

Great Lakes Art Society Newsletter



• 34 Lake Street, Forster NSW 2428 • (02) 6557 2880 • Email: admin@forstergallery.org •
Internet: www.forstergallery.org • Facebook: [Forster Gallery](https://www.facebook.com/ForsterGallery) • Patron Leigh Vaughan • ABN 83 615 314 932

Vice-President's Report

Our new Committee is:

President - vacant

Vice President - Ross Mackaway

Treasurer - Patricia Mackaway

Secretary - Denise King

Exhibitions Coordinator - Bettina Digby

Roster Coordinator - Pam Dunne

Classes/Workshops Coordinator - Cathie Garrod

Also, other volunteers:

Marketing Team – old hands of professional standard - in no particular order:

Ingrid Horsburgh, Fred Bullen, Wayne Barry, Roz Baker and Lorraine Beal.

Futures Team – again in no particular order:

Ingrid Horsburgh, Ed Harvey and Denise King.

Gallery Facilities and School Liaison

Co-ordinator – Christine Rands.

Bi-monthly Newsletter – Marina Bishop.

Weekly News Update – Denise King.

We are currently looking for ideas for social events day or evening – maybe some of you could form a small group to organise them? Please contact me if you are interested in helping - Ross 0429 662 663. Some ideas: Movie night – Trivia – Lake Cruise – Bus Trip – Paint & Sip. Your committee will be kept busy with what's coming up but will assist where we can.

Any of the previous committee are more than happy to talk to members about what is involved in being on the committee, and will be available to help the new committee settle in.

To keep the funds coming into GLAS we also need someone to step-up as Fundraising Co-ordinator – there is no need to join the committee – all you would need to do is keep us informed as to what is happening.

I notice that some members have not renewed their membership – could those of you that haven't please email the Secretary of your intentions.

ROSS MACKAWAY (Vice President)

AGM Report

The AGM was held on 7 August at the Bridge Club. Attendance was a little disappointing with only 17 members coming on the day. A further 12 members gave their apologies.

Those who were there enjoyed an afternoon cuppa and a chat before the meeting started. Long time member Merlene Soltau was given life membership (see her Great Lakes Art Society story on page 4) and our Patron Leigh Vaughan also attended.

We were only able to put together a committee of six and have no President but we are hoping that will be rectified soon.

Remember, you don't have to be on the committee to make a contribution. Many hands make light work and if someone is able to take even a small job it makes life a whole lot easier.

So if you have an hour or two to spare and want to help out in some way, please contact one of the committee members.

Calendar Dates at a glance

10 & 11 Sept – Harry Westera Workshop: Watercolour.

16 Sept to 9 Oct – Members' Expo 10-4pm.

16 Sept 10.30 Opening Members' Morning Tea with Lucky Door Prizes & Packing Room Prize.

1 Oct Sat 3pm – Awards Event: Peoples' Choice for Members Expo.

29 & 30 Oct – Melissa Read-Devine Workshop: Acrylics & Mixed Media.

Welcome to New Members

We have had 6 new members since 6 August: Cheryl Ashwin, Sonia Hall, Patricia Kennedy, Vivien Mewing, Jane Puccini and Anne-Marie England.

Success!

Keeping the gallery open into the evening on 28 August, in conjunction with the Night Market, proved to be a winning strategy.

We had over 40 people through the door, sold 3 paintings and some raffle tickets and cards, and gave out five membership forms. There was much enthusiasm and interest from the visitors (some of whom were locals who said they had always 'wondered what that building is') who appreciated both the art and the welcome they got – including the cheese and biscuits.



It was also a great social occasion for members. Quite a few dropped in during the evening and several stayed for a BBQ, ably cooked by Ross Mackaway. We all had such a good time we thought we might try this again during summer.

