

# Great Lakes Art Society Newsletter



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Internet: [www.forstergallery.org](http://www.forstergallery.org) • Facebook: Forster Gallery • Patron Leigh Vaughan • ABN 83 615 314 932

## President's Report

### What's Happening?

Our 40th Annual Open Exhibition is looking just fantastic! An enormous amount of squirrelling has been done by the committee. A special thanks to Christine Rands, who, despite being quite unwell, has been collating the online and paper entries into a spreadsheet ready to print labels for the paintings and prepare lists for catering, the judge and so forth.

Our intrepid secretary, Denise, despite commencing her busy art TAFE course has still managed to field email enquiries and create documents needed to run the show.

The prize goes to the MackPack - the amazing mum and dad of GLAS, Patricia and Ross Mackaway. They have been organising the hanging of the exhibition and catching all the tidying the lounge room jobs that no one notices.

Our fabulous watercolour tutor, Wayne, is not on the committee this year but he has attended to the print publicity again. He writes a great article so please look out for them in the upcoming additions of the FT Fortnightly. Fred and Roz are coming behind him with TV, radio and banner advertising.

Thanks to those wonderful people.

Me? I went to Tasmania.

I will, however, need a hand with the catering for the opening event. I have some volunteers but I will need another 8 people - mainly to serve the food on the night. With 10 people we can share the load. I will give each preparation helper the necessary to construct their canapes in the big kitchen in the afternoon before the event. We are expecting between 150 and 200 people so can we get some hands on the deck? A good night will be had and hopefully encourage people to support us or visit our gallery more often. Please call me 0412188544

The Lions Club and the Quota Club have sponsored 4 sections in the exhibition in the hope of making connections with younger people. The importance and significance of the arts in a small community cannot be underestimated and including the youth of our community can only be a benefit to us all.

Thanks also to the people who organised and manned the Nabiac Show. Fred, Pam, Barb and others have set it up and manned it to support the wonderful organisation of the Wallambah Show Society. It is great that one community organisation supports another. The importance of the ties in small communities cannot be underestimated and gives our communities an immeasurable strength.

I have had several suggestions for tutors to come and give workshops. I guess people are champing at the bit to get back into it after Covid so I haven't had one tutor knock me back yet! As I am in Tasmania, I can't get all of them online and available yet however, I have several pencilled in - see the Workshops heading on page 3.

I am also in discussions with the botanical watercolourist, Heidi Willis regarding a workshop either in August or early next year.

Chris Ridgley will be dragging out the mothballed printing press and doing a series of printing classes. I hope this will lead on to forming a printing group who will meet each week. GLAS will provide the material and participants will pay a small fee to cover that cost. I am hoping to involve the fibre artists as well and use lots of mediums for printing.

I will get details of Chris's class out as soon as I get back.

The futures group will be meeting with council in April and hopefully we will have some news about the master plan that council is helping us to create for our ageing building.

To be cont..... Ingrid Horsburgh, President

## Calendar Dates at a glance

### Lakes and Ocean Exhibition

3 April - closes.

### Great Lakes Art Society Open Exhibition

Entry Form closing date has passed.

8 April, 5pm - Opening Event, check details.

1 May, Open Exhibition closes.

### Forster Library Exhibition

21 March - 2 May featuring GLAS Members.

## Your Committee



**1. President**  
Ingrid Horsburgh -  
0412 188 544;  
6559 7295;  
ingrid2430@gmail.com



**2. Vice President**  
Ross Mackaway -  
6555 3321; 0407 723 800  
pmackaway5@bigpond.com



**3. Treasurer**  
Pat Mackaway -  
6555 3321; 0407 723 800;  
pmackaway5@bigpond.com



**4. Secretary**  
Denise King  
0401 761 812;  
dkingglas@gmail.com



**5. Committee, Roster**

**Position  
vacant**



**6. Committee Member**  
Pat Barry - 0412 190 777;  
patbarryglas@gmail.com



**7. Committee Member**  
Christine Rands -  
0409 542 053  
christine.rands@iinet.net.au

## Current Exhibition

**LAKES & OCEAN EXHIBITION** - closes 3 April.

Details from Pat Mackaway, up to 12 March: Lakes and Ocean Exhibition has been going well with 21 pieces sold to-date sales amounting to over \$3700. Although they have slowed in the past two weeks I think we will call it a success - the gallery looks great thanks to the contributions of our members.

