

Bulletin No. 121 July 2025

Creative Arts Station, 119 Settlement Rd, Cowes

Greetings from Bronwyn, ASPIR President

Welcome to Winter!!

We were very excited to receive funds from the Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grants for the Air conditioner plus the outside sink. The sink we will be using for accessing water for our painting and cleaning up after classes!



The Air Conditioner came at just the right time for our Sessions and believe me the Life Model is ecstatic with the warmth! Thanks to Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning for their fast installation!

Many thanks to Lisa McLure for the preloved sink and Specialised Plumbing for fitting it off! I am sure it will be well used.



Our Vice President took a bit of a tumble and was greatly missed for a while, but we are happy to say she is back and almost running. 😊 Our Shirley Collins is irreplaceable! She does so much behind the scenes for ASPIR.

So much has happened this month but one thing that stands out after sitting in on a Future Planning Workshop with the BCSC, is that we have to keep attracting new committee members to help an ever-growing group of Artists to keep running.

If you could take a moment to consider how you can help that would be lovely.

Our AGM is in November, the Committee are looking for a Treasurer and Membership Officer to train up, there is always a bit of maintenance to do as well. Our committee are not as young as they used to be, and we would greatly appreciate some younger members to help us out. So, if you have a few spare hours a month to attend a meeting or help us out please contact me on 0409 934 543.

We are hoping to get some door signs this month, and a new garden bed along the exterior wall of our Creative Arts Station. We may be asking members to come along and give us a bit of a hand for that as well.

Stay warm and have fun creating for our next ASPIR Exhibition in November!

Bronwyn.

The Macrame Workshop

Shirley writes: A great afternoon of Creative Macrame with our 6 ladies & Anita at the helm.

From measuring out the lengths of cord, to putting into practice the knots learnt, to the final masterpieces.

Everyone keen to come back for a second round.

Thank you so much Anita.

Watch the Facebook page 'Arts Society Phillip Island Region' for details of upcoming Workshops covering all sorts of activities.



Congratulations Warren Nichols

Warren was invited to participate in the significant exhibition, 'Turner and Australia', at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale. This exhibition brings together original works by J.M.W. Turner from Australian public collections alongside works by Australian artists who have been influenced by him. These include Eugene von Guérard, Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Clarice Beckett, and Lloyd Rees.

Twelve months ago Warren received an invitation from curator and gallery director Simon Gregg to join the distinguished group. *Mist Over Western Port III, 2022* was selected and has received special mention as a work "in conversation with" Turner's later works.

It is wonderful to see such recognition of Warren's work.

You still have time to visit as the exhibition is open until the end of August.

Turner & Australia exhibition, Gippsland Art Gallery, 70 Foster Street, Sale, June 7 - August 24. Open Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm, Weekends 10am-4pm.

Whale of a Time Art Exhibition

Opening Night 5-7pm this Friday July 11th, then the exhibition is open Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th, from 10am to 3pm at the Creative Arts Station. Featuring Heather Fahnle Mosaics

See flyer attached.

The George Bass \$1000 Art Prize commemorates the enduring legacy of Bass' journey and his influence along the south-eastern coast of Victoria – a region celebrated for its natural beauty and thriving artistic community.

Now accepting entries: See the attached flyer

For further information contact

Peter Walker leesonstreetgallery@gmail.com

0400 864 325

ASPIR Activities

Life Drawing

Now the air conditioner is installed both the model and the artists are warm. Suitable for all levels of skill, these are untutored sessions with a model. First Monday of each month 9.30 to 12 at the Creative Arts Station.

All welcome. Please arrive at 9.15 to set up beforehand. There is a \$20 sitter's fee for members and \$25 for non-members.

Next Session Monday August 4th Contact Jacki 0405 721 303

Come and Create

Come on down, we are nice and warm. Held on the second and fourth Thursdays each month from 10 am to 12 noon, these are informal occasions. Bring along any art or craft projects you may like to work on, or just come for a cuppa and a chat. Sessions are free to members.

There is a gold coin donation for tea and coffee. Non-members are welcome, with the first two sessions free, and after that it is \$5.

Note dates in July Thursdays 10th and 24th, and in August 14th & 28th

Portraits

Bring your own materials and enjoy drawing or painting a portrait from life. To cover the cost of the sitter and rooms there is a fee of \$10 per person payable on the day. This group meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Next session August Tuesday 12th 9.30 Contact Gay 0425 728 323

Appraisal

These monthly sessions offer artists - both beginners and advanced - the opportunity to share and discuss their completed or in-progress works and to offer supportive, honest appraisals of the works of others in the group. Discussion also includes techniques, materials and exhibition opportunities. This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 2-4pm.

Next session July 16th. \$5 session fee. Contact Marian 0430 274 666

Ibis Writers

Robbo writes: Hello Writers,

We met at 1:00 pm on 1 July at the Vietnam Vets Museum Meeting Room and nine members attended. During sharing, we briefly discussed the possibility of bringing out an anthology of our work, and the possibility of working with the ASPIR visual artists in a joint exhibition of matched visual and verbal creations. These possibilities to be discussed further at the August Meeting. Seven of those present read drafts for comment, either continuations of their works in progress, or self-contained pieces, and much useful discussion took place.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5th August 1pm contact Robbo 0407 240 024

En Plein Air This group is in recess till September when the weather will be better.

For more information phone Froney 0438 592 305

Textile Art Group This group is having a winter break. Contact Shirley 0410 584 025

Children's Book Illustration

We have had an email from Deb Sorensen regarding a Children's book, as follows:

I 'dip' with a group of lovely, lively ladies every morning at Cowes' foreshore, most of who are 'Grans'. Inspired by the experience, I've written a light-hearted children's book that aims to celebrate and honour older women who 'wild swim'.

The title is 'My Gran is a Mermaid!'

The text needs pictures to bring the story to life and I'm hoping a local artist, familiar with our beautiful local beaches, might be interested. It would be a 22-24 page picture book that would require about 10-12 illustrations, with text on one page and a picture on the opposite. I've written up a brief outline for each picture but am also open to ideas. There is no timeline or deadlines as yet, the project is very much in its infancy, and I'm aiming for a relaxed, enjoyable process!

I'd love to chat with anyone interested. Perhaps over coffee with some of the other 'grans' after our dip? Or anytime that's suits.

Thanks, Deb Sorensen 0480 105 618 sorensendeb@hotmail.com

PICES Small Works and Contempora Exhibitions



Now calling for entries from contemporary artists for our upcoming exhibitions

PICES Small Works Exhibition Dec 12, 2025 - Jan 1, 2026

PICES Contempora Exhibition Jan 4 - Feb 1, 2026

Open to: emerging and established artists to show works in keeping with PICES philosophy of exhibiting high quality contemporary art

Where: Berninnet Art Gallery Cowes, Phillip Island

Entries Close July 21, 2025

For entry form and further details visit the PICES website -

<https://www.pices.com.au>