



TAURANGA
SOCIETY OF
ARTISTS

Newsletter

September
2025

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Secretary: Carol King
Treasurer: Sue Renfree
Newsletter Editor: Robyn Coulter

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Diana Roband
Alison Underwood

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Society Membership Fees

Annual \$75
October 2025–March 2026 \$40

From the President...

Hello there,

I am so lucky to be writing from the Gold Coast, Australia, where I am into the second of two weeks 'over the ditch'. The first week, Paul and I (and friends) enjoyed the tropical warmth and splendour of far north Queensland – Port Douglas. It has totally reinspired me to include tropical plants and blooms in my artworks (and garden) and also the vibrant turquoise water colours.



Whilst there, I had the pleasure of meeting up with Hawkes Bay watercolour artist Raewyn Harris for a coffee and a chat (a long one and all about watercolour). Whilst with her, Helen Ronayne – fellow TSA member and watercolourist – came over and had a wee chat. The world is a village! Of course, I brought five drawn up paintings, a handful of brushes and a wee container of paint and have completed four of five! It is such a joy to paint wherever I go. A coffee plunger, saucepan or rubbish bin suffices as my water container and a bar leaner, picnic table or benchtop provide a surface.

This month, we sadly farewelled our friend and fellow artist, Greg Nicie. It was moving to hear that ten of our members attended his funeral. My thanks to Wendy Fullerton who spoke from the heart about Greg on behalf of the Society.

Exciting things are ahead – lots of news in these pages, so to touch on just some of the events and activities ahead:

- Spring Competitions (don't you love the sound and thought of Spring?) are on Saturday 30 August. All details and information is on the website and in the August newsletter. I will be home to host the morning and I look forward to seeing you there. Results will be posted on the website and in the October Newsletter.
- Art Expo and Jensen Supreme Awards 2025. The Supreme Award finalists judged by three professional artists will be announced later in this newsletter and on the website. There has been amazing enthusiasm to participate in this much anticipated event. Registrations have now closed with just under 100 members registered. It is going to be another fabulous event.
- Workshop Fun:
 - Ulemj Glamuzina – Mixed Media Portrait workshop is on 6 September.
 - Claire Delaney – Character Doll Making – Saturday and Sunday 11 & 12 October.
 - A weekend of Life Drawing with Tanya Bamford-King, Damian Kurth and Bev Moore – 18 and 19 October.

To see what's ahead, look on our website (www.taurangaart.com), which is up-to-date and a great source of information about all things TSA.

See you soon. Have a great month.

Deb Clarke | President | 0274 961 752 | info@taurangaart.com

Click [here](http://www.taurangaart.com) to visit our website

What's been happening?

New Faces

We'd like to introduce two new members of our Exhibition Team.



Leonie Johnson
Exhibition Team
member

Leonie Johnson

I grew up in Tauranga and went on to study at Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland, where I gained a Master's degree, majoring in photography. That led to a successful career in commercial photography.

Fast forward a few decades... We moved back to Tauranga in 2024 to be closer to my parents and extended family, who are all getting older. It was my mum who suggested I join the Tauranga Art Society – and I'm so glad I did. I absolutely love it. It's incredibly well run, with so many events and activities, and I've really enjoyed meeting other artists. It's a wonderfully supportive and fun environment.

I only picked up painting in August last year, so it is very much a work in progress. For me, it seems painting is a lot like gardening – you put in the time without knowing exactly what will result! I'm currently exploring different techniques, learning by doing, and enjoying the process. It's amazing how often a successful painting is built over layers of failed attempts.

I'm just going to keep painting and see where it takes me. Thanks for having me.



Keith Munro
Exhibition Team
member

Keith Munro

Born and bred in Dunedin, I married a lass I met at high school. For a while we were gypsies. After two years OE in Europe, we lived in Picton, Nelson, Invercargill, Christchurch and Lower Hutt, before shifting to Tauranga four years ago. Down the track, I feel fortunate Raylene and I are living in Tauranga with our daughter and granddaughter.

A jack of many trades, I taught for four years and then have sold stuff, purchased stuff, planned stuff and improved stuff for NZ firms, multinationals and government organisations. For a while I assessed organisations for various awards, including the NZ Business Excellence Awards. It was a privilege to see the inner workings of some of our best organisations and interview their senior leaders.

I love the outdoors and find solo hunting and ski touring missions great for the mind and body. Hopefully, I have a few more years before I will need to curtail these activities. However, that will then give me more time for painting.

