



The Art of Ageing **2021**

EXHIBITION

“I don’t let getting older stop me, I just keep doing what I’m doing”

– PETER DRISCOLL

“There is no stopping me... I live life to the fullest”

– CHRIS HERRETT (SLIM)



***The Art of Ageing 2021* is a photographic exhibition that celebrates the value, experience and contribution that older people bring, and challenges outdated perceptions of ageing.**

Accomplished and unconventional perhaps best describes the many diverse individuals in the exhibition. These extraordinary people have carved out interesting and active lives for themselves that keep them young.

Let these artists, advocates, athletes, authors, business people, chefs, farmers, instructors, mentors, restorers, students and viticulturists inspire you to embrace and live life to the fullest.

The photographs and narratives were commissioned by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. The exhibition comprises works by outstanding NSW photographers Kerri Ambler, Tina Milson, Julie Slavin, Tim White, Trevor Green and Tayla Martin, and was curated by Sue Mitchell.

The Art of Ageing is an initiative under the NSW Ageing Strategy 2016–2020 and Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021–2031. The NSW Government is committed to addressing ageism by supporting initiatives that improve respect for and social inclusion of older people and recognise older people’s contributions to their communities.

COVER IMAGE: Peter Griffin, photographed by Tim White

Cobber Webb (b. 1940)

Cobber was born in Molong in 1940 and has lived there all his life. He has four children and several grandchildren. Married for 50 years (married in 1967), he and his wife separated and he now lives alone. There are pictures of his wife throughout his little cottage.

Entering his house is a veritable trip back in time. Cobber looks like he's just stepped out of a shearing shed in the 1950s. A ragged black Akubra sits forever atop his weathered face. His trademark shirt, with cut-off sleeves, and worn workpants are his uniform. He loves nothing more than a good chinwag over a cuppa and a biscuit or two. His stories are endless and he's a wealth of knowledge on all things Molong.

Sitting in his favourite armchair, Cobber is surrounded by trophies from his racing days. Faded ribbons and photos of his winners take pride of place on the walls. He's always had a great love of horses, was in the racing game for years, and had "plenty of winners". A knee replacement means he can no longer ride. However, he still takes in unwanted horses, "gets them going again" and sends them on to loving homes. •

Cobber was a reluctant interviewee – *"don't want to say anything, I'm too young!"*



PHOTOGRAPHER
KERRI AMBLER

Geoff Morell (b. 1958)



He's thinking, *"Where do I go next?"*

PHOTOGRAPHER
KERRI AMBLER

Geoff Morrell is an actor, with a successful career spanning 25 years. He is best known for his roles in *Oscar and Lucinda*, *Blackrock*, *Blue Murder*, *Ned Kelly*, and, more recently, *Rake*, *Cloudstreet* and *Top of the Lake*. The list is long.

Geoff was born on a chicken farm in western Sydney. His father, a teacher, often moved the family to different towns for work. From an early age, Geoff became accustomed to a nomadic lifestyle. He says this formed his way of living. *"Life as an actor is a solitary one in lots of ways - a gypsy lifestyle. It's hard on relationships. As soon as I'm settled somewhere, I get sick of it and want to move on."*

These days Geoff is more interested in his art practice. *"Acting is very much a disempowering way to live... you have to get permission to practice your art - unlike painting, or writing, where you can choose when, where and what you want to do. Working as an actor, you have to make too many compromises - then you... go into studio and regain that power."*

Geoff now lives in Mt Keira, near Wollongong. *"Wollongong is a hidden treasure. We try and keep it secret. It's easy. You can take the dog to a beach, there's free parking. I look up at the big mountain (Mt Keira) and I'm kind of in the rainforest. Roll down the hill to the freeway and... at the airport in an hour... There are some great scenes starting to happen here too, people from Sydney are starting to cotton on to Wollongong."*

He's thinking, *"Where do I go next?"* •

Leca and Brett (b. 1961 and 1966)

Leca was born in Holsworthy Army Barracks, grew up in a family of six kids, and spent her early years living the transient army family life.

She has been a lover of horses since little, and her mother, Nancy, although poor, found money to support Leca's passion. Leca went on to win Dressage Champion of the Year many times, and Horse of the Year in the NSW State Titles. She is a registered panel judge for the NSW Palomino society, and lists judging at the Sydney Royal as one of her proudest achievements.

Leca was married twice, has one adult child, and now lives in Molong with Brett, as his full-time carer.