Val Wright Exhibition has created a lot of interest and has also generated some sales of her works along with her book "The Turquoise Tide".

## Next Exhibition

### The 40th Annual GLAS OPEN EXHIBITION

Open Exhibition is going to be wonderful again this year with entries from ACT, Queensland, Sydney, Forbes and - closer to home - Port Macquarie and surrounding areas and our members. At close of entries on 11 March we had 127 participants and 308 works entered. The Young Artists - Youth Awards 13 entries are mainly from Great Lakes College Tuncurry with their Art Tutor - Lisa Dorahy encouraging her students across years 7 -10 to enter. Lisa herself has also put in an entry. This is so exciting !!

Entry Form submissions now closed.

- 6 April, 10-12 noon - Delivery Members works.
- 7 April, 10-11.30am - Delivery Members & Non-members works.
- 7 April - on or before - Any Courier or Australia Post delivery due.
- 8 April, 5pm - Official Opening Event and Presentation of Awards by our Patron Leigh Vaughan OAM. Restricted numbers - Ticketed Event \$5 - admin@forstergallery.org - Free for entrants.

**TICKETS for the Opening Night are now available at the Gallery desk - for Members and their guests. \$5 per ticket.**

- 1 May, 2-4pm - collection of sold works.
- 3 & 4 May, 10-2pm - collection unsold work by hand. Works not collected on this day will be held at the Gallery and will attract a handling fee of \$10 each which must be paid before the works are released.

### BRING A PLATE to the Opening Night of our GLAS Open Exhibition

This night is shaping up to be a big one. Could you bring a plate of food to help feed the multitude? If so, contact Patricia Mackaway (pmackaway5@bigpond.com) and let her know - or put your name on the sheet that has been left in the gallery kitchen. We need an idea of how many people are able to bring a plate. Cold food in bite sized portions that are easily managed by fingers or tongs are preferred.

### FORSTER LIBRARY EXHIBITION

The library display in conjunction with the Open Exhibition is from 21st March to the 2nd May and will feature GLAS Members.  
*Julie Hamilton 0421 725 595*

## Miscellaneous Items from the GLAS Secretary

### Email address

You will have noticed that we now have a new email address - [admin@forstergallery.org](mailto:admin@forstergallery.org) This is a generic address that can be given to anyone who wants to contact GLAS or the gallery. Any enquiries to the new website or the Forster Gallery Facebook page automatically go to this email address and get answered by the Secretary.

At the moment your Secretary is still using the [dkingglas@gmail.com](mailto:dkingglas@gmail.com) address but in future you might see more emails coming from [admin@forstergallery.org](mailto:admin@forstergallery.org) so don't forget to check your spam folder regularly in case they wind up there.

The [secretary@midcoastart.com.au](mailto:secretary@midcoastart.com.au) email address has been ditched and is no longer in use.

### What has happened to the members updates?

Unfortunately, the committee has not been able to organise members updates this year. The day to day running of GLAS plus coordinating the Open exhibition is taking up all our time. We are also carrying one vacancy so that is one less person to help.

Are there some members out there who would be able to step in and organise some sort of monthly or bi-monthly social event? It doesn't have to be the same format or time (1pm Monday) as the members update. It could be on the weekend and involve some arty activities over tea or a glass of wine.

If you think would like to have a go at this please contact me ([dkingglas@gmail.com](mailto:dkingglas@gmail.com)).

### Disposing of used solvent

Many of us use solvents like turps or odourless mineral spirits to thin paint and clean brushes. Solvent can't be thrown down the drain so once you have collected a container of dirty solvent how can you get rid of it? As it happens we have an excellent recycling centre at Tuncurry which will take the stuff. Put your used solvent in a jar or bottle, label what it is and go to the drive through section of the recycling centre (the first one you come to as you go in the gate). They will take it off your hands and dispose of it.

### Volunteer for the next edition of Newsletter

The Newsletter Editor will be away in May, so hopefully someone else can produce the Newsletter for me. If anyone knows Powerpoint, or how to put together a Newsletter in another program, could they please contact Marina 0449 135 766 or [marinabishop@gmail.com](mailto:marinabishop@gmail.com) as soon as possible, or before 26 April. I have the main headings available to slot in, just like photos.