Just passing school cert art, I found 3-hour exams weren't conducive to my artistic sensibilities. Since then I have had bursts of drawing and painting interspersed with long periods of inactivity. On joining the Society, I have morphed from acrylics to watercolour. Before participating in the Thursday afternoon watercolour sessions, I didn't know that I knew very little about watercolours! I am looking forward to many years of inspiration and camaraderie from my talented and supportive fellow members.

Funeral of the late Gregory Marc Nicie

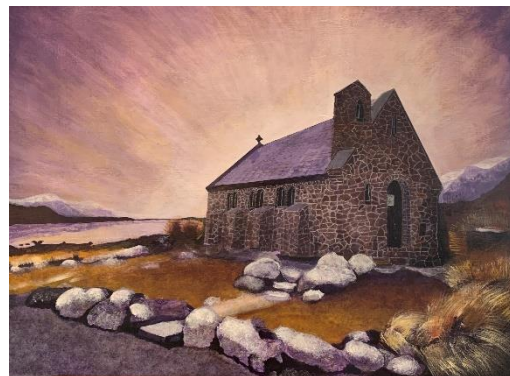
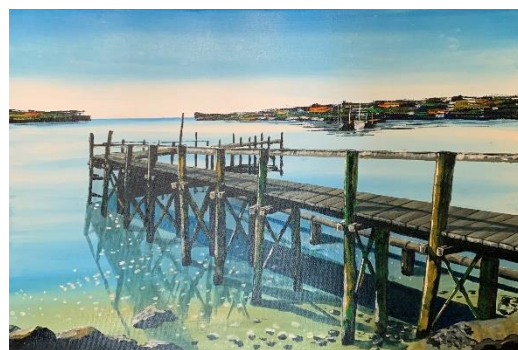
Greg Nicie's funeral was held on Wednesday 13 August at the Jones and Company's Hillsdene Chapel, where ten people attended from the Tauranga Art Society.

President Debbie Clarke was away overseas but had previously circulated to the membership a tribute outlining Greg's amazing contribution to Tauranga Society of Artists in his admirable quiet manner. Debbie's tribute was printed in full on Greg's service sheet. Wendy Fullerton spoke on behalf of the Society.

It was a small intimate gathering of around sixty people, with Greg's mother, two sisters, brother and their families in attendance, some coming from as far as Blenheim. Greg's daughter Camela who lives in Australia sent a heartfelt message that was read to the congregation. She was able to visit Greg last year, presenting his first grandson Jasper to him, which he was extremely proud of. On the eve of Greg's funeral, she gave birth to another son and Greg's second grandson, whom she named after him.

Part of the service allowed others to get up and speak and the family recounted fond memories of his humour, and quiet and generous nature. Not only was his talent for his art mentioned several times but his achievement as a black belt, too. His Parkinson's diagnosis around four years ago didn't deter Greg from helping others and continuing to paint for as long as possible.

A lovely afternoon tea was held for all in attendance while a private cremation took place. – Wendy Fullerton



Tributes to Greg from TSA members

This is very sad news. He was such a joyful soul. My condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace.

Thank you for letting us know about Greg. Yes, he was a great guy with a definite sense of humour that was just him.

I am grateful for hints and tips he gave me when he was running the Tuesday morning sessions.

I was so sad to hear about Greg's passing. He will be missed.

Really sad to hear of Greg's passing ... such a kind, helpful and more thoughtful person would be hard to find. Regards to his family.

Very sad news but what a lovely tribute to Greg, Deb. Well done. I remember the wonderful shadows Greg did under a wharf painting he did. Yes, he was always a keen competition entrant.

Thank you for letting us know about Greg's passing.

He was a very helpful man whenever I came across him at art days. I admired his determined attitude with all his health problems.

So sad to hear. He was a talented inspiring lovely man. RIP Greg 🥹

Greg was the first TSA member I met when I turned up at a Tuesday morning session. He was friendly, encouraging, generous and always positive despite the daily challenges he faced. He will be missed.

Greg was kind, thoughtful and generous; his artworks were much admired.



Review of Appraisal Session with Shona Mackenzie on 29 July 2025

Shona Mackenzie held an appraisal session on Tuesday July 2 at the art rooms. She displayed and commented on six of her own striking semi-abstract landscape paintings, then skillfully appraised over twenty members' artworks, giving the artists useful comments and helpful suggestions.

