

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Time for wine tasting by a warm fire ...

We wish to welcome both the visitors to our region as well as the new residents who are joining our small but active community. Beyond the beauty and the history of the Porongurup, there is a thriving community who welcome your involvement, whether as a volunteer on one of our many and varied committees, as a volunteer firefighter, or perhaps as a participant or attendee at one of the various events and activities that occur during the year.

If you need to know the local tip days, where to find the Silver Shed for the monthly Social Sunday (on the first Sunday of every month), how to get to Devils Slide, where to find the famous Field of Dreams to see the local cricket team, the Woodburners, or even information on the local trades, simply call in to the Tearooms and ask Scott, Sayah or Sean for information. To our regular readers, we hope you enjoy this month's update. Make sure you get your tickets for our famous Snow Ball! Remember we have the Bloom Festival from 27 Sept to 26 Oct and the Southern Arts & Craft Trail from 27 Sept to 12 October. Have something you want included in the next issue, let one of the crew at the Tearooms know.

Brought to you by

PCA | PORONGURUP
Community Assoc.

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Tuesday 'Art Hang' at 6.30 pm continues at the Tearooms, just rock up, no experience required.

Spinners & Weavers

Usually meet every Thursday in the Porongurup Hall from 10 am until 2 pm. However with refurbishments and the holiday season, best to check out the Porongurup Craft Group Facebook page or email fionaajlen@gmail.com.

Thursday Golf, see Scott!

**22ND
PORONGURUP
'SNOW' BALL**

SATURDAY, 2ND AUGUST
7.30 PM ONWARDS
PORONGURUP HALL

BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES
TICKETS ON SALE FROM
PORONGURUP TEAROOMS
PH: 9853 1110

\$40 PP

DRESS TO IMPRESS
PRIZE FOR
BELLE & BEAU
OF THE BALL

Many Happy Returns to Maleeya



As Maleeya celebrates her special birthday please note that Maleeya's Thai is closed for the Winter and will reopen on 22 August 2025.

Bookings are recommended.

Check out the party photos inside

Photo: Michelle Stanley

Did you know many locals catch up for coffee & breakfast at the Tearooms every Saturday morning, see you there around 10.15 am!



Stainless splash backs, dual sinks, hand basin



New benches, new lighting including drop down power cords



Dual ovens and the rangehood



We have some very happy kitchen volunteers. Above, Art in the Porongurup, when hot water was only installed the day prior! Leanne loved the deadline!



PCA PORONGURUP
Community Assoc.

**Porongurup Hall
Kitchen Renovation Project**

With \$50,000 now being acquitted from the FRRR grant our Leanne Cluett has been outstanding in coordinating the trades for this amazing project. The grant has targeted supporting the Porongurup community to be more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought by building capacity to host activities and facilitate the use of small scale community infrastructure projects to improve connectedness, well being and facilities. Watch out for our calendar of events later this year!

We had great service from our local trades including:

- Adam Taylor (AT) Electrical
- Albany Carpet Court
- BF Customs
- B&L Sheetmetal
- Mount Barker Carpentry
- Whale Plumbing
- Woods & Gates Painting

We are grateful to also have received additional support from the Shire of Plantagenet for water filtration, emergency hall lighting and a new 110,000litre water tank. We also had a local donor provide for 2 stainless steel benches. The PCA also took the opportunity to paint the external hall. The kitchen expense excluding the additional works was approx \$59,000, the final tally will be known after final billings are received. The kitchen completion ETA is July 2025. We are currently looking for volunteers with Food Safety Supervisor qualifications to assist our commercial kitchen endeavours.

This project is supported by FRRR, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Paint me a Song
Exhibition Opening
5 - 7 pm Monday 28 July
 drop in as you are
cocktails-nibbles-live music
 entry by donation + raffle sales
helping Mount Barker Amateur Swim Club
 get to Karratha carnival and maybe home again ;)
Art Chatter Gallery inside **Strike Me Pink**
 4 Langton Road Mt Barker

**'Art Exhibition Opening' and
 'Fundraiser for the Barracuda Swimming Club'.**

Music inspired art with the theme, Paint me a song, finger food, drinks and live music.

