GIS Username: **Celia**

Joined: **April 2008**

Posts: **454**

Most Active In: **the “NSBR” (non-scrapbook related) forums**

Alum of:

Celia’s Blog: See Me In NY

I’m known to many people as Celia (including on the GIS forum), however my full name is Cecilia and I answer to both and others. I moved to New York City in August 2003 from Melbourne Australia. I work in the city in education and live in a wonderful apartment with another friend from the same company. In Australia I worked in schools and left principal position of a primary school to come and work in schools in NYC. I also left the really active amateur theatre world in Melbourne to be a really active theatre-goer in NYC.

**When we caught up with Celia and asked her to give us a little insight to her life as a scrap-booker…this is what we found out:**

I was lucky enough to start scrapbooking in 2001 when a friend of my sister’s invited us to an introductory workshop about scrapbooking. I was hooked from the word go and did some pages and albums before I came with my two suitcases to NYC. After a few years in NYC I decided I wasn’t getting to know enough people in the city, other than those I worked with, so joined a meetup in Manhattan and made some great friends. At the first meeting, I met Hillary from the NYCScraps website and in that forum I met and did a class with Debbie Hodge. I was blown away by her dedication and thoroughness and friendship. When I heard that she was setting up her own forum and classes I joined (I was a little slow in getting going, something I regret!). The friends I have made at GIS have been generous in their support both personally and creatively- they are gems!

All of my family live in Australia and so each year during the school summer vacation in NYC I head home for a long vacation with family and friends. So my scrapbooks include pages of my travel throughout the US, as well as other tours I take with friends, through Europe (it’s so close to the US compared to the journey from Australia) and Canada. Then when I am home I love photographing the area around my holiday house at Aireys Ilet on the Great Ocean Road. It is a truly glorious place on earth!

I tend to scrap at odd times either on the weekend and occasionally during the week. We have a dining room table where I can spread out and this involves moving paper and supplies out of their storage space in the hall cupboard/closet and returning them out of sight when I’ve finished. I’ve managed to set up another narrow table by my desk in the bedroom to widen the space and hopefully get more scrapping done. When it comes to doing art journaling the space goes up an extra notch of needing to keep things in check. I put out a shower curtain liner on the table and then try not to spread too much paint, glue, spray ink and paper scraps around.

I don’t think I have any style at all- I tend to try to keep to clean lines and then get overwhelmed by it all. I really what to have things the chart my travels and experiences of living in another country. As I don’t have children I don’t have the family or need to hand on to future generations.

I love different letters and font and find it really difficult to go past them.

I’d love to have one of those big glue guns- don’t even know the correct name for it so how can I ever hope to get one?!

I want to learn stamping but I’m scared! I think once I start I’ll never stop and I’ll end up with even more mountains of stuff and I’ll need more than one shipping container to eventually go back to Australia!

The beauty of nature inspires me! Particularly Central Park--can one have too many photos of Central Park in the snow? In the fall? Or of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens in spring?

My favourite GIS classes have taken me on different but converging journeys. Debbie’s “Scrap Yourself” and “Scrap Your Everyday Life” classes led me to finding a new voice in my scrapbooking and enabled and encouraged me to look at my life here in NYC and in Australia, in different ways. Another class that provided a big development in my creative journey was Dina Wakley’s Masterful Art Journaling class, which freed my thinking up to look even more at the colours and techniques and work of artists in the world around me.

“It’s Sunday UNWIND” is a layout I really love because it brings together many of the things I have learned at GIS and about myself. I became much more confident about journaling and could confidently express what my life is like as well as using the “sticker” technique and using multiple shots in different ways- all of which are of the ordinary parts of my life.

These wonderful friends at GIS just keep on giving … their friendship, support and creative talents. Thank you all it’s great to have so many wonderful giving friends in the US and around the world.