Leca and Brett met while they were both living in Wisemans Ferry over ten years ago. Brett walked by Leca's house while she was moving in and gave her a hand. As payment, she drove him into town as he didn't have a car. *"After I helped Leca with her washing machine - I have a disability - she used to bring me containers of food. I was starving before that. I lived off fish I would catch in the river. She was always there when I was down. Eventually I convinced her to become my full-time carer. We've been family ever since."*

Brett was born in Fairfield NSW. He was his mother's carer from age 14 to 38. When she passed away, Brett was evicted from the family home and went to live in a tent in Wallacia. He describes his upbringing as, *"Hard. Now there's a word. Hard. It's hard to care for someone 24/7 while they're bedridden. But I'd do it all again."* •



PHOTOGRAPHER
KERRI AMBLER

Mark Oats (b. 1952)



PHOTOGRAPHER
KERRI AMBLER

Mark grew up in Molong and has never left. He has a long-term partner, with three grown kids. *'Grown, gone, see ya - they're all in good shape.'*

Mark is a panel beater by trade. He suffered a heart attack a few years back and was forced to give up work. This meant he could focus on his art. He turned his panel beating prowess to sculpting. Working out of Benny's (Caldwell Metal Recyclers in Molong), he fashions beautiful large-scale artworks out of scrap metal.

"I've got plenty of things to do. I haven't made a fortune out of anything, but it keeps me busy - that and my paintings. If I'm not doing that, I'm working on stage."

Mark has been a member of the local theatre group, The Molong Players, for over 30 years, as well as The Old Mates Theatre Company, of which he is one of four male members. On acting: *"I don't really know why I do it actually, but I can't not try and do it."*

On ageing: *"Getting older is not much fun but at the moment I really feel good. The body is slowing down but I try and keep in good shape, do yoga and that sort of stuff, walk in the mornings."* Mark walks his favourite route of 3 to 4 kms around town every morning. •

Angie and Paul Bell (b. 1961)

We recently celebrated 32 years of marriage! We met in a bridal party when we were twenty years old. For three years we kept in touch by mail as we were living in different cities and states for work, me as a teacher and Paul as a clerk in rail freight. Eventually we moved in together in an idyllic beach shack on the top of a headland on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

During our years together, we've travelled, built houses, bought our children into our happy home, surfed and had many amazing adventures.

We've taken every opportunity to travel. We've trekked in Nepal, ridden elephants in northern India to search for black rhinoceros, and sailed in the Maldives. We've lived in Yorkshire, ferry hopped in the Outer Hebrides, and surfed in Indonesia.

Before our daughter and son were born we settled on a 'bush block' and owner-built a small, warm mud-brick home. It was a perfect, simple country existence. When we decided to make the sea change, we bought and renovated the old beach shack and became very involved in the local surfing community. Surfing became a way of life for our family.

Now we feel so excited, privileged and grateful for the new chapter in our lives: we are grandparents to twin girls!! We intend to shower them with love and a sense of fun and adventure. We want to instil our love of travel in our grandchildren. It is so exciting. •



PHOTOGRAPHER
JULIE SLAVIN

Eve Grybowski (b. 1944)



PHOTOGRAPHER
JULIE SLAVIN

I've been a yoga teacher for almost 40 years. For 18 years during this time, I suffered from osteoarthritis in both hips. Yoga postures, breathing, relaxation and meditation helped me through a painful period.

Arthritis taught me to be more compassionate towards unwell and ageing individuals. I learned to use yoga to help people with physical problems as I worked with my own limitations.

It's true what they say, that having hip replacements can give you your life back. I had double hip surgery 10 years ago and had to learn to walk all over again. Yoga helped me rehabilitate; I was back to teaching in just a few months.

Around 2003, my husband and I joined with two other couples to create our vision of communal living. Now we live under the same roof, supporting each other in our endeavours. Co-habiting is a clear expression of who I am: a person who builds communities.

When my yoga teacher died and my sister passed away, this had a profound effect on me. I started to see that death was every bit as important a stage as birth. And maybe not to be feared. I've been working as a palliative care volunteer in our Manning Valley region. I visit people who are at the end of life, listen to their stories, learn about their families and hear their concerns.

Life is still full of surprises. I haven't become obsessed with death. Two new grandchildren have appeared in the last couple of years and, with any luck, there will be more. •

Marion Hosking (b. 1926)

I was born in Burwood, NSW, attended many schools during difficult economic times, and left when I was 13 to work in a shop. My lifelong thirst for knowledge saw me complete a BA at University of New England, Armidale – when I was 74.

