

eNEWSLETTER

June 2018 No. 437

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From the desk of the President – John Perkins FRAS

The 'Reflections on Reality' exhibition has concluded – many favourable comments and some sales.

The Young Artists Prize is underway with selected works to be on display from Friday 8 June and we look forward to your support for this exhibition.

The Ballot Fundraiser is fast approaching. This is a most important event for the Society and your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. We look forward to the Ballot Cocktail Party to extend our appreciation to our volunteers and donors (come and meet Jezabel).

Also on this night we will honour Brian Stratton OAM FRAS, Ron Stannard FRAS and Susan Sheridan FRAS for over 50 years of dedication and membership of the Society.

The Planes, Trains, Ships and Automobiles Exhibition was the suggestion put to me by Bruce Harkness. I thought this would be a different and interesting theme and so I hope you will get busy and make this another excellent exhibition.

In conclusion of my report, I wish to thank the members of the sub-committee for the Young Artists Prize who have worked tirelessly to make this exhibition success. Happy Painting!

Urgently Needed – Co-ordinator and Volunteers

A generous person is required to co-ordinate a roster of volunteers to help on Opening Nights of Exhibitions.

Volunteers are also needed to give a few hours of their time on these occasions.

Washing and drying glasses and tidying up at the end of the evening, is all that is needed. Phone Christine on 9955 5752 or email lavender@royalart.com.au



Drawing

The Essential Ingredient

by Robert Wilson FRAS

Drawing is the art of all art.

Drawing is the way to see line, shapes, scale and most importantly, composition. Without these elements, one wanders around in circles and is lost. Even abstraction needs these major elements.

Construct and draw with you brush rather than colouring in an outline.

Don't make a map - make a creation.

We are featuring RAS artists in their studios. Initially, Council Members will be shown, however all members are welcome to participate. If you would like to be part of this series, then please send your image to our Secretary Chris Feher at lavender@royalart.com.au

This month's issue features Joe Penn FRAS in his studio.



Our Facebook statistics have now increased to over 1,000 followers



Stay Connected

Have you "liked" the Royal Art Society of NSW on Facebook? In just two years, our following has grown to over 1,000 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.

Members' News: Please remember to forward all news items and requests for insertions in the Newsletter to the Editor and not to our Secretary Christine at the Society. Email Sue at sueneewsletter@gmail.com.

Congratulations to:

Jane Wray RAS – Pastel Society of Australia Country Members Competition – Highly Commended

Annie Slade Dip. RAS – National Pastel Exhibition 2018 – Commended

Anthony Rofe RAS – Camden Art Prize – Highly Commended – Open Section

Helen Bailey ARAS – Camden Art Prize – Highly Commended, Works on Paper Section.

Wendy Fare RAS – Drummoyne Art Society Awards – Highly Commended – Portrait Section

Terina Rose Jones RAS – Northern Suburbs A&H Society St Ives Show – 1st Acrylic – Marine Seascapes Section, 1st All Mediums, Figurine and 3rd – Acrylic Still Life Section

Julie Simmons ARAS – Hunters Hill Private Hospital Watercolour Award – Hunters Hill Art Prize; The Bennelong Watercolour Prize – Brisbane Rotary Art Spectacular; H/C in Watercolour – Currabubula Red Cross Art Show and Commended – Camden Art Prize

Inta Charteris RAS - Northern Suburbs A&H Art Show – 1st and 2nd Prize – Oil Section and 2nd – Pastel Section

Brian Stratton OAM FRAS – Fairfield Art Society – 1st Prize in Works on Paper

Julie Brown ARAS – Oyster Bay Art & Craft Show – Highly Commended – Landscape Section

Welcome to the new Exhibiting Members: Peta Williams and Craig Young-Anand.

Edwin Wilson ARAS, who gave a talk at the State Library of NSW - Scholarly Musing Talk - entitled, 'The Life and Death of Oliver Bainbridge', has advised it is now posted on YouTube.

Sketch Clubs at the RAS meet as follows:

Thursday evenings 6.30-8.30pm (nude)
Cost: \$15 per session (cash only)

Friday mornings 10am-1pm (nude)
Cost: \$20 per session (cash only).
The first and last Fridays of the month are designated for a long pose.

Last Sunday of the month 11am-2pm (nude)
Cost: \$20 per session (cash only)

Also The Sunday Portrait Group meets on the 1st Sunday of the month from 11am-2pm under the direction of Pam Irving FRAS.

