



ALBURY - WODONGA  
ARTISTS SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

PAINTBOX STUDIO/GALLERY  
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SEPTEMBER, 2016

## Dates for your Calendar!

<b>Regular Groups</b>		
Every Tuesday	Oils - 10am – 3pm All members are welcome to attend to paint in any media	Co-Ordinator: Kata Kupresak
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Life Drawing: 1 – 3pm	Co-ordinators: Olga Juskiw and Gai Sutherland
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Acrylic: 10am – 3pm	Co-ordinator: Nancy Robinson
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Portraits: 1 – 3pm	Co-ordinator: Elsie Reitenbach
<b>Meetings</b>		
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Committee Meeting: 8.30	Secretary: Therese Davis
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	AGM & General Meeting: 2.00pm	Secretary: Therese Davis
<b>Workshops</b>		
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept <b>CANCELLED</b>	Oils Workshop at AWAS with Christine Cafarella-Pearce <b>CANCELLED</b>	Co-ordinator: Kata Kupresak
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Watercolour Workshop with Julie Goldspink	Co-ordinator: Jenny Wallace

For information on how to contact co-ordinators or Secretary, refer to the list at the end of this newsletter.

## A Word from our President

Our workshops continue to be popular, and the pastel workshop in July with tutor Catherine Hamilton was no exception. As an attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed the two days of concentrated pastels. For a beginner like me, it was a great opportunity to learn a lot from an artist who is not only gifted, but has an incredible technical knowledge of pastels. I would like to thank Kathy Bruce for all her work in organising this.

During the workshop, it became apparent that Catherine Hamilton has an incredible knowledge of colour, and she has offered to run another workshop for us called “the Language of Colour”. This is a workshop in acrylics about colour, but essentially for all media. There are quite a few of us that think this will indeed be an exciting workshop, and at our last committee meeting, we made a decision to take Catherine up on this offer for 2017. So keep an eye out for more on this subject in the near future.

We have received notification from Bianca Acimovic of MAMA that our application for our “Whitelight” exhibition in 2017 had been approved by MAMA and tentatively set for 10 September to 3 October 2017. We are currently negotiating with MAMA as to costs for the exhibition, however these discussions have now been delayed until a new curator to replace Bianca has been recruited.

I am happy to say that we have finally finished the New Members’ Handbook, and this will now be distributed to new members upon their joining the Society. Thanks to Jill Scanlon for all her work on this. We have also improved the joining procedures, with committee members now taking on a hands-on role to welcome new members and introduce them to the society. If you are one of our newer members who would like to receive a copy of the handbook, please send an email to our Treasurer Linda McMaster.

Just a reminder that our AWAS Annual Exhibition is coming up on 15 November to 31 January. At the moment we are working on ways to better promote and market this event, as well as make it something special for our members. We are currently looking at the possibility of some small prizes and awards, but these are still under discussion. The exhibition is for all AWAS members (new and old, experienced and not so experienced), and is unthemed. I would like to encourage all of you to consider submitting one or more of your best recent works, as this is our main opportunity each year to showcase the breadth and depth of our members’ work.

Finally, I would also like to thank Kathy Bruce, who has agreed to assist Secretary Therese Davis with some of her duties. In particular, you will now be receiving emails from Kathy about things of interest to AWAS members.

Barb Strand

## Members News

We bid a fond farewell to Carol and Tim Gilbert as they make the big move further “down under” to their new home in southern Tasmania. They will be sorely missed and AWAS members are truly grateful for all the work Carol and Tim have done over the years for the society. We all wish you the very best for your new life in Tassie.

## Next Meeting: AGM and General Meeting

The AGM, followed by a General Meeting, will be on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.

Nomination forms are:

- At the end of this newsletter
- On the table in the meeting room
- Available on the AWAS website –double click on “Info for members”; scroll down to “Click here for AWAS Committee Member Nomination form”

## Spotlight On..... Jill Scanlon



My love of art began when I won a Certificate at the age of six from a Road Safety Campaign "Colouring In" competition. I progressed to drawing faces at the age of ten to make calendars, which my long suffering family dutifully hung up. I took Art "O" level at school instead of French and my art teacher informed me that I would begin to paint when I learnt to paint with a brush and not with a pencil! Not entirely encouraging I thought!

