

Alfred Cove Art Society NEWSLETTER

August 2023



Our next newsletter deadline is Friday 22nd September, 2023. Please send in your news. President's Report.

It has been quite a busy month for ACAS. With the closing down of MCAA we have been presented with a few opportunities. By now you will be aware that we have secured the Atwell Gallery for a **Spring Fever Exhibition to be held from 8th – 17th September.** Consequently we have had our skates on trying to get everything organised in good time. I hope you will be exhibiting your best work and that we will be able to entice some of the past MCAA members to join our club. Our August meeting on 31st falls on the day before entries close for the Spring Fever Exhibition so a good opportunity to bring along your entry forms.



Our second event, closely following the exhibition will be two **one day workshops with Andy Dolphin.** The first one will be on Wednesday 27th September, 9.30 am– 4 pm in Oils. There was so much interest in this one day event that Andy agreed to do a second day on Friday 29th Sept. The cost of these workshops is \$150 per day. Places are limited, only 10 students in each class so register early with Vicki. Money to Hadyn

This will be a good test of the popularity of this type of art education and if it proves successful we are considering implementing 5 – 6 sessions like this in the next calendar year.

One of the problems that has surfaced as result of changes at Atwell is that we now have responsibility for our own public liability insurance, previously we had been covered under the policy initiated by MCAA that was shared between two art groups plus the potters. As a result, our future insurance policy is considerably more expensive. Hopefully by the AGM in October we will have more information re our future expenditure ready for planning next year. Jenny Rawlinson.

ACAS Dates for your Diary

Thursday, 31st August. Demonstration by
Leanna Taylor. Art Challenge Topic Floral

SPRING FEVER EXHIBITION runs from 8th - 17th September.
Entries closing 1st Sept.

Oil Painting Workshop, Andy Dolphin
Wed, 27th Sept

General meeting 28th Sept, Demonstration by **Andy Dolphin**

Painting Workshop, 29th Sept, Andy Dolphin

AGM, 26th October.

Leanna Taylor

Where did I start??? Well my artistic interest was fueled at age 8 when I won 12 pairs of Holeproof socks in a colouring in competition! ...I suddenly found my future! Life took me in different directions and eventually back to art. Today I thrive on interpreting land and seascapes in a semi abstract manner, to paint capturing colour and the moments of light using Oils, Charcoal and dry Pastels as mediums. Pastels give me drawing techniques while oil paint hones my colour application.

I have been fortunate to win many awards, been collected internationally and I have accomplished many commissions... Some of which have been reproduced in an opulent coffee table books titled 'Golf Architecture, a worldwide perspective' by Greg Daly with the originals hanging in Lake Karrinyup Country Club.

I have conducted workshops locally and in the North of WA, demonstrated to Art Clubs and Societies, taught on a cruise ship and I am currently teaching Pastels to eager students in my studio. Extensive travel throughout my life has given me inspiration and I am a keen photographer.

Life Drawing Atwell Gallery
Every Sunday, 9 – 12,
Book with Graham at:
longhurstgr1@gmail.com

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MEMBER'S ARTICLE BY DERRICK FITZPATRICK



I took up painting as a therapy for managing PTSD and although I found that painting was a refuge from stress it was challenging moving from a left brained convergent thinking career based on analysis and calculations and the use of computers to one which required being more creative and flamboyant with

paint. This is particularly true of my favourite medium which is watercolours. This is very much an unforgiving medium which in my case has required years of practice, workshops and courses to be able to produce a halfway decent painting.

I acquired PTSD from the Vietnam war. As soon as I had completed my engineering degree I was conscripted into the army and served for two years as a sapper in the engineering corps. I was posted to Nui Dat in Vietnam where I put my engineering skills to good use and contributed to various pacification works in the towns and villages in Phuc Thuy province for one year.

A TAFE course for adults was a small beginning in painting with watercolours and I have attended numerous workshops in WA and the Mitchell School of Art in Bathurst for both the winter and summer schools. For about 10 years I attended the leisure course in watercolour painting run by Lucy Papalia in Duncraig, who very generously and patiently tried to instil in me the finer points of watercolour painting.

