

# MAANZ AGM 2024 – BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

## MAANZ AGM 2024 – NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH REP REPORT

Name of Representative: Xanthe Wells

Additional endorsed representative: Linda Weiss

**Number of Current Members:** 277 (tbc)

**Number of New Members since last AGM:** 14

### **Education:**

Linda Weiss, NSW Branch Representative, produced two informative articles published in the Opus Oracle.

- “Returning to Rome and Studio Cassio” November 2023
- “Marvellous Marble” July 2024

Linda is planning to write further articles on mosaic materials for future issues.

### **Other:**

#### **Sydney Royal Easter Show Arts and Crafts Awards 2024**

MAANZ members received the following awards:

##### *Wall Hanging Mosaic Class*

Christine Stickley, First Prize for “Grotto” and Third Prize for “Reflection.”

Catherine Maher, Second Prize for “Mosaic Chameleon” and Highly Commended for “Patchwork/ Applique Vase”.

##### *Sculptural 3D Mosaic, Free Standing Class*

Xanthe Wells, First Prize and Standard of Excellence for “Wave”.

Vicki Jackett, Second Prize for “Neville Wren”.

Birgit Heinemann, Third Prize for “Like an Urchin”.

### **New Branch Representatives:**

Xanthe and Linda are stepping down as Representatives in November 2024 and a new team will replace them.

Branch Representatives Xanthe Wells and Linda Weiss

**Date:** 20/08/2024

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## **MAANZ AGM 2024 – WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH REP REPORT**

Branch: Western Australia

Name of Representative: Margaret Waterton

**Number of Current Members:** 153

**Number of New Members since last AGM:** 9:

### **Education**

- Margo Anton: 1 x one-day workshop – Beyond Backgrounds (for MAANZ and non MAANZ members)
- 1 x two-day workshop – Micro mosaics – mosaic jewellery

### **Locally organised workshops**

- 1 x one-day workshop - slate and smalti (MAANZ only)
- 2 x one-day workshops - introduction to tradition mosaic techniques (MAANZ and non MAANZ members)
- 1 x two-day workshop – traditional techniques skill development and small project (MAANZ and non MAANZ members)
- Ongoing work on a mosaic memorial for the late Dorothy Burke (MAANZ and other community mosaic groups)
- Monthly newsletters and events (general get together, lunches)

### **Exhibition**

Nil

### **Community**

- Afternoon tea memorial for MAANZ president and past MAANZ WA Branch Rep Dorothy Burke. The invitation to this included all who had had interactions with Dorothy throughout her mosaic life.
- Getting myself known to the local mosaic community through participation in mosaic groups and visits/phone calls.
- Made connection with local community arts centre and now use their facilities and advertise MAANZ workshops through their newsletters.

### **Other:**

Major achievements not included above

- This has been a difficult year for MAANZ in general but MAANZ WA specifically with
- the unexpected death of our past Branch Rep and current MAANZ President,

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- Dorothy Burke. The membership experienced significant shock and ongoing grief so bringing and keeping the WA MAANZ community together has been a major focus.
- I have established a working group to assist with all decision making and planning with members taking on lead roles for specific events/activities which spreads responsibilities and workload.

### **Issues facing branch**

- Getting MAANZ more widely known in Western Australia
- Connecting with all members in WA. I tried one Zoom meeting but need to do this more often.
- I realise that there are a number of locally based mosaic groups throughout WA and intend to develop a list of these so I can connect individuals with a local group should they wish to connect.

Branch Representative

Margaret Waterton

Date: 4 September 2024

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## **MAANZ AGM 2024 – VICTORIAN BRANCH REP REPORT**

Victorian Branch Rep - Helen Bodycomb

Victorian Branch Secretary – Bev Plowman

Victorian Branch Exhibitions Coordinator – Barb Uhlenbruch

September 2024

2024 has been another big year for the Victorian MAANZ Branch. Many members have been involved with community and public projects, education (either through teaching or learning), and exhibitions – both group and solo. But the BIG thing has been the build-up and anticipation of the 2024 MAANZ International Symposium to be held in Geelong.