Members' Expo 16 Sept-9 Oct

- Entries are now closed.
- Deliver artwork on Mon 12 Sept 10 am - 12noon
- Members' Morning Tea: Friday 16 Sept at 10.30 – Lucky Door Prizes & Packing Room Prize announcement.
- Exhibition open from Friday 16 September to 9 October, 7 days a week 10am – 4pm.
- People's Choice Award Presentations on Saturday 1 October (time to be advised).
- Close of Members' Expo 9 October.
- Pick up artworks **between 4 & 5pm on Sun 9 Oct** OR on Mon 10 October. **Please do NOT collect works any earlier!**
- Mon 10 Oct – Pick Up and Drop Off: Pick up work from Members' Expo not being left & drop off work for the next regular exhibition.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Summer Exhibition - Next regular exhibition

Delivery of work - Mon 10, Tues 11 & Wed 12 October. Collection of work - Monday 28th November.

Behind the Door & Under the Bed Exhibition

Commences December - details to be advised.

The Roster for the Gallery

Roster Organiser - Pam Dunne

MEMBERS' EXPO ROSTER

I am putting together the Desk Duty Roster for the Members' Expo.

- **Anyone exhibiting must have their name on the roster.**
- We will be OPEN every day for 3 weeks.
- To man the desk for this time we need to fill 84 duties.
- You may find yourself with more than one duty in this time.
- Thank you to the Members who happily do duty and do not Exhibit.
- Desk Duty can be interesting, meeting lots of visitors who come to enjoy the Art.

Forster Library Promotion

In conjunction with the Members' Expo, a display featuring Tutors & Students from GLAS, will be held at the Forster Library, Breeze Pde from 29 August to 10 October.

GLAS Workshops

MELLISSA READ-DEVINE.

Acrylics with Mixed Media Workshop

October 29 & 30. (only a few spaces left)

Acrylics are extremely versatile and can be used with a variety of media on many surfaces.

This workshop will teach how to interpret and simplify your photos to create colourful impressionist paintings with expressive mark making and collage elements. Day 1 will be an action packed day exploring the many ways you can incorporate acrylics with other media. Students will create a series of small works incorporating paint, collage, ink, charcoal and pastel. Day 2 will be spent working on larger works.

2 Day Fee - \$240 Non-Members - \$220 Members.

admin@forstergallery.org www.forstergallery.org
or call Cathie Garrod 0466 973 068

GLAS Art Classes

Cathie Garrod is now coordinating all classes and workshops. If you have any questions or would like to book, contact Cathie: 0466 973 068, email admin@forstergallery.org

OR see our website for further details:
www.forster.gallery.org

Monday a.m. - ACRYLIC ABSTRACTS with Cathie Garrod - a couple of spaces left
November 7, 14, 21, 28 and December 5
9:30-12:30pm. Enquiries: 0466 973 068 or cgarrodart.com under 'Workshops'.

Monday p.m. - PRINTING with Chris Rigley - *fully booked*. October 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14.

Tuesday a.m. & p.m. OILS with Judy Handebo – *both fully booked*.

Thursday 9:30 -12:30 p.m. - PASTELS with Vicki Bullard. Enquiries: 0429 506 883.

Friday 9:30 -12:30 p.m. - WATERCOLOURS with Wayne Barry. Enquiries: 0401 902 330.

Saturday: OILS with Marilyn Cranfield
Enquiries: 0431 303 528.

LIFE DRAWING (*untutored*)

The Life Drawing Sessions will return after the Members' Expo finishes.

Please email Pam Dunne if you are interested and require more information.

