



randwick
art
society
inc.



Quarterly Newsletter # 46

Issue: September 2021

Photos Above from Left Maria Kapodistrias entry Looking out my window & Pet/Animal Challenge entry by Thomas Parslow "Big G"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sept/Oct 2021

Different times. But is it all bad? Sure, we've all had to grapple with Covid issues, things are different, upheaval, problems, concerns, uncertainty and so on. Sadly there has been sickness, pain, hurt.

But when that happens, I think we tend to turn around and reaffirm core values, put our finger on what really matters, see clearly what is important to us. That's not bad, that's healthy, that's encouraging, that enables survival.

A good example of this is the RAS response to lock down. Led by our Secretary Heather Egan and Ctee member Marie Widolf with support from Niki Koepl, Nevidita Sen and others, we have moved to a monthly 'Art Challenge'. August was based on 'Pets and Animals', September on 'Out my Window' and Oct is 'InkTober'.

Members are encouraged to paint/draw/create works based on those subjects/techniques and forward to RAS so we can upload to our web site. The works are judged and prizes awarded.

When I saw what members had produced in August, I was dumbfounded.....such a range of well prepared responses to the challenge. That's when it struck me that members were digging back into their own lives to express what is of value to them. Images of perhaps a pet, but anything but a snap shot. Rather an image with feeling. Or maybe an image of a wild or zoo

animal, that clearly celebrates the diversity and majestic nature of life on earth instead of the cliched picture on the wall.

At the time of writing, lockdown is ending and we are soon to get back into the rhythm of 'normal,' whatever that is. I think it would be exceptional if, as a local art community, we could move into that new normal, holding tight to the importance of the values we re-discovered in recent months.

Be well, stay well, make art.

Rick Bardsley-Smith
President



Sydney Children's Hospital Exhibition

Covid also knocked out another Exhibition. We were originally set for September at SCH.

We have now been advised that we can look to exhibiting from Dec 2021 to Feb 2022.

Works already entered with RAS will need to be collected and taken to the Hospital in late Nov. We will keep members posted as this comes closer



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RAS Calendar Oct-Nov 2021

- Look out for a possible late Oct start up date for RAS member Studio time at 10am to noon, Coast Centre, Little Bay;
- Workshop Sat 30th Oct. 10am to 1pm. Online via Zoom. Workshop with Niki Koepl;
- Children's Hospital Exhibition. We look like getting our works to the Hospital in late Nov for a Dec-Feb exhibition;
- CASS Online Special Price Christmas SALE. Entries close 26th Nov. Forms will be available from 15th October at www.cassartonline.com.

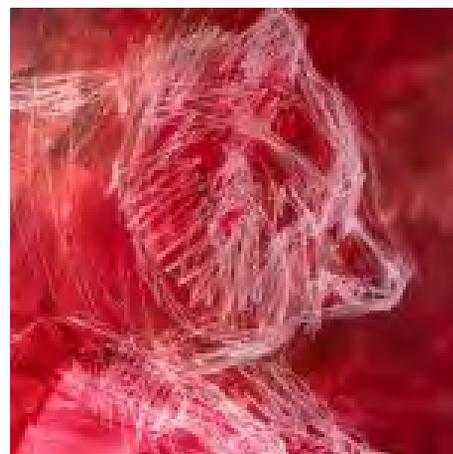


Photo Above: "Sammy, white-on-red" by Frances O'Rourke, Pet/Animal Challenge.



Photo Above: "My quiet place", by Alana Best, Looking out my window prize winner.

Art Studio Time

As you will all realise, for some time now we have been unable to use the Coast Centre at Little Bay for corporate Studio time on a Monday morning. However, that's soon to change. At the time of writing, we are discussing a resumption of our use of the Art Room with the Centre management.

Obviously this is also tied to the timing of the Government's easing of restrictions. We are also discussing this timing at Committee level and with RAS members to be confident in a workable arrangement.

When we are able to resume, we will need to follow and comply with the relevant rules. At that time, we would ask members to assist us in working through the processes that will be in place.

Once we have a better understanding of the dates, timing, arrangements etc we will email all members with the relevant advice.

We will also seek to outline just how we think we can use Studio time between now and Christmas to the benefit of all members.

In the meantime members are encouraged to embrace 'InkTober 2021'. This is an art challenge where you draw/paint every day using some form of ink medium – ink pens, ink & brush, black biro, black textas, brushes, chinese brushes, sticks, pen/brushes, you can draw with pencil and then cover with ink pen, sketch with crayon then convert to digital ink drawing. In fact, any type of implement to make a mark.

If you like calligraphy, typography, lettering, it's OK to use it. Maybe you have a poem in mind as you work. The idea is to get creating. You can work from a photograph, magazine, real life, memory or from imagination. Forward your works to RAS via email. At the end of the month they will be judged and two prizes from Eckersley's Art will be awarded. Enjoy !!



Photos Above: "Misty 2" by Susan Bateman, Pet/Animal Challenge prize winner.