However, I discovered the truth of my Art teacher, when I purchased at the age of 18, a Rowney Oil Painting Set, while on holiday with my family in Ilfracombe in the West Country. I proceeded to pick some pansies and nasturtiums, stuck them in a

bowl and drew them on the oil painting paper provided in the art set. So graphite and oil do not mix! I had to learn to "draw" with a brush! Once I had mastered the "paint with a brush thing" not a pencil, I really loved oils, so I painted happily and my dad framed and then sold them!

I then branched out into crafts and I supplemented my student allowance with another art form, designing and then making dolls from wire and cloth, which I sold for the princely sum of 21/- (about

\$2). Since then I have always loved arts and crafts, joining with my husband to decorate/paint the 1:12 scale doll's houses he makes. I design dolls and make furniture for his houses. I also make toys of any kind, knitted and sewn. I sporadically sell these and my husband and I won the Dolls House 1st prize at the Albury Wodonga Doll, Bear and Hobby Show two years ago. My latest enterprise has been writing and illustrating a book dedicated to my grandson to

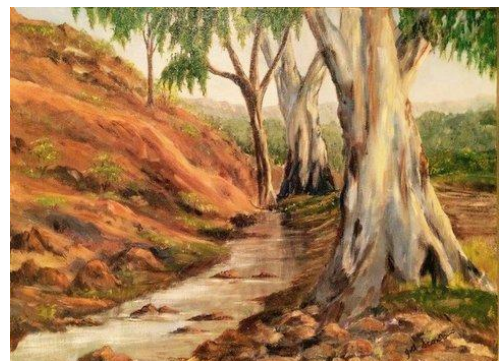


encourage him to read, as he has a phonological speech disorder and avoids reading!

In Art I have been to John Wilson oil painting workshops, where I have learnt a lot about technique and greatly enjoyed expanding my skills in oil painting.

Heather Sparks talked me into joining AWAS several years ago and I have never regretted it. I am a never ending story with Acrylic painting, hoping that one day I will enjoy it as much as oils! I have sold paintings at the Wandiligong Nut Festival, the Aspect Art Show and the Holbrook Art Show. It always gives me a thrill to think someone

other than my family actually has one of my paintings hanging in their home! I remain, however, a bit of an artistic dilettante!!



Jill Scanlon

## Workshop Reports

### “Innovative Pastels” Workshop with Catherine Hamilton – 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July.

In this workshop tutored by Catherine Hamilton, an artist from the Mornington Peninsula, members had the opportunity to learn some innovative techniques in the approach to painting with soft pastels on both canvas and specialised pastel paper. Her approach consisted of first applying an underpainting of bright colour to the support using acrylic paints or inks, then creating a “toothy” ground for subsequent pastel painting over the colour, using clear pastel primer.

Each participant came to the workshop with different prior experiences with the medium and with different expectations.

#### Here are some of the responses participants made after the workshop:

*“The resulting works that the class produced were a testimonial to Catherine’s teaching abilities, given that many of us were completely new to the world of pastel painting.”*

*“I loved the ink underpainting method she showed us and I came away inspired to continue exploring pastels over underpainting.”*

*“The workshop was inspiring-especially using inks to create a richly coloured ground on the Colourfix.” (Special pastel paper)*

*“I like how free the tutor was and how experimental she was.”*

*“The extra knowledge gleaned from the workshop has given me more confidence with the medium.”*

*“I learnt a lot from this workshop and will apply the use of more glowing colours to my underpainting and especially concentrate on the lost and found edges.”*

*“It was a fun workshop and Catherine is such a book of knowledge. She is an amazing teacher who builds confidence in her students.”*

*“I enjoyed Cathy’s entertaining approach to the workshop. She came across as an extremely experienced teacher knowledgeable on colour, pastel techniques and general artist information.”*

#### Handy Art tips:

- To enlarge your photo to canvas size; place pic on lower LHS of canvas, draw a diagonal up to the top RHS. Any point along the extended diagonal will give you a corner measure point for the horizontal/vertical edge of your new picture.
- Masking tape around your painting on paper- use low tack and cream coloured, not distracting coloured tape. Remove tape pulling AWAY from your artwork.
- Use complimentary colours for your underpainting for a more “glowing” effect.
- Apply pastel lightly –just “kiss the canvas.”

