

MAYDAY HILLS ART SOCIETY

The Mayday Hills Art Society is a non-profit organisation for the benefit of artists in the region. Its objectives are to foster all branches of the visual arts and to provide innovative activities, networking and other opportunities for artists to advance their talents and for all those interested in art.

NEWSLETTER

No 5. June 2019

Kurrajong Way, Mayday Hills Village. Beechworth 3747

Hello to all. We are nearing the end of June and this year the Art Society has already had a program packed full of trips and other events. We hope you enjoy reading the latest newsletter with the promise to bring you more adventures in the arts in the second half of 2019!

ART

ART SOCIETY TRIP TO NORFOLK ISLAND

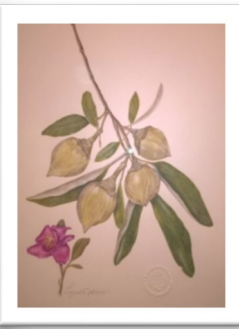
Twelve intrepid and artistic characters, together with their partners, friends and relatives, flew to Norfolk Island for 10 days of exploration, fun and times to paint the local flora and outdoor scenery of this very beautiful island. It was a wonderful trip organised by the Art Society. We hope to offer other adventures to places of interest around Australia in the future and are always open to suggestions from members.



Wendy Stephens, Gay Glover, Christine Cansfield-Smith, Judy Reynoldson, Marie Van Lint and Judi Moncur



Aerial view of Norfolk Island



Norfolk Island hibiscus by Christine Cansfield-Smith



A cloudy day at Emily Bay'. Gouache on colour fix pastel paper by Wendy Stephens



'Emily Bay'. Watercolour on paper by Judi Moncur

BEECHWORTH BOTANICA ART EXHIBITION

The Art Society was proud to present Beechworth Botanica for 10 days in April. This included the Easter long weekend. On display in the Memorial Hall were 149 paintings from 73 of the best botanical artists from around Australia. According to Christine, the curator of Beechworth Botanica, 'this exhibition presented a cohesive message about the ability to link all people with Australian nature through this accurate and exquisite art form'.

This exhibition was last held in 2017. In 2019 it exposed many people, who may not have seen botanical art exhibitions of this high quality, to a wonderful range of paintings highlighting the beauty of Australian flora. Much positive feedback was received for the paintings and their presentation from over 2000 visitors to the exhibition. All of the display stands and equipment was built by Art Society member Peter Leppert.

The Art Society brought to Beechworth a large number of the artworks originally seen at the internationally popular Botanical Art Worldwide exhibition held in Canberra in May 2018. This meant much effort in locating and transporting all of the paintings from around Australia to Beechworth. A special 'theatre' at the exhibition featured images of a selection of the paintings of Ellis Rowan, all of which are now held in the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

This venture helped raise the profile of the Mayday Hills Art Society and also brought extensive revenue to the Society from painting and merchandise sales. Plans are already underway for the next Beechworth Botanica, to be held during Easter 2021.



As a special treat on Easter Monday, Wendy and Mark Stephens' lovely 11 year old granddaughter Chiara Schoerghofer, who was visiting from Austria with her family, was gracious enough to put on a lovely pop up concert accompanied on piano by Beechworth's own Sandra Williams. Thank you to all who came to support such a wonderful young talent!



HAPPY HOURS AND ART TALKS

Our combined Happy Hours and Art Talks are held on the first Friday of each month. Many of our members, their friends and guests, enjoy this social event where we can network and hear from artists from around the region. All you need is a gold coin donation. However, a contribution towards nibbles or wine is always welcome!

Interesting and entertaining talks this year have included Melbourne artist Ellen Michel; Simone Nolan, Director of the Wangaratta Art Gallery and resident studio artist at MDHAS; Artist Ellen Engwerda; Artist Charles Sluga and the Mayday Hills Asylum Archivist Dr David Lawrence with Dr Jenni Munday, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Education, Charles Sturt University and her research team and Robert Scott from the Beechworth Cemetery Trust.