Free event except for your generosity to help the young swimmers with the costs of attending next year's Country Pennant in Karratha. Fundraising is on opening night only so a huge crowd would be marvellous, so even if you never attended an opening before, come, it will be great fun!

If you'd like to escape the cold, dark and wet - come!

If you'd like a fun time out, bring your tribe and come!
 See you there at 5pm!

NB: The fundraiser is from raffles and donations, not from art sales.



SAVE THE DATE
 Locals
Christmas
 Party
 Friday afternoon/evening
 12 December 2025
 the magic of Christmas with take place at
 the Porongurup Hall

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT  

The O'Neill Road Tip Shop is now opening for extended hours:

- Saturday 12pm-4pm and
- Sunday 10am-4pm.

Rotary Club of Mount Barker Western Australia Inc. volunteers have been busy sprucing up the Tip Shop. They will run the Tip Shop and accept electronic payments only. Funds will filter back into the local community.

The Shire's partnership with the Rotary Club encourages residents to drop-off preloved items at the Tip Shop instead of the general waste shed to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill.

We hope the community supports this venture.

JOBS: Looking for work, keep an eye out on the Shire of Plantagenet vacancy page on their website

WWW.PLANTAGENET.WA.GOV.AU

GRANTS:

Shire of Plantagenet Community Grant Program

Quick Response Grants are open year-round!

<https://www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au/community/community-information/grants-and-funding.aspx>

GOLF: Interested in Golf? A social group go every Thursday afternoon, contact Scott at the Tearooms.

VOLLIES: Interested in volunteering for the local Fire Brigade

Porongurupbfb@gmail.com

Or phone: 9853 1133.

**WILD WOOD
 WHITTLING**



**SUNDAY 27TH JULY 2025
 9 AM - 12 PM**

Karribank, Porongurup

Join The Village for a morning of wood whittling spoons in magical Porongurup at the newly renovated Karribank, with views of the Porongurup mountain ranges. Winter is a beautiful time to connect with the mindful activity of wood whittling, carving spoons or other objects from wood.

We will be utilising recycled and local wood to whittle a spoon using carving knives.

Participants will be taken through the process of whittling a spoon from a 'blank', oiling and wooden spoon care and sharpening your tools.

Workshop includes:

- A mindfulness activity
- Wood whittling workshop
- Your own wood whittling knife set to take home and continue the craft
- Warm drinks and snacks.

Three hours are dedicated to this workshop, however depending on the wood chosen your spoon may not be finished by the end of the workshop.

This workshop is suitable for 16+ and beginners to wood whittling. Limited places available.

Tickets available from www.events.humanitix.com

Karribank


Mountain Country Wellness Retreat



Wow... Take a look at Karribank now!

Photo: Julia Meyers

A big shout out to Karribank. Many residents will be aware of the transformation taking place at the centre of our communal village. Rob and Dana, Jamie and Ali plus Stijn, heading up the building projects. They would like to acknowledge and thank their amazing teams in the kitchen, building, gardening and cleaning. Make sure you check out their Sunday afternoon entertainment between 1 pm to 4 pm, such a great way to finish the weekend. Artists vary, and this week Dave Rastrick performs on Sunday 20 July. But keep an eye out on their socials for more information. We suggest you check out their updated menu, the team continuously work on improving their seasonal offering. Please note, Karribank will be closed on the evening of Saturday 2 August as they will be attending the Snowball!

 ABC Great Southern
6h · 🌐

Reported by ABC Great Southern on 14 July 2025, The rare Queen of Sheba orchid has been spotted in full bloom east of Stirling Range National Park by photographer and researcher Terry Dunham.

"I'd actually been watching the bud for a couple of weeks now," Mr Dunham said. "They normally flower in late June so this one's about ten days late and I went to it yesterday and there she was - in full bloom."


"The Stirling Ranges and Fitzgerald River National Park are good places to hunt for orchids, you don't need to wait until spring."



WOODFORDIA INC. PRESENTS

Coming to a Small Town Near You


Festival of Small Halls

 Charlie A Court (CAN)  Emily Barker (AUS)



Winter Tour 2025

Kendenup Hall
Sunday 24 August 2025
4pm (Doors Open 3.30pm)

Full Admission - \$30
Concession Admission - \$20
Scan QR code to purchase tickets



6th August - 30th August 2025
Western Australia
www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

PORONGURUP PRODUCE EXCHANGE



When: 1st Saturday of every month.