After this, I wrote a book, *Why Doesn't She Leave?: The Story of a Women's Refuge*, inspired by many years as a volunteer at Lyn's Place (Taree Women's Refuge). I was overcome when I was awarded the Centenary Medal, followed by an OAM nomination for Australian of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year.

Feminism, atheism and left-wing politics have always been part of my makeup. My views were confirmed by Upton Sinclair, Dickens, and then Germaine Greer, who espoused views I always held: that women had every right to the same advantages as males. In the 1970s the NSW Humanist Society required a Secretary. To my great joy, I was asked to fill that role. The society had wonderful speakers espousing freedom of speech, civil liberties, abortion law reform, Family Law changes and, of course, opposition to the Vietnam war.

So, my pleasures? Hearing the footsteps of my kids and my kids' kids arriving. Politics remains an interest I share with women friends in a group we call, *Socialist Women for Justice*. Discussing politics is particularly satisfying with a few extra years under my belt. Sometimes, just sometimes, my age gives me the edge in political discussions. People think I know more than I really do – that because of my age I am wise. However, it is pleasing to be thought wise, at least not a fool! •



PHOTOGRAPHER
JULIE SLAVIN

“This gradual process of ‘getting old’ is like *Waiting for Godot*. It seems as if it never comes.”

Russell Saunders OAM (b. 1955)



PHOTOGRAPHER
JULIE SLAVIN

All those who know Russell speak of his warmth and humility. He is an artist, teacher, gallery owner, fisherman and Pastor of the Purfleet Church, but more than that he is a family man and deeply rooted in his Biripi Aboriginal heritage.

His life, he knows, is much busier than he can remember. His monumental sculptures made from huge gnarled trees bearing Aboriginal people and native animals can be found in public and private collections throughout the region. His beautiful paintings, with a mixture of ancient, spiritual and modern imagery, show the Aboriginal heritage of the Biripi. They adorn schools, council buildings and libraries in the Manning.

Russell's connection with schools is deep and demanding. His unhappy experiences with school when he was young have given him the passion to help the children. He returns to schools several days a week as the Elder in Residence, sharing his knowledge and art. In 2017, he won an Education Worker Award at the NAIDOC Awards ceremony. He has also been awarded the Manning Valley Visual Arts Award and an Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

Russell's Welcome to Country addresses at civic functions are not only accompanied by his didgeridoo performance, but also by his wisdom about his people and their ancient and enduring connection to country. •

Graham Gibbons (b. 1944)

I've lived in Taree all my married life except for 12 years when we left for work. Taree is a great place to live.

About 10 years ago, I discovered that my grandmother was Indigenous. This was a great revelation and opened up a whole area of life to explore. I'm a Murrawari man and my Indigenous family came from around Goodooga/Brewarrina. I've met a lot of relatives over the last few years and we're always catching up for special occasions.

I'm a keen fisherman and there's plenty of opportunity to fish around Taree, although there are fewer fish now. I like the bush and when our children, Rachel and Andrew, were young, Christine and I took them camping as much as we could.

I've done lots of jobs – as diverse as an accounts clerk. I've worked in Sydney, Lismore and Cairns. I hated Sydney and couldn't wait to leave, although I had the best job: looking after heritage gardens in Concord for the Health Department. The gardens were beautiful and went right down to the Parramatta River. It was a haven for me in amongst the busyness of Sydney.

We also owned a mixed orchard in Lismore. We grew avocados, mangos, lychees, grapes and mandarins. We enjoyed this lifestyle, but then we moved to Cairns where we renovated a house and I worked as a maintenance person in a large resort.

Now, Chris and I travel a lot, but when I'm home I enjoy seeing my children and grandchildren, making walking sticks from wood collected from the bush, gardening, and looking for gold with my metal detector. •



"I've lived in Taree all my married life except for 12 years when we left for work. Taree is a great place to live."

PHOTOGRAPHER
JULIE SLAVIN

Andrew Whitehead (b. 1958)



Well-recognised sculpture artist, Andrew Whitehead, works at his property near Urana producing incredible artworks that have been shipped around Australia and internationally, with 12 public artworks on display across the country.