Member News

- Our Graeme Bogan continues to get out there and come up with the results. He not only has his photos reproduced in The Beast.....but also his Poems. His latest is found on p16 of the September edition. Titled "The Delta Blues" it reads as follows:
*Delta virus should be eradicated
Lockdown will continue until its evaporated*

If everyone co-operated, business would be operated

So do the right thing then you can tolerate it

To the anti-vaxxers, heed the warning, and be vaccinated



Photo Top: "Best Aussie Suburban Backyard" by Pat Reid, Looking out my window prize winner.

Photo Above: "Jacky & Sky 2", by Yuko Takeshita, Pet/Animal Challenge prize winner.

- The Winners of our Art Challenges were

August: Pet/Animal

Ann Cahill

Susan Bateman

Yuko Takeshita

Thank you to Niki Koepl for judging.

Sept: Looking out my Window

Pat Reid

Alana Best

Thank you to Kurt Koepl for judging.

Eckersley's Art vouchers for \$25 to winners were much appreciated.

- Congratulations to Shirley and Rex Hughes who celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary in September. Shirley and Rex have been long term members supporting RAS since its inception.

Photo Left: Pet/Animal Challenge prize winner by Ann Cahill

Our new web site

Some time ago we made the decision to create a new web site. We wanted greater functionality and more user-friendly control and management. The plan is to also migrate material from our existing web site to the new one over time (and then delete the old).

A key aspect of this new site is the ability to offer art works for sale and to process payments for a range of things offering PayPal as a payment platform.

Work on the web site has been continuing for some time. There was a lot to do sorting all the information relating to T&Cs for exhibiting artists as well as customers, returns policies and the like as well as coming up with an appropriate format. But this has now been done, sufficiently for the site to be launched. We will continue to work on the site into the future, so it's a work in progress.

The web site can be found at www.randwickartsocietyinc.com. Members are encouraged to Bookmark this new web site and start utilizing it. So for now we have 2 functional web sites. The web site we have had for some time is: www.randwickartsocietyinc.org.au.

As noted under the discussion of the Bendigo Bank exhibitions, the new web site currently features art works prepared for an Exhibition at the Bank, but which could not occur because of lock down restrictions. These are for sale.



Photo Above "Travel Adventures" by Elana Hoffman found at www.randwickartsocietyinc.com

Bendigo Bank Exhibitions

Over the 2020/2021 Christmas New Year period we completed an exhibition of around 16 works. We then followed this up with another exhibition in March/April of about 20 works. At least 3 of the artworks displayed were sold. Monies raised from commissions and/or entry fees are to be forwarded to a charity of the Bank's choice at the end of the year.

Our next scheduled dates to exhibit works was set down for July/Aug with a theme based on 'Winter'. This of course ran into problems with the lock down.

Not to be stopped, your RAS Ctee figured why not upload the works to our newly emerging second web site (see discussion of this elsewhere in this Newsletter). So we did.

It was a first for us. We always intended that this web site would have a Sale function capability, but there was quite a lot of back-end material we needed to sort. At the same time it had to be user friendly and art society members also needed to get used to taking photographs of their work and forwarding them to us.

So if you go to www.randwickartsocietyinc.com you will find 16 works by members which can be viewed and purchased.

Clearly, we also want to get back to exhibiting at the Bank (maybe with the same works online at the same time). So, we will continue to liaise with the Bank with the aim of securing exhibition dates in the near future.



Photo Top: "Gypsy" by Ana McGhie, Pet/Animal Challenge

Photo above: "Architectural landscape with pewter inlay" by John Hablitschek, found at: www.randwickartsocietyinc.com

Photo Left: "Wintry seas at Coogee", by Heide Hereth, found at: www.randwickartsocietyinc.com

CASS Activities

Just like member art societies, the Combined Art Societies of Sydney (CASS) have grappled with the disappointments and difficulties caused by the lock downs.

Three key CASS events which traditionally occur through the second half of the year and into next year have been either cancelled or altered.

Art in the Mountains allows works by art society members to be exhibited in a commercial gallery in Katoomba over 2 or 3 weeks. The original dates for exhibition were moved several times. Finally it became clear that the Exhibition could not happen in 2021 and it was cancelled.

Art at the Tops is based at a Conference Centre at Stanwell Tops just south of Sydney. Participants can live-in over a 3 day event with a wide range of tutors and workshop facilitators coming from different parts of Australia to explore various mediums and techniques.

It was set down for late November. However with an event such as this, a decision has to be made at key dates (consistent with booking payments) whether it will continue. At that time it was unclear that the event could even occur. When it was also evident that several tutors and trainers and attendees could not readily travel from other states, it was reluctantly cancelled for 2021.

CASS has traditionally run The Art of Sydney exhibition around the Australia Day period in January each year. In recent years this has occurred at the Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour.

