

eNEWSLETTER

December 2016 No. 419



25-27 Walker Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

eMail: lavender@royalart.com.au Website: www.royalart.com.au

Tel: (02) 9955 5752 Fax: (02) 9925 0064

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From the desk of the President - John Perkins FRAS



The Australian Society of Marine Artists Exhibition and talks on marine art have recently concluded with lots of visitors and six sales. We were delighted to host this exhibition for the ASMA.

Our Art School Exhibition was well attended and our guest opener Mr Lou Klepac, Art Historian and Publisher of the Beagle Press spoke extremely well. He also presented the Society with a signed copy of a yet to be released book on Hans Heyson.

The Awards were presented by Art School Director Greg Hansell to the very excited winners and I extended congratulations on behalf of the RAS to those winners and all the other students. An Award was also presented in tribute to our long standing and respected tutor Peter Dorahy. Along with Greg and Christine we met with Lee Brett to establish a memorial award for Peter to coincide with our drawing exhibition, starting next year.

During the past year we were saddened to lose a number of our valued Members including Brian Blanchard, Peter Dorahy, Carmel O'Brien, Cameron Sparks and Beryl Foster.

It is with a great deal of pleasure I look back on our achievements this year regarding the refurbishment of our premises. This included the rear stairs and railing, painting of the front and side of our building and installation of new windows. I extend my thanks to all my Committee who worked tirelessly to achieve this result. I also wish to extend thanks to all the many volunteers who have given their time to assist us in various capacities during the year.

We are currently working on an exciting programme for next year's exhibitions and I wish to extend to you all "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year." See you all at our Christmas Exhibition.

The Engine Room News

by Christine Feher

This year we lost one of our long time members and volunteers, Carmel O'Brien – she is very much missed but always remembered.

I would like to thank our dedicated engine room team for the hard work and continual support to the Society over the last 12 months, Gail Simpson, Yvonne Bourne, Nettie Korduba, Lynette Davenport who all help to make our opening night nibbles – very special.

To Robyne Dudley Jones our RSA bar person – always on hand and does a fabulous job. Robyne's other hat is our special "handywoman" very handy is Robyne who recently stripped back flaky paint in the gallery, spak filled and painted. Great job.

To Sue Sharpe who comes in and gives her time so generously on Tuesdays – you are a gem!

The Engine Room News continued

To Michele Thomson who puts together the roster for the send in days – thank you and to those that have helped this year – a huge thank you – Cheryl Richardson, Sue Sharpe, June Young, Lyn Burns, Ghyslaine Bluett, Michele Thomson, Nettie Korduba. Please come back and do it again in 2017!!!

Last but not least to Sue Woodland and John – our RAS Newsletter Editors – they have taken to the job like a duck to water – we all thank you. It's an excellent publication.

As Secretary of this wonderfully unique Society, I would like to wish all our members and friends a very happy, healthy and wonderful Christmas and lets all make it a fabulous year for the RAS in 2017.

A Reminder for Members regarding the RAS Website Artists' Gallery

As mentioned in previous newsletters, if you are an exhibiting member and would like to be included in our online members' gallery, please email the following to susiedevenport@gmail.com

1. No more than 6 jpeg images of paintings with titles not larger than 200kb each;
2. a pdf with information about you, no more than 200 words (or type directly onto your email to me and I will copy and paste, if it's easier). Include your own website address if applicable;
3. a photograph of yourself if you wish.

Refer to the existing pages on our Artists' Gallery if guidance is needed at www.royalart.com.au. Let me know if you have a particularly favourite painting which you would like used as the thumbnail image to enter your page.



Drawing—The Essential Ingredient

When drawing the landscape I become part of it. I look carefully, draw selectively and creatively to capture the feeling of the place. Then it lives on in my memory.