“I began a mechanical apprenticeship at 40 years of age at the local shire where I worked for 10 years. That’s where I learnt to weld. I started going to the back shed and building things. I entered my first sculpture in the Farm Art Show in Lockhart, 10 years ago, where I won. I pretty much entered every year since then.”

Speaking with Andrew, he stated that his career has only just started, “I’m only about one-third of the way into my career.” •

“I’m only about one-third of the way into my career.”

PHOTOGRAPHER
TAYLA MARTIN

Francisco Da Costa (b. 1955)

Franco is well known as a chef in Nyngan and has lived an adventurous life.

When the civil war erupted in Mozambique in the late 1970s, Franco left his country, moving to Portugal. Growing up, Franco was part of Boy Scouts, where he developed his love for cooking - always cooking for his group. When asking Franco what he enjoyed to cook most he said, "I like to cook spicy food for myself, but I enjoy to cook whatever people want."

Throughout his career, Franco has cooked aboard the QE2 and the Southern Crown Cruises, travelling all over the world. While living a hectic life in London for five years, Franco and his wife Teresa decided to move to Sydney in 1989 for a better lifestyle.

After working in various kitchens they decided to relocate to the small community of Nyngan in regional NSW. Franco was offered the head chef position at the Outback Motel in 2006. "We moved to Nyngan as we wanted a quieter lifestyle and place to raise the children. It's a friendly town and community." •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TAYLA MARTIN

Hayley Hillis (b. 1955)



PHOTOGRAPHER
TAYLA MARTIN

I met Hayley Hillis when she began teaching me at university as a photography and art lecturer.

When sitting down with Wagga artist Hayley, I found out she has surely done it all. “I’ve done everything: jeweller, nurse, yoga teacher on a cruise ship, matchmaker, the list goes on. I’ve also moved house over 40 times,” the most recent being when she was evacuated from her house during the North Wagga floods in 2012.

Most of Hayley’s and her partner Allan’s belongings were destroyed in the flood. At the time, Hayley was studying her Master of Arts Practice in Photomedia, and while she managed to save what she could of her work, she also lost a lot during the flood. •

“I’ve done everything: jeweller, nurse, yoga teacher on a cruise ship, matchmaker, the list goes on. I’ve also moved house over 40 times.”

Lis Barbaresco (b. 1938)

Born in 1938 in Hungary, Lis moved to Sydney, Australia, at only 11 years of age. She later began her career as a school teacher in 1973 after studying at the University of New South Wales.

Leaving Sydney in 1986, Lis moved to Wagga.

Since retiring, Lis has joined the University of the Third Age run in Wagga that provides life-long learning opportunities for their members in their 'third age'.

When discussing ageing with Lis, she stated, *"Becoming older, it's got to happen, so why not embrace it."* •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TAYLA MARTIN

*"Becoming older, it's got to happen,
so why not embrace it."*

Peter Driscoll (b. 1935)



"I was born into farming."

Pete has just recently moved off his property in Urana. He lived there from 1973. It is where he and his wife, Moy, raised their family. He was born into farming and for over 40 years loved working the land, navigating the seasons, good and bad, and living the lifestyle of a farmer with his family.

Now in his 80's, Pete says, "I don't let getting older stop me, I just keep doing what I'm doing. It's going to happen regardless." •

"I was born into farming."

PHOTOGRAPHER
TAYLA MARTIN

Carol Carberry (b.1945)

Carol was raised in Gulgong but for the last 52 years has lived in Mudgee after falling for a local builder, Michael.

For 35 years, Carol has owned and managed a women's clothing store in Mudgee. The daily ins and outs of running the store keep her and Michael busy. Carol loves the hustle and bustle of managing stock - from trade fairs in Sydney to the logistics of maintaining the hanging stock in the store.

On one hand, Carol would love to spend time travelling - domestically and internationally. At the same time, she can't imagine handing over the business. The social aspect of customers coming and going has been such a huge part of her life for so long.

Standing in Carol's store taking these shots on a weekday afternoon, there was a constant stream of local women into the store, all of whom Carol knew by name, and she could suggest styles that suited these customers. Carol even handwrites all docketts to extend that personal touch, *"If the wheel isn't broken, don't try to fix it."*

Family is very important to Carol and her husband. With 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, they have very busy Christmases. Outside of shop hours they also spend a lot of time in their garden, which is always awash with colour, and they say hello to everyone who passes. •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TIM WHITE

Colin Millot (b. 1957)



PHOTOGRAPHER
TIM WHITE

Colin is a well-known and regarded Mudgee viticulturist. He's worked in Mudgee since 1995, for Rosemount on their Hill of Gold/Mountain Blue vineyards and then onto the First Ridge Vineyard in 1996.