I very much admire the work of Alvaro Castagnet, Joseph Zbukvic and Herman Pikel. At a workshop which I attended Alvaro said that "watercolour painting is like a game of golf where the least strokes wins". This of course presupposes that the strokes are in the right place and they are the right shape, colour and intensity and the paper is at the right level of wetness. So I hope that the brush miles that I am clocking up with my painting recently are nudging me along this path.

As if to confirm Alvaro's words when I was in the caves in Pech Merle in France the guide pointed to a drawing of a woolly mammoth on the wall of the cave and marvelled at the economy of stroke that the painter used to deftly and accurately depict the creature with only 14 strokes of manganese oxide and charcoal. The painting was dated as being 25000 years old.

I have been fortunate enough to have attended and had a painting included with others from the Watercolour Society of WA in the International Watercolour exhibitions in Maccagno Italy in 2013 and 2018 and also in Alessandria Italy in 2016 as well as in the European Watercolour Exhibition and Symposium in Krakow Poland in 2018. Several countries were represented and I thought that the Australian paintings shaped up really well when compared to those from the other countries.



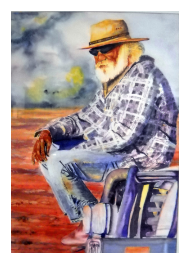
In addition to the Alfred Cove Art Society I belong to the Wanneroo Joondalup Art Society, the Watercolour Society of WA and the West Australian Society of Arts. I actively exhibit my paintings at most of the exhibitions organised by these groups as well as at the Annual Art exhibition of the Cockburn Community and Cultural Council. Once a week I paint with a group of like minded friends in a hall in Wembley Downs and we have been together for about 20 years.

My favourite piece of art is the Sagrada Familia by Gaudi in Barcelona. I know it is not a painting but it is incredibly original, both quirky and heroic in scale and very inspirational. Gaudi wanted the interior to be like a forest so the columns are like massive trees with branches supporting the roof. The stained glass windows do not depict any religious scene but rather are placed so as to appear like filtered sunlight coming through the leaves of the trees. I believe Gaudi was trying to create a space which was conducive to meditation and prayer and he achieved that many times over.



< Self Portrait
Acrylic

Toyota Dreaming
Watercolour >



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JULY'S GUEST SPEAKER – BRIDGET SEATON

It was a pleasure to welcome our local artist and long-time teacher at Atwell House – Bridget Seaton. An avid bush walker, she never leaves the city without her sketchbooks. She has one for plein air and another for her studio and these often lead to larger paintings. These are done quite quickly and she finds this a lot of fun, even on thin paper.

Trees are Bridget's favourite subject and different trees have different approaches to them. Bridget kindly shared how she does this with three demonstrations.

Demo 1 - Continuous Line – With her reference picture attached to a board in front of her, she uses a wax crayon on butcher's (or other cheap) paper, and tries not to lift the crayon to make one continuous line of the main shape. With the flat side of the crayon, she adds the leaves. The aim is to engage with the eyes and movement of the hands. Bridget finds this practise excellent for brain training.

Demo 2 – Upside down - This time the picture is attached to the board upside down and once again Bridget tries not to lift the crayon even though she adds the branches and the leaves in the process. There is a tendency to get a little lost but she finds this part of the challenge and that it makes interesting shapes. The key is not to add everything and simplify your drawing.



Demo 3 - Silhouette and Negative spaces – the most challenging as you focus on the shapes in between the branches etc.

Sept 1 – draw the silhouette

Step 2 – draws the large negative spaces

Step 3 – Draws branches and leaves within the spaces.

Bridget uses a limited palette of colours – A warm and cool of the primary colours plus white and finds

that the less pigments are mixed the more harmonious the painting.

Using MDF which has a binder on both sides and gesso on the front, Bridget mixes her colours and adds Thick Slow Medium to all of her paints. For this demonstration, she painted on a dark background using a 10" flat brush. She started by painting in the negative spaces (sky), then the mid-ground, then foreground and lastly the foliage. The final step, and this has become a bit of signature to her paintings, is to add a bit of pizzazz with a few daubs of colour, like orange or a muted teal colour.



While Bridget does not consider herself a drawer, her constant practise is clearly paying off with her own whimsical style. We thank Bridget for sharing some of her strategies and were amazed that something gorgeous could be created from what little time we had together. We hope her exhibition (finishing on 27th August) at Zig Zag Gallery in Kalamunda went well.

