



# Montague Art and Craft Society Inc

## Newsletter

### August 2025

#### President's Report



Hello everyone,  
Good to see so many members turning up and being creative, it might be cold outside but, it is warm inside the Studio.

Yes, it is always good to spend time with friends old and new.

Congratulations to Alison for her upcoming exhibition at the Art Room and thanks go to Luke Kelly for providing this opportunity in such a great location.

Dates for the Exhibition:

Alison - Tuesday 9 to Sunday 21 September

Unfortunately, Jo had to cancel her August Exhibition due to illness in the family.

The date for Boats Afloat has changed this year and is now Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November.

Life Drawing is in recess for the colder months but will be back in September, exact date to be advised.

Thanks, Cathy for this report on Exhibition dates.

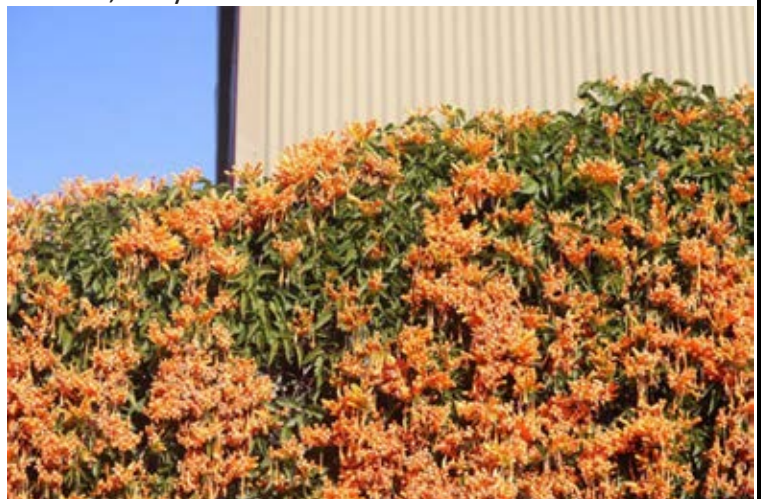
Regards  
Julie Hartley  
President MACS

Thanks again Luke for your generosity and encouragement to local artists.



This emu is one of many of Luke's nature- based works

'Softening Industry'! Thanks Col and Kris for the orange curtain of delight hanging at the Studio.  
Cheerio, Rosy



**WHAT'S ON**  
**MACS Studio July 2025**

**Mondays with Bob Burnside**

Contact: Bob 0412417871

Stained Glass Group



**Monday Afternoon**  
**Oils & Acrylics with Cheryl Hill**



**Tuesdays – TEXTILES from 10:00 am**



**Wednesdays - Morning From 10:00 am**  
**Mosaics with Judy Gordon**



Afternoons from 1:00 pm

**Pottery and Ceramics with Donna Goulding**



**Thursday afternoons 1 - 4**  
**Watercolour Group with Cathy Amos**



**Friday Morning**  
**Life Drawing with Janet Jones**  
**(In Winter recess, back in September)**

## Narooma Urban Sketchers Timetable July – September 2025

### July 2025

7 - 8 July	Tuross River at the bridge
14 – 15 July	Corunna Lake
21 – 22 July	Carters Beach
28 July	Eurobodalla Farms

### August 2025

4 - 5 August	Handkerchief Beach
11 – 12 August	Bar Beach Wetlands
18 – 19 August	Mossy Point
25 – 26 August	Billys Beach

### September 2025

1 - 2 September	Yabbara Beach
8 - 9 September	Sue Chegwiddden's, Punkalla
15 – 16 September	Moruya Old Buildings
22 – 23 September	Central Tilba
29 – 30 September	Mill Bay Narooma

### **MACS VISION**

*A place to work together in creative groups.*

*Workshops for members to upgrade and diversify their skills*

*Opportunities for members to exhibit their work.*



**Exhibition at Art Room by Artist Alison Spurgeon**



Next month I will be having a small exhibition in the Art Room, Narooma. The show will include local landscapes and flowers and will run from Tuesday September 9 to Sunday 21. Please feel free to pop in and have a chat and a look round Luke Kelly's lovely shop if you are in the centre of town.