Pamdunne43@gmail.com 0412 736 797

PLEIN AIR LOCATIONS for Sept/Oct/Nov. (*untutored*)

- **Sept 8th The 'Tanks' Pebbly Beach, Head St, Forster** (Toilets/some shelter) Dynamic coastal scenery, near and distant headlands, surf, coastal vista.
- **Sept 22: Clifftop Grassy area east of Bennetts Head Road / Boundary St junction**, (opp. no. 14) Forster. (Drive to toilets/ little shelter) Great views up the coast, cloudscapes, wind pruned trees.
- **Oct 13: Darawank War memorial Reserve** (along the river – Toilets available). Riverscape, variety of trees, wharf, fishers, distant views.
- **Oct 27: Seal rocks** – beaches, headlands, fishermen, rocky island, beached boats.
- **Nov 10: Opposite 'The Reef' and 'Nineteen Fifty Six' Gregory Reserve.** Board walk and lake vistas, Islands, Coffee shop. Park in Memorial Dr (2 hr limit then move or park at John Holland Park and walk along path below bridge).
- **Nov 24: Southern (or Eastern) end of The Forster Bridge** below the figs – BBQ area, toilets, figs, moorings, harbour glimpses – Xmas drinks and BBQ prior?

New Links for all our Social Media and Internet

Forster Gallery is our Art Society Facebook (FB) page for notifications to all including the general Public: [Forster Gallery | Facebook](#)

Forster Gallery Art Chat is just that, a forum where anyone can join in a chat pertaining to our general interests in art:
[Forster Gallery Art Chat | Facebook](#)

Great Lakes Art Society Aus Members is a private FB page for our members only and not the general Public: [Great Lakes Art Society Aus Members | Facebook](#)

Our new **Website for Great Lakes Art Society** is called forstergallery.org and is where you'll find links to all our events, exhibitions, forms, newsletters: <https://www.forstergallery.org>

We regularly put articles in the local free newspaper; **The Forster Fortnightly** and is where you'll find coverage of all our events and notices to the general public. Follow the link for free downloadable editions; [Forster Fortnightly Newspaper - Forster Fortnightly \(theforstertuncurry.com.au\)](#)

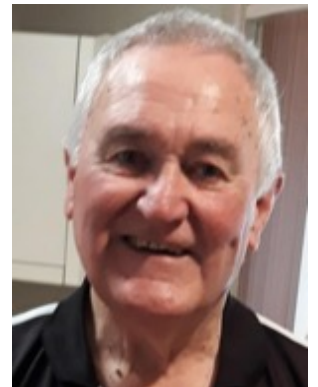
Member in Focus

A peek into the world of a GLAS artist...

Ross Mackaway – Our Vice President

What was your previous occupation?

After leaving high school I was employed as an apprentice Dry Cleaner and after 12 months I went to work for a very large wholesale/retailer and importing company and became the buyer for hand and power tools and machinery. I spent 18 years there, then left to become a representative - 12 months later joined Mitre 10 Newcastle Group as the Purchasing and Promotions Manager where I spent four and half years. Then in 1978 went to Singleton in the Hunter Valley to start my own retail business in hardware with a Mitre 10 / True Value franchise and finally I went into a fishing tackle shop for 10 years before retiring in 2007 and moving to Forster to fish!!!



If we looked through the keyhole of your studio door, what would we see and hear?

You would see a very untidy workspace which has

tripled in size from the original space - I hear Pat saying "How much more room do you want? You already have the second bedroom, all the hallways and two clothes cupboards, along with the garage".

When would we find you in your studio?

Before I joined the Committee 3 to 5 days a week except if the fish were biting.



What mediums do you work in?

Acrylics and all the mediums I can use.

Do you have a favourite subject, theme, cause or symbol which you are drawn to?

I haven't really decided what my thing is but love to do cartoon type drawings - birds and animals with a smile or eye expressions and have just discovered collage and abstract.

Do you work every day, or as the inspiration strikes?

Depends - at the moment, being on the Committee impedes me sometimes but after acrylic class I get inspired and off I go again.

What drives you on through those times when the sparks of creativity are not coming your way?

Acrylics class BUT if the fish are on the chew then off I go and home some 3 to 4 hours later, all smelly... and I am inspired again.

What inspired you to become an artist?