Lyn Burns FRAS

Welcome to the following new members:

Professor Desmond Freeman	- Exhibiting Member
Helen Alajajian	- Exhibiting Member
Judy Dunn	- Social Member

RAS Art School Exhibition – 4 November 2016

Opened by Lou Klepac Art Historian and Publisher of the Beagle Press giving his opening speech and donating his latest book “Hans Heysen” which will join the RAS library.

In 1585 Annibale and Agostino Carracci, with their cousin Lodovico, established one of the first modern schools of art. It was called L'accademia degli incamminati – those who know where they are going. Many of you are already 'incamminati' – but my remarks are to the basic student.

In some ways, studying art is not unlike learning to drive. There is no problem with what to do when you have passed the driving test. You have a pretty good idea where you want to go. In art, the problem is to find a worthwhile destination and you will have to bear with me about what I mean by Destination. Sometimes, it is better to begin with a Destination – like van Gogh – and then by trial and error, find how to deal with technique. Studying art in a place such as this is a great privilege and I hope that you realise just how lucky you are. But there is a limit to this wonderful period of discovery. Eventually you end up with a diploma which says that you can now Draw and Paint. Unfortunately having a Diploma is like sitting at a bus stop waiting for the bus to take you somewhere.

There is more to painting than just learning how to draw and paint. You have to keep an eye on finding that elusive Destination. In art as with cars, there are millions of people who know how to do it (drive or paint) but they do not all get singled out. The secret – as you have guessed – is the Destination.

The moment that you get a feeling that you must only draw walls, or empty plates on a table, apples, or people sitting in cafés – take note. Your gut is speaking to you. Listen to your gut. Your teacher can help you to pass the driving test, but only your gut can reveal to you your destination. If you have no destination, you will be sitting in your garage with the engine on, day after day, and you will still be a student.

I must now warn you about fashion and opinion. In order to be yourself you have to avoid falling in with the crowd. Beware especially of opinion. Opinions are not knowledge. An opinion is the result of a weak perception and fantastic hearing. Only listen to your gut. Your gut, is the compass needle that will point you in the right direction. Your gut will lead you to your destination. It will provide a purpose for all the things that you have studied and mastered. It will save you.

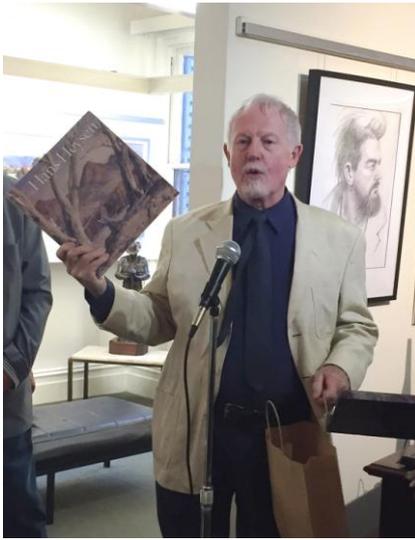
To finish I want to point out a famous mistaken view of painting. For this we need to go back into ancient history. Pliny the Elder (AD23-79) is our source for much information about art in the ancient world.

As an aside, here is a comment by him about collectors in his own time (2000 years ago):
'It seems that most collectors only pretend to be knowledgeable, so as to set themselves apart from the man in the street, and do not have any genuine, more refined insight into the subject.'
Has anything changed?

Pliny mentions a contest in antiquity – about 4 centuries before his time – that took place between Zeuxis and Parrhasius – two famous Greek painters. In this contest, Zeuxis produced a painting of grapes which were so real that birds flew up to where the painting was hung and tried to peck at the fruit. Then Parrhasius produced such a successful *trompe l'oeuil* of a curtain, that Zeuxis, pleased with pride at the judgement of the birds, asked that the curtain be drawn aside so that he could see what Parrhasius had painted. When he realised his mistake, he conceded defeat, saying that he had fooled the birds, but Parrhasius had fooled him – an artist.

Now this result might suggest that this is how one judged paintings. Nothing could be so far off the mark. The purpose of painting is not to deceive the eye.

