

Newsletter – August 2026

President's message.



I have been overseas for a few months and will be returning to our activities in August and hope to see everyone then. I am reliably informed that everything is going well from a management perspective.

Operating procedures are

being formulated for our various art shows to ensure continuity and standardisation with the focus of demystifying and facilitating the effectiveness of these events for the organisers, whoever they may be. A timely reminder is our next exhibition will be held at the Menai Marketplace during October of this year. There is plenty of time to complete your next masterpiece and possible entry into this show. In the meantime, we have our usual activities of Critique night, Demonstrations and or Tutorials, along with painting at Sylvania during daytime hours. I missed Michael Rogers tutorial and Tracy Wilkinson's demonstration but by all accounts, both had been a success.

Peter Thorn
President

July's events.

Tuesday 7th July 2026 – 7pm – AGM & Critique – with Tanner Tan.



Nine members braved the cold night to present over 18 paintings to our resident Critic, Tanner Tan. During this session Tanner assisted by the audience give honest feedback on the paintings presented. This was an opportunity for the audience to gain further knowledge about painting in general. At the end of the session a judging panel was formed who awarded Julie Stanfield **Best on Show** for her painting



of a "forest floor" and Isabelle Kwiatkowski was awarded **Highly Commended** for her painting of a "small forest scene. Congratulations to you both.



Photos above depict some of the paintings present for review by Tanner.

Tuesday 21ST July 2026, Tutorial – Tracy Wilkinson – Prismacolor pencils and oil pastels.

About 8 years ago Tracy was introduced to Prismacolor Wax Pencils, discovering that you can use Oil Pastels with them to achieve a fabulous effect. Tracy explained and demonstrated that applications can be on dark or light paper with a variety of tooth surfaces. The technique was by using sharpen pencils on its point with a circular motion to fill in the tooth of the paper. She used blenders of various types to smooth over some sections and

explained that at the utmost completion a lacquer was used to seal the artwork. Tracy also explained that drawing the subject matter on the special paper created challenges and advised using graphite paper to trace the subject beforehand. Some of her paintings could take up many hours of work and she makes a habit of doing



sections at a time.



Photos depict Tracy during the demonstration and some of her prior works.

Thursdays 2 & 30 July – Social Painting at Sylvania.

This daytime activity provided members the



opportunity to socialise whilst attending to their current painting project. The photo depicts some of the attendees. **NB:**

there was no painting on 9 and 16 July due to school

holidays and 23 July was cancelled due to a power outage at the hall (and no one likes to work in the dark).

August's Activities.

Tues		Thurs	
4	Critique-7pm with Tanner Tan - \$5 for members, \$10 for visitors	6	Social Painting - Sylvania, 1pm - \$10 for members
11		13	Social Painting - Sylvania, 1pm - \$10 for members
18	Drawing shapes for paintings - Noel Carrigg - 7pm - \$10 members \$15 Visitors	20	Social Painting - Sylvania, 1pm - \$10 for members
25		27	Social Painting - Sylvania, 1pm - \$10 for members

Tuesday 4th August 2026 – 7pm – Critique – Tanner

Tan - \$5 members and \$10 for non-members. This activity is to subject paintings to review by our resident Critic, Tanner Tan aided by the attending audience. A judging panel will be formed, and they will award paintings for **Best On Show** and **Highly Commended**. Up to 3 paintings can be presented for review ensuring that no wet works are presented. Light refreshments are available.

Tuesday 18 August 2026 – 7pm – Tutorial – Noel Carrigg – Drawing figures for paintings – \$10 members and \$15 for visitors.

Noel attended East Sydney Technical School (National Art School) in the 1960s and has a deep interest in all types of art. He has experience as an art teacher and is a sought-after demonstrator and Judge at various art societies. Noel's focus is on water colours and has sold many of his artworks to local and overseas buyers.

During this session he will concentrate on various shapes that can be used in paintings such as urban or rural scapes. People, animals and other shapes can lift or deplete the quality of our artwork so effort will be made to share some secrets about these shapes. All that is needed on this night is a 4B or greater pencil and some drawing paper. Some paper will be made available for your use.

Thursdays 6, 13, 20 & 27 August – 1pm to 4pm – Social Painting - \$10 members. This daytime activity is an opportunity for members to attend to their current or older project whilst socially reacting with other members and getting some feedback on their progression. Light refreshment is available. A reminder that Menai Marketplace Exhibition is coming up in October of this year. So here is the opportunity to get cracking on your next entry into the exhibition.

September's Activities briefly.

