

Creative Arts Station, 119 Settlement Road, Cowes

Bulletin Issue No. 117 December 2024

Dear ASPIR member, introducing your ASPIR committee for the coming year.



Welcome to incoming President Bronwyn Pratt, who was elected at the AGM on November 24th.

Meet Della Montgomery-Wicking our new ASPIR Secretary. They join Shirley Collins, Vice President, Gay Mosby, Treasurer, and Committee members Joe La Pira, Jan Taylor, Kerry Francis, and newly elected Kevin Burke and Fiona Anderson-Brown.



Everyone is excited about the year ahead and the opportunities it will bring now that ASPIR has settled into the Creative Arts Station, CAS.

The AGM was an occasion to acknowledge the work and achievements of ASPIR over the last year. The President's Report as presented by Miranda at the meeting is included in this Bulletin.

There are just a few sessions to end the year. Pop these in your diary.

Portraits: Tuesday December 10, at Creative Arts Station, CAS, 9.30am Gay 0425 728 323

En Plein Air: Monday December 16, San Remo Jetty area 9.30am Froney 0438 592 305

Appraisal: Wednesday December 18, CAS 2-4pm check with Marian to confirm 0430 274 666

Then coming up in the New Year, the Textile Art Group, TAG, is organising a big event.

TEXTILES GALA OPEN DAY

Saturday 18th January 2025 Open 10am - 3pm at the Creative Arts Station.

There will be demonstrations, items on display and goods for sale.

This is a good time to see some amazing work, meet wonderful people, and to join in the fun.

ASPIR members are cordially invited to the official Opening of the inaugural PICES 50x50 Art Exhibition to be held at Berninneit gallery in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) from 14th December 2024 to 1st January 2025. Flyer attached



We are delighted that one of our ASPIR members, Elsa Osabutey, won the People's Choice Award at the Youth Art Fest, the IGNITE! Arts Exhibition, held at Berninneit in September.

It is Elsa's first self-portrait. Congratulations Elsa.

*Remember to send in your photos and information about any arts activities to Lisa who is looking after our Socials lisamclure78@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook Arts Society Phillip Island Region*

Now you might need to make yourself a cuppa and settle down to read the President's Report presented to ASPIR 30th AGM Sunday 24 November 2024 by Miranda Sage

I have much pleasure in presenting the President's Report for the 2023-24 year. There is so much to celebrate, so much that has come together in the last year.



The Creative Arts Station is here. Working closely with Bass Coast Shire we have seen the realisation of a 30-year dream. After handing over the keys in December 2023; Council has organised for the Roller Doors to be Insulated; Committee members & family cleaned and painted the floor; ASPIR had the ceiling lined and insulated. We were fortunate to find a builder, Mark Nicka, who was able to put together our collected miscellany of cupboards and benches, line the brick wall with mdf, and then to design and create the external door and window panels. A Bass Coast Shire Quick Response Grant of \$2000 went towards the ceiling insulation. A Minor Works Major Funding Community Grant of \$10,000 has contributed to the External door and window panels. These Grants have meant that ASPIR has been able to preserve much of its accumulated funds which may now be used for program development.



The Webpage is up and running www.aspir.org.au This was also assisted with a Community Grant of \$2000 from Bass Coast Shire Council a couple of years ago. We really appreciate Jen Olson from plainly.nz who made this all happen, who did much of the work pro bono, and patiently took us through the process, always happy to support an artistic community such as ASPIR. Thanks too to Lisa McLure volunteering to manage our Socials and getting Facebook and Instagram up and running.

Last year the Cup Weekend Exhibition 2023 was held for the first time at Berninneit. ASPIR was invited to be part of the Opening celebrations, the building wasn't quite finished, but we were made welcome and revelled in the beautiful new space.

This year the Cup Weekend Exhibition was part of the 1st Birthday celebrations. Now with full assistance from Tech staff, lighting in place, and everything working we had the most successful exhibition ever. The Young Artist Award, with contributions from five local Primary schools, has become firmly entrenched in our Cup Weekend program since 2019. This was an initiative of committee member Jan Taylor.



Earlier this year the Easter Exhibition was held at the Performing Arts Centre Foyer at Newhaven College.



Both these exhibitions involve all the committee, their families, and a band of dedicated ASPIR members, with the receiving of works, the installation, sitting the exhibit, and then the packing up and dismantling it. This is a huge task, physical and demanding, a big thankyou goes out to all those people who volunteered to assist.

Thanks to Gay Mosby as Exhibition Director/Treasurer, and to Shirley and Barbara for finding Raffle donors. Local businesses and organisations supported the Awards and Raffle ensuring the financial sustainability of the events.



I wish to acknowledge the major Awards Sponsorship from the Bendigo Community Banks of Cowes, San Remo and Grantville that has ensured the success of our bi-annual exhibitions. Successful exhibitions encourage and inspire all our artists in their creative journeys.

ASPIR program of activities:

I would like to make special mention of our co-ordinators who conduct our special interest groups. It is pleasing to see the number of participants is growing. Many thanks to Marian for Appraisal; Gay for Portraits; Jacki and Jenny for Life Drawing; Shirley, Barb and Deb for Textile Art Group (TAG); Ian and Lorrie for Ibis Writers; Frony for En Plein Air, and Shirley for the Workshops. Reports from these groups have appeared in the Bulletins.

Last year we managed to find venues for our activities at The Uniting Church Hall, The Rotary Community Rooms, PICAL and the Vietnam Veterans' Museum. We were glad to have the support of these organisations.

Now we have our very own space at the Creative Arts Station and most of the activities can be held here.

What does the future look like?

I am hoping that now we are at the Creative Arts Station that ASPIR can develop programs that will reach out to a wider demographic. This could include being involved with the Cowes Primary School Art Electives, scheduling some activities to suit those who work during the day, and setting up the Come and Create Sessions again but on a weekly basis.

Membership is growing fast with nearly 220 people on our books.

This is my last report as President and as Committee member.

Over the past few years, it has been a privilege to work with such amazing, positive and supportive people. My heartfelt thanks to last year's committee, Barb, Della, Gay, Jan, Joe, Kerry, Maria, Sheryl, and Shirley.

Special thanks to Barbara, who is retiring today, for her contribution over the years as Secretary, and for her work with the Textile Art Group.



Every committee member has brought their energy, their ideas, their time and encouragement to the table, often at times when it was not easy for them.

Now I am retiring I wish to thank the ever-patient Albert, and to give a shout out to my daughter Rachel who has been a great source of ideas and a motivator.

I know we can all be proud of what ASPIR has achieved in 2023-2024.

I am looking forward to joining in all that ASPIR has to offer.

Miranda Sage
President (retired)

P.S. If you would like to get involved and help ASPIR by writing the Bulletin, just drop a line to aspirarts@gmail.com

P.P.S. Miranda is going to continue as Grants and Sponsorship Officer