Alison



**MACS NEWS by Rosy Williams**  
**Photos and Articles by Rosy Williams**

**Oil and Acrylics with Cheryl Hill**



Cheryl Hill shows her recent entry to an Exhibition which invited artists to 'Copy the Masters'.

Cheryl's work is titled 'Woman standing in front of Mirror' and is 'after' the style of the artist Henri Toulouse Lautrec.

Thanks to all our convenors and their amazing Creative Arts knowledge.

## Oil and Acrylics Cont...

The oil painters' group has three new members, (Yvette, Joanne & Maureen), at our Monday afternoon Studio session.

I am starting the new members an hour earlier than the more experienced people to allow for catchup to the original group. I am also doing extra sessions at my studio to allow this catchup for the new starters.

Everyone is happy and the new starters are not missing the important early lessons.

Cheryl

## Group News

Textiles Convenor Judy Glover is away this month, mosaic and pottery; water colour groups are going well; life drawing in recess for winter, as is outdoor sketching.

But the sun is warming up!!

## Pottery and Ceramics with Donna Goulding



From Donna G and the Potters

A big thank you to Lucinda for all her support in the pottery class. There has been a massive transformation in the pottery shed.... Everyone has contributed to the class, ensuring a great experience for all of us.

Karen was the inspiration for the bells and shared her knowhow with us.



Grover is experimenting with different techniques and has come up with some wonderful ideas. She has a real artistic flair and is keeping a record of all her experiments. Rita is a great new member and a real asset to the class. Thank you to you all....



New storage shelves for the Kiln room are proving very helpful. Shown are shelves for the stages of work of our keen potters; work to be glaze fired; glazed, and finally bisque-fired.







**Ken by Gary Caldow**

'Ken of Kings Cross' by Gary Caldow, was chosen as a subject by this year's Writers Guild to be held at Moruya in October.

MACS artist Gary Caldow has been paired with an author who will present her interpretation of Gary's painting in an oral story form. Both will be presenting live to the large audiences at the Writer's Guild event in two months time in Moruya.

Here is Gary's background story about his unique and arresting portrait entitled, 'Ken of Kings Cross'

*I met Ken whilst walking near my flat in King's Cross in 2008, on one of the weekends when I had not gone back to Canberra.*

*Given his interesting appearance, I mentioned that I had taken up art and would like to do a portrait of him, as an exercise.*

*Ken said that many artists had asked him, but that no one had ever given him a painting or even a copy!*

*I said that's unfair and that, if it worked out, I would certainly give him a painting.*

*When it was finished my art teacher and fiercest critic, Janet, my wife, said " There's no way you are going to part with that!"*

*So, I did another portrait, copied from the first, (which was just as good.) However, soon after, Ken just disappeared and so it was hard to deliver on my promise.*

*Finally, I remembered a clue and went to the Vegas Hotel which I knew Ken had frequented. I said, "Does anyone know the fellow in my painting?"*

*After that, the Philipino Bar girls smiled and said that they would pass the painting on to Ken....*

*Some weeks later I was walking down William Street, towards my workplace on Pitt Street.*

*Suddenly, I was startled by some street people who shouted at me, 'that's him!'*

*I felt sure it was a 'Mugging to be' situation, but, to my delight, I found out Ken had shown them my painting and all they really wanted to do was to just Shake my hand!"*

***Painting and the story behind this art work, by Gary Caldow.***

## Story on Art Room by Rosy



We were hoping to help Luke get a grant to paint the Water Tower with Shore Birds flying. Luke has done several water tank murals in the country. The Shore Bird theme to match the Living Shoreline project completed at the swimming pool area, with the pontoons, signs and protected shoreline encouraging migratory birds, officially opened February 1st, 2025.