Please make a note of the following events in your diaries:

HAPPY HOURS AND ART TALKS – August to November

Friday 2nd August, 5.30pm. Art talk with Kathy Ellem

Kathy is a realist painter known for her depictions of Australian rural life. Based in North East Victoria, she has become well-regarded as an equestrian artist, with a passion for painting draught horses. She began painting and sculpting full-time in 2009, and since this time has exhibited regularly.



© Kathy Ellem

Kathy grew up on her family's apple orchard in Beechworth. She took her first workshop in oil painting with Wolfgang 'Bill' Sass, and found that painting didn't come naturally: developing technical proficiency was something she had to pursue with dogged determination. With further tuition under seasoned realist painters, John Wilson and Lyn Diefenbach, Kathy honed her skills, learning to paint in both oil and acrylic on canvas and linen.

Since this time, Kathy's style has developed into a blend of photographic realism combined with dense painterly detail that only appears on closer inspection. Her creative intent remains simple: 'The world we live in today is full of fear and anger. Rather than add to it, I want to create works which balance that out. I want people to look at my paintings and feel up-lifted; to feel a sense of joy. I also want people viewing my paintings to feel connected to life in rural Australia in a positive way'.

www.kathyellem.com

Friday 6th September, 5.30pm. Art talk with Jennie Bussell



'Mosaics - love it to pieces...excuse the pun'. According to Jennie, it has become an addiction! About 8 years ago Jennie was taken aback by a most beautiful landscape masterpiece created by Susie Ross, a mosaic artist from Eurobin. Susie now only works with stained glass.

Since then Jennie has been working away on all sorts of creations in a variety of media. Her love is working with stained glass. She and her husband Sam moved to Beechworth 5 years ago during which time she started holding workshops for beginners.



These workshops started in her garage and on her back patio in the spring and summer – 'it was magic'. But approximately 12 months ago Jennie decided to take up a studio within the Art Society. This also proved to be fabulous as she held many workshops and met lots of amazing, talented artists.

Nanna duties, planning holidays, and just deciding to scale back the number of workshops to concentrate on improving her own skills, meant Jennie intends relinquishing her studio. But this is not stopping her continuing to work on creating the next masterpiece...and someday calling herself a Mosaicist Glass Artist.

Friday 4th October, 5.30pm. Art talk with Kate Jenvey

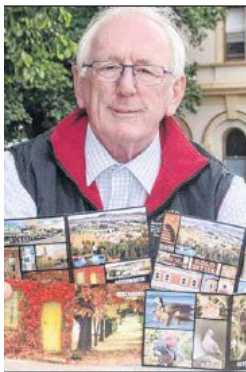
A child of Africa, an animal lover and a passion for art are the raw elements that give Kate Jenvey her drive to create.

Kate is a realistic oil painter and pencil artist using nature for her inspiration. Her artistic interest began early as she grew to love and admire the magnificent wildlife that were an intrinsic part of her childhood years spent in East Africa. Her passion for Africa remains strong and influences much of her work today, with an intent also to raise awareness of conservation issues often being the focus of her work.



Now living in Australia, Kate's home and studio embrace a relaxed rural setting where many native birds and animals are constant visitors and are therefore often featured within her intricate pencil work and colourful paintings. She is the recipient of the Grand Teton Lodge Company Award, Arts for the Parks international juried art exhibition and was juried into the prestigious Western Visions annual exhibition of the National Museum of Wildlife Art, both in Jackson, Wyoming.

Friday 1st November, 5.30pm. Art talk with Gary Coombe



Beechworth photographer Gary Coombe will give us the unique opportunity to discover our town through the eyes of three of the earliest photographers from the gold rush days. Gary has created some beautiful images of the northeast. Here is your chance to also learn about early forms of photography as well as some tips and techniques to get the best from your own modern day digital devices.

