



ALBURY - WODONGA  
ARTISTS SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

PAINTBOX STUDIO/GALLERY  
GATEWAY ISLAND, LINCOLN CAUSEWAY,  
PO BOX 1170,  
WODONGA, VICTORIA 3689

[www.awartsoc.org](http://www.awartsoc.org)  
[awas@awartsoc.org](mailto:awas@awartsoc.org)

MARCH, 2016

## Dates for your Calendar!

<b>Regular Groups</b>		
Every Tuesday	Oils - 10am – 4pm ( and others)	Co-Ordinator: Kata Kupresak
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Life Drawing - 1 – 4pm	Co-ordinators: Olga Juskiw and Gai Sutherland
Workshop -12 & 13th	Acrylic Group - 10am – 4pm	Co-ordinator: Nancy Robinson
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Portraits – 1 – 4pm	Co-ordinator: Elsie Reitenbach
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Pastels & Drawing – 10am to 4pm	Co-ordinator: Kathy Bruce
<b>Meetings</b>		
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Committee Meeting 8.30am	Secretary: Therese Davis
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	General Meeting 2.00pm	Secretary: Therese Davis
<b>Workshops</b>		
Acrylics 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am – 4pm	Co-ordinator: Nancy Robinson
<b>Other</b>		
Life drawing Exhibition opening - Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6pm. Everyone welcome. Please bring nibbles and drinks.	Co-ordinator: Olga Juskiw

For information on how to contact Committee members and Co-ordinators, refer to the list at the end of this newsletter.

## A Word from our President

February started off well with two new exhibitions – “Colour Me Happy” at the Plant Farm, and the “New Members Exhibition” at the studio, both of which are worth taking a look at. The “Colour Me Happy” exhibition is both colourful and vibrant, exactly as you might expect from its name, while the “New Members Exhibition” displays some great works from our newer members. This exhibition runs yearly, and new members are invited to use this opportunity to get their paintings up and seen. A few new members took up the offer, but it would have been great to see some more. As always, thanks to the hanging teams for their work.

Our first two formal workshops for 2016 are nearly here – Sumi-e on 27/28 February and Kelli McGregor Acrylics on 12/13 March – and I thank the coordinators Midori Treeve and Nancy Robinson for all their work in getting these workshops up and running. Pastels and Watercolour

workshops will be next, followed by oils. So hopefully there is something for everyone to get involved with.

Our General Meeting on Sunday 21 February was well attended, and I thank Jacqui Hemsley for coming and speaking to us about MAMA, and what it offers the community, as well as what it can offer AWAS. She was able to answer a number of questions about our upcoming exhibition at MAMA and I hope that a few more members have been encouraged to submit works for it. Keep painting, and don't forget to send me a photo of your painting! (see instructions separately emailed in February). I took a quick look at the upcoming exhibitions at MAMA and was pleased to see that our exhibition will be running concurrently with the MAMA National Photography Prize 2016 exhibition and with a design exhibition called "Resolved: Journeys in Australian Design" featuring works of 12 designers.

At the moment, the "Marilyn" exhibition (Marilyn Munroe) is running as the main feature at MAMA, with side galleries also worth a visit, including an exhibition by local artist Nat Ward. I was pleasantly surprised to enjoy the Marilyn exhibition, with some great photographs that anyone can appreciate, as well as videos and a section of paintings of Marilyn by a number of well known artists. For seniors it is great value at only \$12 entry.

Finally, don't forget to pop up to Canberra to see the Tom Roberts Exhibition at the National Gallery, now showing. Reports back from those who have already seen it are that it is great to see so many of his works on display, including some of his most well known ones, as well as lesser ones. The size and details of some of the works is truly impressive, and great to experience firsthand rather than simply from a text book. Another great way to get inspired!

Hope you enjoy your painting in March!

Barb Strand

## New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to our new members – Patricia Bartling (re-joining AWAS after many years living away from Albury), Sandi Gadd and Bernie Rebbechi.

May you enjoy your painting experiences at the Society and also enjoy the friendships and social events we have.

## Membership Receipts

There are still some receipts and membership cards in the plastic container on the table in the meeting room at the studio. Don't forget your membership card entitles you to discounts at some art shops and framers. This will be the last reminder to collect them.