Luke's application is currently stalled in council but, he should hear back shortly.  
Cheerio, Rosy



**Celebrating a festival born from community, connection, and creativity** Registrations and Entries NOW OPEN!

**Dear MACS Members,**

We are delighted to officially open this year's Festival Program and Art Prize. We celebrate a festival born from community, connection, and creativity.

Now in our 21st year, River of Art proudly reaffirms its founding values: to champion local talent, activate regional spaces, and celebrate the diverse voices and practices that shape the creative soul of the South Coast.

This year's program reflects our grassroots spirit more than ever. From open studios and vibrant shopfronts to intimate performances and hands-on workshops, the 2025 Festival invites everyone to step inside the creative process — to meet the makers, walk the trail, and experience art where it lives.

We honour the artists, volunteers, and supporters who continue to breathe life into this festival. Together, we've shaped a program that is raw, real and regionally grounded — a true reflection of the cultural heartbeat of Eurobodalla.

## **What's New at River of Art** *Streamlined, simplified, and artist-led*

We know we've kept you waiting — and we truly appreciate your patience.

We're excited to introduce a major update to how we manage registrations and entries. As a volunteer-run organisation, this year has brought big changes to both our team and our systems. With limited resources and a Festival that spans 125km of coastline and hundreds of artists, we needed a smarter way to make it all work.

## **Say Hello to User Led Profiles**

From now on, participants will manage their own listings through personalised user profiles. Need to update your images, change your opening hours, or reword your listing? You can now log in and do it all yourself, anytime.

This new system will save hours of admin and free our team from behind-the-scenes screens and spreadsheets — so we can get back to what we love most: talking art, engaging with the community, and building something special together.

Thanks for bearing with us — and welcome to the next chapter of River of Art.

## Journeys at Spiral Gallery From 8<sup>th</sup> August



### A group show by Spiral gallery artists and artists from the community

**JOURNEY:** An act or instance of travelling from one place to another. A trip or going on a long, life-changing journey. We invited artists to join the "Journeys" exhibition, which focuses on family journeys, personal journeys, emigration & migration experiences.

Artists have been invited to explore and share these meaningful stories with us.

Artists explore family, personal, and migration stories. They express individual journeys and highlight the complexity of these experiences — celebrating the beauty, resilience, and challenges of our life journeys.

The theme of journey has inspired artists for centuries, capturing the duality of belonging to two places, along with the nostalgia and challenges of personal journeys.

Exhibition runs 8th August to 3rd September  
Opening Saturday 9th August 10am to 12noon  
Spiral Gallery 47 Church St Bega.  
Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-1pm. [www.spiralgallery.org.au](http://www.spiralgallery.org.au)



### Executive Director's Message – August 2025

With the new financial year underway, we're leaning into growth, connection and creativity. Our work across the Snowy Monaro, Bega Valley and Eurobodalla continues to centre on supporting artists, strengthening communities, and making space for new voices.

Over the past month, I've had the joy of immersing myself in some wonderful regional arts and cultural moments: visiting A South Coast Selection – Heide Smith at the BAS in Moruya, helping install *From Spiral: Yuin Artists Reframed* at the Bundian Way Gallery in Delegate, and catching the final days of the *Dobell Drawing Prize* at SECCA in Bega. South East Arts board members also attended and judged the *Heads Up portrait prize* at Raglan Gallery in Cooma, and I had a great catch-up with the Cobargo Folk Festival team in Cobargo.

During the school holidays, my boys and I took full advantage of where we live—riding the Mogo Mountain Bike Trails, hiking in Beowa National Park, and paddling on the Pambula inlet at Jiguma. Aren't we lucky to call this place home?



We're particularly excited about upcoming events like the Far South Film Festival, Jess MacNeil: *Among Other Entanglements* and Bonita Ely: *Bithry.Time* at SECCA, *Wander Wonder* at the BAS and Daniel Champagne live at the Moruya Memorial Hall, as well as the Gutsy Girls Adventure Film Tour in Jindabyne.

