

Embrace



Welcome to the Embrace 2025 special edition of the Funds in Court newsletter.

Embrace is an event where clients showcase their talents and achievements to each other, their friends, families and the staff of Funds in Court and the wider Supreme Court.

It is a wonderful night of community where we celebrate the incredible achievements of artists who have faced and overcome challenges and transformed their experiences into stunning works of art.

We take great pride in supporting the creativity of our clients and providing them with a forum to display their skills. We hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter.

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Funds in Court (FIC) acknowledges the people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways upon which this newsletter was produced.
FIC acknowledges and pays respects to ancestors of this country, Elders, knowledge holders and leaders – past and present. FIC extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Official opening of Embrace 2025

Senior Master Fiona Steffensen



Senior Master Fiona Steffensen opened the event.

“Together with Judicial Registrar Woronczak, we couldn’t be more excited to be here, to meet you tonight, to see all the artwork and to enjoy the performances.

It’s no surprise to me that we have over 200 people here today because this is always such a joyful event.

We have a lot of special guests that are here today. In particular, we have 44 of our wonderful members of our Funds in Court community who are sharing their art with us today, their crafts, their performances and their poetry.

I’d really like to welcome you and thank you for sharing all your gifts with us tonight.”

Judicial Registrar Kim Woronczak



Judicial Registrar Kim Woronczak spoke next.

“Welcome to this very special evening that is Embrace 2025.

Thank you so much for coming to this celebration and for sharing your talents with us. We have already greatly enjoyed the opportunity that tonight has given to us to meet and talk with you all and to walk around and view your wonderful artworks and your crafts.

We cannot, absolutely cannot wait to see the performances that follow next!”

Embrace 2025**Gary Georgios, Chief Executive Officer - Funds in Court**

Gary Georgios, Chief Executive Officer of Funds in Court, spoke at the end of the night.

“Every performance and piece of art displayed here has the potential to move, inspire and spark new ways of seeing the world. They remind us that disability does not define one’s capabilities or limit the power of artistic expression.

This event is a testament to the ability of art to connect us, build empathy and foster greater understanding.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the artists and their families for sharing their gifts with us.

Let us continue to champion inclusivity, celebrate diverse talents, and create a world where everyone’s creativity is valued and embraced.”

Participants

On Friday 28 March, 44 clients displayed their diverse perspectives and personal stories through their artwork or performance, with some clients showcasing both.

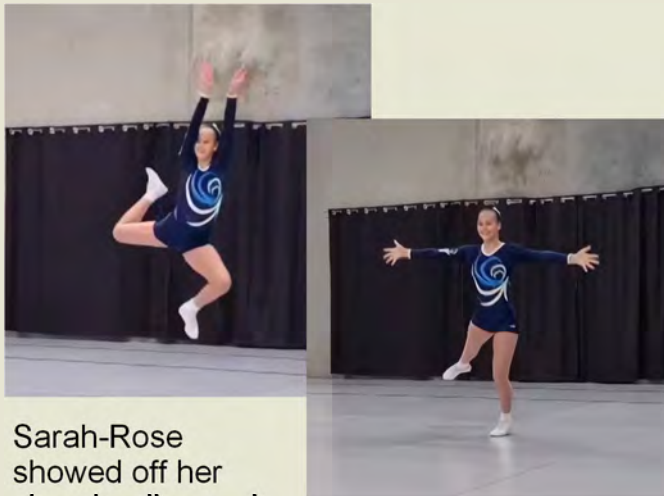
Congratulations to all the participants!

Alex	Dion	Jess	Nathan G	Salote
Baden	Donavelle	Jethro	Nathan J	Sarah-Rose
Callum	Emily	Jim	Nick	Shanae
Chris H	Geoffrey	Joliene	Nicole	Shane
Chris R	Gurrenah	Juanita	Rebecca	Sheridan
Colette	Henry	Justin	Robert	Sula
Daniel	Jaden	Louise	Rosalie	Teaghan
Danni	Jared	Luke	Ruth	Trevor
Darryl	Jessica	Maddison	Sally	

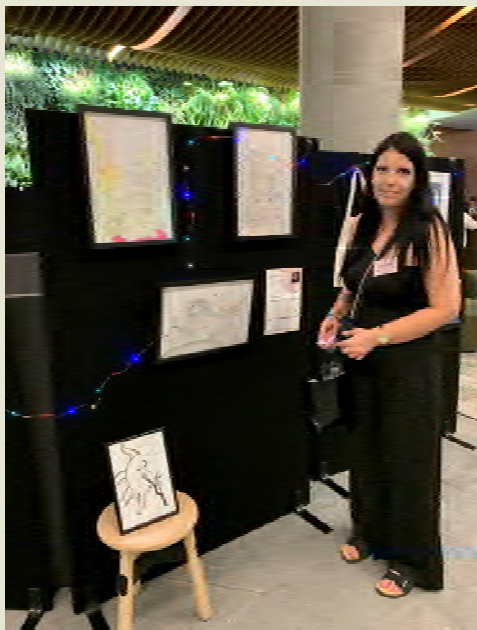
Thank you to all of the clients who participated in Embrace 2025, and the people who supported them to do so.

