gallery, a place where she had invested so much of her time and energy. Thank you to June's friend, Helen Tucker, for her planning of the day and also to everyone who contributed to make it a beautiful occasion. Some of the tributes to June, spoken on the day, can be found at the end of this Arty Facts.

We are looking at a NSW Infrastructure Grant that will open in late November. It is for a considerable sum of money and will take time to compile information and liaise with Council, who we lease the building from. We need to start planning now! See more regarding the Community Business Partnership Grant later in this newsletter.



Take some time to view Sally Ford's wonderful Artist of the Month display and the exquisite work from the Embroidery Groups in the Members' Room.

Congratulations to all!

Penny

Artist of the Month, Sally Ford



I am an artist who views the world as colourful and humorous. I have always drawn and painted from a young age and drawn upon my life experiences to create artworks of a unique nature.

I worked from my home studio in Victoria with a rural landscape of rolling paddocks, and now Northern New South Wales surrounded by river views and creative forest scenes.

Painting with imagination many various subjects and displaying a range of styles, my work is often recognised for its quirkiness, humour and bright, blazing colours. Everything in nature inspires me and I adore the beautiful and the comical, an interesting combination.

In Victoria, the Sally Ford Gallery was located at Cafe Zoo, in Drysdale, & I was also represented at the Skipton Art Gallery in Skipton. My work was also found at Anglesea Art House in Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road.

I also exhibited regularly in many local & regional art shows in Victoria. Since moving to the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, I am an active member of the L.C.A.C.A. and continue my art in local art shows, exhibitions and also with commissions.

See more of my work on www.redbubble.com/people/salford, www.facebook.com/sallyfordart and on the internet on various art platforms. Commissioned work is most welcome & studio visits can be made by appointment. I can be contacted via fordgs@bigpond.com or mobile 0425 776 012.

Embroidery Group Display

The display of beautifully-executed work in the Members' Room is testament to the inspiration and skill of this group. The wide range of embroidery forms become true works of art through their hands. Members of all three groups associated with Ferry Park Gallery work at their own pace on whatever their choice of stitching, sometimes trying knitting or crochet for a change.



For their August exhibition, the three groups have contributed.

There is a small **Monday afternoon** group who gather most weeks; a **Wednesday morning** group 9am to about 1.30 pm. For more information, phone **Pam LeCouteur** 0408112190.

Saturday morning group is 9 am to 12.30 pm. Contact **Marlene Sheehan** on 0266452120 for more information regarding this group.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed some of their beautiful works for our display. Many, many hours of stitching has been worked to produce such fine embroideries.

I would also like to thank Sandra Miller and Marlene Sheehan for helping set up the display, your time and effort was very much appreciated, I could not have done it alone.

Pam Le Couteur

Life Membership nominations will be considered soon, so If you wish to put forward the name of one of our members for this honour, please write a submission for the Committee to consider before our October meeting, please.



Remembering June Alexander

Ali Martin's tribute to June was heartfelt and reflected the love felt by all who knew her.

Hi, I'm Ali. I've been asked to say a few words on behalf of the Tuesday's Art Group. So please bear with me.

I first met June at the 2012 Art Expo at Gulmarrad Public School. June was on the door, collecting the entrance fees and handing out Public Choice Award forms. I asked if there was a local art group that welcomed novices. June's excitement was palpable.

After a few months, I finally bit the bullet. From then on, June picked me up every Tuesday in her little red car and off we'd go. We would chat, there and back...and I would listen to June's stories.

The Art Group started off with a group of friends, painting at different locations throughout the Lower Clarence, with their thermos and sandwiches.

June once showed me an old newspaper clipping. The photo showed a lady in her 40s, standing at an easel with brush in hand. The location was on the side of a road by the Clarence. The thing that struck me the most was that she was wearing a beautiful sundress and a string of pearls. That was until June pointed out I knew this elegant painter -- she was still coming nearly every Tuesday. This was Paula Braund, in her early 80s.

June's other long-term friends, who were also "Lifers" of Art Group included Chris Seal, Barbs Wilsdon - who sends her love to all. And the "Shirlies". Shirley Webster's specialty was choux pastries for morning tea and Shirley Schofield's baking was always still warm when she arrived. Then, there was Irene Nowell. June and Irene had been friends for over 40 years. At first, I only saw Irene occasionally, as she would be off in her camper van, with Lovie the Dog. A few years later we would pick Irene up, from her home in Oyster Cove.

As we all know, time marches on. And June had arranged for us to collect Irene from the Dementia Unit at Mareeba, here in Maclean. Once in the car, the two old friends chattered like the old days. I would think, "how wonderful, to have a friend like June" and then, how hard it would be to see my best friends in the same situation. If June thought Irene needed her hair cut or nails trimmed, or had any concerns about her friend's care, staff were advised on our return.