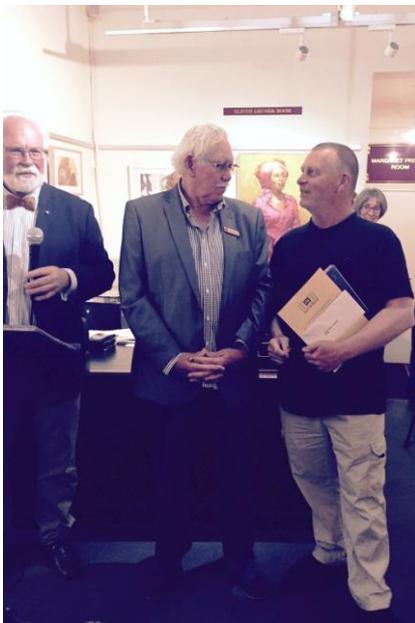
If you asked me what I thought was the purpose of painting, I would give you this enigmatic answer: The purpose of painting is to add to the visible, the invisible essence of things. I hope you will think about it.



Lou Klepac's opening speech



Noel Wilton winner of Still Life Award



Greg and John with Simon Convey
winner of Portrait Award



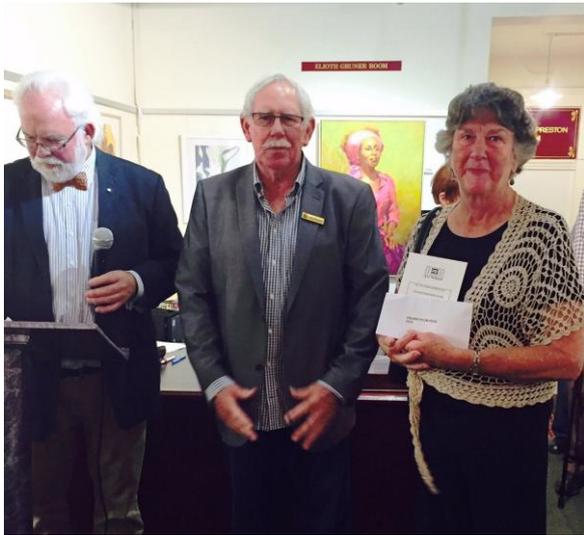
Greg and John with Kerry White winner of
Alan Hansen Memorial Acquisitive Award



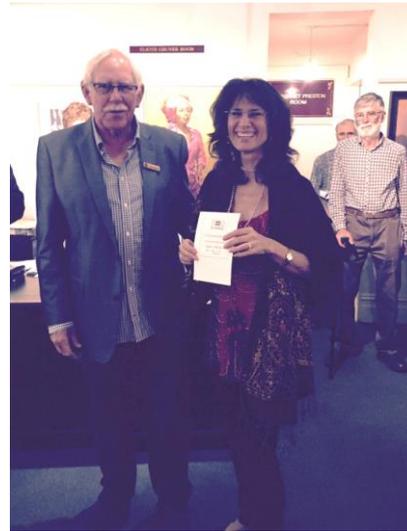
Greg, Lee Brett, John and Jill Phillips winner of
Peter Dorahy Drawing Award



Annette McCrossin awarded Jenny
Lemmone Hill 2017 Scholarship



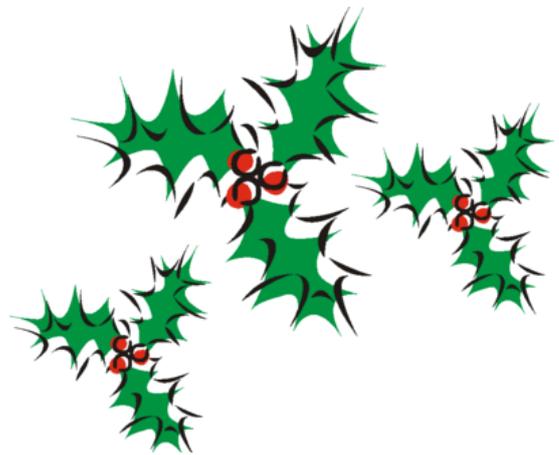
Leonie Fisher winner of Engine Room Prize



Kathryn Tarkowski (honourable mention for the Alan Hansen Memorial Award)



Ruth Mitchell with Greg in front of her painting



Forthcoming Art Prizes for 2017 - compiled by Stephen Caldis

Please note: Members should refer to previous Newsletters for any Art Prizes in 2017 that have been advertised in earlier editions.