Left: Beechworth hotel by Walter Woodbury

There will be no happy hour and art talk in December as the ARTY PARTY will be the perfect time to enjoy a Mayday Hills Art Society Christmas drink. See details at end of newsletter.



TERM 2 ART WORKSHOPS



Day lily. Watercolour on paper by C. Cansfield-Smith.

Introduction to botanical art

with Christine Cansfield-Smith

Saturday and Sunday August 10 and 11

9.30am to 4.00pm

\$180 members. \$220 non-members.

Bookings essential. Christine 0412 126 219

bibart@bigpond.com

Materials provided. Information on enrolment.

During this one day intensive workshop for beginners students will be guided step-by-step through the basics needed to understand and enjoy the fascinating world of botanical art. Students will learn how to observe light and to be aware of tone in drawings, to sketch and compose and to understand the methods for mixing watercolours. The aim will be to draw a live plant specimen in order to apply the techniques necessary to render a fine painting. Students will leave with a finished painting and have the tools and techniques to continue with botanical art as a hobby.

Sketching Beechworth landscapes

with Leonie Norton

**Saturday and Sunday September 14
and 15**

9.30am to 4.00pm

\$180 members. \$220 non-members.

Bookings essential.

Christine 0412 126 219

bibart@bigpond.com

List of materials provided on enrolment.



Leonie Norton is one of Australia's most prominent and highly qualified art educators and a leading artist in her field. Her paintings can be found in private and public collections in Australia and overseas. She lives in Sydney and is the author of best selling book *Women of Flowers*. Leonie conducts workshops throughout Australia and also instructs at Summer and Winter Schools in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and the UK.

In this workshop the group will study the original buildings and the rugged landscapes of Beechworth. The first morning will be dedicated to a workshop on techniques for pen and watercolour wash. Students will learn about colour, perspective, composition, focal points, and what to leave in and take out of their sketches. The remainder of the weekend will be sketching on location. Learning about greens in the landscape will be vital to the workshop. Individual tuition and demonstrations will cater for all skill levels. Further information from leonienorton@imprimus.com.au



Painting Beechworth in bloom

with Leonie Norton

Tues & Wed September 17 and 18

9.30am to 4.00pm

\$180 members. \$220 non-members.

Bookings essential. Christine 0412 126 219

bibart@bigpond.com

List of materials provided on enrolment.

Botanical artist Leonie Norton will continue her classes at the Mayday Hills Art Society with another botanical art offering. Spring is such a magical time in the northeast region. Just a walk around town reveals some magnificent gardens as well as many types of subject matter for botanical paintings.

This workshop is an excellent follow on from the Introduction to Botanical Art held in August. All skill levels will be catered for as you will learn even more about the processes of making botanical art with watercolour paint. You will learn to draw as well as other painting and mixing techniques with overglazing and other three-dimensional painting techniques.

EXHIBITION

Member's exhibition in the MDHAS gallery (September)

Throughout the month of September we will be asking all our members to contribute to a general Mayday Hills Art Society exhibition in the downstairs gallery. Invitation to exhibit forms will be sent to all by email separate to this newsletter. This exhibition is to be in place for two important events to be held in October. See details below:



Circuit Open Studio program

Murray Arts

Friday to Monday 4 to 7 October

Earlier in the year Murray Arts sought Expressions of Interest to participate in the **2019 Circuit Open Studios** program. An initiative of Murray Arts, Circuit invited galleries, artist studios and community spaces from across our region to open their doors and showcase their art-making processes in a program of events, designed to shine a light on the arts and artists in our region. Murray Arts aim to curate a tour among the spaces which will consist of bus trips and self-driven experiences.

The curated program will potentially be held over a single weekend, and an open invitation to enthusiastic supporters of the arts, or those who have never visited an artist studio before, to witness the ideas that unfold within these creative spaces. It will be a rare opportunity for artists, collectives and galleries to work alongside their diverse range of peers from around the region while creating an opportunity to generate sales and commissions. Mayday Hills Art Society submitted an expression of interest to the program and the Society is now waiting to receive advice as to whether this bid has been successful.

