September 2018 Newsletter

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A word from our President:

Hi everyone, are we getting excited about our Annual Art show!

Get painting and potting, we want to see lots of submissions, and make sure you have your entry forms into the entry box in Room 2 by 10pm on October 11th!

Opening night is Friday 19th October so pop down at 7:00 pm to see the display and the results of the judging.

Thank you, Ellen

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Nell Street entrance.

Grampians Brushes

Halls Gap, September 8– 13th 2018 :

This artist's retreat has been happening every year since 2008, and has grown in popularity and diversity since its inception. This year between 500—800 people converged into the small town, nestled between towering peaks of the Grampian Ranges.

With a crispness in the air, an abundance of colourful beanies, gloves, scarves and parkas could be seen scurrying between the many venues and events planned during the six days. Arriving on the Friday night for an opening event we got to meet the numerous artists offering workshops, with examples of their work on display. I heard a bevy of murmurs exclaiming about the vast array of styles on offer, and the lack of time we all had to try them all.

As there is many accommodation options in Halls Gap, quite a few had offered use of their convention or meeting rooms to host the different sessions which meant there were many, and we got to choose from working with oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolours, charcoal, printmaking, and mixed media. There was something for everyone. Some sessions focused on landscapes or animals, or working 'en plein air', or focused on colour use or manipulation of mediums. The schedule offered many two day workshops for the Saturday and Sunday, then four day workshops from Monday to Thursday.

I chose to focus on watercolour as I have had limited experience in this medium and was eager to learn. I can honestly say I learned more than I thought I would, and the highlight was discovering the Art Spectrum's lovely Australian red gold pigment. I learnt about colours, values and tonal qualities, and how to blend colours on the paper. I learnt how to pack a kit for travelling, and how to do pen and wash while sitting on rocks and in fields. I also got to spend four days with ex-Nillumbik artist Jenni Mitchell who recently moved up to Hamilton and who stepped in to replace John Mathieson. It was a great learning experience, and I recommend attending the Brushes very highly. I also glimpsed a familiar face as Ellen Jenkins had travelled up for the weekend with friends.

There are many eating establishments for those that wanted to eat out and socialise, and a couple of planned events. Next years dates have been set and the working committee are planning the next lot of workshops based on the evaluation forms we all submitted. Maybe I will see some of you there next year.

Editor, ***Jo***

Images captured by Jo Seymour on IPad, September 2018

Printed courtesy Hon. Jenny Macklin MP

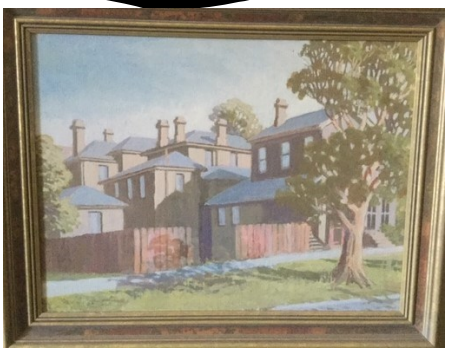
Meet Our Committee Members:

Rob Macaulay

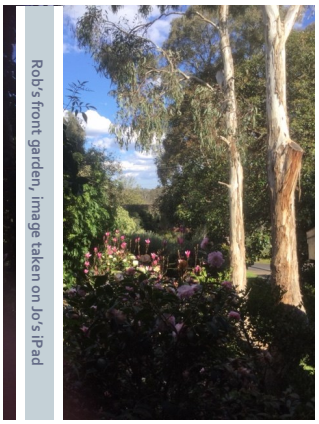
Again, I was honoured to be invited into another home for a chat, this time with Rob. As I arrived I caught Rob recycling a jug of water onto a tree across from his driveway and I discovered that Rob has a deep respect for trees and plants. His front garden was a glorious display of colour of which I was happy to gaze at for a while.

With a cuppa on hand we sat down for the serious business of talking about what led Rob to where he is now. Rob was born in 1942 in Temuka, New Zealand, and lived for a while in Milford in a farming community before moving back to Temuka at age 10. It was while he was at Tech school that he attended art classes, which complemented his earlier love of drawing. This led Rob into architecture, a career he enjoyed.

At Uni, Rob developed some concern that architecture would be very much an office job, and as Rob prefers being outdoors he decided to move into surveyancing.



Still interested in art, in 1967 Rob attended two short oil painting classes conducted by John Crump, a well known New Zealand landscape artist whose smallest brush was 2 cm wide. This love of oils continued through his life, so when he moved to Adelaide in 1970, and then to Melbourne in 1971, his experiences in the outback and in Ballarat gave him plenty of images for his paintings. Rob has resided in Eltham for many years, joined DVAS in 1990 and over the years has attended several short term classes offered by Max Dimmock and Sue O'Brien. He was also a member of the Mitcham Art Society in 1973. He paints with both oils and watercolours.