Old TV shows and Ads - but really when I was a kid going to school!!! HOMEWORK – yuk, yuk! instead of doing what the teacher set out I would paint watercolour, and also draw Donald Duck, Pluto, Micky Mouse, Dick Tracy and the Phantom. My love of painting, continued because I won 4 Newcastle Herald Art Competitions with; a painting of an old pine tree and school shed, Buck Rogers and his spaceship and astronaut, old Stockton vehicular ferry and my own cartoon of two Indians with bows and the caption "I shot an arrow in the air, it came to earth I know not where." One Indian had an arrow through his ears - NOT the sort of cartoon that can be done today.



Can you give readers a summary of your time with GLAS?

My daughter who lives in New Zealand, gave me a GLAS membership card for Christmas back in 2009-10... can't quite remember. It was one of the best small gifts ever. Pat and I have met and made

a lot of friends – had a lot of fun - possibly one of the best decisions made for me without my input and there have been lots (ha ha). If anyone asks me or Pat we just tell them if you want to meet people that are friendly with the same interest as yourself, join GLAS. Rain, Hail or Shine, it is a good place to be!

A Bit of GLAS History

A Story by One of our Early Members - Merlene Soltau

Dear Friends, When we moved here from Oatley 24 years ago, a friend of mine had introduced me to oil painting... nothing formal, just a group painting together.



Joining the Great Lakes Art Society was the first and best thing I did. The original members had worked so hard to build their dream and it was almost finished, just needing fittings so it could be used. The Opening was a wonderful afternoon.

I found everyone so welcoming and have found many lasting friends. We didn't have so many classes in those days but they ran a "Monday Workshop" with one tutor for three weeks with their medium and ideas, then change to perhaps another medium and ideas. It was so much fun and we learnt so much. Vicky was teaching Oils and Pastels at [Forster] Arts and Crafts [Centre] one morning so I have her to thank for helping me so much. Painting outdoors was another good time.

All the time the Committee was working hard to pay off the hall and pay the bills. So much work went into decorating the hall and dressing up for Theme Dinners, followed by Trivia Nights. Soup & Slice Mornings were always very popular in the winter. Then there were the Annual Art Exhibitions, previously held in the Council Chambers but now could be held in our own Hall.

Over the years members have come and gone, but it has always been a very happy welcoming group. In the past few years [the Committee] have worked hard and have a beautiful modern hall, a lot of new members that I hope will support the Committee, so you and many others can enjoy all the relaxation and joy that Art can bring to your world.

Thank you to all my friends at GLAS who have made my experience with art such a happy time. I have been very proud to be a member, and I wish you all the same experience.

Happy Painting, **Merlene Soltau**

Dive into Art

- get into art after covid interrupted!

FREE Art Group

FREE Materials

FREE Coffee

FREE help if you want it- or just use the space to do your own art.

Great Lakes Art Society Inc. has been successful in being funded by Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network to run a covid reconnection program. They have given us \$5000 to run the program. Very generous! Let's do it!

no tutor as such.

No strings attached. No obligation. Just come and enjoy your art.

At the same time, I hope that members with talents will volunteer to come in and assist

new participants (if they ask) and/or give a short demonstration of something they know about and then assist people if they are interested.

A rough (but very flexible at this stage) program is:-

Week 1 Acrylic Painting

Week 2 Watercolour

Week 3 Charcoal and drawing

Week 4 Print Making

Week 5 Mixed Media and Pastel

DIVE INTO ART

Get Into Art - After Covid Interrupted!

Thinking about trying your hand at art?
Now is your chance!
Lost your art mojo?
Come and get it back!
Feel like you have lost your connection to the world?
At least come for the coffee!

FREE Art Group
FREE Materials
FREE Coffee
FREE help if you want it
- or just use the space
to do your own art

Sun 5 Feb Sun 5 Mar 2023
Funded by phn
enquiries admin@forstergallery.org
www.forstergallery.org

PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

phn
HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
AND CENTRAL COAST
An Australian Government Initiative

I am trying to get a list together of people who can help me. If you think you can help, I will be very grateful and the world will be a better place. Some people have said they might be

able to help with demonstrations but if you could confirm this, it would be great. I also need people to just come along and support any newcomers.