As always, thank you for the many ways you contribute to the cultural life of our region.

Warmly,  
Kate Bradbury,  
Executive Director, South East ArtsNew faces at South East Arts

## NEWS FROM SOUTH EAST ARTS



### 2025 Headland Writers Festival, Tathra

We're proud to once again support the Headland Writers Festival, taking place in Tathra this October. With an exciting line-up of acclaimed and emerging authors, thought-provoking panels, and writing workshops, Headland continues to grow as a standout regional literary event. Authors announced: Sofie Laguna, Kim Mahood, Debra Oswald, Jess Hill, Mark McKenna, Linda Jaivin, Tyson Yunkaporta, Emily Maguire, Omar Musa, Hugh White, Sonia Orchard, Quentin Sprague, Winnie Dunn, Jade Timms, Ellen Mundy, David Dixon, Megan Kelleher, Jess Hamilton.  
[View 2025 author bios](#)

**FULL PROGRAM / DAY PASSES / SESSION  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MID-AUGUST 2025**

[Weekend passes almost gone](#) - Book your spot!



### Olga Masters Short Story Award 2025 - Entries now open

Submit your short stories (2000 to 4000 words) on the theme of life in rural Australia. Entries welcome from all writers that reside in Australia of any age. Winners will be announced at the 2025 Headland Writers Festival.

**First prize** receives \$1500 and publication in [islandmag.com](http://islandmag.com)

**Runner-up** receives \$500 and publication on [olgamastersshortstoryaward.com](http://olgamastersshortstoryaward.com)

**Entries open:** Fri 1 Aug

**Entries close:** Fri 5 Sept

**More info:**

[www.olgamastersshortstoryaward.com/enter](http://www.olgamastersshortstoryaward.com/enter)

The Prize is funded by the Masters Family  
Managed by [South East Arts](#)

**Publishing partner:** [Island Magazine](#)

**Promotional Partners:** [Headland Writers Festival](#) / [South Coast Writers Centre](#)

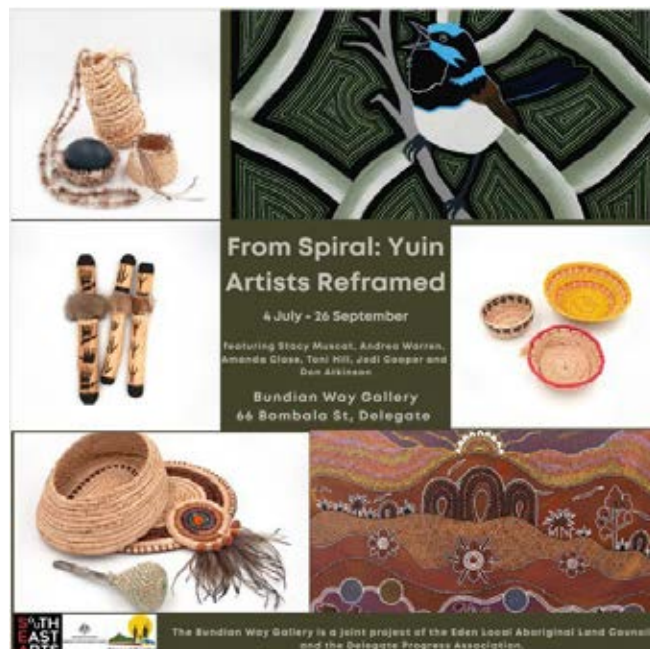


## Bega Streetlight Festival

Lock Friday 24 October into your calendar when Bega's main street will be transformed into a vibrant, free community festival!

There'll be live music, food, art, light installations and family-friendly fun celebrating the heart of our community. A photographic competition will celebrate our creative community. More details to come — keep your eyes on our socials!

The Bega Streetlight Festival will promote our cultural industries, local businesses and community groups, foster stronger community ties, enhance the vibrancy of Bega's main street with this springtime event. The Bega Streetlight Festival is proudly funded by the NSW Government's Open Streets Program, led by Transport for NSW.



