

Barbara McKenzie, Artist

Barbara McKenzie was born in England in 1938 and migrated with her parents to Australia at age 13. Although she enjoyed school generally, the subject that she always loved best was art. The interest was there from an early age but only to the extent of idle drawing and doodling. Her father was a hobby artist and her love for art probably started from him. However, raising four children did not leave time for painting so this was put on hold for many years.

Six years ago Barbara retired from the workforce. The children were all grown and had their own families, so she took up her paintbrush and paints to start her art again. She started going to Galleries and exhibitions with her (now) husband..... AND then she discovered pastels.

Barbara attended the Peninsula Art Society for about 18 months, under the expert tutelage of Jackie Long, and from there studied with Rosemary Todman-Parrant for two years, then did a year of portraiture under the tutelage of Agata Lelek. Currently she is attending classes with Lyn Mellady. Her love of the sea and sand dunes are the subject of many of her paintings, although she enjoys a wide variety of subjects.

Barbara exhibits regularly in Art Shows in Victoria. She is a current member of the Peninsula Arts Society and The Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia. She is also a member of "Studio 12" group. Recently she was awarded "Best Seascape for 2011" at the Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia's Annual Exhibition, for her painting "Surfing the Rocks".

To date, Barbara has sold paintings at Korumburra, Bayside, Chelsea, Mornington, Flinders, Sorrento, Rosebud and other Art shows, both under her present name and that of her previous signature of Barbara Shiel (she recently re-married). She has also done several commissions, and sold privately.

Although a late starter, art has become Barbara's passion, and most of her days (whilst her husband is out on the golf course) are spent either at her easel or visiting galleries, or out in the open air just looking for that perfect scene to paint or photograph.

<http://www.gallery247.com.au/barbara-mckenzie>