After graduating from agricultural college in 1978, he went into broad acre farming, feedlot work and shearing. His first foray into vineyard work was for Coriole Vineyards in McLaren Vale, South Australia. He remembers coming to that stunning vineyard and thinking, *"Yes, this is it. This is what I need to do."* After being in viticulture for so long, he sees his role as an agricultural midwife for the vines.

Colin is a busy man and feels he has a good 20 years left of being physically able to continue to do what he wants. He would love to focus on his other passion – sculpture – and is moving more towards a work/sculpture balance. He'd love to write a memoir of his time in agriculture/viticulture, with the aim of helping younger people move from a focus on money to a focus on a life worth living.

For Colin, one of the best things about ageing (something he doesn't see as happening to himself just yet) is that he now feels in a far more relaxed state of being, and that he has nothing to prove. As a young man, he felt he was constantly trying to be good enough or prove himself. Now he knows he is an expert, he knows he no longer needs to prove anything. •

Peter Griffin (b. 1948)

Peter was a school teacher until 1979, when he quit to become a full-time abstract artist.

He now has had exhibitions across the globe, and is always busy painting, running classes, teaching and travelling. His works adorn their Leichhardt warehouse home, The floor is covered with decades of paint, and there is a constant ordered chaos of paintings, equipment, projects and life. •

“I believe that to make discoveries risks must be taken, the traveller must get lost. A well planned journey can only lead to an already known destination.”



PHOTOGRAPHER
TIM WHITE

Anne Oberg (b. 1963)



PHOTOGRAPHER
TINA MILSON

“You do not have to be good at everything, just one thing, and do it well.”

“You do not have to be good at everything, just one thing, and do it well.”

I am the second youngest of 10 children, and have lived in Goulburn since 1979.

I wasn't really good at sport during school but at 19 years old, my sister and I decided to try the exercise class at the local school for a cost of 50 cents. The teacher wanted someone to fill in when she was away and I gave it a go. Now it's my job and my passion.

I have coached people with mental illness, school children and ageing adults. I enjoy working with older people the most: keeping them upright and able to move around and have stronger bodies as their lives progress. As a result, I have a special bond with over 50 clients. Knowing I'm helping, and seeing them healthy, creates self-satisfaction. We go out socially, with me organising most of the events. They're always happy and put a smile on my face. I also run the Encore Breast Cancer exercise group in Goulburn and visit the elderly in nursing homes.

I have three children and a beautiful little granddaughter who are dear to me. My family is very important and I have a good bond with my brothers and sisters and their children.

I've been teaching at the centre for over 20 years and aim to keep teaching as long as I physically can or I have no-one left in my class to teach! •

Chris Herrett (Slim) (b. 1966)

"There is no stopping me and I live life to the fullest."

I was born in Liverpool in 1966. I've been a spare parts interpreter, AIN nurse, groundsman, school cleaner, and maintenance.

I had a blood clot in my head at aged 26. I suffered a stroke and had been in a coma for three months. The prognosis was not favourable, indicating total dependency for my life time. I was to prove them wrong, although it took me two years with therapy to walk and talk again. I now have short-term memory loss and anger management issues.

What gets me out of bed in the morning? My interests in motor racing, dirt bikes, pushbikes, radio-controlled toys (I'm a kid at heart), and collecting old things to make interesting objects.

These interests, like my three mopeds, drew me to the Men's Shed. I love doing up bikes there. That's my passion. I like to give back for what has been done for me. If I wake up, even better, go day by day. Now there is no stopping me and I live life to the fullest. •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TINA MILSON

*"There is no stopping me
and I live life to the fullest."*

Jacki Waugh (b. 1962)



“We bought a caravan and intend driving into the sunset with all the other grey nomads to discover more of Australia one day soon.”

PHOTOGRAPHER
TINA MILSON

“We bought a caravan and intend driving into the sunset with all the other grey nomads to discover more of Australia one day soon.”

I am fourth-generation Goulburn born and bred. In 1978, I started hairdressing, completing my apprenticeship at the Look Ahead Salon in Goulburn and attending courses to keep up with latest trends.

I met Peter Waugh after leaving school and in 1981 we married. We lived in Carrick on the family farm for a year and then moved to our Boxers Creek property, which we still call home, to raise our family.