## From Spiral: Yuin Artists Reframed @ Bundian Way Gallery

A stunning new exhibition showcasing the work of Yuin artists from the far south east region — weaving, painting, carving, and more. Featuring works by Stacy Muscat, Andrea Warren, Amanda Close, Toni Hill, Jodi Cooper & Don Atkinson. The Bundian Way Gallery is a joint project of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council & the Delegate Progress Association.

**Where:** [Bundian Way Gallery, Delegate](#)

**When:** 4 July – 26 Sept

## In Closing

Thank you for being part of the creative fabric of our region. Whether you're an artist, volunteer, partner or audience member, your support helps ensure that arts and culture continue to thrive across the South East.

**Stay warm, stay inspired—and we'll see you soon.**

**The South East Arts team**



## Arts and events in South East NSW

### What's on in the Sapphire Coast

**Coming up @ Four Winds, Barraga Bay**  
**All tickets Free – \$45**

#### **WORLD PREMIERE - 'HOW TO READ A CITY'**

Acacia Quartet will perform Richard Lawson's new suite for string quartet, *How To Read A City, Your Place of Last Resort* as a world premiere at Four Winds! Suitable for all ages // Bar from 1:30pm  
**When:** 30 August | 3pm  
**Where:** Windsong Pavilion, Barraga Bay



### What's on @ SECCA - Bega

[Jess MacNeil: Among Other Entanglements Exhibition](#)

**When:** till Saturday 13 September  
**Where:** SECCA Bega

[Bonita Ely: Bithry. Time Exhibition](#)

**When:** till Saturday 13 September  
**Where:** SECCA Bega

### What's on in Eurobodalla



*Timeless Land Layers by Natalie Bateman*

#### **Wander Wonder — Group Exhibition**

Drawings, paintings, ceramics and prints

- Barbara McConchie
- Deb Johansen
- Julian Laffan
- Natalie Bateman
- Patsy Hely
- Waratah Lahy

**When:** Saturday 2 to Saturday 30 August 2025,  
10am–4pm (Closed Sundays)

**Where:** Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Corner  
of Vulcan and Murray Streets, Moruya  
**Tickets / Bookings:** RSVP for Opening Event



#### **Artwork by Ruby Muller Collective Minds — Bingie Collective**

- John Payne – master potter
- Patricia Boisgard – printmaker, painter and ceramicist
- Wendy Pollard – pyrographer and sculptural ceramicist
- Rein Muller – woodworker and ceramic sculptor
- Astrid vanDrie Muller – painter and ceramic sculptor
- Josephine Muller – painter, airbrush artist and ceramic sculptor
- Ruby Muller – jewellery maker and ceramicist.

**When:** Friday 25 July to Sunday 10 August 2025,  
10am–4pm daily

**Where:** The Mechanics Institute, Moruya

**Tickets / Bookings:** Free

**Bonus Event:** Potting wheel demo with John  
Payne, Saturday 2 August, 11am–3pm

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#### van den hooven – Art Exhibition

**When:** Wednesday 30 July to Monday 25 August  
2025

**Where:** Bay Pavilions, Vesper Street

**Tickets / Bookings:** Free

**Opening Event:** Friday 1 August, 6–8:30pm  
(Drinks available at the bar)

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#### Capturing the Moment – Photography Exhibition

**When:** Friday 1 to Friday 29 August 2025,  
Monday to Friday, 9am–4:30pm

**Where:** [Framing Pieces](#), 30 Orient Street,  
Batemans Bay

**Tickets / Bookings:** Free

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#### Life Drawing with Miriam Shilling

**When:** Saturday 2 August 2025, 1–3pm

**Where:** The Bas Workshop Room, Corner of  
Vulcan and Murray Streets, Moruya

**Tickets / Bookings:** \$20 per session – Book via  
Eventbrite

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#### Harbour Exhibition – Shop7 Artspace Gallery

