



ART EXPRESS

Bulletin No 160

Date February/March 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello members,

Welcome to the first *Art Express* for 2011, and welcome also to new members Robin Rogers (rejoining), Sue Bateson, Elizabeth Murphy and Richard Walter.

The sale of secondhand art materials at last year's Christmas party went like a bomb, raising \$280 for WADAS; we might hold a similar event at this year's Christmas party.

We conducted a trial of opening Merri View Gallery during early January; in past years, we closed over this period. We had good visitor numbers, and achieved two sales, so this has been judged a success. Subject to member support, we plan to repeat this in 2012.

'Above & Beyond', our biennial exhibition at Warrnambool Art Gallery, went well, with good visitor numbers, positive reaction, and four sales – congratulations to Dawne Barker, Rosemary Bayliss, Lyn Bruce and Alexandra Davis. I liked the way Angie Taylor hung the show – where members submitted two works, they were generally displayed next to each other.

Annual Awards Show and Rotary: In early January, at their request, I met Shirley Rhook, Secretary, and Greg Wood, incoming President of the City of Warrnambool Art Show. Shirley and Greg approached me as Rotary is changing the timing of this Art Show from June-July to the September-October school holidays. This is in response to a fall in sales over the last year or two, which Rotarians attribute to potential buyers leaving town over winter. Given that our Annual Awards Show has been held in October, and that WADAS members are important exhibitors at Rotary, Greg and Shirley were anxious that they weren't 'treading on our toes'. I will represent WADAS on the Rotary Committee, and if you have any suggestions for improvements to this event, please let me know.

The WADAS Committee has decided to swap back to our traditional June-July timing for the Society's Annual Awards Show for two reasons. Firstly, it removes any potential for a clash of events, and enables members to debut works at the Annual Awards and then exhibit them at Rotary. Secondly, the June-July timing fits with our AGM Committee changeover taking place in August. *This means that our 2011 Annual Awards Show will be held over 25th June to 9th July.* Remember that entries for the Annual Awards must not have been exhibited in Warrnambool in the previous 12 months. I will be doing a ring-around to recruit an Annual Awards sub-committee, but please feel free to volunteer.

Card display: The Artists' Society owns a card rack, and Jacinta Lougheed would like feedback on stocking it with cards done by members as original artworks, either handmade or printed. The plan is: There would be an up-front cost of 50 cents for each card to be displayed. Cards would need to have a price sticker. Members whose cards are purchased would then receive the full price of each card sold.

- The display rack would display the cards indefinitely, but would be topped up with each changeover of the ongoing exhibition, or as required.

Security for paintings: A member's painting has apparently been stolen from our display at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum. This venue has achieved a terrific rate of sale for us, but security is a risk there. The painting involved was a small one, and could easily have fitted into a pocket or handbag. Neither WADAS or our other venues can take responsibility in the event of incidents such as this, and members may need to think about the size of works they exhibit at non-MVG locations, and investigate insuring their entries.

Changeovers: Nola Golding, Jacinta Lougheed and helpers did a fine job with four changeovers in the last month – thank you to everyone involved. Nola, as does Carmel Beavis for her membership role, submits a terrific, comprehensive report to the Committee each month – these reports are greatly appreciated.

Workshops: Check out Sue Sambell's note in this edition about Ros McArthur's Dunkeld workshop. Sue would also like your views about running another portraiture workshop with Phillipa, an excellent model we have used in the past. These workshops might be untutored, giving you the opportunity to paint portraits without guidance.

Continued Page 2



Dates to Remember:

Next Meeting March 2nd

7.30pm Merri View Gallery

Guest speaker John Cunningham WAG Director

Knife Fork & Brush

April 9th 2011 Tickets available from Warrnambool Art Gallery Monday 28th February Contact Gallery 55594949 for further information.

Warrnambool Art Gallery News:

WEC Box Office will be located in the foyer, open 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

New Director John Cunningham is now at the helm and looks forward to his contribution to the artistic and cultural life of the city.

Back of house is being renovated, also Alan Lane Gallery & George Lance Gallery are having their track lighting systems updated.

2011 WAG will be hosting "Australian Portraits 1880—1960" a touring exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia. The exhibition features 54 portraits by 34 leading Australian painters, including Tom Roberts, George W. Lambert, Grace Cossington Smith, Margaret Preston, Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan, Russell Drysdale and John Brack. *Australian Portraits: 1880 – 1960* is the first major portrait exhibition mounted by the National Gallery of Australia and will tour to galleries in Victoria, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and regional Queensland after its showing in Brisbane

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Presidents Report Continued

Fiftieth anniversary: WADAS is fifty years old next August – happy birthday to us! More details soon about a celebratory dinner.