Special visit from the Mossman Art Gallery

The Mayday Hills Art Society is becoming well known..even as far away as Sydney! Staff and volunteers from the Mossman Art Gallery have organised a special trip to the northeast that includes a tour of MDHAS. This will occur on Tuesday 15th October. We are still waiting to receive further information about the visit. However, if you wish to be involved please contact Christine or Wendy.

THEATRE

GRAND GALA OPENING OF THE UPSTAIRS PLAYHOUSE and BOMBSHELLS

The Art Society is delighted to report that BOMBSHELLS played to capacity houses for the Society's first theatre production and that feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

A note from the Director: 'With a fantastic script from which to work, and an incredibly talented and dedicated cast and crew, BOMBSHELLS was a joy, a pleasure and a huge buzz for all involved. The six characters were played with enthusiasm, great depth, often despair and a large lump of irony and humour. The cast teased out the thoughtfulness. A big thank you to not only the cast but a wonderful crew at MDHAS and of course the fantastic and supportive audience who came to see it'. Wendy Stephens



We also wish to thank regional local theatre stalwarts Joesph Thompsen from the Albury Wodonga Theatre Company and Lorraine Monshing from the Wangaratta Players for cutting the ribbon and officially opening the Upstairs Playhouse. The buzz around the Gala Opening was palpable with a capacity crowd enjoying the theatrical ambiance, a glass of wine, Megan Chalmer's delicious food and the spectacular floral arrangements by Gina Kromar.



A few of the wonderful comments received by MDHAS:

Hi Wendy & Christine. Great opening night, well done to all concerned. New space has so much potential to do so many good things in. Hope the rest of the 'Bombshells' shows go gang busters. Kind regards, Christine Stewart.

What a great show Wendy. Congratulate everyone on their excellent portrayals of different life situations. It was a night to remember. Can't wait for the next one. Margot.

I just want to congratulate you on the amazing production of 'Bombshells'. I enjoyed myself immensely. I had the biggest laugh I have had for a long time. Thank you for providing the community with a fantastic show. It's a credit to all involved. Katrina

CONCERT

The next event in the Upstairs Playhouse will be 8th to 10th November:



Mountaingrass BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME MUSIC FESTIVAL

Presented by Australasian Bluegrass & Old Time Music
Association

www.mountaingrass.com.au

SOCIAL EVENT



To celebrate the second birthday of MDHAS we plan to hold an ARTY PARTY in the Art Society's gardens. You can dress as your favourite artist or character from a painting or play (optional) or wear garden party white to welcome those long summer days ahead.

When: Sunday 24th November from 2.00pm

Further information will be sent to members during the year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

November is membership month at MDHAS! All memberships renewals will be due in November. As such, we will be sending forms for renewals as well as spending time during that month to recruit new members to the Society. We are delighted to report that MDHAS currently has 100 members.

OUT AND ABOUT



SCRAP. Wow from waste at Swanpool.

The Swanpool Art Festival presents SCRAP. This exhibition from 3rd to 18th August showcases the creativity of artists from around Australia to turn recycled materials into beautiful art pieces. With a prize pool of \$7,000, it attracts quality pieces that are highly creative art works available for purchase during the exhibition. Open 10am to 4pm daily with option for morning and afternoon teas or special lunch.

Members of MDHAS are invited to visit SCRAP. Please email Christine on bibart@bigpond.com if you are interested in joining a group to visit SCRAP on an exhibition day during August. A great day out.

Mayday Hills Art Society Management Committee

Christine Cansfield-Smith, Wendy Stephens, Bob Richards, David Lawrence, Jenni Munday.

Newsletter: Christine 0412 126 219 and Wendy 0402 288 207.