



# Mandurah Plein Air Artists

MAY 2026



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Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. **For more detailed information, please refer to minutes from the meetings which have been emailed to all members.**

## BI MONTHLY MEETING

We held our bi-monthly meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. It is lovely to see all of your smiling faces. Welcome to new members. Don't forget to renew your membership for 2026 - 2027. Go to the website and click on membership.



## Mandurah Plein Air Artists Website

Our Facebook page is the first port of call for the latest and greatest in our group. The website is a great place to find out more about our artists, exhibitions, what's happening or coming up and paintout locations.

Artist of the Month is chosen from everyone's profile on our website. Please see Peta or email the committee to have your profile updated.

## Committee positions for 2026-2027

At our AGM in July, all Committee members step down and all roles become vacant. Existing Committee members can renominate and if there is more than one nomination for a role, then a vote is held. Nominations are now being taken for committee positions - check your emails for the nomination form. As you know, Julie Macdonald will be stepping down from the Secretary position. Julie has been a tireless worker for our group and has refined many of the processes, making the position of Secretary even easier. As discussed at our recent meeting, each position on the committee has a back up member which means that no one is alone in doing all the work. If you can send an email, you can do the job.

Remember, that without a committee, we don't have a group.

If you think that this is your time, speak to Julie or one of us on the committee.

## What does the Secretary do?

- Create the Agenda for meetings in consultation with committee members
- Advise members of Bi-Monthly meetings with the Agenda
- Take minutes, types them and email them out to members
- Adds new members to the data base (Automatically updates through TryBooking)
- Meet and greet new members (shared with all committee members)



## Paintout Bosses coming up

We need Paintout Bosses to organise where we go each week to paint. It is not a hard job - please consider this little task to help us find great places to paint. The website has a map of venues we have been to if you need inspiration.

## Artist of the Month

Each month, I spin the "Artists Wheel" to choose the Artist of the Month. The Artist of the Month for March is Barb Thoms. Barb is a regular at our paintouts and a founding member of both MPAA and PADU. Head over to the website to find out a bit more about Barb.

<https://mandurahpleinair.com/mandurah-plein-air-artist-of-the-month/>



**May** – Julie Park  
**June** – Sally  
**July** – Peta  
**August** – Shelley D  
**September** – Barb

## Plein Air Down Under (PADU)

Preparations for PADU Festival are well underway. Feature and Guest artists have been locked in. We have just added a new artist to the list – Georgia Mansur – checkout her credentials on the PADU website. There are still many spaces left for our Feature Artists workshops.

### How can you be a part of the workshops?

1. Register to participate – Early Access all areas is now open.
2. Find a workshop you are interested in – book!!

### What does Access All Areas get you?

Paintout at all locations throughout the Festival (7 days of festival fun); Meet and Greet at Leon Holmes Gallery on Friday night, Free coffee Saturday morning, Dinner Saturday night, Entry to Greg Barnes Demo in Fishtrap Theatre, Portrait Night, Entry to Quick Draw, Prizes and more.

### Early Bird Access All Areas Artist Registration

### All Masterclass & Workshop Information

## **Andy Dolphin, Feature Artist**

Andy is a well known figure in the painting scene in the Peel Region and around the state. He regularly runs workshops for watercolour, urban sketching, sketching and even Procreate. This year he will be running a Watercolour Workshop over two days as well as a workshop on using Procreate for Plein Air painters (studio). As an ambassador for Michael Harding Watercolour paints, the lucky participants in the watercolour workshops will get some samples to use.

#### Masterclass #1

### **Watercolour, en plein air presented by Michael Harding Paints**

Peel Region, Western Australia. Exact location to be advised.

Andy will demonstrate his bold watercolour technique with emphasis on simplifying the scene using tone and composition to create a successful painting on location. Dependent on conditions, students will either follow along with Andy or watch then choose their own scene and paint with Andy's guidance. We will look at how Andy built a lightweight watercolour easel from an inexpensive retail box easel and look at his minimal setup of tools and limited palette of watercolours.

Oil painters who have shied away from watercolour may find this workshop especially useful as Andy was very much an oil painter, for more than 20 years, before adopting watercolour in 2022. As such, he is in a great position to speak of the differences in behavior and approach.

This workshop is ideal for those with some watercolour experience looking to take their practice outdoors but also for artists comfortable with other media and looking to add watercolours to their repertoire.

#### Masterclass #2

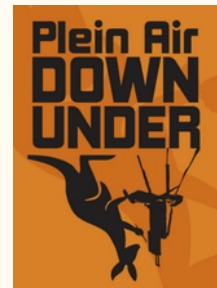
### **Procreate for Plein Air Painters (studio)**

Do you have Procreate on your iPad but wonder how you might use it in your traditional-media art practice? So many people download it, play with it for a few weeks then give up, unsure why or how to use it.

In this workshop, Andy will take you through his process of using Procreate and Apple Pencil on the iPad to reassess plein air sketches and paintings that "missed the mark". Introducing students to the incredible power hidden beneath Procreate's deceptively simple interface, Andy will show how to use the selection and adjustments tools to match and alter colour and tone over the original painting and how to best work with layers while playing with possible adjustments to composition and cropping. Sometimes, a few minutes in Procreate is all it takes to get a painting headed in the right direction before repainting it in the studio.