PAINTING A PORTRAIT FROM LIFE. Cost: \$20 per session (cash only).

The Group is always looking for volunteers who would like to sit for the Portrait Group. If you have always wanted to have your portrait painted, then here is a great opportunity. Contact Christine at the RAS if you are interested, telephone 9955 5752 or email lavender@royalart.com.au.

For all sessions please note easels and boards are available, BYO material, no need to book, everyone is welcome in a relaxed and creative atmosphere.

Portugal Review – Travels with Pamela and Ross Fairburn – by Susie Devenport

I knew my journey was going to be interesting when the man sitting next to me on the flight sat down and pulled the blanket over his head and body for the entire flight, only resurfacing for the occasional meal and then pulling it tightly back over his head like a bird in a cage being put away for the night. I sketched him... just for the record. He told me later that he was stressed and I made a mental note that this could be a useful tactic for me in future RAS Council meetings.

There was a little boy wearing an oversized Viking helmet and a plus-sized woman wearing skimpy tank top and cheeky denim shorts.

Was she really disembarking in Dubai?? I sketched them too. Of course, there was also the usual quota of hyper-active kids, crying babies and flight attendants who insisted on running into you with the food trolley, but no one wants an eventful flight. Four movies and series 1 and 2 of the Durrells later and we were in Dubai.



Dubai must be a destination for married couples only. As a divorcee, I seemed to be a bit of an anomaly in this city as hospitality staff kept wanting to pair me up with some strange man. While waiting for the lift at the Burj Khalifa, the attendant politely asked me if the man in front was my husband. “No”, I replied, “I am by myself - solo.” “Oh”, she said and then looking perplexed at the man behind me continued,..”How about this one?” To which I replied, “No thanks, still solo.”

Breakfast in Lisbon and Fate was still trying to pair me up with someone. Members of the group were slowly filtering in and I’d met some of them by now. One lady, who looked a lot like me from the back sat adjacent to me at our individual tables. With our backs to the breakfast bar, her husband returned to the table and sat down opposite me instead of her. I sat staring at him, confused at first as to whether this was an overly friendly man trying to be inclusive and... what was his name again (having just been introduced minutes before)?? I’m the first to admit, I am slow at breakfast too, but watching the “cogs” turn as he stared at his untouched napkin and dinner setting, which moments before he had left in a state of disarray, it dawned on me that he had confused me with his wife. Then a wicked humour set in on my part as I watched him trying to work out why his place looked so untouched and then the look of shock and horror, as he raised his eyes to me and realised his mistake. It was a hilarious moment which we all laughed over and I became mock “wife no 2” for the rest of the journey.



The tour was a perfect mix of galleries, sightseeing, painting, food and free time. Our days in Lisbon were swallowed up quickly and included a day trip to the gorgeous Pena Palace in Sintra. After exploring the Pena Palace, the tour guide asked if anybody wanted to use the toilet before the bus trip home. Not one to ever miss an opportunity, I foolishly put my hand up. Well that was the beginning...“Does eeny-body want to use TOILET or is it just this one lady?...Eeny-body at ALL??? Nobody else want TOILET? Only this lady going to TOILET???...” and so it went on.

Other tourists walking past, stopped to consider this one, inconsiderate woman who was delaying her entire party and if it were to be broadcast one more time, I suspected the vent might appear on CNN news that evening. This incident had a profound effect on the group for the rest of the tour. At every tourist stop, cathedral and cloister, members of our group would surreptitiously slink off, unannounced to relieve their needs in private. Tiny heads would suddenly pop up over massive distances of ancient monuments, lost in the myriads of rooms and corridors in a Where’s Wally-type scenario.

After Lisbon we headed for the quiet town of Tomar with its peaceful river meandering lazily through the middle of the town. The first few days in Portugal were beset with rain. I had waterproofed my Alaskan Marmott jacket, but the rain in Portugal (not Spain) proved too much and I was soaked. The Sketcher sneakers which I'd bought just before leaving (because they made my feet look tiny) also proved to be highly inadequate on the hard cobble-stoned streets. After a drenching supermarket reconnoitre on the first day, I looked longingly at the enormous bath in my very comfortable room. What can I say, except sometimes we make odd decisions when travelling. I've been a bit suspicious of baths in my last few arthritic years as they can be very easy to slide into, but then convert into a slippery trap to try and escape from.

