



Newsletter, Tree Veneration Society, December 2025



The TVS weavers – Auds, Penny, Vanessa’s son Max, Vanessa and Hobart, with the *Wave of Change*, at Rising Tide Protestival, Nov 27-Dec 2, 2025. Photo: supplied

TVS ACTIVISM

Rising Tide Protestival, Newcastle

TVS had a strong presence at the Rising Tide Protestival in Newcastle. Audrey Egan brought a bicycle-based artwork called *Sheet Mobile*, highlighting that old growth trees are still being pulped for toilet paper. Auds and Adrienne Hunt helped oversee the Bob Brown Foundation’s Forest Hub, where the forest animals on display — koala, possum, swift parrot, python, greater glider and masked owl — were made by Paula Broom, Adrienne Hunt and Graham Wackett (de facto member, pictured below). The forest log was created by Vanessa Wright with Heidi Yuko, and the bird soundtrack was by Louise Fowler-Smith. The concept and execution were led by Doro Boebeck and Heidi Yuko of the BBF, with input from TVS members.

The major TVS contribution was the community weaving *The Wave of Change*. The project was driven by **Vanessa Wright** and **Audrey Egan**, with **Penny Simons** playing a central role sharing her extensive weaving knowledge, guiding the artists and participants and keeping the work on track. **Hobart Hughes** designed



Audrey Egan with her *Sheet Mobile*
Photo: Hobart Hughes

and fabricated the loom frame, and **Terhi Hakola, Matthew da Silva** and other artists contributed to the making. The final woven piece was exceptional and demonstrated what collaborative community art can achieve.

Jenny Brown was present as a videographer, documenting activity across the Protestival. **Elizabeth Gervay** and **Paula Broom** joined the People’s Blockade, bringing TVS badges for the weavers and supporters.

The weaving installation, the shared making and the collective effort created a strong and memorable TVS contribution to Rising Tide. Next year we hope to prepare earlier so we can create more artworks in collaboration with and for Bob Brown Foundation, Rising Tide and other protest events.



Community Wave Weaving, work-in-Progress. Photo: Jood Clough



The community Wave Weaving at Rising Tide Protestival, 30 November 2025. Photo: Paula Broom



Graham Wackett (honorary TVS member) in the Bob Brown Foundation hub’s rainforest tent
Photo: Adrienne Hunt



Bob Brown Foundation Tent Rainforest,
Photo: Paula Broom

WORKSHOPS

City of Canada Bay - National Tree Day

TVS delivered three creative activities for City of Canada Bay on National Tree Day on 27 July. Workshops were led by Elizabeth Gervay, Lou Nade and Paula Broom and included drawing, frottage and collage, and simple nature sculpture. The sessions were lively, accessible and warmly received.



Drawing, frottage and nature sculpture workshops, National Tree Day, Canada Bay. Photos: Canada Bay Council and Paula Broom

“In nature nothing exists alone.”
Rachel Carson

North Sydney Council - Creating Wellbeing

Following on from the successful workshops TVS ran for North Sydney Council earlier in the year, Council asked us to run further workshops for their “Creating Wellbeing” series in the Ros Crichton Room inside the Ted Mack Civic Park near Council chambers. We delivered another series of monthly nature-focused workshops from July to December. Sessions included drawing, painting, stitching and weaving. Participants were very positive about the workshops and shared this with North Sydney Council. Now four more workshops have been scheduled for early 2026.



Creating Wellbeing workshops, North Sydney Council - Penny Simons, Sue Stevens & Paula Broom, July, August, October 2025. Photos courtesy of the artists.

Whilst our workshops continue with North Sydney Council, Woollahra and Maroubra Libraries, Randwick and Waverley Council’s have been approached. A big thank you to TVS members making workshops happen.

EXHIBITIONS

TVS did not present an exhibition in 2025, and several efforts to secure opportunities for 2026 were unfortunately unsuccessful, including the Yarilla Arts and Museum proposal that **Adrienne Hunt** worked so hard on. We are grateful for the energy that went into these applications, even when the outcomes were not what we hoped for.

Broadhurst Gallery: Whispers from the Canopy

We are now pleased to be moving ahead with planning for *Whispers from the Canopy*, our upcoming exhibition at the Broadhurst Gallery at Hazelhurst Arts Centre, running from 23 January to 10 February 2026 with installation on 21 January. A working group of TVS members — **Sue Stevens, Penny Simons and Terhi Hakola** — kindly took over coordination from Diane while she was overseas, and from Louise and Paula due to other commitments, including the JACC submission. The exhibition explores trees as quiet witnesses to memory, resilience and environmental change.

Matthew da Silva has engaged a videographer, and they are gathering material about TVS, including filming the weaving and talking to Louise, for a possible video for *Whispers from the Canopy*.

“A tree can be only as strong as the forest that surrounds it.”

Peter Wohlleben

“By inviting in these experiences of interconnectedness we can enhance our sense of belonging to our world.”

Joanna Macy



An install at Broadhurst Gallery, Hazelhurst Art Centre, May 2025, photo: Paula Broom

OTHER NEWS

Search for a TVS Studio Space

TVS reached Round 2 of the Joynton Avenue Creative Space assessment process. Although not successful in the final stage, the experience strengthened our thinking around community-based creative practice. Encouraged by the North Sydney Council staff who invite us to run workshops, we have recently applied for a studio residency at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. Thanks to everyone who got back to us at such short notice about being a part of this. We are expecting the outcome before Christmas and will advise then.

WhatsApp Groups

TVS has several WhatsApp groups to keep communications somewhat organised, including an Executive group, a General group and a Workshops group.

If you have not already joined and would like to be added to the **General** group, please email **Paula** at pb-gw@bigpond.net.au with your **mobile number**.

If you would like to be added to the **Workshops** group, please email **Elizabeth Gervay** at eagervay@gmail.com with your **mobile number** and a description of the workshop you can offer and any good, relevant photos. This helps Elizabeth pitch our available workshops to councils and organisations.

Update Your Artist Profile

There are still several TVS members who do not yet have an artist profile on our website. If you would like to be included, or if your current profile needs updating, please email a short artist bio with a couple of photos of your work to **Jane Green** at jmsgreen@gmail.com.

THANKS, AND APPRECIATION

A big thank you to Jane Green, who maintains our website. This is a significant ongoing job and we appreciate all her effort.

Thank you also to Sue Stevens, our Treasurer, who carries a large amount of administrative work on behalf of TVS. Her contribution is very much appreciated.

And thank you to the entire Executive and all members who have contributed their time, skills and energy throughout the year. TVS continues to exist because of the generosity and commitment of its community.

Wishing everyone a gentle and restorative summer break. We look forward to reconnecting and creating with you in 2026.



Harbour view near Coal Loader, Waverton, 2024, Photo: Paula Broom

“In some Native languages the term for plants translates to ‘those who take care of us.’”

Robin Wall Kimmerer
{from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, 2013}