Starts: 9.30 am

Swap: 9.45 am

Finish: 10 am

All welcome

**Where:
Porongurup Tearooms
carport area**

Note: this exchange is not just for fresh produce, locals are now bringing veggies, fruit, books, magazines, clothes, household utensils, tools, fresh baked slices and cakes, there is even a sourdough starter. If you don't want to swap, it's a good catch up for a chin wag.

HALL FUNDRAISER



Made in small batches on Mother vinegar from apples, using premium Porongurup Pinot and Shiraz, the vinegar develops a depth of flavour.

Use in Asian cooking, salad dressings, meat sauces and, is great on avocados.

Original wine may have small traces of egg milk or fish used in filtration.

Goal \$7,000



www.poronguruphall.asn.au

**RED WINE
VINEGAR**

PCA | PORONGURUP
Community Assoc.
Hall upgrade fundraiser

Hall Fundraiser

ONLY \$15

available for
purchase from the
Porongurup
Tearooms



Shire of Plantagenet

6d • 🌐

Local government elections in WA will take place on Saturday 18 October 2025.

The **Western Australian Electoral Commission** will conduct the Shire of Plantagenet election, which will be a postal vote.

KEY DATES:

🗳️ Check, update or enrol to vote by 5pm 22 August 2025.

🗳️ Nominations open 28 August 2025.

🗳️ Nominations close 4pm 4 September 2025.

Election packages (including ballot papers, candidate information and how-to-vote information) will be sent out in September 2025.

Further information: <https://www.elections.wa.gov.au/2025-local-government-elections>

ELECTION DAY

18 October 2025



Have you thought about nominating as a Councillor for your local Shire?

Make a difference for your community.

For more information contact info@sop.wa.gov.au



The story behind the image of a honey possum collecting nectar from a Banksia at Twin Creeks: I took the photo during a Citizen Science fauna survey in November 2015. Most honey possums have a soft spot for lukewarm honey water. We sprinkled water on the banksia cone featured in the image. The honey possum sat on the banksia cone for at least a minute while surveyors were lying on the ground to photograph images. Sadly, I have not been able to find the image that I took of this scenario. The photo has subsequently been included in an article in the June 2025 issue of a French nature magazine, *Especies* (No 56) - <https://especies.org/> **Pollinisateurs 'Pollinators'** by Christine Dabonneville, Associate Professor of Life and Earth Sciences. **Excerpts only** - sections specific to southwest Australia, translated from French:

Importance of small mammals pollinating flowers

"Flower pollination can occur by wind, water, by invertebrates like flying insects, by vertebrates like birds and bats, or by small mammals like antechinus and honey possum"

Australia is relatively rich in small arboreal and nectar-eating marsupials. All native plant species belonging to the Proteaceae family studied to date (specifically the trees and shrubs of the genus *Banksia*), are pollinated by non-flying mammals that visit large, brush-like inflorescences teeming with nectar.

Selective exclusion experiments (in which access to the flowers was denied) have provided evidence that small non-flying mammals make a significant contribution to banksia pollination; without their action the fruiting rate is significantly reduced. This concerns, for example, the mouse-like yellow-footed antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes leucogaster*), a small, carnivorous marsupial found in southwestern Australia.

The honey possum, *Tarsipes rostratus*, a tiny marsupial weighing about ten grams, feeds exclusively on nectar and pollen. Resembling a shrew, it has a long, semi-prehensile tail that allows it to climb into *Banksia* bushes to reach their many flowers and gorge on nectar. This nectar, located deep in narrow tubular corollas, is collected using the possum's thin, elongated snout and long tongue. The tongue is also bristling with hairs that allow it to brush the stamens and collect protein-rich pollen grains.

Studies have shown that the honey possum is closely dependent on proteaceae: the density of its populations fluctuates with the intensity of *Banksia* flowering. Because honey possums are small, they quickly lose their energy when food becomes scarce. Their bodies counteract this; they will also use other angiosperms from eucalyptus forests to feed, particularly myrtaceae. The animal enters a state of torpor during low intensity of the *Banksia* flowering with its body temperature dropping and its metabolism reducing by up to 90%.