In 1990, I gave up my career to care for our children. I found it hard not having contact with people each day so I started my mobile hairdressing service, providing a service to most of the nursing homes and hospitals in the area.

In 1985, we took over and ran a jumping castle business for 29 years. We were busy with preschool, school, fundraisers, pony club, communications, and family life on the farm, which started with one alpaca bought by my dad in 1994 as a bit of a joke. This led to more animals and my involvement in the Goulburn Show - helping with the animal nursery, alpaca, and horses section - until in 2012, I became President, and still am today.

I've had a great life and am very lucky to have a large extended family who care about each other. We hold gatherings each year, and have been for as long as I can remember. I became a grandmother recently, beginning another chapter in my life. •

Steve Ridley (b. 1947)

"Your integrity, honesty and good name is the only thing you take to your grave. It's a very fast-paced world but embrace it and enjoy the ride. We're only here a very short time."

I was born and bred in West Wyalong on a mixed farm, with five brothers and sisters. I got into the livestock business straight out of school and have been in that field, on and off, in the Goulburn district for 43 years. I'm a Level 1 Auctioneer, Sheep and Cattle Assessor, and Stud Stock Specialist. I'm also involved in Elders' traineeship program with workshops and mentoring roles.

Age is only a number and sometimes an excuse people use to not do something. I believe some people talk themselves into being 'old' before their time. If you surround yourself with young people and enjoy their company, it keeps you young. The fact that I'm very passionate about and enjoy my job is the key. I embrace change and think outside the square, endeavouring to improve the way we do things.

My occupation is more a lifestyle than a job, so it really gets me out of bed in the morning (often very early) and drives me to do bigger and better things. I'll never refuse a request to support any community event and have regularly done so with my auctioneering. I know how important it is to society. I've been very fortunate, been given a lot of opportunity, and been helped by so many wonderful people... it's the least I can do to help others. •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TINA MILSON

Joan Blyth (b. 1937)



PHOTOGRAPHER
TREVOR GREEN

Joan is one of eight children. Her family had businesses in pastoral holdings and timber mills in Wingham. Joan's mother said she was the only child who was up early, dressed and ready for school before the others had risen. Joan loved school, was keen to go every day, and attained the intermediate certificate before leaving to work in an administrative role in the family business. It was at work where she met and married a young man named Ray and the rest is history!

When her father passed, Joan stayed to 'tidy things up' before going into partnership with Ray in an earth moving business. She also raised three children and was the glue that kept the business and family going.

Joan has compassion for her community and has held voluntary positions at schools, council, Brownies and within the church. She is an Elder in the church and still has a strong involvement. The church and her faith have been the foundation of her life.

Another love is her love for flowers and gardens. Ageing has changed the type and amount of gardening she does, and because of arthritis her gardens are now in small beds. Joan admits she once lay on her stomach and wiggled her way to remove weeds before brushing herself off once she got back on her feet.

She experiences frustration with some manual tasks, but she and Ray enjoy their busy lives and are happy to be able to provide support to family, friends and her church congregation. *"If I cannot help manually, I can always say a prayer."* •

Phil Burton (b. 1956)

Phil was born in Armidale and moved to Taree where he attended Taree High School. After leaving school, Phil became an apprentice carpenter and worked for a local window manufacturer. After a downturn in this industry, Phil decided to undertake a sign-writing course and worked as a signwriter. He returned to TAFE, but this time to teach showcard and ticket writing. Phil has remained in this profession until today.

Phil's passion for art and surfing emerged, and he began doing drawings and paintings of surf culture, drawing his original inspiration from a Hawaiian artist and Pro Hart. Phil's artwork and popularity has seen his work sold around the valley and throughout Australia. He loves to see the enjoyment of people who appreciate his work.

In recent times, Phil has had health issues, which has forced him to re-evaluate his signwriting business and how much art he can produce. His down time has allowed him to reflect on his life and what is important to him. His faith has been a substantial part of his life and has provided solace.

Phil can be found cruising in his beloved kombi, Clyde, or chilling at Saltwater Point after a surf on one of his long boards. He is comfortable with his place and time of life, and is thankful for the ability to draw, paint and bring happiness to other people in the community. •



PHOTOGRAPHER
TREVOR GREEN

Erin Gregg (b. 1964)



“Growing older to me means having fun ticking off my bucket list.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY
OLYMPIAN DIVERS
COURTESY OF
ERIN GREGG

In the last couple of years I have gone to scuba dive basically all over the world: Cyprus, Greece, the Maldives and, of course, the Great Barrier Reef.

