

Creative Arts Station, 119 Settlement Road, Cowes

November Bulletin #124

Dear ASPIR member,

This Bulletin brings all the results from the very successful Cup Weekend Exhibition, reports from the recent workshops, and updates on our program.

But first of all please welcome your committee for 25/26 as elected at the AGM on November 9th.



Bronwyn (President), Fiona, Juliette, Gay (Treasurer), Janice, Shirley, Lisa, Della (Secretary), Heather and Nadia

At the AGM Bronwyn presented a comprehensive report of the previous year's ASPIR activities.

President's Report 2024/2025

Presented to ASPIR - 31st AGM Sunday November 9th 2025 by Bronwyn Pratt

I have much pleasure in presenting the President's Report for the 2024-25 year.

This was my first year as a member and President of ASPIR. Getting thrown in the deep end as it were, I did mention to the departing President Miranda Sage, that I was having a Knee Replacement before the Easter Show and had a prior Holiday booked for Mexico before the Cup Weekend Exhibition, but with the help of the wonderful, enthusiastic committee, it turns out they only need me to make speeches.

I must also thank Miranda for not running too far away, always helping me out when needed and behind the scenes, with how things work, and especially attending to grant applications.

Now we have settled into our space at the Creative Arts Station, we can develop programs that will reach out to a wider demographic. Membership is growing fast with nearly 200 financial members. We now have an air conditioner and external wash up sink which were partly funded by Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grants.

BCSC reinstalled the Mural you see on the side of our building, painted by Life Member John Adam, and just in time to celebrate his 90th Birthday! Of course there is much more to do to make our building stand out; gardening, exterior painting, security lighting, general maintenance, etc.

What an amazing 1st official year we have all had at the Creative Arts Station

But to be AGM correct I need to report from July 2024 to June 2025.

- July 2024- A Ceramic Mug Workshop at Clay & Co. in Cowes with Kaz Morton.
- August 2024 -first portrait Session was held at ASPIR
- October 2024 -I ran a "Bead it Up" workshop, my first time at ASPIR
- November 2024- One year since Berninneit opened in Cowes and The Cup Weekend Exhibition and Young Artist Award were part of the celebrations. The wonderful mural made by the Textile Art Group and members of was also on display. We also celebrated our 30th Birthday and AGM at ASPIR.
- December 2024 - Portraits, En plein Air and Appraisal Sessions started back at ASPIR, then the committee took a break!
- January 2025 –The TAG Gala Exhibition Weekend was a great way for the locals and visitors to the Island to see our new space and see what talented members we have. Followed by Heather Fahnle and her students who held a very successful Circle of Life Mosaic Group Exhibition at the Creative Arts Station.
- February 2025- We decided to join in the fun with PICAL and the Edible Gardens Weekend and held an ART FIRE SALE, a great way for members to sell work.
- March 2025 - Linocut Print Workshop with the amazing Susan Hall.
- April 2025 –The ASPIR Easter Art Show was held at Berninneit for the first time.
- May 2025 - The Historic Mural by John Adam was installed. Anita Rowe ran a wonderful Macramé Workshop at ASPIR.
- June 2025- 9 Sessions took place at ASPIR during this month and they were nice and toasty with the new Air Conditioner!

Our online social presence is amazing, mainly due to our wonderful volunteer Social Creator Lisa McLure. We have grown due to her endless enthusiasm and the time she spends creating our Facebook, Instagram and Videos.

Our website is still managed by Jen Olson of www.plainly.nz for a very reasonable fee, sometimes pro bono! So thank you Jen!

Once again, the Cup Weekend Exhibition 2025 was held at Berninneit Cultural and Community Centre, many thanks to the Bass Coast Council Staff facilitating bumping in and out. We had an amazing group of artists old, new and youth, displaying and selling their work. The Young Artist Award, with contributions from five local Primary schools, has become firmly entrenched in our Cup Weekend program since 2019, thanks to Jan Taylor and the local Art Teachers in our Region.

The Easter 2025 Exhibition was held at Berninneit for the first time and it was also a resounding success with over 200 items being submitted, as well as great sales.

Every Exhibition is a huge task, from receiving the work, installation, setting up, packing up and dismantling, it takes many people to get it together.