Therophilous plants [those adapted for pollination by mammals, particularly rodents], lack stinging hairs and their flowers are generally robust, inconspicuous, and a greenish-brown colour. They produce a lot of nectar and their reproductive organs (styles and stamens) are located outside the corolla. However, this set of adaptive traits exhibits more or less significant differences depending on the morphology and feeding behavior of the pollinating species. For example, flowers pollinated by rodents are located at ground level, while those pollinated by marsupials, bats and brushtail possums are generally located in the canopy.

Among the plants of the genus *Banksia* visited, there are species that have very different floral characteristics: *B. nutans* [south and east of Porongurup] is a low shrub with somewhat hidden, purplish-brown flowers that give off an onion-like scent, while *B. integrifolia* [Australia's east coast] is a tree with large, bright yellow inflorescences, displayed high above the foliage. These floral peculiarities are found in species of the genus *Protea*. The eudicots or eudicotyledons are flowering plants that have two seed leaves upon germination and are also pollinated by rodents.

The main marsupial pollinators (referred to as *therophily*) is a significant process of pollination by non-flying mammals involving various marsupials, specifically honey possums, western pygmy possums, rodents and other mammals. The process has been reported since the 1930s. However, current knowledge of this type of pollination is relatively incomplete. Studies concerning the dependence of plants are insufficient, particularly when the latter exhibit nocturnal behaviour, making observations difficult.

Bo Janmaat

Friends of the Porongurup Range



Photos credit: Michelle Stanley



Happy birthday
Maleeya!



On 7 July our favourite chef, **Maleeya**, celebrated a significant birthday.

You may recognise this image. It is the beautiful art piece by Emily Jackson that appeared on the special Maleeya vintage by Duke's Vineyard.

With thanks to Ben Cane and Sarah Date, from Dukes Vineyard for arranging and hosting this beautiful celebration for this special occasion and for organising this beautiful group present which was presented to Maleeya on 6 July.

We tried to get the word out, sorry to those that missed the party.



Farewelling ... Jessee Lee Johns

Did you catch Jessee Lee Johns during his time in the Porongurup? A virtual artist, this is Jessee of the Commonwealth of Bayswater standing at the front of the Ronald Courtney Institute he built on the grounds of Karribank earlier this year.

Jessee, with funding from one of the Arts Councils in Fremantle, created a gathering place for discussion of ideas; political, artistic, musical, social and cultural, for members of the community.

The Institute has been cleverly constructed with recycled materials found in the local area.

Jessee built the Institute in the 4 month period of the grant and recently returned to discuss planning of next summer's activities.

On the calendar will possibly be more guest lectures, art classes and nature activities for children.

Jessee is off to Tasmania in 2 weeks time to create a similar initiative in Queenstown. For those that remember, he also had an entry in Art on the Porongurup.

Lucia Quearry

TAI CHI UPDATE

Month 4 in and Going Strong!

Can you believe we're already four months into our Tai Chi journey at the hall?

Time really does fly when you're learning 108 intricate moves! If you've spoken to anyone in the class, you've probably heard the same thing: Tai Chi is more challenging than expected - but in the best possible way.

Our minds are buzzing with new patterns, and our bodies are exploring movements we've never tried before. From "Carry the Tiger to the Mountain" to other beautifully named forms, each week brings a fresh layer of discovery.

While we may still feel like beginners, there's a noticeable shift - everyone's standing a little taller, moving with more awareness, and feeling more grounded. And with eight months still ahead, we're excited to keep growing together.

Stay tuned for more updates from the class as we continue on this mindful, movement-filled journey!



Sayah's Art Studio

Latest update, Sayah's deadline for completion of her new studio at the Porongurup Tearooms is the 27 September for the Southern Art & Craft Trail.

Steve Brown has taken Sayah as his TA and today they were spotted on the roof. Sayah's Girl Scout days might be coming in handy, not sure what badge you should get for this but we think it should have a frog on it!

Well done Sayah, never give up on your dreams.



CELEBRATING ...