<p>Paramor Art Prize Casula Art Centre Prizes total \$26,000 NB: Entries close: 16 December 2016 https://liverpool.smartygrants.com.au/paramorprize2017</p>	<p>Norma Bull Scholarship Portrait Prize VIC Prizes: \$5,000 Entries close: 23 February 2017 Contact: victorianartsociety.com.au</p>
<p>Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize VIC \$15,000 Other prizes total \$4,000 Entries close: 8 February 2017 Contact: bacc@bayside.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>Callen Art Awards NSW First Prize \$20,000 Entries close: 3 March 2017 Contact: http://cowraartgallery.com.au</p>
<p>The Edrington Aveo Grand Award Art Exhibition Prizes total \$15,000 Vic Entries close: 15 Feb. 2017 Contact: provenance@tpg.com.au</p>	<p>Thirroul Art Prize Prizes total \$8,500 Entries close: 8 March 2017 Contact: www.thirroulfestival.com</p>

Members' News: Please remember to forward all news items and requests to the Editor and not to our Secretary Christine at the Society

Forthcoming Members' Exhibitions:

"Two Lives, One Road" is the title of an exhibition by Lesley O'Shea FRAS and Joe Penn FRAS. The exhibition is being held at the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery from 25 November to 29 January 2017 and is part of the Brett Whitely Retrospective; "West of the Divide" Exhibition.

Congratulations to:

Ina Charteris RAS – Parramatta Art Exhibition - Highly Commended – Pastel Section.

Julie Simmons ARAS – Blackheath Rhododendron Arts Festival – 1st Watercolour.

Terina Jones RAS – Parramatta Open Art Award – 3rd in Acrylic Section.

Raylee Williams RAS – Harden Arts Council Festival of Art – 1st and 2nd Watercolour;
GO Krugr Memorial Prize – Most Outstanding Painting in Exhibition.

Pam Irving FRAS – Ryde Art Society – 1st Oil Section;
Lane Cove Exhibition – 2nd in "Aspects of Lane Cove".



ROYAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
25-27 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Telephone: 9955-5752
Email:lavender@royalart.com.au
www.royalart.com.au

2017 Annual Subscriptions (incl. GST) are due no later than 31/12/2016

Please tick STATUS applicable.

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\$120		\$120		\$120		\$50	
<u>RAS BADGE</u>	\$20 (Cash or Direct Deposit)			<input type="checkbox"/>			

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Please update your email if you have changed it over last 12 months.

NOTE: You can pay your membership fees with either Mastercard, Visa. If sending a cheque please send a self addressed stamped envelope for return of your membership card. Direct Deposit: BSB 062-217, Account No. 0000 0203.

RAS Raffle to be drawn on Friday, 7 March 2017



John Downton FRAS has donated this superb painting "Serenity Reigns Shoalhaven River" (value \$3,300) as a raffle to raise funds for the extensive repair work on the front of this heritage building. We salute John for his very generous donation.

The raffle will be drawn at the opening of our Annual Autumn Exhibition (featuring the Thora Ungar Memorial Award) on Friday 7 March 2017 at 7.30pm. Winner notified by email/phone.

