

NEWSLETTER

March 2024 No. 504

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From the desk of the President – John Perkins FRAS

I was pleased to welcome international portrait artist Tina Garrett to the RAS in January. Tina conducted two workshops over 5 days which were enjoyed by enthusiastic students. On Wednesday morning it was particularly pleasing to watch Tina paint a portrait sketch of my granddaughter. My thanks to Tina and also Janelle Hatherly for organising this event.

To get our exhibition year off to a great start we were delighted to host The Purity of Australian Light Exhibition by Greg Hansell. The exhibition was opened by the Governor of NSW Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO KC, who was accompanied by her husband Mr Dennis Wilson.

A large enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the evening and the Governor's opening speech which was a credit to Greg. My thanks go to all our volunteers on this important evening, and to Greg who kindly donated a painting to her Excellency.

We now look forward to the Autumn Exhibition featuring the Thora Ungar Memorial Award. We are pleased to have Mal Damkar from Beagle Press to open and judge this exhibition.

The repairs to the Preston Gallery and Engine Room are hopefully nearing completion. The Art School men's bathroom has also been completed thanks to Hugh Cross and Craig Young Anand. I also wish to thank to Ian who kindly cleaned the front courtyard sandstone tiles.

The nominations for Council list is now available in the Preston Gallery. Anyone wishing to join Council must be nominated by a Fellow.

The Annual General Meeting is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

Happy Painting

VALE – Elizabeth Ahlston

by Lyn Burns FRAS

Elizabeth Ahlston, a long-time student at the RAS, died on 15 February 2024, aged ninety-five. When Greg Hansell came to teach at the RAS in 1998, Elizabeth was one of his first students and was a valued member of his class for many years.

She was a strong character with high standards who cared greatly about our environment and about animal rights. She trod lightly on the earth. She single-handedly established the Australian Association for Humane Research and worked tirelessly for its continued success. In 2000 she was also instrumental in setting up the MAWA Trust, for Medical Advances Without Animals. She was a kind, generous and hospitable woman who will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

Opening Night Greg Hansell's Exhibition



Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley with her husband Mr Dennis Wilson and Greg



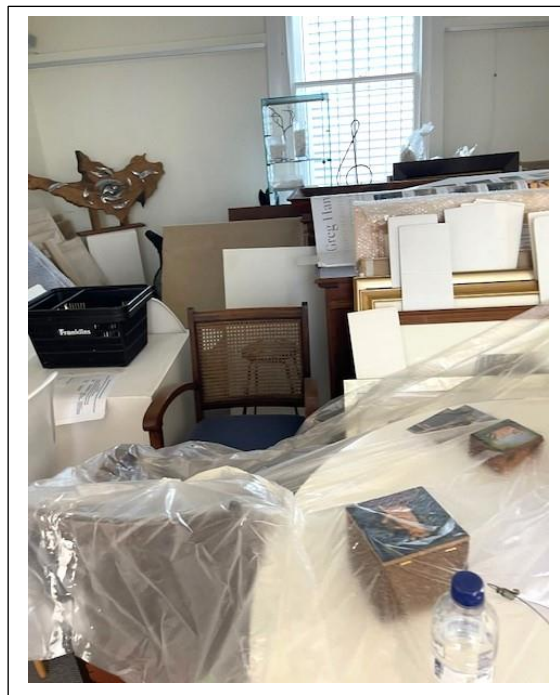
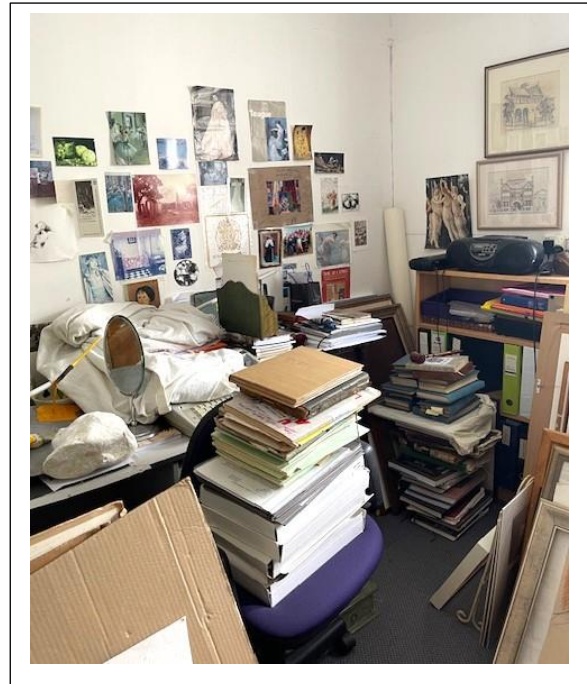
Above: Philip, Elaine and Narelle from Northern Beaches Art Society and below Greg, Lou Klepac and Daniel Pata