- A big thankyou goes out to the Committee, all those people who volunteered to assist and in particular thanks to Gay Mosby as Exhibition Director/Treasurer and Membership Officer – she is hoping to scale down to just being Exhibition Director.
- To Shirley and Margaret for the catering and Janice helped sourced donations for the Raffle.
- I wish to acknowledge the major Awards Sponsor from the Bendigo Community Banks of Cowes, San Remo and Grantville that has ensured the success of our Cup Exhibition and the amazing members and local businesses that helped us support the Easter Show. Successful exhibitions encourage and inspire all our artists in their creative journeys. Please support our Local businesses and organisations who support the Awards and Raffles ensuring the financial sustainability of our events.

I must make a special mention of our volunteer co-ordinators who conduct our special interest group sessions during the year. They do this for the love of Art and Community. Many thanks to Marian for Appraise & Connect; Gay and Joe for Portraits; Jacki and Jenny for Life Drawing; Shirley, Barb and Deb for Textile Art Group (TAG); Ian Robinson for Ibis Writers; Jan and Miranda for Come and Create; Fronev Ward for En Plein Air, and Shirley for the Workshops. Reports from these groups appear in the Bulletins.

It's been a privilege to meet so many creative, enthusiastic people this year. I thank the Committee: Shirley Collins – Vice President, Della Montgomery Wicking – Secretary, Gay Mosby Treasurer, Membership Officer and Exhibition Co-ordinator, Jan Taylor, Fiona Anderson-Brown, Kevin Burke, and Joe La Pira.

We also thank Kerry Francis, who retired from Committee earlier this year, as well as Joe and Kevin who are sadly stepping down from committee today. Every member brings energy, new ideas, their time and encouragement to the table, but without new helpers we cannot continue to function so please consider putting your hand up to be elected onto the ASPIR committee.

I know we can all be proud of what ASPIR has achieved in the past Financial Year 2024-2025 and I thank you for being here today in supporting what we have all achieved.

Bronwyn Pratt - President

WORKSHOPS

Susan Hall presented a Geli Plate Printmaking Workshop in October.

This was great fun and gave us an opportunity to learn new skills.

It was a challenge too, as we needed to think backwards.

The results were amazing.



Ben Winspear conducted fully subscribed workshops in oils and acrylics in both October and November. By taking us back to basics, the classes proved inspirational for both novice and experienced artists alike.



How good is that?

ASPIR at home with insulation, air-conditioning, natural light & ventilation, access to the outdoor space, and a plumbed-in sink for washing our brushes.

Worth the wait of 30 years.

Ben will return in 2026 to continue his teaching.

If you are interested in participating, please register with Shirley 0410 584 025



On the next few pages you will find all the results, the judges' comments, and details of our fabulous sponsors for the ASPIR CUP WEEKEND EXHIBITION

ASPIR Cup Weekend Exhibition 2025 & Young Artist Awards

Nearly 100 members of ASPIR participated with 272 works on display. There were 66 works sold being nearly 25% of works exhibited. The wonderful sponsorship for the Awards that ASPIR receives from local businesses and organisations enables the successful running of this event. Our Judge, Denise Keele-bedford, congratulated all the artists with works in the show. She talked about how the disciplines presented are diverse, the mediums broad and the presentation of the artworks varied.

The Prize winners and sponsors are as follows, with judge's notes in italics:



Best in Show:

Heather Towns, *Silver and Crystal*

\$1000 Bendigo Community Bank

It is an extremely well designed composition, highly considered in its contemporality and arrangement. It is painted skillfully, and the finished presentation of edges and framing have made it the overall best work in the show.

Nature, Environment & Wildlife Award:

Shandelle Nolan, *Seaweed Doily*

\$500 Phillip Island Nature Parks

Using natural materials and recycled backing board, the artist has presented a work that speaks of a long history of our country, what country offers to us for our use and what we can give back to humanity and environment.



Best Painting : Ursula Theinert,

Tea Trees on Berry's Beach

\$500 Phillip Island RSL

I was drawn to this work through the movement of the trees. The artist has stylised the subject, yet its looks believable. We know the scene, it is familiar to us, yet it is mystical. Excellent application of paint and harmony of colour has made this work stand out.

Highly Commended Painting:

Josephine Allen, *Moonscape*

\$100 Bendigo Community Bank

Small in size, big on subject. The design of subject, limited palette, and skillful application of paint, this work was on my first list. The presentation is clean and considered.





Best 3D

Dina Goebel, *Jellyfish: Lion's Mane*

\$400 Brinnie T Design & Flowers of Phillip Island

There is a sense of art meets science with the work. The overall finish and presentation is superb, in that it could be a museum specimen. The artist's use of mixed materials has created a work that makes one want to keep investigating it, to discover the minute details over and over.