1 ticket = \$5; 3 tickets = \$10

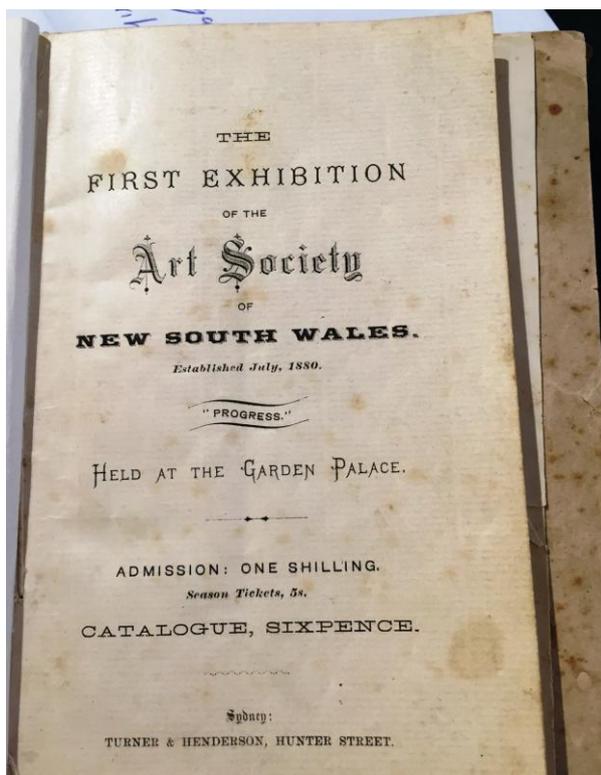
6 tickets = \$20



Stay Connected

Have you "liked" the Royal Art Society of NSW on Facebook? In just two years, our following has grown to over 800 people world-wide. If you want to keep up to date with news and events at the Royal, simply "like" our page and invite your friends to "like" it too. Supporting us in this simple way helps to get the message out that we are continuing our tradition of great art and exhibitions, exciting classes and life-time friendships

From the Archives – by Secretary Christine Feher



Sir Henry Parkes, then Premier of NSW granted the new Art Society exhibition space at the magnificent Garden Palace in 1880.

Admission was one shilling and the cost of the first catalogue was sixpence.

RAS 2016 Program of Events

December

Friday 2	Opening private member exhibition – Susie Devenport
Saturday 3	Private member exhibition – Susie Devenport
Sunday 4	Close Susie Devenport 4pm
Monday 5	Send in Christmas Exhibition 10am-3pm
Friday 9	Opening Christmas Exhibition 6pm-8pm
Wednesday 14	Gallery closes 4pm
Thursday 22	RAS closed until January

RAS 2017 Program of Events

January

Monday 16	Gallery and Office open only
Tuesday 26	Australia Day (Gallery closed)
Monday 30	1 st Term starts & send in for Chasing the Line Drawing Exhibition 10am-3pm

February

Friday 3	Opening Chasing the Line Drawing Exhibition 6pm-8pm
Friday 10	Council Meeting 4pm

March

Tuesday 2	Critique Night (everyone welcome) 7pm
Sunday 5	Close Chasing the Line Drawing Exhibition
Monday 7	Send in Annual Autumn Exhibition 10am-3pm
Friday 10	Opening Annual Autumn 6pm-8pm
Friday 17	Council Meeting at 4pm
Tuesday 21	Fellows Morning Tea 11am. Meeting 11.30am
Tuesday 28	Annual General Meeting – 6.30pm

April

Sunday 2	Close Annual Autumn Exhibition
Monday 3	Send in Watercolour Exhibition
Friday 7	Opening Watercolour Exhibition
Sunday 9	End of Term
Monday 24	2nd Term starts
Tuesday 25	Anzac Day (Gallery closed)
Friday 28	Council Meeting 4pm

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President: John Perkins FRAS
Art School Director: Greg Hansell FRAS
Secretary: Christine Feher **Ph:** 9955 5752 **email:** lavender@royalart.com.au
eNewsletter Editor: Sue Woodland **Ph:** 9874 3243 **email:** suenewsletter@gmail.com
Next Deadline: 31 December 2016