Tuesday afternoons: Drop in at Merri View Gallery for a cup of tea and artwork each Tuesday between 1.30 and 3.30 – thank you, Vi Marshall.

Guest speaker for our March social meeting is the entertaining John Cunningham, incoming director of Warrnambool Art Gallery. John has a great sense of humour and wants to expand the Gallery's links to the community.

Happy artwork, Tim Walker

GRAMPIANS WORKSHOP

with ROS McARTHUR April 1st-3rd

Staying at Bona Vista farmhouse in the Victoria Valley. Arrive Friday afternoon. Spend 2 days painting with Ros outdoors or in her studio depending on the weather. Oil, acrylic, (pastel painters welcome). Cost \$150 tuition and accommodation. Bring linen and food as planned. Get in early as there is a limit of 6 members.

Outdoor Painting

Members interested in painting outdoors as a group untutored please let Sue Sambell know what days suit best so there can be a regular painting morning from 10am onwards around Warrnambool, perhaps on a fortnightly basis to start with. Phone Sue on 5569 2309 or 0428 651688.

I shall bring this up at the meeting and would appreciate some interest.

Weekend paintout in Spring

Where would you like to go (Portland, Port Campbell or ??) and what weekend suits you?

Workshops Coordinator Sue Sambell Tel 5569 2309 sambell@westvic.com.au



Tips & Techniques:

How to clean your brushes

Your brushes are an investment. By cleaning them thoroughly and properly at the end of a painting session, they will last longer. Cleaning: Here's How: Wipe off any excess paint using a cloth or soft tissue. Gently squeezing the bristles from the ferrule edge outwards with your fingers, or with a cloth, will help remove paint from the brush. But be careful to avoid pulling on the bristles. Rinse the brush in turpentine or oil if you've been using oils or lukewarm water if you've been using a water-based medium. Never use hot water as it can expand the ferrule, causing the hairs to fall out. Wipe it on the cloth again to remove the last of the excess paint. Wash gently using a little bit of mild soap (or a gentle dishwashing liquid). Dab the brush gently onto the piece of soap, then work up a lather in a small container (or the palm of your hand if you're not using any toxic pigments or solvents). Rinse and repeat until there's no trace of any color coming out. Over time a brush may become stained, but don't stop rinsing until you're sure there's no paint left. Rinse once more in clean, lukewarm water to remove any traces of soap. Shake off the water. Use your fingers to gently shape the brush head into its correct shape. If necessary, wrap the bristles in a piece of tissue or toilet paper while the brush is still wet. When the paper dries it'll contract, pulling the bristles into shape. Leave brush to dry at room temperature. Ensure it's not resting on its head as it will then dry misshapen. Standing it on the back of the handle works well. If you're worried about the toxicity of the paint you're working with, wear gloves while painting and cleaning your brushes. Also if you find the paint is drying out and cracking, or staining your skin.

Tips: Always use separate brushes for oil painting and water-based medium. After all, oil repels water. Also use separate brushes for varnish, gesso, and masking fluid. Don't let acrylic paint dry on a brush as its water-resistant when dry. But also never leave a brush standing in water. Never use a lot of pressure to force paint out of a brush. Be patient and rinse it several times. If your brush is made from natural bristle, you can soften it by dipping it in clean oil (the one you use as a medium) after you have cleaned it. Misshapen synthetic brushes can sometimes be reshaped by soaking them in hot water (not boiling). What You Need: Luke-warm water Mild soap & patience.

Yearly Calendar:

JANUARY	No official Social Meeting
FEBRUARY	CHEESEWORLD + ONGOING EXHIBITION FLAGSTAFF HILL CHANGEOVER
MARCH	THE LOFT
APRIL	
MAY	CHEESEWORLD CHANGEOVER ONGOING EXHIBITION + FLAGSTAFF HILL
JUNE	ANNUAL AWARDS THE LOFT
JULY	ANNUAL AWARDS
AUGUST	ANNUAL MEETING FLAGSTAFF HILL + CHEESEWORLD CHANGEOVER
SEPTEMBER	THE LOFT
OCTOBER	ONGOING EXHIBITION <i>Re hang</i>
NOVEMBER	CHEESEWORLD FLAGSTAFF HILL
DECEMBER	THE LOFT XMAS BREAKUP



Congratulation to Ricky Schrembri for winning Best Pastel at the 27th Annual Art Show at Port Fairy & also Tim Walker for an Award of Excellence.

Jokes:

WHY DO WE LOVE CHILDREN?????

NUDITY

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening. When a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, 'Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!'

Please Thank

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