With visions of housekeeping finding my wizened old body years later, I decided to get into the dry bath first with all my clothes on - to make sure I could get back out again. Blame the jetlag for this contorted thinking, but I climbed in with my black jeans and T on, rolled around a bit until I managed to clamber back out. My black jeans were covered in white soap residue, making them impossible to wear for the rest of the journey - but the bubble bath, sans garments, was worth it.



Each evening our tour guides, Pam and Ross, would give a "Chook Award". This was an award for the funniest, most unique or entertaining thing someone had done that day. Although, obviously, we would each obtain one over the 16 days, I was determined not to reveal too many of my slipups to them too soon, or I would be eligible every day for this award. I was very proud to eventually receive the award for being the most enthusiastic painter, who made everyone else feel guilty they weren't doing as much. I could live with that.



We continued on to Vila Vicosa and Evora staying in beautiful posadas which challenged our orientational skills, before returning to Lisbon to part ways and say our goodbyes. It is amazing to put 17 people in close quarters together and have them all fall into sync so easily. Everyone had a great sense of humour and we were all artists, art lovers and photographers; so enough said. Whatever the formula, it worked; for me anyway.

Pam and Ross had organised a wonderful tour. Having been a tour operator myself, I knew the hard work that could go on behind the scenes - restaurants losing bookings, hotels inadvertently checking us all out, people wanting room changes, buses turning up late, luggage woes... and yet they handled everything with the professional aplomb that comes with experience.

Things I will do differently next time: travel with less clothes and sensible shoes. Even an enthusiastic painter can't use 7 watercolour pads (or over 100 sheets) in 16 days – get real!! My small suitcase which should have been rectangular, had turned ovoid with its stress of containing all my gear and worst of all - no room for souvenirs.

Highlights of the holiday? I will always think of orange trees laden with fruit, wisteria in full blossom, a cacophony of wild flowers by the roadside, cobble-stone streets, brilliant blue azulejos tiles and marble pavers, beautiful cloisters, cathedrals, views and castles. But mostly I will remember the quiet contentment of capturing a moment in time with paint and paper and the companionship of like-minded, newly-made friends.

From the Archives – by Secretary Christine Feher

The Ballot Exhibition Fundraiser is for the sole purpose of raising funds for the continual wellbeing of the Royal Art Society of NSW, which is totally self-funding and we rely upon our membership, art school and the generosity of our artists.

The Ballot Exhibition Fundraiser can only continue with the very generous support of its artist members, who each year donate their works for this purpose. We are indeed fortunate to have such members.

A brief history

The Royal Art Society of NSW was founded in 1880 and received its Royal Charter in 1903. Following World War II the art school in Bryant's building in George Street was closed and rooms were taken in 26 Hunter Street for one man shows and exhibitions. When the failure of the elevator made the 6th floor gallery untenable, the Society spent some years searching for a suitable building. Ballot exhibitions were held each year and a building fund was inaugurated by Mr R Dunne and W Hibble, and finally, in 1956, 25 Walker Street was bought and 27 was purchased in April the following year. The properties had cost £4,945.10.3, both unencumbered but with tenants still in residence, each paying sixpence short of £2 per week rent.

Today, in 2018, the Society is alive and vibrant, carrying on the rich traditions of its past members. The RAS Art School has day, evening and week-end classes in all mediums. Sketch Clubs are held each week and workshops throughout the year. The Lavender Bay Gallery features fine exhibitions throughout the year, including private members' works.

The Royal Art Society has a rich history and the "Rogues" Gallery showcases the fine artists that have been members, such as Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Margaret Preston, Grace Cossington Smith, Norman Lindsay, Elioth Gruner, Lloyd Rees and Joshua Smith..... to name but a few.

RAS ART SCHOOL RAFFLE

(money raised will sponsor the Annual Student Exhibition)

Drawn on Friday 2 November 2018 at 7.30pm

\$5 per ticket

Tickets are available from Secretary Christine at the RAS

Winner notified by telephone if not in attendance

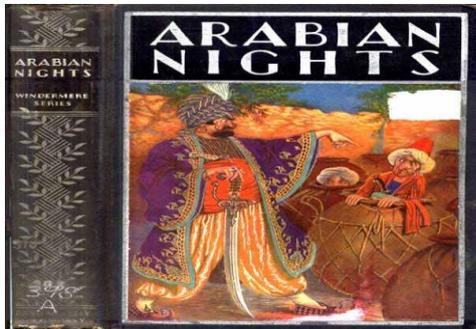
Greg Hansell FRAS our Art School Director has generously donated a painting entitled "From Wendy's Garden, Lavender Bay"

(schmincke pastel 2016) value \$900

"2018 Art Ballot Cocktail Party"



(An exclusive evening for the artists who donate a painting/s to the Art Ballot Fundraiser and our great volunteers)



**Theme – Arabian Nights experience the magic of Arabia
Enjoy a carpet ride, and bring your camel!
Prizes for the best costumes**

Tuesday 10 July 2018 (6-8pm)

RSVP to Christine is a MUST if you wish to attend.