COVID put an end to Irene's visits and Our Art Group, was put on hold ... Just like the rest of the World. Unfortunately, around the time Our Art Group started back (1.5 metres apart with a mask on) June saw That Bloody Surgeon!!! That put an end to June's ability to join us. June still kept her eye on us, with emails and calls. Suz was under instructions to take photos. With both of us giving June updates on what the group was up to and details on anyone new joining the group.

Without June the group had to "Step-Up", and that needed all of us.

June knew everyone's birthday. She would make sure the Tuesday before the person's birthday, a cake was brought and a card was handed around for everyone to sign. This quickly ended, as without June we missed a birthday or two. So a new tradition was started. "When it's your birthday, you bring in the cake."

But the caring friendship June always showed is still the glue that keeps our group together. June's ambitions for the group seemed unachievable. Until it came time for hanging. Like our first efforts as Artist of the Month with "The Masters" and then "Matisse". Our Art Group's biggest claim to fame is thanks to June. For years she had suggested we hold an exhibition at the Old Kirk, in Yamba. As time passed, she even wanted to personally pay for the venue. We finally took her up on her offer and spent nearly 18 months working hard towards our "Splash" exhibition, held last year.

June was there on Opening Day and was honoured as our Patron. I believe this was one of her last social outings. It was also where June's two great passions collided ... Art and history ... and giving her the chance to catch up with both arty friends and friends from the Museum. Thanks to her great friend and N°1 chaperone, Ian Tiley, June made it there and back in one piece. For the four weeks the exhibition was open none of us in the Art Group could believe what we had achieved. And now there is talk about a repeat performance.

It could be said that June had graphite and pigment in her veins.

June's advice would be sought when artwork didn't look quite right. With her keen eye, she would come up with the answer. She would explain it in a clear and friendly way. She was always happy to share a lifetime of knowledge. And the problem would be fixed with a darker line or a tonal change.

Even during my last visit with June, a young carer told me June had taught her how to draw a straight line. I couldn't help but smile, as I could hear that conversation. "You painted that? I can't even draw a straight line" with June immediately saying "Oh, I'll show you how".

Our Art Group's culture of welcoming, showing friendship, offering artistic advice in a positive way and celebrating each other, all started with June. And will continue to live on.

Thank you, June, from all of us who love our Tuesdays.

Ali Martin

Ian Tiley Remembers June

Dear June passed away peacefully on 18 July 2025.

June pursued her love of art and artistic creation all through her life. She was a gifted multi-talented artist and mentor.

She was deeply involved and committed to the Lower Clarence Arts and Crafts Association, Ferry Park Gallery and the Art Group. She was a highly regarded and respected life member of the Association who expertly took charge of many annual exhibitions and other events.

In her younger days, June was very active in the Yamba Museum and a supporter through various artistic donations. She was inducted as a Life Member.

June was a good friend, an absolute lady, quietly spoken and humble yet expressed sound, considered opinions. I enjoyed our Saturday coffees at various Yamba landmarks, especially overlooking Yamba main beach, Turners Beach, the lighthouse and the Clarence at Palmers.

June was warm, caring, and thoughtful.

It was so very sad observing June's several intrusive operations and her general health deterioration, especially after she moved to the Lower Clarence Retirement Village.

June experienced a lot of pain and suffering in later years. She said in recent times that she wished she could pass away. She was ready to go.

Our special friend now rests in peace in God's care.

Ian Tiley, Patron LCACA

June's friend, Helen Tucker, paid tribute through a beautiful rendition of June's favourite song, which she played for her on many occasions.

DREAMING

I like to find a lonely place
Where I can dream and see your face
And hear your voice, when all I've heard
Is a distant cry from a far-off bird.

*Dreaming is a language hearts can understand
Dreams can cross the ocean to a far-off distant land.*

I like to climb a lonely hill
With the world below, and the wind quite still
And dream that you are there, although
You're somewhere in that world below.

*Dreaming is a language hearts can understand
Dreams can cross the ocean to a far-off distant land.*

A wintry beach, deserted sand
I dream I reach and touch your hand
And draw you close, when all that's there
Is a wintry beach, and the cold sea air.

*Dreaming is a language only hearts can understand
Dreams can cross the ocean to a far-off distant land.*

To a far-off distant land.

OFFICE BEARERS 2025-2026

President: Penny Stuart

VPs: Bobbie Winger (1st), Maria Paull (2nd)

Secretary & Treasurer: Gloria Lee; Public Officer: Gloria Lee

Minute Secretary: Suz Monin

Publicity: Di Nixon

Social Media: Suz Monin

Gallery Co-ordinators: Karin Brear, Jean Versace

Arty Facts: Jean Versace

Lower Clarence Arts and Craft Association

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