It was a very pleasant afternoon of learning and we are grateful to Shona for being so willing to assist the Tauranga Society of Artists in this way, despite her busy schedule.



Review of Traditional and Contemporary Approaches to Painting Portraits workshop with Damien Kurth on 9 & 10 August 2025

I attended Damien's portrait oil painting workshop and found it invaluable for a beginner who didn't have any experience in oils. There were two of us in this category plus three obviously experienced oil artists. This was catered for very well by Damien who included us all with ease and worked alongside participants, giving feedback and demonstrating. He has a lot of experience in oil painting as well as teaching and we certainly benefited from this. We were able to use our own reference photo or ones he provided.

I did end up making far more progress than I expected in the two days and I'm definitely going to his next life drawing sessions to extend my skills despite having done life drawing for over 40 years. I really appreciated having all materials provided and just turning up with lunch and enthusiasm to enjoy being with like-minded artists. Many thanks Damien for the workshop. – Bev Moore



Weekly/Monthly Art Sessions

You can find out more about the regular sessions that are run at our Art Rooms, as well as contact details for the coordinators of these sessions, on our website. Visit the What's on page and click the link for weekly sessions or click this [link](#).

Membership

It has been another busy month for new members joining TSA with 11 applications received. Our new members are Marion Murphy, Pete Pinza, Reauwa Pinza, Sandy Williams, Nik Williams, Bridget Flangan, Matthew Macmillan, Zinta Krumins, Su Thomas and Ila-Rose Hepetama. Plus we have Cathy Schuts rejoining.

A reminder to all members that there are lots of benefits for being a member of our private Facebook Group. Steph Harlan, our Social Media Coordinator, shares lots of posts that may be of interest to you, e.g. Upcoming competitions around New Zealand. Plus, it's a place where our members can share their work, ask questions, etc. To find the group, follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/320430848476607> or search Tauranga Society of Artists Members Group on Facebook, press join group and answer the couple of questions.

PaperPlus Bethlehem has new owners. On our members' behalf we have negotiated with them for our 10% discount on full priced art materials to continue at the Bethlehem store and at the Papamoa store. Members must show a current TSA Membership card to get the discount. If you need a new TSA Membership card, you can visit the art room to collect one. You will find them on the bottom right-hand corner of the name tag board.

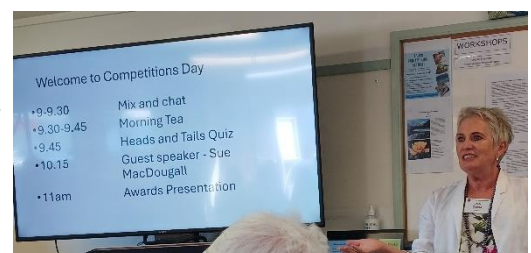


Spring Competitions, 30 August 2025

The Spring Competitions have not yet taken place as this newsletter 'goes to press' and so a report could not be included. We will include a review in the October newsletter but, in the meantime, look out for photos and results on our website <https://www.taurangaart.com/gallery> and on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/taurangaartsoc>.

A reminder that check-in on Saturday is from 8.30–9.15am and presentation of awards will begin at approximately 11am.

Congratulations, in advance to all the category winners and to everyone who took the opportunity to enter.



These images are from the Autumn Competition, held in March 2025.



What's coming up?

September Expo 2025

With less than four weeks to go now till our September Expo, the clock is ticking for you to get your artworks completed, labelled with their swing tags and packed ready to go. Please remember to put your artist registration number and the letter of the artwork (from your registration form) on your swing tags. Artworks must have your name written on the back of the artwork as well, in case the swing tag gets detached.

Fine art prints need to have a backing board and be wrapped in cellophane. They need the same labelling on the back of the packaging as you would put on a swing tag. Cards need to have envelopes and to be packaged in cellophane with the artist's initials and price on a sticker on the back of the packaging. Remember there can be no changes to your registrations once you have sent them in.

Now we are working on the roster for the two Set Up days and the roster for the four days that we are open to the public. We are all volunteers and everyone who exhibits must do a roster shift. This time, on the open days, we are only having two shifts a day. Morning Shift: 8.45am – 12.30pm. Afternoon Shift: 12.30pm – 5.15pm. If you are not exhibiting but you are available to help on the Set Up days, please email membership@taurangaart.com or text me on 021909807.

The days are Tuesday 23 September at 1pm – Set up screens, lights, gazebos, tables.

Wednesday 24 September at 8am – Check in, hanging and labelling of art.