The Society would like to thank the following members who have generously donated a painting, in some cases many paintings to the Society for its major fundraiser, the Art Ballot:

John Perkins, Judy Pennefather, Karen Atkins, Cilla Davis, Elizabeth Haddad, Catherine Harry, Neil Hetherington, David Lake, Yvonne Langshaw, Tom Parslow, Susan Sheridan, Freda Surgenor, Don Talintyre, Ramon Ward-Thompson, Peter Whelan, June Young, Julie Brown, Jeanette Korduba, Chrissie Lloyd, Christine Pike, Earl Hingston, Terina Rose Jones, Mike Fish, John Rice, Pamela Luttrell, Brian Stratton OAM.

Please bring in your painting anytime during the week or over the week-ends. If you are unable to deliver let me know and I will arrange to collect.

The Ballot Cocktail party is our way of extending our appreciation for the donations and support of the fundraiser and this year the theme is "Arabian Nights" – come and have your photo taken with our RAS Camel 'Jezebel'.

RAS 2018 Program of Events

<p><u>June</u></p> <p>Monday 4 Send-in “Young Artist Prize” Friday 8 Opening “Young Artist Prize” 6-8pm</p> <p>Monday 11 Gallery Closed – Queen’s Birthday</p> <p>Friday 15 Council Meeting 4pm</p> <p><u>July</u></p> <p>Sunday 1 Close “Young Artist Prize” Monday 2 Last send-in day for Ballot paintings 10am - 2pm</p> <p>Saturday 7 1st viewing Ballot Fundraiser Sunday 8 Art School 2nd Term finishes Tuesday 10 Ballot Cocktail Party 6-8pm Monday 16 Art School 3rd Term commences Friday 20 Council Meeting 4pm</p> <p><u>August</u></p> <p>Saturday 4 Last viewing day for Ballot Fundraiser</p> <p>Sunday 5 Ballot draw 12 noon sharp (ticket holders only)</p> <p>Friday 10 Opening Private Member Exhibition (watercolours by Rob Candy, John Haycraft and Malcolm Carver)</p> <p>Tuesday 14 Close Private Member Exhibition</p> <p>Friday 17 Council Meeting 4pm Saturday 18 Opening Private Member Exhibition (Desmond Freeman) 11am-4pm (official opening 2pm)</p>	<p><u>September</u></p> <p>Sunday 2 Close Private Member Exhibition</p> <p>Monday 3 Send in Spring Exhibition (Medal of Distinction) 10am-3pm</p> <p>Friday 7 Opening Spring Exhibition Tuesday 18 Fellows Meeting Sunday 23 Art School 3rd Term finishes Friday 28 Council Meeting 4pm</p> <p><u>October</u></p> <p>Monday 1 Closed Gallery – Labour Day Sunday 7 Close Spring Exhibition 3pm Monday 8 Send in “Planes, Trains, Ships and Automobiles” 10am-3pm Art School 4th Term commences</p> <p>Friday 12 Opening “Planes, Trains, Ships and Automobiles” 6-8pm Council Meeting 4pm</p> <p>Friday 26</p> <p><u>November</u></p> <p>Sunday 4 Close “Planes, Trains, Ships and Automobiles” 3pm</p> <p>Monday 5 Send in RAS Art School Exhibition 10am-3pm</p> <p>Friday 9 Opening Art School Student Exhibition 5.30-8pm Council Meeting 4pm</p> <p>Friday 16 Close RAS Art School Student Sunday 25 Exhibition 3pm</p> <p>Monday 26 Send in Christmas Exhibition 10am-3pm</p> <p>Friday 30 Opening Christmas Exhibition 6-8pm</p> <p><u>December</u></p> <p>Wednesday 12 Council Meeting 4pm Sunday 16 Art School 4th Term finishes Friday 21 Gallery Closes until 2019</p>
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Next Deadline: 30 June 2018