



PORT COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

**BLACK DIAMOND GALLERY,
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NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Port Community Arts Centre held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 18 July 2026, with 23 members in attendance. Reports were presented by Chair Rose Harasym, Deputy Chair and Treasurer John Ford OAM, and Secretary Erin Roud, outlining the year's activities, achievements and ongoing commitments to supporting our arts community.

Following the meeting, well known Adelaide watercolourist Gerhard Ritter delivered an engaging portrait demonstration.

As he worked, Gerhard explained his techniques and artistic decisions, offering insight into the process behind creating expressive watercolour portraits. After forty minutes, he completed the portrait, leaving the audience both impressed by his skill and inspired by the practical understanding they gained.



**& ARTIST
DEMONSTRATION**

INSPIRATION & ORIGINALITY:

Many of you may have seen recent news about The Doyles Art Award, where the winning work of the 2025 Landscape Prize was revealed to be a "blatant copy" of a 2011 painting by the late Australian artist Nicholas Harding. Another winning artwork by the awarded artist closely imitates an artwork by the American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. This has prompted a wider conversation about originality in exhibitions and it's a good moment for us to share a simple reminder about what 'original work' means at PCAC.

In Australian copyright law, originality doesn't mean an artwork must be completely new. It simply needs to be the result of your own creative decisions. Issues arise only when a work closely copies the composition of another identifiable artwork and is presented as the artist's own. Being inspired by another artist is absolutely fine. Directly copying their arrangement, structure or expressive details is where problems can occur. To keep things clear and fair for everyone, ask yourself: 'Does the artwork I am submitting reflect my own creative decisions?'

a quick note for our artists

Artists naturally learn by studying others, using reference images, taking classes and being inspired by different styles. This is a normal and valuable part of creative development. The key distinction is that artworks exhibited at PCAC should be your own original composition, created through your own choices, interpretation and effort.

If you've made your own decisions about composition, colour, arrangement, technique or interpretation, then the artwork is yours. We also ask artists to be mindful of and respect the rights of the original creators whose work inspires them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Port Community Arts Centre acknowledges that we meet and create on the ancestral lands of the Kauna people. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

OUR FEATURED ARTIST: Margaret Contibas*Margaret Contibas*

I am a self taught mosaic artist, and my practice has grown from curiosity, persistence and a deep fascination with the resilience and beauty of mosaic work. What began more than a decade ago has become a form of expression that continues to challenge and inspire me.

I began exploring mosaic art in 2012, learning from books and experimenting with techniques as I went. My husband and I have travelled widely over the years, visiting remarkable museums, galleries and ancient sites. No matter where we went, the mosaics were what stopped me in my tracks. I was always struck by how these intricate works remained largely intact while the surrounding structures lay in ruins. How did they endure so completely? What techniques made them so resilient? Those questions became the start of a long and rewarding investigation. Every path I followed eventually led to Rome, more precisely, to the Vatican.



OUR FEATURED ARTIST: Margaret Contibas *from page 2*

I became captivated by the mosaics of the late Baroque period, especially the work of Fabio and Pietro Cristofari. Commissioned to recreate paintings by artists such as Poussin and Romanelli, they produced mosaic masterpieces that, in my opinion, surpass the originals.

Their skill and vision drew me in completely. I knew I would never be a Cristofari, but I could strive to create work that hopefully will outlast me.

Through much trial and error, I discovered that working with opaque glass sheets, a wheel cutter and fibreglass mesh allows me to achieve the texture and movement I seek.

My subjects are mostly Australian flora and fauna, an attempt to recreate in mosaic the wild garden that surrounds me. With every piece, I chase that elusive sense of perfection.

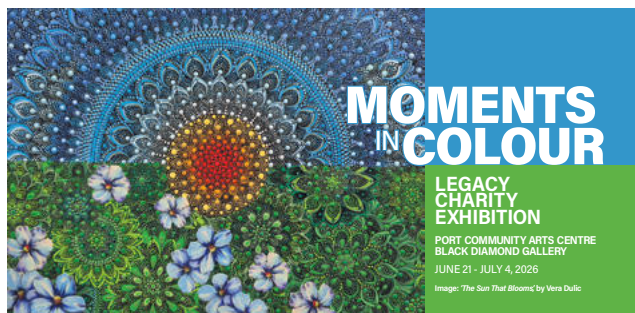
I currently display my work at the Petal and Leaf Café in Semaphore and at Copper Country Keepsakes in Kadina.

In July, I held my first combined exhibition with mosaic artist Hal Robertson and ceramic artist Jane Alyce Humphries. It was a milestone for me, and I hope it marks the beginning of many more exhibitions.