Lyndall Beck, Susan Sheridan, Ann Cape and Chris Gentle



The RAS Engine Room by Secretary Christine

We have had 3 months of absolute chaos in the Engine Room as these photos show. Finally, the repair work in this room and in the Preston Gallery is finally finished.



Stay Connected

Have you “liked” the Royal Art Society of NSW on Facebook? 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.

RAS EXHIBITOR'S ENTRY FORM

"JUST DRAWING EXHIBITION"

SEND IN DAY: MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024 BETWEEN 10AM AND 3PM ONLY

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

STATUS: FELLOW ☐ ASSOCIATE ☐ EXHIBITING ☐

GST REGISTERED YES/NO

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Two entries per member allowed.

All work must be for sale.

\$15 entry fee for all paintings

All works must be signed.

All works must have standard hanging cord.

Each painting must have a luggage tag on which the artist, title of work and price is written, tag to be attached by string to the cord.

Old and damaged frames not accepted.

Works to be delivered between 10am and 3pm on the stated Send in Day or the Sat/Sun just prior.

TITLE	MEDIUM	AUS \$

I AGREE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET OUT ON THIS FORM:

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ENTRY FEE \$15 PER PAINTING

- Artists are advised that the paintings to be hung are selected by the Council of the Royal Art Society based on quality of work and space limitations and that their decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The Royal Art Society cannot accept responsibility for paintings, sculptures left on the premises.
- The commission rate for members is 30%.

RAS Artists in the Landscape

En Plein Air

We are featuring artists of the RAS painting en plein air painting.

Painting outside posed several problems to the first proponents of *en Plein air*. Not only did it require artists to transport all of their equipment, but there was the problem of carrying wet canvases home and navigating the weather. The weather was perhaps the greatest challenge. All the latest developments in painting equipment could not account for rain and wind.

Next in the series is of Fellows Joe Penn and Lesley O'Shea and their artist statement is:

There is something very special about drawing and painting outside; whether that is tucked in a corner on a busy inner-city street or under the shade of a gum tree out bush. You are surrounded by your subject; the light, shade, colours, smells and sounds, while your whole focus is on the piece of paper or canvas in front of you.



Members' News:

Inta Charteris is having a solo exhibition "Simple Pleasures" at the Bathers Pavilion (upstairs gallery), 4 The Esplanade, Balmoral from 5 March to 30 April. Opening Night Tuesday 5 May 6-8pm. Gallery open 8am until late.

2024 Ballot Fundraiser – to our fabulous artist members please pledge a painting to our major fundraiser. We accept all genres except portraits as they tend not to suit the fundraiser.

‘Patonga a beautiful hamlet on the Hawkesbury River’ by Jocelyn Maughan OAM FRAS

Patonga, a beautiful hamlet on the Hawkesbury River, once with water access only. It was a ‘quaint little drinking village with a fishing problem’. There are still commercial fishermen living and working here but it has become a haven for Sydney folk looking for what is now a very expensive weekender. It has been the home and studio for over 30 years of artist Jocelyn Maughan and artist the late Robin Norling.

If you feel like a lovely train trip to Woy Woy along the Hawkesbury River with a bus or taxi connection or a ferry ride from Palm Beach to Patonga, you can meet up with Jocelyn and perhaps show her your drawings for free criticism and encouragement.

Jocelyn was trained in traditional skills in the then 5 year full time fine art course in the early 1950s at the Darlinghurst Tech. now known as the National Art School. Later she was founder and head for 30 years of the Meadowbank TAFE Art School where very high standards were achieved by Jocelyn and her excellent art teaching staff.

THIS IS THE PART RELATED TO THE GARAGE DOORS. During the pandemic a resident asked me if I could paint a magpie on his corrugated garage door and I said I would ‘give it a go’ especially if he helped with the high parts. Such was the local interest that one after another more local requests followed over the next three years and they are still going. I don’t charge to do this as I regard it as a lovely participatory job but donations to our local bush fire brigade are welcome and quite a lot is raised to buy special equipment.

