

Albury-Wodonga Artists Society Inc.

The Paintbox, Jenny Craig Building (Target Car Park), Smollett Street, Albury

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PRESIDENTIAL SPATTERINGS

The autumn rains are here at last, which is sufficient to cheer us all up after what has been a very hot and dry period. The leaves will soon be at their best-so that those of us who paint landscapes can dust off some unused reds and yellows! I look forward to my annual struggle with poplar trees-one day I'll get them right!!

At the last general meeting there was a long and involved discussion in regard to our forthcoming move. Although the vote was to continue making arrangements with the Albury Wodonga Sports Fishing Club (AWSFC), it was obvious that there are legitimate concerns held by a number of our members. It is my fervent belief that most of those fears can and will be allayed once the move is made and we all have had time to adjust and settle in. I hope that all members, regardless of their initial stance on the matter, can work together to make our new home as comfortable and friendly as possible. If at some time in the future an opportunity arises for us to have our own premises, then of course that will be a matter to pursue at that time.

The **Buffalo Paint Out** is our next activity. Don't forget that any member is welcome to join us for the Wednesday the 29th of March - please ring me on 02 60 760516 to arrange a meeting place.

There has already been some members indicate their intention to attend the **Amanda MacLean workshop** at the end of May. Entry form was in last month's newsletter. I would appreciate people giving me an **early** notice of their intention to participate-it means fewer knots in the tummy and I've had enough of those lately!!

As usual if you wish to be a spectator, then \$10 per day will get you through the door. List of requirements will be **posted** to all participants.

The **Camberwell bus trip** is still seeking support. Remember, if there are not sufficient numbers by the closing date of Friday April 7th, then it will not go ahead. Come on AWAS members-please consider this one if you possibly can!

If you notice a slightly changed appearance to this month's newsletter, it is because we have a new editor. Sheryl Phillips has resigned from the position due to increasing family and other commitments. Thank you so much Sheryl, for your efforts over the past few years. I do hope, on behalf of all of us I'm sure, that this will allow you at least a little more time to paint-and you surely deserve that.

Finally, a special thank you to Marilyn Byrnes for stepping in to take over the task. Believe it or not, I get the impression that she is rather looking forward to the experience! It would be great if occasionally members could contribute-news of your painting holiday, a book review or reports on new materials. These are all ways in which ordinary members can enrich the lives of their fellows. Please give it some thought. If you can't use a computer, then hand write your article and one or other of us will gladly type it.

Finally, a quiz. My hairline is a cool colour. Why?

**PETER GRIFFEN
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM
WORKSHOP**

This workshop is to run by Sheryl Phillips and will be held in September, probably the 9th or 10th. Sheryl will get back us.

Also Warwick Fuller is still under negotiations.

The Mt Buffalo trip is organised for the 29th of March. Steve suggested anyone that wanted to go up for the day is to contact him so that he can give them a place to meet.

The Camberwell trip is now under way and members are to notify the organiser if they mean to go. If the numbers are not reached by the cut off day the trip will be off.

To make this trip viable we will need 25 people so bring a friend and don't miss this opportunity to see the work of leading artists in Australia.

Paddington Market Stall

Meg is still trying to arrange this and will let us know of her progress

Our Future Home

There were a few concerns over the new premises 'The Fishing Club' but after much debate the President put it to a vote. There were three against the move, and the rest present voted for the move. President assured members that no tenancy agreement would be signed until it had been tabled at the next meeting.

Peter Mol had kindly offered space in his lovely home but the committee felt it would be an invasion of his privacy.

LIFE DRAWING



WHEN?

1pm-4pm
Sunday 2nd April

WHERE?

Paintbox Gallery
(Unless change of venue when members will be advised)

COST?

Members \$10
Non-members \$15

CONTACT

Marilyn Byrnes 60235248

**CANCELLATION OF
PORTRAIT SESSION**

Due to Easter Saturday falling on our monthly portrait afternoon the next portrait gathering will be May 20th.

WODONGA PLANT FARM ART EXHIBITION

One of our newer members 'IRENE
DERMER' is holding an art exhibition.
Her work consists of some exquisite
watercolour paintings along with works in
oil. Irene directed two art galleries in
Bateman's Bay, before returning to live in
Wodonga.

The exhibition runs from the 1st of May for
six weeks.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO
APPLAUD OUR FORMER
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
FOR HER WONDERFUL
WORK....SHERYL
THANK-YOU**

AWAS WEBSITE:

www.awartsoc.org

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**Happy Easter to all
our Valued
Members**



THOUGHT...

*'I hear and I forget, I see and I
remember, I do and I
understand'.*

I write with a sense of impending doom regarding developments towards moving to new premises. The commitment of the Society towards an agreement with Albury Wodonga Sports Fishing Club (AWFSC) appears to have progressed without full consent of the membership, which properly, should have been put to a Special General Meeting of the Society due to the long term financial commitment involved.

Instead, at the monthly committee meeting on Wednesday 15 March last, some copies of an argument for proceeding with an agreement with AWSFC were circulated to a few members and its contents were read to the meeting. Hurriedly, it would appear, a motion was put to the vote of those present without reasonable time for debate, or consideration of the arguments raised. This procedure was improper, and should be re-visited at a Special General Meeting after members have been fully informed of the issues involved.

The aims, objectives and activities of the Society and AWSFC are incompatible – ours are based on providing suitable studio / workspace facilities for members' activities, and encouraging new and existing members with assistance towards pursuing their art.

Co-location in another organisation's meeting room with restricted time / day access is just not an acceptable accommodation provision. It would be naive to assume that we can expect increased usage of the premises after we enter into an initial agreement, because of the reasonableness of the parties involved. The Courts are full of such people whose reasonable expectations have not been met.

I have always considered that the proposed agreement with AWSFC would be a "marriage of convenience" with unequal partners, but it now appears to be a "shotgun wedding" due to the unseemly haste and lack of consultation with which matters are proceeding. What are we doing about a pre-nuptial agreement?

It should also be brought to members' attention that the generous offer of Pieter and Clara Mol to provide studio / workspace accommodation until we can find a more suitable home has been dismissed rather off-handedly. The issues raised against this proposal do not apply, as any visitor to the Mol property would soon be aware.

Some salient points:

- We have not yet been asked to quit our existing accommodation and it now seems likely that this will be many months away.
- Our society needs a permanent studio / workspace – not someone else's meeting room and our need for meeting room accommodation as such is very limited.
- Our activities require unfettered access if we are to continue as a developing community resource.
- Whilst the search for alternative suitable accommodation proceeds, Pieter & Clara have offered superb studio / workspace on an interim basis. Rejection of this offer appears to have been based on a lack of insight into their offer.

After 16 years as a member, I fear that we are looking down the path to oblivion if this proposal is to proceed.

Peter Doyle