The Victorian Branch has programmed and led three sessions for MAANZ members in 2024, to help them prepare for the Symposium. These were conducted on Sunday afternoons (1-3 pm) at the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre in Carlton, Melbourne. It was a great venue although parking was sometimes difficult. They were well attended by regional members of MAANZ, with rather poor rates of attendance by Melbourne MAANZ members.

These sessions were themed. The first (14 April) explored Time and Materiality, the second (23 June) discussed the 30:30 Exhibition and Mosaic Hospital (4 August) actually became

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less about technical problems and more of a discussion about member's favourite works. Each attendee had sent 5 images to me to build into a powerpoint which they were able to present to their peers. This last gathering, attended by about 15 people (one of them via zoom), was an exciting opportunity for members to show and share their work, engaging in both technical and artistic critique.

### Conclusion

Several (three or four) Branch gatherings each year are important opportunities for members to come together for social and educational reasons. Had I not been so busy planning the 2024 Symposium, the Victorian Branch might have been more ambitious this year. Certainly, the 'Growing Mosaic Literacy in Melbourne' events that we held in 2022 at the City of Melbourne's Art House in North Melbourne (and had received a small grant from the City of Melbourne) were more ambitious and very well attended (usually 30-40 pp per event). It would be wonderful to continue this type of program into the future. Regional members' attendance at these events are consistently strong, with some people travelling long distances and sometimes staying overnight to facilitate attendance. More work needs to be done to stimulate Branch event attendance by Melbourne members.

Helen Bodycomb (on behalf also of Barb Uhlenbruch and Bev Plowman)

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## MAANZ AGM 2024 – QUEENSLAND BRANCH REP REPORT

**Branch:** Qld Branch

**Name of Representative:** Catherine Conaty

**Additional endorsed representatives:** Tani Bates, Paul Perry

**Number of Current Members:** 146

**Number of New Members since last AGM:** 8

**How has the Branch met the Objectives of MAANZ** (Education, Exhibition, Community):

We are very pleased that the Qld contribution to the 'Hanging By a Thread: Mosaic for Afghan Women' has now been installed in its permanent home with Multicultural Australia in its Logan Office. Recognition should be given to Paul Perry for his considerable effort in arranging this artwork to go on tour, then its installation at its new home (and then arranging further transportation for its trip to Canberra for the national exhibition).

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Our Qld branch exhibition was held at Gatakers Artspace in Maryborough from 17<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The opening event was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November and was well attended with a number of members travelling several hours to attend. The theme was 'Quintessentially Queensland' with the requirement that all entries were 20cm x 20cm. Of the 34 entries to the exhibition, unfortunately there was only piece that sold. This was the first Qld Branch exhibition to be held since 2018 (and the first for us in our role as Reps), so it was definitely a learning process!



*Opening event at Gataker*

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*'FNQ Legend' by Marg Shaw – Best in Show at the Qld Branch Exhibition*

Stage 1 of the Hervey Bay Community Mosaic Project initiated by MAANZ member Kay Distel and facilitated by Paul Perry was completed in December 2023. This saw the re-creation of a section of damaged mosaic on a fountain structure in Hervey Bay. The old and new sections were joined by a thread of gold mosaic tiles reminiscent of the Japanese art of kintsugi. Funding has been sought from the Council to complete the final stage of the restoration work on the fountain.



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On 14<sup>th</sup> January, Catherine Conaty delivered a presentation on behalf of the State Library of Queensland (below) about the history behind the creation and relocation of the mosaic mural by Don Ross in Anzac Square, followed by a social catch-up lunch afterwards for our members.



Tani Bates has been creating community connection as the moderator and major contributor to our Qld Branch Facebook page, sharing not only reminders about upcoming events, but by posting questions to promote discussion, and links to artists for inspiration. We have noticed a lot more engagement from Facebook than we have from email correspondence and Zooms. We have however continued our education program through Zoom Sessions:

15<sup>th</sup> April: 'Exhibition Excitement' : tips and guidance on exhibition preparation and getting inspired, and how to address exhibition themes

27<sup>th</sup> May: 'Mentored Musings' – This was an opportunity to share and chat about our work or WIP in a supportive environment and discuss different approaches and techniques.