## Spotlight On.....

### Carol Smith

Since Kindergarten, drawing and painting have always given me great pleasure: Drawing colourful designs and writing fairy stories with accompanying 'illustrations' with pencils or crayons were a favourite pastime. Being part of a large migrant family, struggling to establish ourselves in a new country, the funds for drawing materials were not often forthcoming so these things were treasured possessions.



My 'art career' faded into childhood distractions and puberty, and it wasn't until the nineteen sixties, as a young mum with two toddlers that the need for some creative outlet surfaced. Up to our necks in mortgage payments and other relentless bills there was once again not a lot of funds for art materials. (No Reject shop in those days). I managed to purchase a few

basic colours in oil paints and scrounged some Masonite board scraps from my dad, which I painted with flat white acrylic paint.

Not having an easel, balancing the board on the gas stove (jets off of course) sufficed very well. It was the perfect height and the metal things the pots sat on would hold the board in the right position. If any paint was splashed or spilt it was easily wiped off. The first creation hot off the stove was a picture of a wild elephant, somewhere in Africa raising lots of dust, copied in intricate detail from a magazine. When I proudly displayed it to my loving husband his comment was "That's really good but can you get it off the stove and cook some food. We're all hungry!" A few days later he brought some scrap timber home from work and made an easel.

Joined the Liverpool Art Society and met some great arty people. Time passed and finances improved. I enrolled in a class with Kay Nielsen, who was president of the society, an Arts graduate and accredited artist. Learnt some basics: gave up copying from magazines: entered a few competitions.

Moved to Albury in the seventies and joined a beginners' art class at Albury TAFE. Later, I experimented a bit with oils, charcoal, crayons



and good old Textas with colour washes.

After a prolonged artistic drought, I joined Albury Wodonga Artists Society about eight years ago where I met a wonderful group of like-minded people who have encouraged, supported and given me the opportunity of free advice from some very accomplished artists and art teachers! Being part of the society has rekindled my artistic spark. I enjoyed organising the 'Still Life' Saturday afternoons as it was a good chance to brush up observation and drawing skills.

These days oil pastel (I like to call it crayon) is my chosen medium. The hand movement is very therapeutic. Love the vibrant colours. But most of all that it is like paint on a stick and I don't have to wash brushes! Don't have a particular subject that I like to capture. Just whatever inspires me at the time. I like analysing the geometric shapes of things.

So that's my 'artistic' story. Thank you for asking me to tell it.

Carol Smith

## **AWAS Groups - News and Reports**

### **LIFE DRAWING**

The exhibition of the works done at the 4 day workshop, held in January, will be at the Paintbox studio from 8<sup>th</sup> March until 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

An informal opening of the exhibition will be held on Friday evening 11<sup>th</sup> March at 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and please bring a plate and drink.

#### **Life Drawing Special Sessions – From Light to Dark**

Draw and paint the Human Form within an environment in which strong light interplays with contrasting darkness. Be prepared to experiment with various media to capture the play of light and dark on the human figure.

When: Mondays – 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Time; 7 – 9pm

Models: a different model each night.

Cost: members -\$10; non-members \$15. Payment on the night for each session.

Note: A head torch can be very handy if you have one or can borrow.

Olga Juskiw - Life Drawing Co-ordinator

### **ACRYLICS GROUP**

On Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup> we were challenged by the use of a Restricted Colour Palette. It was an enjoyable day with everyone getting involved and producing varied and interesting work.

We are looking forward to our Workshop with Kelli McGregor on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 10 a.m. – 4.p.m. There is still one vacancy for this, so if interested, please contact me by email or mobile phone (as listed in key contacts).

There will be no normal Acrylic Day in March and the Studio will not be available to others within Studio hours on our Workshop weekend.

Thank you for your support,

Nancy Robinson (Co-ordinator)

## PASTELS GROUP AND DRAWING GROUP

We have now extended this Saturday monthly group to include all drawing mediums. Of course oil and soft pastels can be used but maybe you would like to use charcoal, graphite pencils, inks, coloured pencil or anything else you care to bring along.