Creating glass mosaics requires space, protective glasses and constant care when cutting, along with a reliable supply of Band Aids. Despite the challenges, the process is deeply rewarding. Each finished piece gives me pride, or at the very least, a reason to keep striving for better.

Mosaic has become more than a medium for me; it is a lifelong exploration of resilience, beauty and technique. I continue to learn, experiment and refine my practice, inspired by the mosaics that have endured through centuries.





MOMENTS IN COLOUR

LEGACY CHARITY EXHIBITION

June 21 - July 4, 2026

The Port Community Arts Centre officially partnered with Legacy for the Moments in Colour exhibition, held from June 20 to July 4. This open charity fundraiser directed all profits to Legacy in support of their work with veterans and their families. It was also the first time PCAC used the Humanitix booking system for entry registration and payment, a change that significantly streamlined hand-in-day. Future exhibition registrations will continue through Humanitix.

Heather Willis, President of Legacy, officially opened the exhibition on Saturday, 20 June. She spoke about Legacy's support for veterans and their families, noting that the ages of those they assist range from two to one hundred and twelve years old.

The opening was attended by 84 people, and across the two weeks the exhibition was open, a total of 339 visitors came through the gallery. This averaged 24 visitors per day and they viewed 93 artworks by 52 artists. Sales reached 6.45 per cent of the exhibition, including the most expensive artwork the gallery has ever sold. Visitor numbers in the Port were reported to be very low during this wet and cold period; Black Diamond Gallery did not follow this trend.

The exhibition was judged by South Australian artist Victoria Rolinski, who brought her experience and thoughtful eye to the selection process. She awarded the \$1,000 First Prize to Jayson Castor for his watercolour Pt Adelaide at Sunset.

Four Honourable Mention Awards were presented to Cosmo Antenucci's pastel Figure 2, Alan Ramachandran's watercolour River Bend, John Ford's watercolour On Reflections and Rose Harasym's pastel The Watchers.

John Ford's watercolour On Reflections received the \$500 People's Choice Award; Nevermore by Terry Jackson and Pt Adelaide at Sunset by Jayson Castor, both finished a close equal second.

The Moments in Colour Charity exhibition raised \$2,261.72 for Legacy. The Port Community Arts Centre thanks all the exhibiting artists, sponsors, collectors, visitors and PCAC's dedicated volunteers for contributing to a vibrant exhibition and a successful fundraising outcome.



TOP: First Prize, Jayson Castor "Pt. Adelaide at Sunset" **MIDDLE:** Alan Ramachandran "River Bend" **BOTTOM FROM LEFT:** Rose Harasym, "The Watchers"; John Ford OAM "On Reflections"; Cosmo Antenucci, "Figure 2".

Photos: Jon Burke



The 2025-2026 year has been one of steady progress and continued commitment to supporting creativity in Port Adelaide, attracting artists and visitors from both within and beyond the area. PCAC is a volunteer organisation, and what it has achieved has been made possible by the generosity, time and goodwill of our Board, members, volunteers, and sponsors.

PCAC's exhibition program has remained central to its work. Each exhibition showcases the diversity of our creative community and highlights the value of providing opportunities for artists at all stages of their practice. PCAC continues to offer subsidised members-only masterclasses to support artistic development. PCAC further supports pottery and print artists through our untutored collectives, which offer a supportive environment for ongoing artistic practice. Private tutors also run classes in our workshop spaces, providing art tuition for members and the wider community.

Behind the scenes, PCAC has been working closely with the building restoration team to ensure smooth and successful operations. Earlier challenges have eased as better communication and clearer protocols have become the norm. It is heartening to see this heritage building shining again.

PCAC's administration systems are very manual. The Board has identified the need to move towards sustainable, automated systems to support the manageability and longevity of PCAC. The Humanitix booking system has significantly

simplified bookings and payments in the last twelve months and most members have navigated it successfully.

PCAC has functioned with only four Board members during the last nine months, each taking on multiple responsibilities and working as a team. We have prioritised areas of greatest need and will return our attention to others in the coming year. Our small, dedicated team has met every challenge with resourcefulness and resolve, while keeping PCAC's primary artistic objectives at the forefront.

The Board warmly welcomes Ilonka Guse and Chris Neville. We are grateful for their willingness to contribute to the governance of PCAC. Their presence on the Board will help share the workload and support the smooth running of our organisation.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who regularly assists with exhibitions, behind the scenes tasks, newsletters, the website, social media and more. We invite any members who are interested in regularly contributing in small or large ways to speak with us. There are always meaningful ways to be involved.