I would also like to get together with you to ask your advice and to confirm things like materials, days to run it etc. I am thinking that we could run it on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday afternoons. This is a weekend and a

The program will kick off at the beginning of the 2023 GLAS art year and will run from 5 Feb 2023 to 5 March 2023.

The funding will cover morning or afternoon tea (most important bit), materials, advertising, fees for non members and some tutoring costs.

This is about members coming back to the gallery and finding out what other members are doing with their art. Come and paint/draw/ sculpt at the gallery together and learn to get out of the house again. Re-hone your social skills. New members and friends are also invited to join in. Bring your neighbour!

It is envisaged that it will mainly be a time when the gallery is available, some materials are provided and coffee and other sustenance will be offered. There is

weekday to suit different lifestyles or for people to come twice a week. People who work or younger people (say people in their 70s) could come on weekends. People who have the weekdays more available would be catered for as well.

If you think you can help at all, please come to a "Dive into Art" coffee at Plunge (get that?

It was tricky!) next Friday 9 September. I will be there just after 10 - gym finishes at 10.

Please don't leave me there by myself!

Ingrid 0412 188 544

Attention Please

Have you ever wondered how the biscuits are magically replenished when stocks are low, or why there is always paper towel in the towel holder, or how there always seems to be plenty of pens and paper on hand?

The answer to that is Pat and Ross Mackaway. As well as their roles as Vice President and Treasurer, Pat and Ross Mackaway have also been managing the day-to-day running of the gallery and classroom. This includes checking on, ordering and picking up supplies as well as refilling the toilet rolls, paper towel holders and soap dispensers.

The Committee agrees that we are asking way too much of Pat and Ross and proposes setting up a "Facilities Management Team" to carry out these small, but important, jobs.

We propose a team of say 3-4 people who could take on the role jointly to lessen the load on the individual, make the task manageable and provide back up if someone is on holiday or otherwise unavailable. It would be up to the group to determine how they manage the process e.g. each take the job on for a week at a time, or, each take on separate tasks, or whatever works best for the team.

This would suit those of you who would like to do something for the Gallery but have been afraid of taking on anything too onerous or time-consuming.

If you would like to volunteer to become part of the Facilities Management Team please contact me, Christine Rands: christine.rands@iinet.net.au or 0409 542 053 and I will set a time for you us to meet and discuss how we would manage the role.

And on behalf of all GLAS members allow me to warmly thank Pat and Ross for all the work they have done over the years to make sure the Gallery works efficiently and well.

Christine Rands, GLAS Committee Member (Ex)

Duties of Facilities Management Team:

- Check kitchen, classroom, gallery and bathroom supplies and order and restock as needed.
- General check the classroom and gallery are clean and tidy, waste bins are emptied and council bins are put out.
- Regular check all toilets and replace products that are running low (we do this work on behalf of the Bridge Club and bill them for the cost of supplies).
- Keep an eye on maintenance issues and organise repairs as required (committee can help with this).

Products can be sourced from supermarkets or A J Wilson (we have an account).

Any out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed promptly.

Funding Competition for Air Conditioning for our Gallery

Great Lakes Art Society Inc. has been nominated as a community organisation of note in **Greater Bank's Greater Mid North Coast Community Funding Competition**.

Please vote as often as you can on the Greater Bank voting page to maximise our chances of winning \$5,000 in funding from the bank.

Visitors to the Greater Bank website may vote once per hour.

The voting will start soon.

You will get an email to let you know when. Please share the idea of voting with everyone you know and vote often!

There are only three groups in the competition. We will get \$5000 if we win and \$500 if we lose. We need to win to get the air conditioning!