Usually, an owner suggests the subject using local flora and fauna. Although one large white pet dog crept into it plus some little twin girls. I try to involve the owner to get some reference and even giving them a paint brush to reach the high parts...I don’t like ladders...sometimes I ask a talented local teenager to help. I usually draw up the design full size in my studio and then using carbon paper trace the design onto the surface and begin painting using ordinary domestic acrylic paint. Every design is individual but sometimes passers-by will say ‘why paint ducks as they poo everywhere’ or ‘why did you paint a plover bird as they attack people’.

Interesting confusion of art and concept I have now done 40 of these doors, walls and a boat and visitors take photos of these that are displayed on my door and then set off on foot to find them.



The Society wishes to thank The Art Scene

The Red Centre

With Joe Bezzina

(6th - 15th Sept. 2025)

Day 1/ ULURU (Sat. 6th) FREE DAY

You will be met at **ULURU Airport**. Time to be announced.

4.30pm: Pick up from our hotel for our fabulous BBQ Sunset Desert Dinner. Nothing quite compares you for your first sight of Uluru! As the sun sets, the rock is illuminated to a burnished orange, shimmering to deep reds and ending in a perfect charcoal silhouette.

5pm: Welcome drinks followed by a group dinner **(D)**

Day 2/ ULURU (Sun. 7th)

8.15am: Pick up for the waterhole at Uluru, which is an easy 5minute walk from the bus and a beautiful setting for our painting of this iconic location.

12:30pm: Transfer to Cultural Centre, with its artworks and lovely café.

2pm: Return to hotel.

Optional Field of Lights excursion. Please book at front desk. **(B)**

Day 3/ ULURU (Mon. 8th)

5:40am: Early morning pick up to witness sunrise at Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and to capture these giant ochre-coloured domed rocks made of sandstone as we witness the first rays of sun illuminating this spectacular rock formation.

9.30am: Return to Uluru for breakfast

Our resort with its desert backdrop is the perfect spot to finish off your work.

5pm: Late afternoon review with complimentary drink. **(B)**



Day 4/ KINGS CANYON (Tues. 9th)

9am: Morning departure to Kings Canyon (3-4 hrs) Free time to settle in.

3pm- 5pm Afternoon painting of the distant view of King Canyon's Gorge, followed by dinner at the wonderful outback pub. **(B, D)**

Day 5/ KINGS CANYON (Wed. 10th)

8.30am: We head off into the canyon to capture this dramatic landscape.

Kings Canyon, in Awtarrka National Park, is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular sights in Central Australia.

12:00pm: Return to hotel. The café is open for optional lunch.

Optional afternoon scenic flight over Kings Canyon. **(B, D)**

Day 6/ ALICE SPRINGS (Thurs. 11th) FREE DAY

8.30am: Depart hotel for Alice Springs (5 hrs) stopping on the way for coffee and lunch. Free afternoon to settle in at our resort or relax by the pool.

Ruggedly beautiful Alice Springs, is situated on the banks of the Todd River, surrounded by quirky cafes, restaurants and superb galleries. **(B)**

Day 7 / ALICE SPRINGS (Fri. 12th)

8:30: Depart for Simpsons Gap to capture this peaceful setting surrounded by cycads and pale ghost gums.

12pm: We will travel the short distance to Stanley Chasm for lunch at the café and to take photos of the afternoon light piercing this beautiful narrow gorge. On the way back to our hotel, we will visit the Araluen Arts Centre with its 4 galleries, including Albert Namatjira's 1930's watercolours. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 8/ ALICE SPRINGS (Sat. 13th)**

8:30: Today we head off to Ormiston Gorge with its glistening waterhole, attracting an abundance of native fauna and flora, where we will spend the morning painting followed by lunch at the local café.

After lunch, we will visit Ellery Creek Big Hole surrounded by high red cliffs and sandy banks, shaded by eucalypts and acacias.

4.30pm: Return to hotel via Anzac Hill for a superb vista of Alice. **(B, L)**

Day 9/ ALICE SPRINGS (Sun. 14th)

The Todd River opposite our hotel, is lined with beautiful ghost gums - perfect for our final painting session. Free afternoon to finish off work.