A pastel workshop tutored by Catherine Hamilton will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July – see “Workshops” in this Newsletter.

## Exhibition Notes

Please drop off and collect your paintings at the designated times.

Don't forget to attach an envelope, with \$2.00 in it, to the back of your painting. Write your name on the envelope. This money helps to offset the cost of brochures, posters and publicity.

**Studio** – paintings are to be at the studio (on the black table, middle room) from the Friday to the Sunday before the hanging date. Please collect any unsold paintings promptly when an exhibition finishes – we do not have storage space at the studio.

**Plant Farm** – Bring your paintings to the Plant Farm at 2 o'clock and take down your work from the previous exhibition (if applicable). This will then give the hanging team a clear go to hang the new exhibits Please arrange for your painting to be delivered and picked up from the Plant Farm if you cannot do this yourself (the kind member who has acted as a courier now has a smaller car.)

## Studio Exhibition

**Life Drawing Exhibition** – 8 March to 3 April (only for artists who participated in the 4 day workshop in January).

Works are to be at the studio from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Paintings in progress (or completed and are not part of the studio exhibition) are not to be on easels or around the walls of the studio. This also applies to painting equipment etc. Please take your belongings home unless you are returning the next day.

These detract from the exhibition, are a hazard to visitors and also have to be moved by other members who come in use the studio.

Christina Zey and Kathy Bruce

## Plant Farm Exhibition

**Faces and Figures** – 5<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> June. So you have a month to work on this subject. Don't forget only two paintings per member.

## About Our MAMA Exhibition

Dates for our exhibition are now confirmed 12<sup>th</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> June. Works ready by 12<sup>th</sup> April.

## Workshops

2016 is proving to be a busy year for workshops. There is a total of five workshops, either run already or in the pipeline. Life Drawing was in January, Sumie is on as I'm finalising this report, Acrylics is in March, Pastels in July and Watercolour later in the year (maybe October).

A very big thank to the members who have organised these workshops, it is a very time consuming task but very much appreciated.

### Sumi-e Workshop Report

Twelve participants have just had a fabulous weekend playing with ink, brushes and many, many sheets of paper. Our tutor, Emi Kamataki, from Melbourne was an excellent tutor guiding us gently through the basics of Sumi-e (Japanese brush painting). Sumi means ink; sumi-e means painting with ink.



Although originally derived from China, Japanese brush painting has many differences. Sumi-e is a very ancient tradition which has its spiritual roots in Zen Buddhism and takes many years, or even a lifetime, of practice to reach a high level of skill. Obviously we are very raw beginners, but we all enjoyed ourselves and ripples of laughter and sighs could be heard around the room as we attempted to make good marks on the paper.

The paper is very absorbent and, like watercolour, no corrections can be made. Once the ink hits the paper that's it; so making each stroke is a challenge. Holding the brush differs from the way we hold a pen or brush and placing the brush on different angles produces different strokes. Tonal variations and gradations are achieved by the pigment to water ratio and also the way the brush is loaded with ink. We used bottled ink and Emi demonstrated the making of ink with an ink stick and water on an ink stone.

*The painting depicts bamboo in the rain – branches bending down with the weight of the water. Emi did this in class and it was just clipped on the studio blind.*

Most of the first day was spent making some basic linear strokes, trying to control the amount of water and ink, the angle of the brush and the shape that produces, the pressure and lift off to make thick and thin lines and tapering to a point. By the afternoon we had produced a pile of sheets of paper and then we applied what we had learnt to paint bamboo. Bamboo is one of the four “friends” in Sumi-e and each pertains to a season. Bamboo signifies summer and represents gentle strength and flexibility as it bends without breaking and, being hollow, it “symbolizes the tranquillity of inner



peace when one is empty of worldly concern.” The other friends are – Autumn, the Chrysanthemum; Winter, plum blossom; Spring, the orchid. On day two – more bamboo, warming up with repeating strokes and the bamboo we did on the first day; then extending this by painting bamboo in the wind and bamboo in the rain. These basic strokes for bamboo were then applied to painting fish and willow.