Once the voting starts, you can go to:-

<https://www.greater.com.au/greatermidnorthcoast>

HOT & COLD



What's On Elsewhere

MANNING REGIONAL GALLERY

12 Macquarie St, Taree, open Tues to Sat 10am - 4pm. 3 Exhibitions until 15 October



Left to Right:

- Portraits from the 'Stages' series by Michael Simms;
- Works from the Australian Society of Miniature Art - 'It's All in the Detail';
- 'Inwards and Up' by Mrs Shepherd.



Arty Tech Talk

The Principles of design: Contrast - Part 2 - Colour

Continuing our look at design, you may remember; that the basic characteristics of a single mark are known as the Elements of Design. These can be Value (or Tone), Colour, Line, Direction, Shape, Size, Texture and Edges.

In a past article I stated that HOW WE ASSEMBLE OUR MARKS is known as COMPOSITION and this must be considered at the outset of creating a compelling work of art. This is where the Principles of Design can be referred to and I have previously dealt with the Principle: BALANCE (a term we have all used at some stage and is fairly easily understood).

In this article I will begin a detailed look at another design principle: CONTRAST. As I've outlined; any of the basic Elements of Design can be highlighted by contrasting, especially to extremes in close vicinity. Looking at the elements, another very important consideration is contrast of COLOUR. As you may remember, the characteristics of specific colours will enable us to create Contrasts of HUE, INTENSITY or CHROMA, TEMPERATURE AND COLOUR VALUE.

Contrasts of HUE you will all have become familiar with, e.g. complementary colours (opposites on the colour wheel). There is scientific evidence to back this phenomenon up!

I have seen green shadows cast by a red sky. And when you stare at a colour then close your eyes there is usually a complementary after-image behind your eyelids. Complements side by side enrich each other, e.g. Red spots in a Green field (Blue + Yellow) create quite a dazzling effect. The same for Yellow and Purple, also Orange and Blue, which can be put to good effect in our compositions to attract the eye. (Just as nature does).

Contrast of Intensity (or Chroma) occurs where a colour exists in its pure form and is compared to a greyed (or muted) version. Impurities or added pigments (especially complementaries) can 'dull down' a colour. We actually use this 'dulling down or knocking back' a colour straight from the tube sometimes to create a more natural colour within our painting (or our ensemble!). Think of our Royal Highness in her lime green outfits appearing amidst the grey morning suits of her court or some of the outstanding birdlife within the Australian bush.

Contrasts of temperature are achieved when we place warm colours (reds, yellows and oranges) against 'cool' colours. In landscapes the cool blues are seen to recede and the warmer colours advance, giving us a greater depth.

Mixes of warm and cool colours placed side by side can create a real 'yin and yang' within a painting.

The grey wet Melbourne scenes utilised by many popular contemporary artists serve as a noticeable contrast to the bright red brake and traffic lights. We also need to be mindful of warm and cool versions of the same hue when creating secondary colours. A 'warm' blue mixed with a 'cool' red will create a dazzling Mauve shadow colour but a 'warm' blue mixed with a 'warm' red can create an unwanted lack of lustre.

Contrasts of colour value are apparent when we expose a surface to light and see the colour washed out in one area (almost white) and quite strong and dark in other shadowed areas. Some hues can never appear as anything but light or middle values due to their inherent tone e.g. lemon yellow compared to ultramarine blue. A lawn criss-crossed by shadows may create a challenge to portray in a painting and require darker additions to the green mix (e.g. neutral tint).

In coming issues we will peruse Contrasts available to us in our Tone or Values, Line, Direction, Shape, Size, Texture and Edges.

Happily painting contrasts,

Arty Sept – October 2022

Other Exhibitions to Enter

Hastings Valley Open Art Prize – Entries close Thurs 8 September. Download the Entry Form & Conditions at <https://hastingsvalleyart.net.au/>

Or email: hvfagallery@gmail.com