5pm: Late afternoon review with complimentary drink.

6.30pm: Group dinner **(B, D)**

Day 10/ DEPARTURE (Mon. 15th)

You will be transferred to Alice Springs Airport for your return flight.
Time to be announced.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Email Diana: artemisarttours@hotmail.com or phone **0426 745 424**



Greg Hansell FRAS

The Purity of Australian Light Book



If you would like to reserve a book from this spectacular exhibition, just send an email to Christine at our email: lavender@royalart.com.au or phone on 9955 5752.
The books will be here in early March.

Limited edition which includes an original pastel by Greg Hansell FRAS (20 x 20cm) = \$650

And one for \$80.

Orders through the RAS and in this way, you won't miss out.

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ROYAL ART SOCIETY OF N.S.W.



Art School

Studio Available each Tuesday from 27 February until 2 April 2024
(total of 6 weeks)

Between the hours of 9am to 12.30pm \$20
and
1pm to 3.30pm \$20

The large Hanke Studio is available for artists/students to come along and use the studio between the hours as set out above.

BYO materials – easels and boards available.

No need to book. Cash preferred

Any questions phone Christine on 9955 5752 or send email to lavender@royalart.com.au

2024 Program of Events

March

Friday 1 **Opening** Annual Autumn Exhibition (6pm-8pm)
 Friday 15 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Tuesday 19 Fellows Morning Tea 11am, Meeting 11.30am
 Tuesday 26 Annual General Meeting 6pm
Friday 29 Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Sunday and Easter Monday Closed.

April

Sunday 7 Term 1 Finishes
 Friday 12 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Sunday 14 Annual Autumn Finishes at 3pm
 Monday 15 **Send-in** Drawing Exhibition (features works by Earle Backen and Cam Sparks) also Daniel Pata Private Exhibition
 Friday 19 **Opening** Drawing Exhibition and Private Exhibition
 Monday 22 Term 2 Commences
Thursday 25 Anzac Day RAS Closed

May

Friday 17 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Sunday 19 **Finish** Drawing Exhibition and works by Earl Backen, Cam Sparks, Tom Thompson 4pm
 Monday 20 **Send in** Beagle Press Limited Edition books, posters, lithographs (Whiteley, Storrier, Lloyd Rees)
 Friday 24 **Opening** Night Beagle Deluxe Limited Edition, Lithographs, Books, Prints 6pm-8pm

June

Monday 10 King's Birthday RAS Closed
Monday 24 Last Send in day for Ballot Paintings
 Friday 28 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Sunday 30 Term 2 Finishes

July

Monday 1 **Last Send-in** day for Ballot
 Saturday 6 1st Viewing Ballot Fundraiser
 Monday 15 Term 3 Commences
 Tuesday 16 Ballot Cocktail Party 6-8pm
 Friday 26 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

August

Sunday 4 Ballot Draw 12 noon
 Wednesday 7 **Send-in** 'Flair and Form' Exhibition 1-3pm
 Friday 9 **Opening** 'Flair and Form' Exhibition 6-8pm
Monday 5 RAS Closed
Tuesday 6 RAS Closed
 Friday 30 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

September

Sunday 1 **Finish** 'Flair and Form' Exh.
 Monday 2 **Send in** Annual Spring (Medal of Distinction Award)
 Friday 6 **Opening** Annual Spring 6pm
 Tuesday 17 Fellows Morning Tea 11am and Meeting at 11.30am
 Sunday 22 Term 3 Finishes
 Friday 27 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

October

Sunday 6 **Finish** Annual Spring Exh.
Monday 7 Closed Labour Day Holiday
 Tuesday 8 **Send-in** CASS Exhibition (private)
 Friday 11 **Opening** CASS Exhibition (private) 6-8pm
 Monday 14 Term 4 Starts
 Friday 25 Council Meeting 4pm
 Monday 28 **Send-in** RAS Art School Exhibition 10am-3pm

November

Friday 1 **Opening** RAS Art School Student Exhibition 6pm-8pm
 Friday 15 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Sunday 24 **Finish** RAS Student Exhibition
 Monday 25 **Send in** Christmas Exhibition 10am-3pm
 Friday 29 **Opening** Christmas Exhibition

December

Thursday 12 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
 Sunday 15 Term 4 finishes
Monday 23 RAS closes at 2pm

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Deadline for the next Newsletter is 28 March 2024