A big thank you from all of us Bridget.
Vicki Discerni.



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EVENTS OF INTEREST



WORKSHOPS WITH ANDY DOLPHIN

Andy is an accomplished artist who lives and works in Mt Barker and we are indeed lucky to have him conducting two workshops for us here at Atwell Gallery. Both

workshops will be landscapes in oils, the first one on Wednesday 27th September and the second on Friday 29th September. Both days will run 9.30am - 4pm and cost \$150 per day. Andy's workshops are in great demand and are limited to 10 places. Secure your booking by notifying Vicki of your attendance, vickicook@iinet.net.au. Send your payment, with your name and date of attendance to Hadyn ASAP.

Bank Details for payment are:

Alfred Cove Art Society: **066-163 10387314**



As a bonus, Andy will also be the demonstrator at our meeting on 28th September. The Topic of our Painting challenge at that meeting will be **Transport**

SPRING FEVER EXHIBITION

Don't forget entries close on 1st September, the day after the meeting. Don't forget to pick up some leaflets to drop off in letterboxes and with friends. Let's see if we can have a huge crowd at the opening on **8th September**. A lot of advertising has been organised in both the Fremantle Herald, Melville Times and the West Australian.

AGM 26th OCTOBER,

Put the date in your diary. The venue is yet to be confirmed, more news on this in the September newsletter but we would like you to think about how you might be involved in our club. We will be looking for a Publicity Officer, someone who loves writing to produce the newsletter and someone for Social Media.

SKILL-SHARE

5th November with Deb Armstrong.

'Loose and Luscious'

These also have been very popular events and much enjoyed by all who attend. Be early to get your name down and money in to secure a spot. It will run 1 - 4pm. at a cost of \$20 each.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

1st December at Himali Gurkha in Applecross. and will cost \$44 per head. Remember to keep the date.

I have only heard good reports of the food served at this restaurant so I am excited about lunch. It is a good opportunity to get to know each other better so put it on your calendar..

HELP THE HOMELESS

SATURDAY

09

SEPTEMBER

2023

5pm - 9pm September 2023

Walyalup Civic Centre

Fremantle

help the homeless

FINE ART AUCTION

a global voice for women

Federation of the South West Pacific

Soroptimist International

Fremantle

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP THE HOMELESS

Walyalup Civic Centre, Fremantle, adjoining Fremantle Town Hall

Auction 5pm Saturday 9 September 2023.

Doors open 4pm.

All proceeds to the Freo Street Doctor and

St Patrick's Community Support Centre Fremantle

Hi everyone

Volunteer group Soroptimist International of Fremantle is pleased to announce details of the 14th annual Help the Homeless Fine Art Auction, held at Walyalup Civic Centre, Fremantle on Saturday 9 September 2023.

Bring your heart and credit card to this very special event and make a difference to the lives of the homeless community. By attending and buying at this event, you directly contribute to this important cause and invest in the wellbeing of the community.

Your attendance matters and transforms lives.

Join us for an evening of entertainment, food and fantastic fine art featuring a performance by Cara Deanne, as well as The Starlight Hotel Choir - so named to reflect the night view of those sleeping rough.

MC is Sam Longley, actor, comedian, writer and director since the mid-90s. He has performed everything from a Shakespearian drunkard to an eight-year-old delinquent, written plays, hosted TV shows and is the creator of the sell-out improv-comedy show The Big Hoo-Haa.

Auctioneers are McKenzies Auctioneers in Claremont, established in 1988.

See the catalogue here: <https://artistschronicle.com/help-the-homeless-2023/>

Last year's tickets sold out! Tickets are \$50 each, and include food, refreshments and entertainment. Book tickets here: <https://events.humanitix.com/help-the-homeless-fine-art-auction-895pm00k>

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IMAGINE OVER 200 ARTISTS PAINTING THROUGHOUT MANDURAH'S TOWN CENTRE, CULTURAL PRECINCT AND THE HISTORIC TOWN OF PINJARRA. WHAT A SIGHT THAT WILL BE!

Plein Air Down Under is a celebration of outdoor painting and includes awards and prizes, feature artists, workshops, demonstrations, outdoor painting and two art exhibitions.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



**We thank Sam Lim
Member for Tangney
for the printing of this newsletter**



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