Highly Commended 3D

Leigh Wicking, *New Life*

\$100 Bendigo Community Bank

The artist has made superb use of the variation of colour within the piece of marble. The simplicity of form allows the viewer to engage with the smooth finish and to create their personal dialogue with the work and its meaning.



Best Digital Art/ Photograph

Jillian Mitchell, *Majestic*

\$400 Phillip Island Winery

Black & White imagery has a bold strength in highlighting the subject, and its finer details. This work expresses, exactly the majesty of the subject, its life's journey and power.

Highly Commended Digital/Photograph

Jennifer Moyle, *Contemplation*

\$100 Bendigo Community Bank

An image of harmony, of quiet solitude. A gentle considered portrait that speaks of the subject at peace, in what maybe a chaotic environment.

Best Other Medium

Lindy Yeates,

The Composition of Water

\$400 Alex Scott & Staff

Books of many forms educate in different ways. The artist has recycled or upcycled a preloved book, possibly an old passport. She has created the concertina using both sides for the story her drawing expresses.



Highly Commended Other Medium:

Gay Mosby,

Raku Fired Rocks with Horsehair

\$100 Bendigo Community Bank

What of a pile of rocks? This work could have been inspired by the many cairns that travellers create across the globe to say 'I have been here'. This work, though, has the ability to say, 'I am here, and here to stay.' The use of horsehair has added an extra dimension to the work, reminiscent of ancient marks from the ice age.

Judge Denise Keele-bedford also commended works by:

Peter Balfe, *Flinders Island Seascape*

Deborah Hill, *Golden Light*

Carolyn Jane, *Field of Dreams*

Sally Kirsch, *SS Speke Sunset*

Bruce Wearne, *Into the Hills*

People's Choice Award

Medina Hilse,

Surf's Up

Acrylic and Marble Dust



The Young Artist Award

An intriguing and colourful exhibition is how selector, Josephine Allen, described the works on show by Grade 5 & 6 students from five Primary Schools in the Young Artist Award. Before announcing her selections Josephine made special commendation to the teachers for their choice of subjects, and the extensive range of mediums used by the students.



The Schools participating were Cowes Primary (CP), Newhaven Primary (NP), Newhaven College Primary (NCP), Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS), and Lang Lang Primary (LLP).

Vanessa Verzaci, Company Secretary of San Remo District Financial Services, was on hand to present the cash prizes sponsored by the Bendigo Community Banks of Cowes, San Remo and Grantville

The following are the Award Winners with Josephine Allen's notes in italics.

1st Prize Rorey Filsell, *Starry Night*, NCP Bendigo Bank, \$100

This picture jumped out at me straight away. It is one of the Starry Night themes from Newhaven College. It has an energy that I thought Van Gogh would love, vibrant and expressive, and with a dramatic use of the oil pastel medium.

2nd Prize: Isla, *Self Portrait*, LLP Bendigo Bank, \$60

This work has a very comfortable composition with the use of various techniques and I felt I got to know her through her portrait.

3rd Prize: Hazel Sebastian, *Whispers of Dusk*, CP Bendigo Bank, \$40

This is a beautifully painted seascape at sunset. Hazel's drawing skills and the way the water's edge meets the sand delighted me.

There were six Highly Commended Awards

Four Vouchers from Woolworths:

Reuben, *Self Portrait*, NP

The thing that stood out for me was the position of the portrait and its questioning gaze.

Michael Tran, *Coral Trout*, CP

The delightful Coral Trout has such a personality, and there is lovely use of watercolour paint.

Henry Kennedy, *Geli Plate Magic*, CP

A sophisticated work showing beautiful craftsmanship skill.

Willow H, *Still Life*, OLSS

A creative Still Life with a cubist stained glass effect.

Two vouchers from Turn the Page Bookshop

Charlie Matthews, *Starry Night*, NCP

This stood out for me for its good composition and lovely tones in the trees and hills.

Louis, *Self Portrait*, NP

This stood out for its use of the full page and the use of colour

The Young Artist Award was established by ASPIR, directed by Jan Taylor, to encourage and recognise the creativity of students in primary school.

This is proving to be an effective format as ASPIR now sees young people becoming members of the Arts Society and joining in the activities on offer.



Last year's winner, Sam Bowtell, now a junior member, exhibited in the 2025 Cup Weekend exhibition, showing four works painted in oils, one of which was sold.