Tues		Thurs	
1	Critique – Tanner Tan – 7pm.	3	Social Painting- 1pm to 4pm
8		10	Social Painting- 1pm to 4pm
15	Demonstration – Maureen Lembke – Panting with crayons – 7pm - \$10 members, \$15 visitors.	17	Social Painting- 1pm to 4pm
22		24	Social Painting- 1pm to 4pm
29			

Other news.

Selling artwork

I have researched the internet to try and discover the secret of selling artworks. Whether we like it or not, the size of your art really matters, and that includes art prints. But what size of art sells best? Should you make your art big and bold, or pocket-sized? **These are the best standard sizes for smaller art prints: 10" x 8" and 10" x 12", and for larger prints choose 16" x 20" frames.**

It appears that people see value in the size of the artwork itself, and that is regardless of the time, hard work, and skill level involved. It appears that your talent is not the most crucial factor if it is the wrong size. Fairness does not come into it! But knowing that there is a premium to be had in making larger sizes, does that mean you should go along with it? Not necessarily. There is a catch. Our living spaces are shrinking. Fewer and fewer people have the space for larger artwork, and even those that do are unlikely to ever buy two large works of art, so where is the repeat trade coming from? For many artists, it makes more sense to make smaller artwork and small prints. Not only are they easier to sell, but they are also cheaper to frame, and besides, you can sell fine art prints in multiples.

The Advantages of Selling Large Art Prints are: they have a greater impact, have a higher profit margin, need to carrying less stock, and fewer images are needed. **The Disadvantages of Selling Large Art Prints are:** They are difficult to transport, higher framing costs, difficult to store, and difficult to ship elsewhere.

It appears large images have more punch. Your artwork will certainly get noticed and your profit margins will be good, even allowing for higher printing costs. There is a lot to be said for going big. Make them big, bold, and brash, and you will attract attention. That is certainly true when you sell physical prints from a market stall. The first thing you need is passing trade and the second is a showstopper. A tip is to make art with a white background, leaving copious amounts of white space around the main image. This way you can draw or paint a smaller image on a larger

surface, with a larger frame, and get a higher price.

The Advantages of Selling Smaller Art or Art Prints are: they are easy to frame, easier to sell, cheaper to print, easy to store, and easy to ship. **The Disadvantages of Selling Smaller Art or Art Prints are:** a lower profit, more images required, less visual impact, requires a high turnover, and more thought must be put into the presentation. If you cannot catch the eye of the public in the first place, you're going to have a hard time selling art of any size.

Some tips are to put small art into large frames. Making small pictures look bigger is to mount them with very wide borders and thin frames. They look stylish and because they 'look' bigger, you can command a higher price. Another tip is to sell smaller sized art prints in sets ie sell your artwork in sets or in a coherent series. Ideally, your pictures should be logically themed. It is also in your best interest to make prints that all conform to one standard size. Buyers, by which I mean mostly women, want their pictures to match. Most buyers automatically choose three of the same formats, three portraits, or three landscapes. A final tip is to make big posters to advertise your smaller-sized Art, to catch the eye of passing trade is to hang up three large posters of your most popular prints. Subtlety and good taste is useless, it has got to be **IN YOUR FACE**. One drawback is you will get people who would prefer the vinyl poster, not your wonderful, faithfully reproduced work of art printed on fine art paper.

.....Editor assisted by AI

Next Committee Meeting:

12md at Sylvania Hall on Thursday 6th August, 2026.

Menai Marketplace exhibition – 26 to 31 October 2026. This notice is just a reminder of our exhibition later in the year.

What's on.

Hazelhurst, GyMEA –

[Sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/hazelhurst](https://sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/hazelhurst)

Milli Jannides: The tip of the tongue - to 30 August, 2026

Art Gallery NSW –

[Artgallery.nsw.gov.au](https://artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prize finalists and winners.

National Gallery, Canberra -

nga.gov.au

Hermannsburg exhibition to 23 Aug, 26

Ngura Pulka – Epic Country to 23 Aug 26.

ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS:

Joe Green, Richard, Astrid, Annabelle & Julia Green, Janette Rigby Sammut, Michael Rogers, and Noel Carrigg, all members, are exhibitors at The Kurnell Gallery, 6 Prince Charles Pde. Opening hours 10am to 3pm on each Saturday and Sunday of the month. Everyone is welcome.

SPONSORS.

Discovery Picture Framing was established in 1979 and is located at 54 Jacaranda Road, Caringbah. For all your framing needs contact Ian Davies on 9526-5466 or email him on davies54@optusnet.com.au.

BANK DETAILS: Southern Cross Art Group Inc.

BSB 032258; Acc. No. 238987

Cheers until the next time

Noel Carrigg - Editor