**When:** Friday 8 to Tuesday 26 August 2025

**Where:** [Shop7 ArtSpace](#), Upper Deck, Bermagui  
Wharf, Lamont Street

**Tickets / Bookings:** Free

**Opening:** Friday 8 August, 5–6:30pm

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#### Waltzing the Wilarra – Musical Theatre

**When:** Tuesday 19 August 2025, 7:30pm

**Where:** Yuin Theatre, Bay Pavilions

**Tickets / Bookings:** Book Tickets Online

## Opportunities and EOI's for creatives & makers



#### RALLY Rural Innovators - Apply NOW

A professional development program that supports regional communities to kickstart or grow arts-led regeneration projects.

#### What's included?

- 6 x online workshops and networking sessions with industry experts
- Online portal connecting rural innovators and access regeneration resource library
- Invitation to attend the RALLY Regeneration Forum in Kandos, April 2026
- Opportunity to apply for a travel bursary to attend the forum

#### Learn more:

[regionalartsnsw.com.au/rally/rural-innovators/](https://regionalartsnsw.com.au/rally/rural-innovators/)





### Vaucluse House Creative and Cultural Residency Program (Studio only)

**Museums of History NSW** is inviting applications from cultural practitioners, creatives and organisations to participate in its inaugural creative residency program in **October 2025**. Take inspiration from a beautiful harbourside setting and enjoy this **12 month non-residential studio** at the former caretaker's cottage at Vaucluse House.

The Program offers time, space, connection and inspiration. It is a multidisciplinary non-residential program providing fully subsidised access to four sunny studio spaces within a shared cottage. The program is open to all NSW-based creative practitioners.

**EOI's close Sunday 14 September.** [Learn more](#)



### VIVID Sydney 2026 - Artists EOI

Vivid Sydney is calling on visionary artists, performers and thinkers from across the globe to help shape its 2026 program. Vivid Light EOIs have now closed but Destination NSW are still seeking submissions for the following program pillars: Ideas, Music, Food and Cross-Art Form. Submissions are welcome from artists, designers, musicians, engineers, architects, chefs, restaurateurs, curators, performers, academic institutions and creative organisations.

**EOI closes 26 September 2025**

[Learn more or submit an EOI](#)



↓  
**WE ARE HIRING**  
Gallery & Studios  
Engagement Coordinator

We are seeking a person with energy and enthusiasm to develop, create and plan a vibrant program of engagement for the new Narooma Arts Centre.

Full PD via the QR code



### Job Opportunity @ Narooma School of ARTS NSoA

#### [Gallery and Studios Engagement Coordinator \(part-time for 6 months\)](#)

We are a not for profit volunteer arts organisation and are looking for a candidate to propel the programming of our new purpose built Narooma Arts Centre NAC due to be completed by March 2026. The successful candidate will be engaged to develop a demand driven annual agenda of exhibitions for the gallery and workshops /learning activities for the studios.



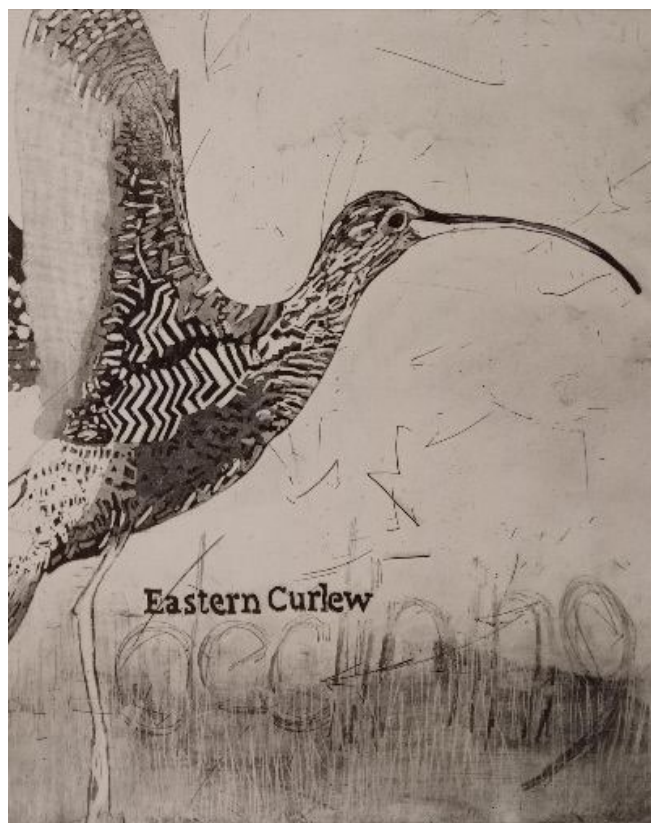
### [River of Art Prize 2025](#)