*The photo on the left is of Emi with her beautiful silk painting she brought to show us.*

What an inspiring, wonderful weekend! We are very grateful for the opportunity to be introduced to a completely different art form and something of the culture of Japan. Many, many thanks to Midori who organised this workshop. She engaged the tutor and provided accommodation for her; she purchased the equipment require and facilitated the smooth running of the two days.

Judy Balfour

### **Acrylics**

The Acrylics workshop will be held at the studio on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> and Sun 13<sup>th</sup> March; tutor Kelli McGregor; website – [kellimacart.com.au](http://kellimacart.com.au) Information about this was in the December Newsletter. One space left – contact Nancy Robinson (Acrylics Co-ordinator) if interested.

## Pastels

“Innovative Pastels” is our winter workshop July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with Victorian Pastel artist Catherine Hamilton. This workshop will include techniques of painting with pastel on Canvas.

Below are two examples of Catherine’s pastel work on canvas.



Catherine has been painting professionally and teaching for over 20 years. She conducts workshops throughout Australia and also leads overseas art trips. She is a past President of the Pastel Society of Victoria. You can view works by her by accessing their website and clicking the “members” option. [www.vicpastel.com.au](http://www.vicpastel.com.au)

While Catherine has gained recognition for her portraits, she also paints the human form, landscape and still life. Background: Born in Surrey, UK 1957. Studied Fine Art at Epsom School of Art, Surrey and Life Drawing at the Chelsea School of Art, London. Studied under renowned UK Portrait artist Ken Paine. She is a member of The Federation of British Artists, The

Australian Guild of Realist Artists and the McClelland Guild of Artists. Catherine has had many Exhibitions in the UK and Australia and is represented in numerous galleries. At a solo portrait show May 2004 Robert Wade, who opened the show, is quoted as saying “This is one of the most exciting shows I have seen in many years”.

Perhaps we can catch some of this excitement in our Innovative Pastel workshop!

If you think you may attend, please contact the co-ordinator Kathy Bruce: [kathleenbruce@bigpond.com](mailto:kathleenbruce@bigpond.com) or 02 6025 5913 so we can confidently book Catherine before she leaves for her OS workshop tour in April.

Kathy Bruce



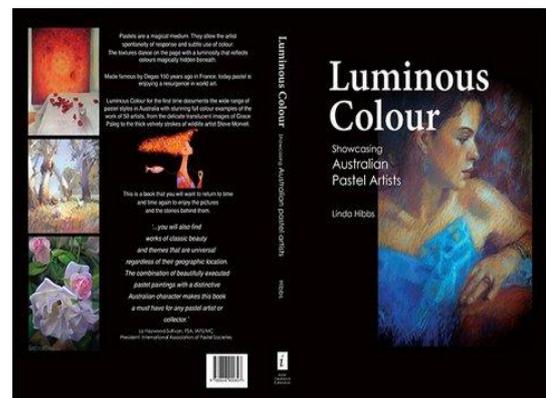
## More Pastels News

*‘The combination of beautifully executed pastel paintings with a distinctive Australian character makes this book a must have for any pastel artist or collector.’*

Liz Haywood-Sullivan, President International Association of Pastel Societies

This a beautiful book in full colour, showcasing four works each of 50 artists that is inspirational for any artist. Pages of the book can also be seen on my website:

[www.indahcreationspublications.com.au](http://www.indahcreationspublications.com.au)



## Studio Space to Rent at Yack Station

Kevin Poyner, the Director of “Yack Station” in Yackandandah has advised us that there are a number of artist studio spaces available for rent at this facility. At the station, there are 14 artist studio/workshop spaces approx. 14 sq.m. each, of which 7 are currently let. If an artist requires a larger space, the partitions can be removed easily to accommodate any possible need. The rent is \$55/week including gst and this increases proportionately in size. Double the size, double the rent. A floor plan and further information can be found at the Yack Station website [www.yackstation.com](http://www.yackstation.com) There is also a central gallery, used for sales display, workshops, or artist exhibitions. For those of you who have not yet visited this local artist hub, it is always worth a visit – be impressed by the setup, see artists at work, view the gallery, or have a coffee at the cafe there.