A massive thank you to the PCAC Board members, John Ford OAM, Erin Roud and Robyn Schrama, for all your wonderful work during the 2025 to 2026 term. Warm thanks also to our members, volunteers and sponsors. Together, you are the Port Community Arts Centre.

Happy Creating from the Chair, Rose Harasym

WET-ON-WET WATERCOLOUR masterclass

Larissa Rogacheva presented a masterclass on Sunday, June 14, sharing her distinctive wet-on-wet watercolour techniques with sixteen artists. She demonstrated her approach by painting a koala and a cat, explaining each stage of the process and discussing the products and materials she relies on to achieve her effects.

Participants applied the techniques after each demonstration, with Larissa offering individual guidance to help everyone feel confident trying something new. First attempts were tentative, but the second paintings showed clear progression as artists became more familiar with the method.

The session was both instructive and a welcome step outside the comfort zone for many of our artists. Larissa's masterclass was very well received and appreciated by those who attended.



People wrote:

As always, the artists who bring us their wisdom have much to achieve in a short time! Larissa did so in the time available, sharing her knowledge of products and preparation as well as the "fun" part, painting in a new and exciting way. Great value!

Robyn

Thanks for arranging a great workshop last Sunday. Larissa is a brilliant artist and a good teacher as well. (...) I learned a lot and will use her techniques in future.

Denise

Excellent workshop...well paced, informative, friendly.

Mary

I enjoyed the class today and learnt several techniques which were new to me.

Ruth

I very much enjoyed this class. I learnt a lot and hope to put that learning into practice. Thank you so much for coordinating this class. I believe it was much appreciated by all participants.

Alison

mail@portcommunityartscentre.com.au

by Rose Harasym, Editor

EDITORIAL AUGUST 2026

This year, winter is wetter and colder than it has been for some years. The shorter days and the weather are an ideal time for many artists to settle in and make art. With fewer distractions, winter offers space to concentrate, experiment, complete unfinished pieces and enjoy creating in the unhurried winter rhythm.

These months give us time to work steadily at home and develop ideas without rush. The slower pace often brings a different kind of focus, making it easier to stay with a piece and see it through.

Winter reminds us that creativity grows through the willingness to keep making. It is also a good opportunity to build a body of finished work, ready for exhibitions when the weather warms up.

'TOGETHER' HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

10-30 MAY 2026



'TOGETHER'

HISTORY MONTH
ART EXHIBITION

PORT COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
BLACK DIAMOND GALLERY

10-30 MAY 2026

The Port Community Arts Centre's History Month Exhibition, Together, was opened on Saturday, May 9. It was open to the public from May 10 to 30. PCAC Chair, Rose Harasym, hosted the opening and Cheyne Rich, MP, the State Member for Port Adelaide, officially opened the exhibition. The opening was attended by over 110 people, making it one of the largest openings in recent years.

The Together Exhibition featured 83 artworks by 49 artists. The Board invited the much smaller South Australian Watercolour Society to join us, attracting three SAWS members to exhibit in Together. Watercolourist Partha Bala judged the exhibition. Over the three-week exhibition, the gallery welcomed 476 visitors, an average of 32 per day and achieved a 6% artwork sales rate.

A big congratulations to the recipient of the PCAC-sponsored People's Choice Award, Karen Johns, for her meticulous and detailed watercolour, Hart's Mill. Elizabeth Webb's watercolour, The Gathering, was a very close second. Both of these artists also received Merit Awards.



FIRST PRIZE

John Ford OAM, *Mystic Endeavour*, acrylic.
Prize sponsored by Flinders Port Holdings.

SECOND PRIZE

Heather Purcell, *Together as One*,
Eco silk print and graphite.
Prize sponsored by ADBRI Cement.

THIRD PRIZE

Marilyn Sims, *Rainbow Eucalypt*, coloured pencil.
Prize sponsored by Tick Tax Accountants.

MERIT AWARDS

Rose Harasym, *Beyond Light*, pastel.
Prize sponsored by Port Mall Newsagency.

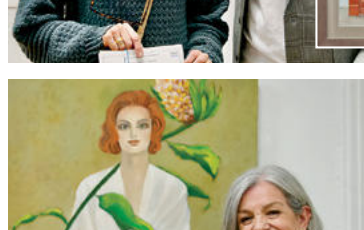
Elizabeth Webb, *The Gathering*, watercolour.
Prize sponsored by Altaire Art Supplies.

Paul Burnett, *McLaren Wharf*, oil.
Prize sponsored by PCAC.