100 YEARS OF FARMING

Hartley Cluett of Dorset England married Mable Shute of Somerset in 1912 and soon after set sail for Australia. Living in Albany, they bought land in Young Siding. After two hard years of fire followed by flood, they returned to Albany.

They had a daughter Amy, son Arthur, then son Leslie. When Leslie was 3 months old they moved to the eastern states for 4 years working on farms around Bowral. A further daughter Winsome was born before they returned to live with relatives in Perth and Hartley went in search of land in the Great Southern.

He applied for 3 blocks in Porongurups, one a "homestead" block and two CP blocks, and were granted all three. Homestead blocks were granted to genuine people. CP blocks were conditional purchase with strict regulations.

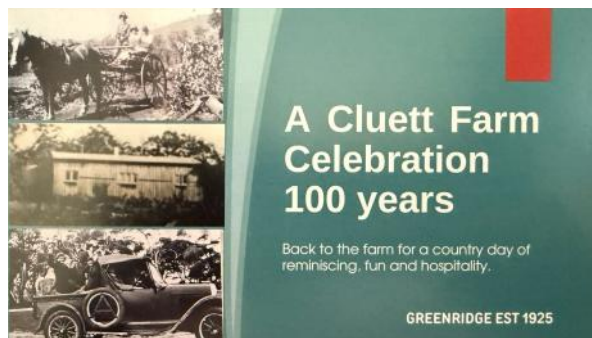
Hartley moved to the Porongurups in 1925 to work the homestead block, clearing an acre to build his home, a tiny cottage. This property was named Greenridge. Mable and the four children arrived on 25th of April 1925. They stayed with her sister and brother-in-law, Gladys and Austin Faulkner on the adjoining property Yokanup, until the home was ready. The basic home was built from Karri and Jarrah cut from Greenridge and Yokanup.

Four years later, Mabels parents purchased the block on the corner of Porongurup and Spring Road. Hartley began building again, he made the mud bricks and Hugh Faulkner from Karri Bank did the carpentry. The home was named Dorset. (today it is known as Appledene) In time they bought a block between Dorset and Greenridge and three on the west side of spring Road... (from John Cluett's 100th anniversary speech).

Over the years the farm expanded and retracted; and expanded again as family members came and went.

On the 25th of April 2025 family and friends came together to celebrate 100 years of farming in the Porongurups.

Shared by Leanne and Brad Cluett



Below left to right:

Tutti and Greg Cluett. John and Patricia Cluett. Harrison, Brad and Leanne Cluett. Karen (Cluett) and Scott Bennett.



From Porongurup to Broome... a Journey Through WA's Natural Wonders



When a friend from the U.S. visited Western Australia for the first time, we knew we had to show her something unforgettable. Starting from our home in the beautiful Porongurup community, we set off on a nature-filled road trip through Kalbarri, Exmouth, Karijini, and finally Broome.

Inspired by Porongurup's incredible landscape, we focused our travels on the awe-inspiring power of nature. We swam with whale sharks in Exmouth, watched the Staircase to the Moon in Broome, and cooled off under Karijini's stunning waterfalls.

Each stop had its own magic—but returning to Porongurup, lush and green after fresh rain, reminded us where the journey truly began. Western Australia is full of wonders, and to us, Porongurup remains the heart of it all.

Travel tip: Visit Broome during the full moon to see amazing things the big tides reveal—like dinosaur footprints, rock pools, and other natural wonders!

Julia Meyers





Duke's Vineyard

2h · 🌱

It's an exciting week at the cellar! Our Winter 2025 Wine Club Release is being packed and prepared!

Wine Club members will be the first to enjoy a sneak peek of the new Magpie Hill and Single Vineyard Rieslings, fresh from the Porongurups.

Shipping begins 21 July, so keep an eye on your doorstep. Not yet a member? Now's a very good time.



Visit our website for more details ✨

Please note we are offsite on Friday 18 July and Cellar Door will be closed.

And, if you are up in Perth, we will be releasing our 25 Magpie Hill Riesling at Lamonts Cottesloe on 17 August.



Its that time of year again...

The Bloom Festival in the Great Southern Treasures region of Western Australia takes place annually from September 27 to October 26.