### Contributions for the Newsletter

If you are having an Exhibition, or have seen any

interesting artwork or exhibitions, please send text (and/or photos) to [admin@forstergallery.org](mailto:admin@forstergallery.org) before 8 May, as it will have to be sent out on 15 May.

### Call out for a new Treasurer

Would you be interested in nominating for the Treasurer position?

Our super Treasurer, Patricia Mackaway, has flagged that she would like to step away from the ledgers by the end of June and move onto enjoying a life without spreadsheets. I think you will all agree that she has been a wonderful asset to GLAS and will be sorely missed. Luckily she has given us lots of warning and will be around to provide training and support to new Treasurer to ease them into the role.

Experience in accounting software is not required but you do need to be comfortable working with spreadsheets.

If you are interested please contact Patricia Mackaway. [pmackaway5@bigpond.com](mailto:pmackaway5@bigpond.com)

*Denise King*

## The Roster for the Gallery

If you are entering the Open Exhibition, it is expected that Members will assist us with Roster Duty at the Gallery. The Gallery will be open 7 days a week during the Exhibition

So please plan to put your name down for some 3 hour sessions sometime.

It is a pleasant thing to do and a way to find out what is happening at your art society.

If you are unsure about what to do, I can **make sure that there is someone there to help you learn.** *Ingrid Horsburgh 0412 188 544*

## Upcoming GLAS Workshops

Ingrid has been hard at work lining up some new Workshops for this year.

**John Wilson** 14-15 May - Oils - Into the Light

**Chan Dissanyake** 25-26 June - Watercolour Impressions

**Harry Westera** 10-11 September - Watercolour Coastal Scenes

**Melissa Read-Devine** 29-30 October - Acrylic Mixed Media

Please contact Ingrid if you are interested: 0412 188 544; 6559 7295; [ingrid2430@gmail.com](mailto:ingrid2430@gmail.com)

# Welcome to New Members

Lorraine Beal, Susan Blackwood,  
Angeline Chua, Myffie Coady,  
Eileen Frampton, Jenny Kelly,  
Jeni Prickett, Linda Titow, Julie Williams.

## GLAS Art Classes

Our Art Classes finish up at the end of term 1, when the Open Exhibition will take over the whole Gallery during the school holidays. Contact any of your tutors, or [admin@forstergallery.org](mailto:admin@forstergallery.org), to find out about classes for next term.

**LIFE DRAWING** - There could be a last session on March 31st if there are enough people interested. The next scheduled session will not be until May 5th due to the Open Exhibition. Please contact Pam Dunne - email [pamdunne@rhalex.com.au](mailto:pamdunne@rhalex.com.au) or phone 0412 736 797 ASAP if you can be there on March 31st. Pam will not book a model unless there are enough people interested.

## GLAS Plein Air Painting

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month 8am for 8.30.  
Due to popular demand – we hope to again have a regular informal painting and sketching group. Please note: You should get there early in case we need to change the venue on the day because of the weather or unknown circumstances (bird attacks, feral ducks or something.) Don't forget to bring sun screen, a hat, a chair (if you want one), something to eat and drink – especially water, and anything else you think you might need. No tutor. It would be ideal if individuals paired up so as to avoid turning up by yourself.

March 24: Darawank War memorial Reserve (along the river – Toilets available). Riverscape, variety of trees, wharf, fishers, distant views.

April 14th: John Wright Park or 'The Deck' area by the slips, Tuncurry (Toilets/some shelter/food outlets) – Slipway, The channel, Islands, the bridge, boating, birdlife, fishing boats.

April 28th: Smiths Lake – Frothy Coffee – Toilets available, cafe. Boats, lake, headlands, pines, boatshed, catamarans, sand spit, across to Horse Point.

May 12th: Point Road Rotunda, Tuncurry (Beside 'Thirty Three Degrees' - Toilets/some shelter) The channel, the bridge, Islands, boating, birdlife, fisherpeople, oystermen

May 26th: Sailing Club, Lakes Way, Sth of Green Point turn off- (Toilets available/ shelters).

June 9th: Pebbly Beach near new park, Forster (Toilets/some shelter). Dynamic coastal scenery, headlands, surf, gnarly trees.