It was a stimulating weekend. We all appreciated the opportunity to learn from a tutor with a great depth of knowledge and she was extremely good at sharing her knowledge with us. Catherine’s



accommodation was at The Paddlesteamer Motel, located on the NSW side of the river, enabling an easy early morning riverside walk to our studio at Gateway village. We shared a delicious Thai meal at the Thai Puka on Saturday evening.

Thanks to all the participants who helped make this workshop happen, and to those who had input in this “collaborative report.”

Kathy Bruce - Workshop Co-ordinator



### **Oil Painting**

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Oil Painting workshop with Christine Cafarella-Pearce due to insufficient numbers. It is a shame when this happens as our Workshop Co-ordinators work really hard to secure the tutors and do all the background organisation. Also, of course, it is disappointing for those who registered to attend. Our tutors are professional artists, are experienced in conducting workshops and as they are very busy people with many commitments we always have to secure a booking with each of them well in advance. Thank you very much Kata for organising this workshop.

Please seriously consider attending a workshop (or two) in 2017.

### **Watercolour Workshop with Julie Goldspink**

This workshop is full. Many, many thanks to Jen Wallace for securing and organising this workshop, which judging by all the previous watercolour workshops Jen has organised, will be great and the participants are really looking forward to attending.

**2017 Workshops** are being organised now and we will be booking Catherine Hamilton for her workshop "The Language of Colour" (as Barb mentioned in her report above.) As we are currently organising this workshop with Catherine (and even though it will be next year) we would appreciate expressions of interest now, so please e-mail our president Barb on [martinstrand@westnet.com.au](mailto:martinstrand@westnet.com.au) or phone her 0412 688 507 if you would like to attend. We need 10 – 12 participants for tutored workshops to be economically viable.

Our tutored workshops are of great value to our members. These professional artists extend us and share their wealth of knowledge with us as well as being great fun. So if you have any suggestions (topics, tutors etc.) please contact the co-ordinator of that medium (as listed in the contacts on the last page of this newsletter) or a committee member for any topic you would like to see organised. You may have attended great workshops at other venues and can make a recommendation. We welcome input for all our members.

## **Ideas for 2017**

A couple of ideas were discussed at the General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

- Plein Air sessions - local places and early morning through Spring and Summer. There was a suggestion that we have one session just behind the studio and therefore close to studio facilities and equipment.
- A painting trip just for a couple of days and so, just local.

These would not be specific to a medium – just whatever you like.

Any comments, ideas and /or expressions of interest please e-mail Barb on [martinstrand@westnet.com.au](mailto:martinstrand@westnet.com.au) or phone her 0412 688 507 if you would like to attend.

Any other ideas for improvements, activities etc. for 2017 please contact a committee member.

## **Studio News**

The current exhibition "Incredible Oils" will be up until 4<sup>th</sup> Sept – please collect your paintings on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> as we don't have storage space and there is a risk of them being damaged.

From Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September until 2<sup>nd</sup> October we will have “Free Space”. This means members are free to hang their own works. Please take advantage of this and make our studio interesting for visitors – and you may secure a sale! Collect your oil paintings on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and hang another painting straight away for the Free Space.

From 4<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November the themed exhibition will be “Pastel Perfect” so all those pastellists (including newly inspired beginners) get busy so we are ready for a great show in October – November. For this exhibition, we are also planning to use it as a chance to show the type of work done in the pastels workshop – so please keep these and don’t throw them out.

## Plant Farm News

“Reflections” will still be on show at the Plant Farm until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October when “Blooming Lovely” will be hung. So get into the bright mood of Spring and produce a colourful, bloomin’ lovely painting. Of course Spring is great weather for plein air as well – maybe a visit to a local park or the botanic gardens might be inspiring, apart from what might be bloomin’ lovely in your own garden. Maybe a group of AWAS colleagues could get inspired together.

Please bring your bloomin’ lovely creation/s to the Plant Farm at 2pm on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October. Don’t forget this date to collect “Reflections” paintings as well.

## Studio Groups - Saturdays

These groups are still running on Saturdays as usual. (see Dates for your Calendar on page 1).