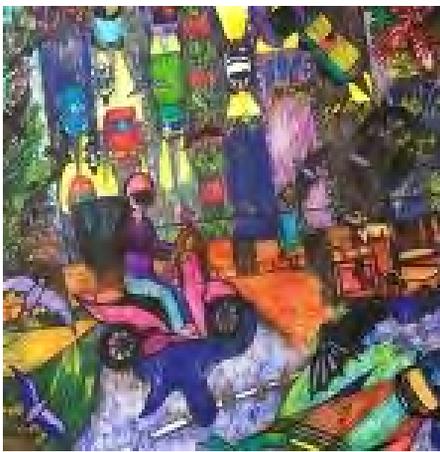


Photo Above: "No 7" by Shira Fox, Looking out my window Challenge.

In late 2020 it was evident that it could not be held as usual in January this year. So instead it was run as an online exhibition only.

For 2022, the Museum has indicated that the use of their facility in January is in doubt. So for the time being the CASS Committee are exploring the possibility of a later date. This is not yet resolved. Regardless of when it occurs, it is planned to run the exhibition online at the same time.

In the meantime CASS will run an Online Special Price Christmas SALE. It will be online from the 6th December 2021 to the 9th January 2022. No painting is to be priced over \$450. Entry will be \$5 per work. Commission 20%. Entries close 26th Nov. Forms with Ts & Cs will be available from 15th October at www.cassartonline.com.



Photo Left: "Hari" by Rosita Simmons, Pet/Animal Challenge.

Photo Above: Entry by Sandy Beynon, Pet Animal Challenge.

RAS 11th Annual Art, Craft & Photography Exhibition

We have booked dates for our Annual Exhibition at the Prince Henry Centre (PHC) for 2022. Our grant application which effectively sponsors the staging of the event is soon to go to Randwick Council.

The total event time will cover 5 days, which is one more than usual. We have elected to secure an extra day to assist us with set up and installation which has been increasingly hard to do in one day. So the Exhibition will be open to the public for the usual 3 days ending on the Sunday.

Our dates are: Wed 27th April, Thurs 28th April, Fri 29th April, Sat 30th April and Sun 1st May. Pop those in your diary and make a decision to be involved in one way or another. Your association and your community needs you !

Your Committee is already hard at work scoping out various aspects of the Exhibition. We want to continue to grow and improve the event as a vibrant activity to the benefit of association members as well as our wider community.

For some time now Phil McKay, a long-standing RAS member has been our delegate at CASS. He also served on the CASS executive Ctee as a general member. Phil has now stood down from the role. We thank him for his service on our behalf and wish him well as he continues his art journey. At the recent CASS AGM, our current President (Rick Bardsley-Smith) was elected to the role of Secretary at CASS. In recent times the role has been shared by the CASS President and Treasurer. In the Sectary role Rick will form part of the CASS Executive and be involved in the ongoing work of CASS on behalf of member societies.

Workshops

In our last newsletter we reported that we had a successful full day Watercolour Workshop on Sat 5th June run by Niki Koepl. We were able to use a Catholic Church Hall on Malabar Rd, and it proved to be an excellent venue.

Once again, Covid knocked this around. Since then we have looked at running the Workshop online using Zoom. As our planned presenter, Dee Jackson, doesn't work with this format we have again turned to Niki. Niki does a range of teaching and tutoring using Zoom as part of her own business operation.

This Workshop will now be held on Sat 30th Oct. It will be an online Zoom Workshop running between 10am and 1pm.

We also intend to have the planned Workshop with Dee Jackson (working on portraits), in the first part of 2022.



Photo Top: by Michele Day, Pet/Animal Challenge.

Photo Above: "Geese" by Robyn Langford-Brown, Pet/Animal Challenge.

Newsletter compiled by the **RAS RAG** team

Photo Top: "Coco" by Christine Langdon, Pet/Animal Challenge.

Photo 2: "Giraffe" by Nevidita Sen, Pet/Animal Challenge.

Photo 3: "Spring No 3" by Heather Egan, Looking out my window Challenge.

Committee Work

Members will recall that the position of Treasurer was not filled at the February AGM. Since then several Committee members have held the reins and kept the fires burning on that front.

We are now pleased to confirm that the Treasurers position has been filled by a relatively new member, Margie Linderman.

Margie joined us before the recent lock downs. She comes with great experience working in private sector roles in the airline industry and before that with the Opera House. She has abilities with financial and general management as well as marketing and promotional skills. She is also looking forward to exploring the world of art further. We welcome her and look forward to her involvement in our community life together.

RAS is also looking to put in place an Assistant Treasurer. This role would obviously involve assisting Margie and working with her and the Committee and all ongoing RAS activities.

If any existing members are interested in this role we'd love to hear from you. We have prepared a Job Description to help scope out the tasks and activities and useful skill sets. We can forward this to you. You are also welcome to discuss the matter with the RAS Executive. If so, contact can be made with Margi, Heather or Rick. (if you don't have relevant contact info, simply email randwickartsocietyinc@gmail.com and we can connect with you).

We are also intending to place information about this role on Seek Volunteer. This platform provides exposure to a wide range of people who may be looking to take up such a role.

Photo Left: by Judi Russell, Looking out my window Challenge".