Our next Zoom is scheduled for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, with the theme '3D Substrates for Mosaics'. We will also be scheduling a planning session zoom for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, where we determine the direction of the branch activities for the year, and what we want to achieve in 2025 around the state.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June we held a well-attended social gathering for members at Catherine Conaty's studio, which was followed by a make-along session for the Wild at Heart: Common Unity Project. Catherine also ran a workshop for Wild at Heart on 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Creative Glass

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Guild, who have generously sponsored 20 places for Guild members in this project including all materials. A number of MAANZ members participated in this event.



*Social get together and make along session*



*Wild at Heart Make-Along Session at The Creative Glass Guild*



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Paul Perry's contribution to the mosaic community in has been recognised with his mosaic in Bundaberg being awarded third place in Australia for 'Community Work in the Australian Street Art Awards. The award noted:

*"This is one of the quirkiest, most spectacular amenities block you've ever laid eyes on! Connecting the passionate people who call the region home, the diverse eco-system, and rich Indigenous culture, the block's colourful walls are filled with mosaics created by the Bundaberg community. Paul brought together more than 230 people, spending a whopping 6,200 hours to create this incredible artwork. "*



The main issue facing our branch is how to keep people connected and feeling like they are getting benefit from their membership. We would like to build our audience for participation in our education sessions, and but we also face the issue of creating engagement among members who prefer not to participate in Zoom sessions. We welcome a robust discussion of this at the symposium and beyond!

Catherine Conaty  
Branch Representative  
Date: 20/9/24

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## MAANZ AGM 2024 – TASMANIA BRANCH REP REPORT

**Branch:** Tasmania

**Name of Representative:** Yvette Hallam

**Number of Current Members:** 26

**Number of New Members since last AGM:** 2

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## How has the Branch met the Objectives of MAANZ:

- Education – no activities in 2024
- Exhibition – no activities in 2024
- Community (Collaborations, community events held/attended etc) – no activities in 2024

## Other:

Include any special recognitions or awards  
Major achievements not included above  
Issues facing branch

Branch Representative: Yvette Hallam

Date. 08/09/2024

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## MAANZ AGM 2024 – SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH REP REPORT

**Branch:** South Australia

**Name of Representative:** Kristin Wohlers

**Number of Current Members:**

**Number of New Members since last AGM:**

**Education:**

- Get together to launch Helen Bodycomb's book 'Mosaicism' and social at Bowling Club
- Visit to Glass Factory ORORA with 10 people – one of the biggest glass factories and a recycling facility for second hand glass.

**Exhibition**

Even though not MAANZ we have a group called SA Mosaics which activates and unites many mosaicists. This group has an annual exhibition at Pepper Street Art Centre. Through this group we are gaining new MAANZ members and spread news about opportunities and exhibitions.

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Exhibition 'ANYTHING GOES' all of September with two artist talks by judges Sally Alexander and Rayna Schofield and three demos: Kristin Wohlers – Common Unity, Sandra Sullivan – Garden Poles, Helen Blackman and Elaine Spence – Mosaicing with natural materials.

## Community

- Reflection sofa building in the Barossa. Seeds of Hope in collaboration with Black Dog Barossa funded the building of three mosaic reflection sofas in Lyndoch, Mt Pleasant and Angaston.
- Mosaic for Afghan Women MFAW artwork circulated at several galleries, libraries and community halls in South Australia.

## Other:

Include any special recognitions or awards

Major achievements not included above

**Issues facing branch:** – engagement with other teachers difficult, not much response to newsletter.

**Succession:** Kristin Wohlers will stand for one more year until November 2025. Is looking for deputy for 24/25.

Branch Representative

Kristin Wohlers

Date September 2024.