Contact: Kevin Poyner, Director  
Yack Station  
6 Turntable Lane  
Yackandandah  
02 6027 0954

## Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS)

Another year of wonderful lectures for 2016 for all interested in the arts. Notes explaining about ADFAS and brochures for this year’s program are available at the studio – nine lectures this year. The lectures are held at the Hothouse Theatre on a Friday evening – drinks and nibbles at 6pm and the lecture from 6.30 – 7.30. Cost - \$25 per lecture; come along and pay at the door.

The lecture in March should be of interest to many members. The topic is “Garden Voices – The History of Australian Landscape Gardening” and it will be presented by Anne Latreille, an Australian writer and journalist with a special interest in gardening. Anne will be addressing both contemporary and historic landscape designers, including Edna Walling and Ellis Stones.

For further information check the website [www.adfas.org.au](http://www.adfas.org.au). Albury Wodonga society is called Murray River. For any enquiries contact Judy Balfour Ph: 6043 3169 or [djbalfour@bigpond.com](mailto:djbalfour@bigpond.com) I can e-mail information about ADFAS and our 2016 program.

## A note from the editor

Our “Spotlight On....” is proving to be very popular. It is wonderful to get to know members and so many have interesting backgrounds, not just to do with art. Apparently quite a few members began life in Australia at Bonegilla and have either stayed or returned to live here proving what a great place Albury / Wodonga is!!!

A few members have sent profiles and photos to me – I am very grateful. So don’t be shy start to compile a few notes about yourself – what you may think is mundane or boring others will find fascinating and of interest. It is nice way to get to know each other a bit more.

Thanks – Judy

## Art Quote

*“Every artist was first an amateur”* Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Key Contacts

President	Barb Strand	Phone: 0412 688 507 Email: <a href="mailto:martinstrand@westnet.com.au">martinstrand@westnet.com.au</a>
Vice President	Heather Sparks	Phone: 02 6059 5306 Email: <a href="mailto:heathersparks@exemail.com.au">heathersparks@exemail.com.au</a>
Secretary	Therese Davis	Phone: 0400 052 151 Email: <a href="mailto:therese.davis@delwp.vic.gov.au">therese.davis@delwp.vic.gov.au</a>
Treasurer	Linda McMaster	Phone: 02 6041 1845 Email: <a href="mailto:allanlin@bigpond.net.au">allanlin@bigpond.net.au</a>
Newsletter Editor	Judy Balfour	Phone: 02 6043 3169 0439 953 903 Email: <a href="mailto:djbalfour@bigpond.com">djbalfour@bigpond.com</a>
Website Editor	Barb Strand	Phone: 0412 688 507 Email: <a href="mailto:martinstrand@westnet.com.au">martinstrand@westnet.com.au</a>
Life Drawing	Olga Juskiw and Gai Sutherland	Olga: Phone: 02 6021 8693 E-mail: <a href="mailto:olga.juskiw@icloud.com">olga.juskiw@icloud.com</a> Gai: Phone: 0430 436 930 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gai.esindi@gmail.com">gai.esindi@gmail.com</a>
Acrylics	Nancy Robinson	Phone: 0427 243 127 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nancyrobinson1803@gmail.com">nancyrobinson1803@gmail.com</a>
Portraits	Elsie Reitenbach	Phone: 02 6059 6298 E-mail: <a href="mailto:rreitenbach@southernphone.com.au">rreitenbach@southernphone.com.au</a>
Pastels	Kathy Bruce	Phone: 02 6025 5913 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kathleenbruce@bigpond.com">kathleenbruce@bigpond.com</a>
Water Colour	Jenny Wallace	Phone: 02 6026 4800 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jens@bigpond.com">jens@bigpond.com</a>
Oils	Kata Kupresak	Phone: 0412 766 313 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kkupresak@hotmail.com">kkupresak@hotmail.com</a>
Studio Exhibitions	Christina Zey	Phone: 02 6040 0045 or 0410 511 211 Email: <a href="mailto:cristina2zei@gmail.com">cristina2zei@gmail.com</a>
Plant Farm Exhibitions	Heather Sparks	Phone: 02 6059 5306 Email: <a href="mailto:heathersparks@exemail.com.au">heathersparks@exemail.com.au</a>