

Bacchus: A New Creative Exhibition

South Gippsland Shire Council is supporting a new group exhibition through its ArtCube residency program, called Bacchus. The exhibition showcases works by four local artists, Fiona Blandford, Jan Learmonth, Sarah Parkes and Ellen Taylor, curated by Jasmin McNeill. For this exhibition, each artist has created new works in response to the winemaking process and surrounding landscape of Fleet Wines in Leongatha who recently hosted the red ArtCube.

Bacchus opens first at Fleet cellar door for three days from Saturday 6 June, before travelling to Coal Creek in Korumburra for an extended winter showing until August. The exhibition will be accompanied by a panel discussion on Saturday 8 August at Coal Creek, hearing from the artists alongside winery owners Justin and Lisa Jenkins.

In this exhibition, each artist responds to Fleet in a distinct way, from the red earth where the grapes are grown, through fermentation, to ritual celebration, to the human condition and the relationship to cultivation. The works on display span wine painting, photography, flora installations, found object weavings and mixed media sculptures.

The exhibition title, Bacchus, invokes Caravaggio's 1596 painting of the god of wine, not the divine ideal but a figure marked by time, depicted with aging fruit, rouged cheeks and dirt beneath his nails. This image of wine - epitomising physicality, earth and decay - is a fitting symbol for what the four artists bring to this exhibition.

Exhibition details

- **Fleet Wines**, Leongatha
June 6 - 8 2026, 11am - 5pm daily
Opening Event: June 6, 2pm
- **Coal Creek**, Korumburra
June 18 - August 24 2026, Thursday - Monday 10am - 4pm
Opening Event: June 19, 5pm
Panel Discussion: August 8, 2pm - 4pm

Quote from the Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council:

"South Gippsland Shire Council is continuing to support our region's creative industry by promoting and providing platforms for local artists to develop and showcase their work.

"The Bacchus exhibition will feature local artists whilst also creating valuable opportunities for our community to come together, experience art in unique settings, and connect through creative experiences. I encourage both locals and visitors to make time, when exploring our region, to visit Bacchus."

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