You can watch the performances and see the program from the night on our website, fundsincourt.vic.gov.au.

Photos from Embrace 2025



Sarah-Rose showed off her cheerleading and aerobics skills in her 'Run Away' routine. She also displayed three artworks



Teaghan with her artworks, 'Medusa', 'The Hulk', 'The Lion King' and 'Untitled'



Jared displayed two artworks, 'A tribute to Van Gogh' and 'Ned Kelly on the run'



Danni had the crowd singing along with his performance of 'We Are the World' by USA for Africa and enjoyed the night with his guests



Photos from Embrace 2025



Chris H performed and also displayed a table artwork piece, 'The Wheel of Conscience (Consonants)'



Colette, a passionate photographer, displayed two of her photographs



Baden displayed three artworks, 'Summer Time', 'Rock Pool' and 'Sea Creature'



(From left) Dawn Pinto, Director Client Services, Baden's friend Alex, Baden, and Renata Mayne, Senior Client Liaison Officer



Donavalle displayed her painting 'Japanese Cherry Blossom', coasters and a mirror mosaic



Maddison displayed three artworks, 'Hart', 'The Night' and 'White Rabbit'

Photos from Embrace 2025



Ruth brought back summer memories as she performed her poem about the Australian Open tennis tournament



Salote sang her original song 'Struggle is Real', which she wrote for her nephews and nieces



Gurrenah displayed his artwork 'Perfection'. This is an art style he has been developing for two years



Salote also displayed her two artworks 'Burnt Sunrise' and 'Beautiful Woman'

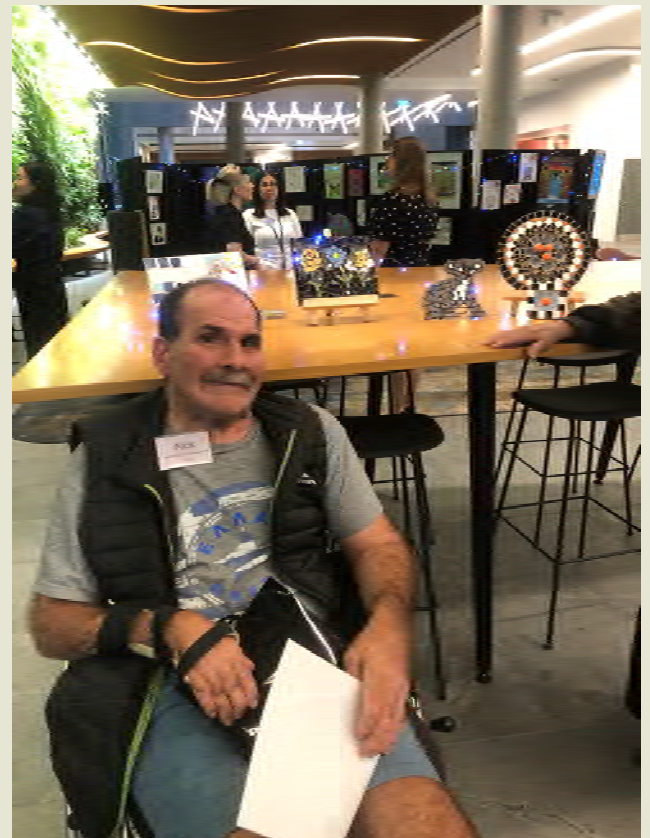
Photos from Embrace 2025



Chris R showed off her love of animals in her three artworks, 'Skinny Cat', 'Bernie and Basil' and 'Nature at its Best'



Dion displayed his plastic diorama of a 'Dornier DO 335 Arrow' plane and crew



Nick showed three nature-inspired mosaics, 'The Flowers', 'Orange Circle and Little Orange Square (and Koala)' and 'The Seagull'



(From left) Gary Georgios, Chief Executive Officer of Funds in Court, John Bolitho, member of the Funds in Court Service Advisory Committee, Nigel Jarvis, Community Liaison Advisor, and the Honourable Justice O'Meara, who represented the Honourable Chief Justice Niall