## Arty Tech Talk

In this newsletter I will look at **EDGES**, *The Final Element of design*, that I overlooked last year, (remember these are the basic characteristics of the marks we make with our brushes, pencils, pastels or even chisels to some extent). Edges aren't included in some art schools' lists of design elements but you get that.

Review; When we make a mark, that individual mark can be described in terms of its;

- Tone (or value) which is how light or dark a mark is.
- Shape (roundish, angular, organic, geometric etc)
- Size (big, little, medium etc)
- Colour (hue, temperature, intensity and value – light or dark)
- Direction (horizontal, diagonal, vertical etc)
- Texture (smooth, rough, broken, spotty etc)
- Line (thick, thin, dotted, faded edge – for the watercolourists, etc)
- **AND EDGES**

This last element is often overlooked by some artists and may not be as important in some genres as in others. To the realist or even impressionist landscape artist edges are overlooked at their peril. In landscapes we are mostly concerned with capturing a 3 dimensional image on a 2 dimensional surface. To do this we emulate what the eye sees utilising linear and atmospheric (or aerial) perspective. In atmospheric perspective we need to adhere to what the atmosphere and distance do to our subject (despite what we see in our photo references – they lie!)

Photos taken in auto mode are quite different to what the eye would perceive and some experts claim to be quite adept at detecting a painting done from a photo. Depth of field, white/dark balance, edges and even distance are all mucked about. (Don't forget the Wednesday plein air paint outs!).

Generally over distance; tones lighten, colour intensity fades, colours tend more towards blue (reds fade out) and so get cooler, textures diminish as does detail and objects get smaller and this all means that edges get blurry. Quite simply everything usually gets lighter, bluer and fuzzier. Indeed, some artists spend nearly as much time or more adjusting edges as they do blocking in their shapes. This stage can be viewed as 'pushing and pulling' the features and subjects within your painting ever so minutely to achieve a more realistic 3D presentation. Attending to this stage of your painting process is VITAL or your subject matter may appear extremely flat and stuck on. **So, warm up colours, sharpen and darken your focal area and fade**

out the rest as described and you could make notable progress and whatever you do: don't trust photos!

Happy painting, Arty

## Focus on our Members

Each Newsletter we hope to bring you a brief story about one of our Members. This time...

### Jenny Ross

My most worthwhile role in life was a "stay at home mum" and once the three children became independent I went back to banking and secretarial support. I particularly liked working on the front desk as "director of first impressions". During retirement I studied business management and became a civil and marriage celebrant, as we say in the industry, a "hatcher, matcher and dispatcher."

My studio is open to the elements, being a screened-in room, seen through my dining room window. I use a draft-persons desk flanked by a work table with shelving on my right and another cupboard with drawers on my left. Also, I have a large storage cupboard. Over time I have added another table so I can spread out.

The fountain located in my garden soothes my mind but when I want to be more upbeat I play 60's music. Having a view of my entire back garden, full of light, is an inspiration to my work.



## Vale Cynthia Taylor

Some sad news today. We have had word that one of the inaugural members of GLAS, Cynthia Taylor, has passed away. She had been in poor health for some time.

For those who wish to pay their respects, the funeral service for Cynthia will be at St Alban's Church in Forster at 10am on Tuesday 22 March.

I endeavour to paint nearly every day in the afternoon but I can be found in my studio straight after breakfast, in my pjs with the dishes left in the sink.

I fell in love with watercolour whilst on a caravanning holiday in Bowen Qld and then found Wayne's class six years ago. Watercolour is a magical medium and I am constantly surprised by its mystery.

At this early stage of painting, I don't have a favourite subject or theme, I want to explore how I can connect my paintings to my personality. I enjoy using wet paper and a scraper, maybe this has something to do with my pottery training.

When I have painters block I go for a walk with my dog, maybe sit and meditate. It does not take long to get back the inspiration to create. I feel I am the "accidental" artist. I met an artist at the caravan park in Bowen who would take his harem of ladies to paint on location so the next year I joined in and have been hooked ever since. Painting transports me to another place where it is just me with my brush

During my six years with GLAS I joined the committee as roster co-ordinator, I also took responsibility for the garden in front of the bridge club. I volunteered to do the shopping to assist our treasurer. These days my main role is as my husband's carer, a very demanding but worthwhile role, a role I do willingly and with love.