At our meeting, Val Brooks shared her travel journals created over many years of travelling. It was interesting to hear her stories of travel adventures and the need to find something to do on her cruise – not a lot of scenery – a lot of ocean – so she did a lot of people watching – and sketching. Sketching in Cafes was also profitable with an American Tourist buying one of her sketches off the pad – which paid for some lovely jewelry a couple of days later



## Exhibitions and workshops

### Approaching Landscapes Exhibition

Organisation is underway for this year's Miami Exhibition later this year. Peter Munday and Carol Hazel have joined the team. Full and half boards can be purchased to exhibit. This year there will be a 10% commission to cover any contingencies. There will be a Square Reader training session after the AGM in July. Everyone who exhibits is expected to participate and go onto the roster.

Trybooking will open Monday 18th May at 9am.



**September ManPAC Exhibition** is an opportunity for financial MPAA members and those who have registered for the PADU event to exhibit. Details and the application form have been emailed to members. Applications close 31 May 2026. Criteria states the artworks must be of a landscape scene and can be plein air OR studio. This exhibition sits alongside the Spirit of the Landscape exhibition inside the Alcoa Gallery, and acknowledges that MPAA are facilitators of the Spirit of the Landscape exhibition. There are 13 slots for artists and each artist must exhibit 3 paintings all 30x30 sized canvas in an oak frame.

### Amaze Gardens and Fairbridge Exhibitions

Congratulations to Julie who sold one of her teabag artworks. Well done and thanks to Nick who didn't charge her commission for the sale as it was after the painting had been taken down and the lucky buyer approached her direct. This highlights our need to support Nick and have more paint outs at Amaze. Same with Fairbridge.



Nola explained that artworks can now be studio painted and not just plein air created for the Amaze Exhibition. Members were again encouraged to paint at this location not only on paintout days but in their own free time, with entry free to MPAA members if they are there to paint.

**Fairbridge** – Gayan has invited us all to **The Biggest Morning Tea** for Cancer Council Australia on 21 May at Fairbridge. If anyone is interested, let Keryn Channing know as Gayan requires numbers for catering.. \$2 entry and open from 10.30 to 11.30 This is also a good opportunity to paint afterwards and create new artworks for the Fairbridge exhibition.

### Mandurah Open Studios

Mandurah Open studios was a great success this year especially for those in and around central Mandurah. Members who exhibited shared their experiences at our meeting and felt the new format of being only Mandurah was a positive change. Some members had a slow trickle of visitors whilst others had a large number of visitors. A suggestion was made for next year that members buddy up and have their open studios in a location more central to town.

Robyn not only exhibited her own artwork but that of her MPAA students, and her experience of the event was positive. Val Brooks was also positive but felt more signage was required.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved this year – it was a fabulous advertisement for our fabulous group with the majority of exhibitors this year were from MPAA.

Follow this facebook link for a glimpse of the Artists at Halls Head Yacht Club :

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1482371076708860>

Don't forget to head over to the website for information of Exhibitions and Workshops put on by our members.

#### **Upcoming Exhibitions:**

<https://mandurahpleinair.com/exhibitions-and-events-2026-2/>

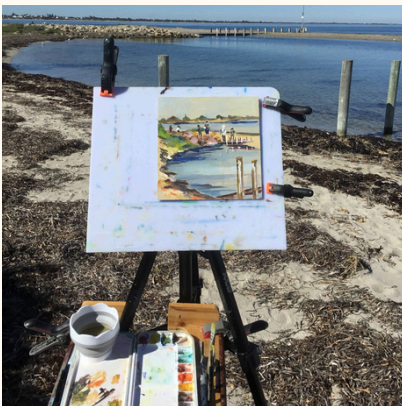
#### **Workshops:**

<https://mandurahpleinair.com/workshops-and-artist-development-sessions/>

## Recent Paintouts

April was a busy month with Anita taking us to venues close to Mandurah. We were seen at Osprey Waters, Coodanup foreshore, ManPAC and the last paint out at Nourishing the Soul overlooking Creery Wetlands. Did you see Shelley and me in our pods at Coodanup ??

Julie Park sent us to Safety Bay on the first May paintout - it was a lovely spot although our conversations were drowned out by the Corellas 😊. This week, we are heading down to Dawesville to the Warrungup Spring Reserve.



## Other bits and pieces:

**MPAA Membership Renewals** – are now available. Go to the website. Payments made now take you through to 30 June 2027.

**Murray Arts Winter School** - the program will be out soon, please keep a look out.

**Beginners Watercolour workshop with Roy Harris** at Jacksons Mandurah on Thursday 21 May from 9.30 to 12.30

**Pinjarra Festival - Saturday and Sunday 31-31<sup>st</sup> May.** Join us and paint at the Festival. See Barb Thoms if you would like to go on a roster. You can sell your artwork.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

19

Tuesday Paintout :  
Warrungup Spring  
Reserve Dawesville

21

The Biggest Morning Tea  
- Fairbridge

24

WA Watercolour Society  
Plein Air competition -  
Fremantle

30,31

Pinjarra Festival



**Happy Anniversary MPAA.** At the meeting, Barb reminded us that this day marks 15 years since the first gathering of the on the steps of the ManPac, when nine artists came together to form what has since grown into a thriving group of more than 100 members.

This milestone was met with heartfelt applause and sincere gratitude for Barb's vision, dedication, and ongoing hard work in promoting, leading, and nurturing the growth of MPAA.



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