Jensen Supreme Award

The Jensen Supreme Award preselection judging has now been completed, and I am pleased to announce that our 30 finalists are:



Dominique Adcock	Helen Hunkin	Megan Park
Bernadette Ballantyne	Leonie Johnsen	Abigail Perano
Jenn Brotherton	Ruth Kenyon-Slade	Pete Pinza
Michelle Clair	Marian Kroeze	Robin Purllant
Deb Clarke	Shona Mackenzie	Lalita Shine
Emma Davie	Rebecca Mathews	Reese Shuker
Lynette Fisher	Jenny Moed-Korpela	Debbie Tipuna
Vicki Fraser	Hans Neilson	Alison Underwood
Wayne Gordon	Brendon O'Farrell	Rae Waterhouse
Irina Gronous	Shane Olsson	Nicola Welten

Feedback from the preselection judges was that they were very impressed with the high calibre of the artworks entered. Now we look forward to finding out on Gala night, on Wednesday 24 September, who our Jensen Supreme Award judge, Liz Cooper, selects as the winner, runner up and 5 merit awards.

I would like to thank Kent Bassett, winner of the People's Choice at our April Expo, for donating an artwork for the People's Choice Voter prize for this Expo. The winning voter will receive an artwork of a Tui that Kent has created using pastel pencils.

I look forward to seeing all our members at the Gala night on Wednesday, 24 September at 6pm, or during the open days.

Please save and share the poster on the following page on your social media pages to promote our Expo to your network. Encourage them to share it, too. This is our best form of advertising.

– Diana Roband, Exhibition Coordinator



**Tauranga
Society of
Artists** Inc.

ART EXPO

AND

Jensen Supreme Art Award



Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th September
9am - 5.00pm - Sunday 9am - 3.00pm

Tauranga Boys' College Gymnasium
Entrance: cnr of 14th Avenue & Devonport Rd

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Angela Hoy

Self-taught, I have belonged to the Tauranga Society of Artists for nearly 20 years. My learning has been through reading and attending many workshops. There are immensely talented and diverse tutors who are eager to share their ideas and methods. I enjoy the companionship of the Pastel Group and have made many friends there. Pastels are a very immediate medium and retain their freshness over time.

**Mary McTavish**

I have found pastels to be a challenging medium requiring specific paper grounds, pastel sticks, 'medium' products and finally the necessity to both frame and glaze any finished artwork.

Some or all of the above can be daunting and it has taken me some time to acquire the right pastels, try and find a paper ground that I prefer and am still learning about the 'medium' products that are now available.

I have tried many paper types, with varying degrees of satisfaction, but enjoying the differences each one offers by way of finish is part of their charm.

The pastel sticks themselves come in different shapes and brands. Learning which pastel type (soft or hard) to use comes with trialing them.

Using pastels opens up the opportunity to try any subject as a potential painting due to their versatility.



Eight paintings by the Artist of the Month are displayed for your enjoyment with a bio at the Art Room (171a Elizabeth St West) for the month. If you would like to have your art displayed for a month, contact admin@taurangaart.com

Workshops and Tutorials

Members can find out more and register for these workshops online through our website [Workshops](#) page. You will need to pay for the workshop when you enrol.

Mixed Media Portrait Painting with Ulemj Glamuzina

Saturday 6 September 2025

Dive into the world of mixed media portrait painting and discover the exciting possibilities of combining different materials and techniques to create stunning, textured portraits! This workshop is designed for anyone who wants to push the boundaries of traditional portraiture and experiment with acrylics, pastels, ink, and even collage.

Find out more and register for this workshop at www.taurangaart.com/workshops

Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm

Cost: \$87 for members



Character Doll Making with Claire Delaney

Sat & Sun 11 & 12 October 2025

Make your own character doll by using polymer clay and wire.

This workshop is suitable for beginners as it is taught by step methods using wire. Embellish your dolls with painted features and costumes. You can find out more about Claire on her website: clairedelaney.com

Claire will supply all the materials for this workshop.

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Cost: \$220 for members

Find out more register for this workshop at <https://www.taurangaart.com/workshops>



A Weekend of Life Drawing with Damien Kurth, Tanya Bamford-King and Bev Moore

Sat & Sun 18 & 19 October 2025

This workshop is hosted/tutored by three experienced members of the life drawing group: each with years of experience and different styles and strengths.

A range of different media will be provided and attendees will be encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and experiment.