### **Portraits Group – calling all portrait painters (or prospective portrait painters).**

Portrait numbers have been dwindling this year and we haven't been making any money for AWAS, or at times breaking even. We have lost a number of portrait enthusiasts for a variety of reasons, a few leaving the area and some away over winter for example. At the last general meeting on Sunday 21 August, we discussed the possibility of trying a portrait session every second month, instead of monthly. It was agreed that we should consider this, if we could not get more attendees over the next couple of sessions. So I would like to encourage all members to consider attending. Portraits are held on 3rd Sat of each month 1pm to 4pm. The cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. These sessions are not tutored and you can use any medium you are happy using. Easels are available - you bring your medium and support. We have a model and try to get different people.

Janelle Hoban

**Acrylics Group** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 10 – 3. No specific activity organised just come along and paint whatever you like, have fun and enjoy the company of colleagues.

## Gateway Village Precinct Open Day

The planning for the annual “Gateway Island Open Day” is progressing well, it is to be held in conjunction with the Saturday morning market on 24th September from 8am to 1pm.

AWAS have made a commitment to have our studio open for public viewing and sales and to facilitate and supervise activities to entertain and encourage the public to participate. To this end it has been decided to have a number of card tables set up on our veranda with paper and watercolour or water based acrylic paints, where we encourage the children to paint their parents or siblings with our help and suggestions. This will require a couple of volunteers for each table.

Secondly we will set up two easels and tables somewhere in the village and hand out to the public numbered 10cm x 15cm cards with a section of a painting on the reverse side. Numbers on a gridded canvas will correspond to the numbers on the cards and the public will paint their section on the painting which when completed will be displayed in the Paint Box Gallery for sale with the proceeds going to charity. We will need a couple of very enthusiastic volunteers for this task as a lot of encouragement may be required to get the public to participate.

Finally, we would love to have a few members scattered around the site painting "plein air", weather permitting, to interact with the public, and along with the buskers encourage the public to enjoy the whole extent of the Gateway Village site.

Please volunteer for these activities which could prove to be a lot of fun especially if you get the viewers to contribute their artistic talents to your work. Remember we are trying to interact with the public. If you are up for a bit of fun and nonsense, please contact a committee member and keep the morning of Saturday 24th September free for your participation.

Rod Farr - Publicity Officer

## Exhibitions

Christine Upton, from Corowa, has an exhibition titled "Obsessions" at the Wangaratta Art Gallery from 3<sup>rd</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Check the noticeboard for further information.

## A note from the editor

Please send e-mails to my new e-mail address – [jybalfour@outlook.com](mailto:jybalfour@outlook.com)

Also please consider being a "Spotlight On..." It is difficult for me to chase a Spotlight "volunteer" in the last week of the month when I am doing the Newsletter. Have a look at the "Spotlight On..." in the last couple of newsletters. It isn't complicated and don't be shy. Please e-mail for any enquiries regarding this.

Thanks – Judy Balfour

## Australian decorative and Fine Arts Society – Murray River

The next lecture will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Hothouse Theatre at 6pm for drinks and nibbles followed by the lecture at 6.30 – 7.30pm.

The lecturer is Stephen Richardson and the title of the lecture is "A Voluptuary under the Horrors of Digestion? – Prinny and the excesses of the Regency Period Style.

If you enjoy anything about Regency England – from Jane Austen and other novelists to the over the top architecture of the Brighton Pavilion built for "Prinny" the Prince Regent and Prince of Wales;

later King George IV, I'm sure you will enjoy finding out some more background to this extravagant period of English history. Our lecturer, from England, is a specialist in this field and has wide experience in the decorative arts and architecture.

## Art Quote

An American watercolour artist, Mary Whyte, tells her students that they need three things to become accomplished artists:

1. Something to say
2. The ability to say it
3. The courage to do it

## Key Contacts

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Oils	Kata Kupresak	Phone: 0412 766 313 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kkupresak@hotmail.com">kkupresak@hotmail.com</a>
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Plant Farm Exhibitions	Heather Sparks	Phone: 02 6059 5306 Email: <a href="mailto:heathersparkes@exemail.com.au">heathersparkes@exemail.com.au</a>



## AWAS NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Please note that each nomination must be countersigned by the person being nominated.

I wish to nominate the following persons for the position of:

Position	Nomination	Signature of Nominated Person
President		
Vice-President		
Secretary		
Treasurer		
Newsletter Editor (committee Member 1)		
Committee Member 2		
Committee Member 3		

Name of Submitting Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Seconding Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_