About four years ago, I had a spinal tumor removed and became an L1 complete paraplegic. This was the biggest wakeup call ever. From that point on, I fully embraced life, and I embraced my wheelchair with the admiration it deserves. The only time I am willing to leave it is when I go scuba diving.

I travel and dive without a team of people and I dive with able-bodied people. Just recently, I was lucky enough to dive the Yongala wreck in Townsville. The Yongala is considered by many to be the world's #1 shipwreck dive.

This photo was taken of me on my dive in Cyprus by Colin and Fiona from the Olympian Divers company. Diving is now my passion and I pursue it with great enjoyment.

Growing older to me means having fun ticking off my bucket list. •

The Photographers

Kerri Ambler

(b. 1971, New Zealand)



Kerri is a designer and photographer living and working in rural NSW. Four years ago, she picked up her two children (then aged seven and nine) and moved from Sydney to a rambling historical homestead near

Molong in central west NSW. Kerri completed a degree in photography from Sydney College of the Arts about a million years ago. Since then, she's worked as a designer of websites, print and fashion, and a photographer of people. Small towns have big stories, and it's these stories that fascinate her. Kerri is currently compiling work for a book and show about the people of Molong.

Julie Slavin

(b. 1949, Gosford)

Julie was born and raised in Gosford before moving to Sydney. She spent three formative years in San Francisco in the early 70s and returned to Sydney, where she got involved in the art scene. Then, being pregnant, Julie went 'bush' to live an alternative lifestyle in Elands. She had two daughters and several husbands, built homes, delivered babies, and worked with a leatherworker, all while continuing to paint. Since 2001, Julie has worked as a press photographer for the Manning River Times and for the Manning Regional Art Gallery. She has also photographed



the portraits of local Elders for a book, and worked with Djon Mundine (Aboriginal artist, curator, writer and activist) on a project of inclusion with local Aboriginal families. Today she supports local artists and musicians with her

photography, along with ongoing projects at the Manning Regional Art Gallery. The latest of these being "Packed, Lost, Found", a documentation of images and stories of fire effected people of the Manning region.

Tayla Martin

(b. 1995, Nyngan)

Tayla is passionate about the role that art plays in sustaining regional communities. Photo-media artist Martin graduated with a Bachelor of



Photography and Graphic Design from Charles Sturt University in 2017. Martin was then selected as a student finalist in the Sony World Photography Awards exhibiting at Somerset House London, as well as finalist in the William and Winifred Bowness

Photography Prize. Martin received a Create NSW Young Regional Artist Scholarship, where she has continued developing her photographic practice about the rural community Nyngan, where she grew up.

Tim White

(b. 1975, Manly)

Tim has had several careers, with a background in science followed by working for software companies. He is now a winemaker in Mudgee and spends just as many hours taking photographs as making wines. His photographic work is mostly centred around natural subjects: nature, landscapes and other local scenes from



Mudgee and surrounds. "At the core of my personality I try and see the beauty in all things, whether that's a person, a bird, a flower or a scene. If I can capture some of that in an image then that's what counts ... to try and capture the beauty of everyday life across the ages."

Tina Milson

(b. 1956, Singleton)



Tina's passion for photography is heavily influenced by the local rural landscapes and communities of Singleton, where she grew up, and Goulburn where she currently lives with her family. From portraiture to

landscapes, Tina's diverse photography portfolio highlights the resilience and vulnerability of country communities through drought, floods and everything in between. Tina takes personal inspiration from her five children and her involvement in regional education, non-profit and arts initiatives.

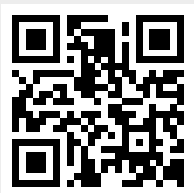
Trevor Green

(b. 1959, Oxley Island)

After a life-changing event a few years ago when Trevor suffered a heart attack in the surf and died for several minutes in hospital, Trevor has developed his passion for sport and portrait photography. His recovery period allowed him to reassess and focus on his art. Although he has been a photographer for most of his life and remembers the old darkroom days - complete



with silver headaches - he also remembers the magic of the first image coming out of the soup. Now Trevor embraces the new technology and the ability for everyone to share images around the world.



For more info, visit:
www.dcj.nsw.gov.au