The weekend is designed for experienced enthusiasts as well as those who want to try life drawing in a supportive, informative environment.

Time: 9:30 am – 4 pm

Cost: \$65 per day / \$130 for weekend

This workshop will be taking place over two days; participants are welcome to register for one or both days.

Find out more register for this workshop at <https://www.taurangaart.com/workshops>



Library News

Hi Everyone,

I have been reading an interesting book on Egyptology and mythology. Ancient Egyptians used art and hieroglyphics to assist the deceased to the afterlife. There was usually a door painted inside the coffin and drawings of food, meat utensils and other implements that would help in the afterlife.

When Egyptologists opened the tombs and casks with mummified bodies, the colours of the paintings were as clear as when they had been inscribed thousands of years ago.

Each colour had a symbolism. Egyptians used a variety of pigments like ochre, lead antimonite yellow, Egyptian green and various earth pigments for red and yellow.

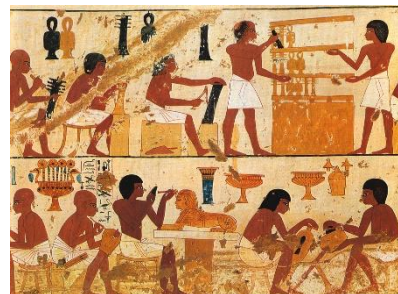
The first synthetic colour was Egyptian Blue made by heating quartz, sand, copper, lime and an alkali over 5000 years ago.

Egyptian Blue is now used for medical imaging, security ink and fingerprint detection.

We have a book in the library, *A Picture History of Art* by Christopher Lloyd (76), depicting many detailed examples of Egyptian carvings and drawings.

Thank you

– Gay Carter. Librarian



Art in the Park

This is a great opportunity for members of the Tauranga Society of Artists to display and sell your art, mix with your fellow artists, and interact with the public – local, from other areas of New Zealand, and overseas. Set-up time is from 8am and end time is before 5pm. If you are interested in joining this activity, come along on one of the dates listed and have a look at how this happy little group set themselves up and present their artworks. There are lots of tips and tricks to this kind of display. Liz Cross and her Art in the Park cohorts will welcome you and share their Art in the Park experience. If Council makes any changes to the listed dates, you will be advised by group email.



ART in the PARK Dates (Saturdays)

SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27

OCTOBER 4, 11, 18, 25

NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

DECEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27

Monthly programme

September 2025	
Monday All Day	9.30am – 4.00pm
1, 15, 29	Pastels , Convenor – Mary McTavish
8, 22	Drawing , Convenor – Carol Macintyre
Tuesday Morning	9.30am – 12.00pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Open Studio – any medium , Convenor – Diana Roband
Tuesday Afternoon	
2	Exhibition Team meeting
9	Programme Workshop Team meeting
16	Executive Committee meeting
Tuesday Evening	6.30pm – 8.30pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Open Studio – any medium , Convenor – Lynne Dean
Wednesday Morning	9.30am – 12.30pm
3	Portraiture , Convenor – Sue Jones (Cost \$5 for model)
Wednesday Afternoon	12.30pm – 4.00pm
3, 10, 17, 24	Open Studio – any medium , Convenor – Richard Fenn
Thursday Morning	9.30am – 12.00pm
4, 11, 18, 25	Oil Painting plus other medium , Convenor – Karen Pritchard
Thursday Afternoon	1pm – 4.00pm
4, 11, 18, 25	Open Studio – Watercolour , Convenor – Deb Clarke
Friday Morning	9.30am – 12.00pm
5, 19	Life Drawing , Convenor – Tanya Bamford-King (Cost \$10)
12	Life Drawing , Tutored session – Damien Kurth (Cost \$25) Registration required
Friday Afternoon	1.00pm – 3.00pm
Weekend	
6 Saturday 9.30 – 1.30	Mixed Media Portrait Painting: Unlock Your Creative Potential! With Ulemj Glamuzina – Saturday: 9.30am – 1.30pm
Thursday 25, Friday 26, Saturday 27, Sunday 28	ART EXPO – Tauranga Boys College Gymnasium

Click [HERE](#) to go to the online programme (scroll down to find)

2025 Calendar

Spring Competitions	Saturday 30 August
Expo	Setup 23/24 September, Open 25–28 September
Xmas Function	Saturday 6 December

2026 Calendar

Autumn Competition	Saturday 7 March
April Expo	Set-up 14–15 April, Open 16–19 April

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