Margaret Contibas, *Red Tailed*, mosaic.
Prize sponsored by PCAC.

Tiggie Del Fabbro, *My Garden Myself 1*, acrylic.
Prize sponsored by PCAC.

Karen Johns, *Hart's Mill*, watercolour.
Prize sponsored by PCAC.



Photos: Jon Burke

TOP: Cheyne Rich presenting 1st Prize to John Ford OAM for 'Mystic Endeavour'.

TOP Left to Right: Heather Purcell, 'Together as One'; John Ford OAM, 'Mystic Endeavour'; Elizabeth Webb, 'The Gathering'; Margaret Contibas, 'Red Tailed'; Paul Burnett, 'McLaren Wharf 1876'; Cheyne Rich presenting Merit Award to Karen Johns for 'Harts Mill'; Rose Harasym, 'Beyond Light'; Tiggie Del Fabbro, 'My Garden Myself 1'; Cheyne Rich presenting 3rd Prize to Marilyn Simms for 'Rainbow Eucalypt'.

PCAC EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 2026

EXHIBITION TITLE	HAND IN DAY 11am-2pm	OPENING EVENT	CLOSE
SALA Exhibition: 'LIVING AND CREATING'	25/07/26	1/08/26	22/08/26
4th Member's Exhibition: TITLE: TBA	26/09/26	3/10/26	24/10/26
'UNFRAMED 2026'	21/11/26	28/11/26	6/12/26

PCAC TUTORED ART CLASS SCHEDULE 2026

A diverse range of art classes are available for both Members and the wider community in the PCAC workshops. Classes are held in the workshop areas behind the Black Diamond Gallery at 66 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide. Led by experienced private tutors, each class is tailored to suit the needs and skill levels of participants. There are options for all age groups with class fees varying based on subject, duration and other factors. Many fee structures are very reasonable.

MONDAY

WATERCOLOUR/ACRYLIC: 9.00am - 12noon and/or 12.30pm - 3.30pm: Tutor: John Ford OAM, Mob. 0400 593 987

CHILDREN'S ART — School Terms Only: 4.00pm - 5.00pm: Tutor: Penny Mortimer, Mob. 0438 458 936

TUESDAY

GENERAL ART: (Painting, Drawing, Pastels, Mixed Media, etc.) 9.00am - 12noon: Tutor: Claire Colbey Mob. 0412 211 007

GRAPHITE REALISM: 12.30pm - 3.30pm: Tutor: Terry Jackson Mob. 0422 968 803

***MEMBERS SECOND POTTERY COLLECTIVE (No Tutor):** 2.00pm - 4.30pm: Mob. 0435 981 070

WEDNESDAY

WATERCOLOUR/ACRYLIC: 9.00am - 12noon: Tutor: John Ford OAM, Mob. 0400 593 987

***MEMBERS PRINTMAKING COLLECTIVE (No Tutor):** 1.00pm - 4.00pm: Mob. 0435 981 070

CHILDREN'S ART — School Terms Only: 4.00pm - 5.00pm: Tutor: Penny Mortimer, Mob. 0438 458 936

THURSDAY

CLAY WITH PENNY: For Schools by Appointment: 12noon - 3.30pm: Tutor: Penny Mortimer, Mob. 0438 458 936

SUBURBAN ART: 7.00pm - 9.00pm: Tutor: Graham Benson-Smith Ph. 8268 3273

FRIDAY

WATERCOLOUR: 10.00am - 1.00pm & 6.30pm - 8.30pm: Tutor: Alan Ramachandran Mob. 0431 289 133

SATURDAY

***MEMBERS POTTERY COLLECTIVE (No Tutor):** 1.00pm - 4.00pm: Mob. 0435 981 070

SUNDAY

POTTERY: In blocks of 5 weeks: 10.00am - 12.30pm: Tutor: Naomi Nomespotter Mob. 0439 975 802

*COLLECTIVES ARE FOR PCAC MEMBERS ONLY

For further information or to enquire about joining a Collective, please get in touch with PCAC by email:
mail@portcommunityartscentre.com.au Waiting lists may apply.

NEWS FLASH! Welcome aboard
to our new Peoples' Choice Award sponsor!
Ray White Port Adelaide

OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO OUR LOYAL SPONSORS:

City of Port Adelaide Enfield / Flinders Port Holdings / Adbri Cement / Ray White Port Adelaide
 Tick Tax Tax Accountants / Altaire Arts & Supplies / Port Officelinx / Snap Printing Hilton / Andersons Solicitors
 Mark Butler MP, Federal Member for Hindmarsh