**Open to all mediums:** from painting, drawing, and sculpture to mixed media, watercolour, and photography — inviting bold ideas, fine craft, and fresh perspectives. **\$5,500 in total prize money:**

- First Prize: \$3,500
- Runner-Up: \$1,500
- Highly Commended: \$500
- People's Choice Award announced at Festival close

**Festival Dates:** Fri 26 Sept to Mon 7 Oct 2025

**Where:** Eurobodalla Shire



**Spiral Gallery Open Art Prize “Feathered” - Great prizes to be won!**

One work per artist; any medium; any level of practice; size limits apply; entry fee \$35.

[Entry Form](#) + image and fee to Spiral Gallery

**ENTRIES CLOSE:** 4pm, Fri 5 Sept

**EXHIBITION:** 3-29 Oct

**INFO:** 0479 171 651 / [spiralartprize@gmail.com](mailto:spiralartprize@gmail.com)

**Sponsors:** Wild Rye Bakery, South East Arts

### **EOI for performers: Great Divide Folk Festival Nimmitabel**

3 days on 3 stages: Music, yarns, grassroots mu bluegrass, Australiana, bush poetry, storytelling, cultural dances, and workshops! Fr camping onsite @ Federal Hotel.

**When:** 24-26 October 2025

**Performer Inquiries:** [greatdividefolk@mail.com](mailto:greatdividefolk@mail.com)

**Coordinated by:** [Nimmitabel School of Arts Inc](#)

## Grants, funding & opportunities

### [Project Grants Fund](#)

#### **Regional Arts NSW**

- **Amount:** Up to \$30,000
- **Closes:** 15 August 2025
- **What for?** high-quality arts projects benefitting regional or remote artists, arts workers, audiences and communities.







# Amanda's of Mogo

**10% Off**  
for MACS Members

The biggest & best range of **professional art supplies** as well as **paper craft materials** in the area. We offer workshops for all levels in **mixed media, stamping, cardmaking, scrapbooking & polymer clay.**

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[www.amandasofmogo.com.au](http://www.amandasofmogo.com.au)

<b>MACS Executive Committee</b>	<b>2025</b>
President	Julie Hartley
Vice President 1	Cathy Amos
Vice President 2	Alison Spurgeon
Treasurer	Alison Spurgeon
Secretary	Fiona Llyall
<b>MACS Committee Members</b>	
Public Officer	Julie Hartley
Newsletter, Web Page, membership	Christine Macauley
Assistant Treasurer & Facebook Page Editor	Fiona Llyall
Committee	Jo Junor
<b>Non Committee Positions</b> MACS Studio Manager Print Media & Photography	Wendy Ezendam Rosy Williams
<b>MACS Conveners</b>	
Oils & Acrylics	Cheryl Hill
Life Drawing	Janet Jones/ Lorraine Willcock
Lead Lighting	Bob Burnside
Mosaics	Judy Gordon
Ceramics/Pottery	Donna Goulding
Plein Air	Margaret Moran
Textiles	Judy Glover
Water Colour	Cathy Amos
<b>MACS Contacts</b>	<a href="mailto:macsartnarooma@gmail.com">macsartnarooma@gmail.com</a>

*We ♥ our  
Volunteers*