The festival celebrates the region's wildflowers and natural beauty, encompassing a wide range of events and activities.

Program to be released 1 August 2025. For further information:

<https://greatsoutherntreasures.com.au/bloom/>



Call in on Sam and Jenima Harma and say hello next time you are passing Ironwood Estate Wines on Porongurup Road.

<https://www.ironwoodestatewines.com.au/>

SHEPHERD'S HUT WINE

SEPTEMBER LONG WEEKEND

WE'RE OPEN!



Make sure you include Shepherds Hut Wine when you plan your Kings Birthday Long Weekend.

Laura has 2 great events planned:

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

Get a group together for an exciting afternoon of Paint & Sip event, as part of the 2025 Bloom Festival.

Paint & Sip in the Vines bookings via <https://events.humantix.com/paint-and-sip-in-the-vines> (please note the link wont be live until 1 August)

Tickets are \$85ea (inc. all supplies, grazing board and wine tasting).

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

We also have our annual September Open Day. No booking is required and its free entry. We will have tastings, live music and Shaka Dumplings catering. There will be chairs available, however just incase pack a blanket to sit on the grass.

56 Moorialup Road, Porongurup

www.shepherdshutwines.com.au

PCA

The Porongurup Community Association Inc. is a 100% volunteer group who's objective is to foster community spirit and fellowship in the Porongurup. The Porongurup Hall is managed by the (PCA). Events at the hall include art exhibitions, balls, craft groups and music performances.

For your free membership and further information please go to www.poronguruphall.asn.au.

Your PCA Team

President: Scott Drummond, Treasurer: Fiona Glen, Secretary: Vacant

Committee: Leanne Cluett, Lucia Quearry, Sayah Drummond, Susie Woytaszek, Dylan Kennedy

Please support our local businesses:

Please check business website and Facebook for current hours...

Castle Rock Estate

2660 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 9853 1035

Wine tastings, cheese platters. 7 days, 10 am to 4.30 pm. www.castlerockestate.com.au

Duke's Vineyard

1328 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 9853 1107

Wine tastings and art gallery. Friday to Monday, 11 am to 4.30 pm. www.dukesvineyard.com

Ironwood Estate

2191 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 9853 1126

Wine tastings, morning & afternoon tea and lunch. Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. www.ironwoodestatewines.com.au

Karribank Mountain Country Wellness Retreat

1983 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 0408 882 200

Recently renovated heritage café, tavern and accommodation. Sunday afternoon entertainment. www.karribank.com.au

Maleeya's Thai Cafe

1416 Mount Barker, Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 9853 1123

If you want to try this popular café you had better book ahead. Usually open for dinner Friday and Saturday night, and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. www.maleeya.com.au. Closed for winter break until 22 August 2025. But their nursery is open by appt.

Porongurup Chalets

3 Bolganup Rd, Porongurup PH: 0493 219 850

A-Frame chalets at the entry road to the range. www.porongurupchalets.com

Porongurup Range Tourist Park

7 Boxhill Rd, Porongurup PH: 0404 062 943

Powered and non powered camp sites. www.poronguruprangetouristpark.com.au

Porongurup Tearooms and accommodation

1972 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup PH: 9853 1110

Enjoy breakfast, lunch, morning or afternoon tea, gifts, art and fuel. Open 7 days. 9 am to 4 pm.

Woodlands Distillery

1455 O'Neill Rd, Porongurup

Whiskey, spirits and light meals. Friday to Tuesday, 11 am to 4 pm, track them at www.woodlandsdistillery.com or on Facebook

New to the area, why not meet the locals at our monthly Social Sunday



Check out the Friends of the Porongurup's

When: the first Sunday of every month

Where: Midday at the Silver Shed, Twin Creeks, 326 Knight Road, Porongurup, entry is south of the sculpture

Please bring a plate to share or something for the barbie and we'll catch up on what is happening within the Porongurup area

Occasionally the date changes, check with Susie on 0428 854 110

"Social Sundays" All welcome

You do not need to be a member of the Friends to join this social lunch!!

www.porongurup.org.au

The Barker Art Scene

There are some great local artists displaying in a range of media.
For who is open when check out this website...

www.thebarkerartscene.com