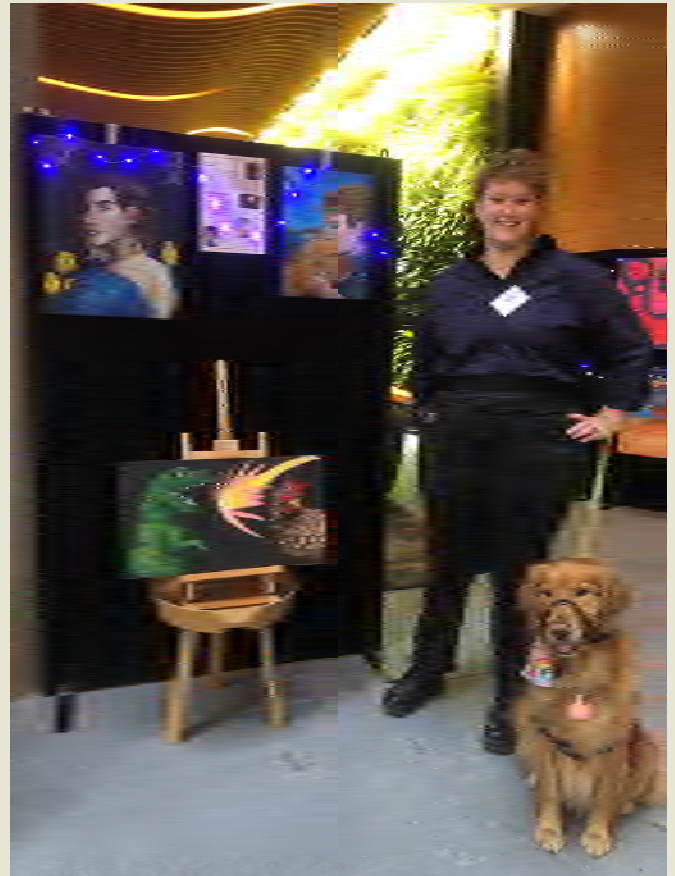
Photos from Embrace 2025



Senior Master Fiona Steffensen (right) and Judicial Registrar Kim Woronczak thoroughly enjoyed the event



Geoffrey displayed his photograph 'Freedom'.
Geoffrey enjoys exploring Melbourne and photographing the buildings



Alex poses next to their artwork with dog Daisy. Daisy is featured in one of Alex's artworks, 'My Anchor'



Juanita displayed her artwork 'Koori Colours', which features the Koori flag, turtles, snakes, lizards and sticks

Jaden has a passion for working with glass. He shared two of his glass mosaics and one leadlight piece

Photos from Embrace 2025



Jim with his three paintings, 'The Tiger in Me', 'Smiles and Laughter at Physiotherapy' and 'My Sister Alex'



Louise shared her artwork 'Dancing', which she created during her Visual Arts studies at TAFE



Justin displayed three of his photographs, 'Full Moon at Midnight', 'Burning Sunrise' and 'Embrace'. Justin uses his mobile phone to take unfiltered photographs



Nathan G took us all back to the 1980s with his artistic tribute to the band Bucks Fizz



Nicole displayed two artworks, 'Patsy Cline' and 'Elf on the Shelf'. The 'Patsy Cline' piece can double as a plant pot

Photos from Embrace 2025



Henry displayed a selection of his colourful origami



The guests enjoyed walking through the artwork that was on display



Rebecca showed off her love of all things The Beatles, particularly John Lennon, with her cyanotype photography prints and bags



Nathan J displayed two of his photographs and a range of tea towels printed with his photographs and original artwork

Photos from Embrace 2025



Robert shared his colourful artwork 'Mountains of Kakadu'



Rosalie next to her two watercolour paintings, 'Peacock' and 'Barbra "Babs" Streisand'

Shane displayed his Lego models of two cars and the 'Mona Lisa'



Sally entertained the crowd with two songs on the night, and displayed three artworks—an oil painting, jigsaw and watercolour



Photos from Embrace 2025



Sheridan had the crowd clapping and singing along with her rendition of Shania Twain's 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman'

The crowd enjoyed the evening, filled with art, conversation and connection



Thank you to all the clients, families, friends and staff of Funds in Court and the wider Supreme Court who made Embrace 2025 a brilliant night!

Embrace will be back in 2027. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join our client feedback group

We want to get regular feedback from clients about our services and improvement plans. To do this, we have created the Client Consultation Group. This group meets regularly to discuss these topics.

If you are interested in finding out more about this group, please contact our Community Liaison Advisor, Nigel Jarvis. You can email Nigel at feedback@fundsincourt.vic.gov.au or call him on 1300 039 390.

We are improving our website

We are improving our website, fundsincourt.vic.gov.au. We have changed the website design to make it:

- easier to read
- easier to navigate
- more accessible.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for the website. You can use our online [Feedback form](#) or talk to our Reception staff on 1300 039 390.