Rob's front garden, image taken on Jo's iPad

He is currently inspired by Anh Do, and is keen to start tackling portraits, as he usually paints landscapes, architecture and aircraft. Unfortunately his wife Bernice has no desire to be one of his subjects! Maybe he can convince his daughter or two step sons to have a go!

When I asked Rob about what he likes about art, he replied that he loves drawing, and he sees things in nature, and clouds, that appeal to him. He said that he can become obsessed in his art, and is often meticulous, especially with exploring shadows and light and shade. He loves the cumulus after rain, the way the sun shines brilliant light into clouds, and he loves the look of eucalyptus and foliage. Sometimes he paints en-plein air, other times he sketches. Rob still enters his works into a variety of art shows, so look out for his work in our Show in October. Thank you Rob for sharing with me.

Jo

Our Superstars!

Over the past month a few of our members have won prizes in other art shows.

Bayside Rotary Art Show Review, *by Giulianna del Popolo*

After the Camberwell Art show experience I thought I'd try something bayside, as my art is coastal in nature (at the moment!). I entered three pastels, and one was accepted into the show.

The Bayside Art Show showcased around 500 pieces of art of a very high standard. Although a lot smaller than Camberwell Art Show, it was more intimate and easier to appreciate on this scale. The speeches were short and sweet, it was very well catered, and there was a nice ambience (being seaside and all).

The judge was a Warrandyte artist named Pamela Pretty, member of the Victorian Arts Society and Pastel Society. I was fortunate to have a good chat with her about the show and her selections.

Whilst I did lament driving the art down to the Sandringham Yacht Club, it did work out in my favour, as I collected the award for Best Pastel/Acrylic category! It seems strange to me that a category would lump the two mediums together, as they have different properties and very different applications. Even the judge found it difficult to select a winner from such a large combined category.

Overall I liked this Art Show, and I think I'll try my luck again next year. The show's main sponsor is "Mercedes Benz Brighton" and this picture amuses me because it looks like I won a car! Alas no, but the cheque came in handy!

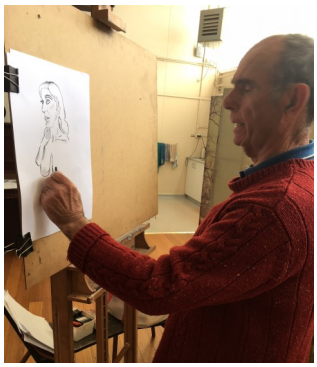
COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 2018

Here is a summary of the discussion points from the sept 20th meeting:

- Discussion about gas bill and rent
- Update on exhibition screens and a review of the hire price to incorporate new costs
- Donations and sponsors for the Art Show, and the catalogue
- Discussion about monetary value to be offered for each show prize.
- Membership now up to 90
- Dates for 2019 Flower and Garden show 27th-31st March
- Will send a letter of thank you to Jenny Macklin for her support of the Arts Society
- Discussion of the hire of a bus for the Archibald Prize day trip
- Next meeting 18th October

Friday Morning Life Drawing Class with Lynton

This is one of the sessions run by Lynton.



Our exhibition screens have now all been recovered and look great. We have 25 available to hire, at $13 a screen, and $15 for the loan of a box of specialised hooks.

Extra workshops available

Mick Chick is contemplating offering more life drawing workshops. The options he is proposing are a Wednesday and/or Thursday morning 10:30 to 12:30. if you are interested, please call Mick on 9439 8801 or 0409 359522.
Wednesday—long poses, Thursday—short poses. $20 per session.

A reminder that the DVAS Annual Art Show is on at the Greensborough Masonic Hall.
Friday Oct 19th Opening Ceremony
Saturday 20th– Sun 21st open to the public.

Update on John Rickard:
John has recently been unwell, and will be living in a care facility until the end of the year. Presently he is doing well, feeling great, and is resting while he is receiving treatment at the Olivia Newton John Centre. He hopes to see us all in the new year.

2018 Wattle Festival Hurstbridge—Art Show

On my wanders, I stopped in to look at the art, and was pleasantly surprised to recognise work from two of our members, Anna M and Liz C.

Our Superstars! Let me show you their entries and results!

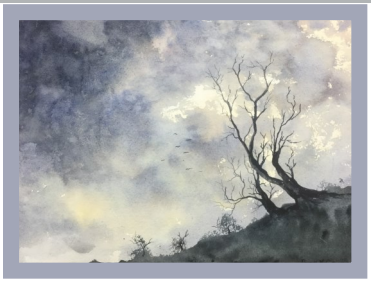
Story Writing and Art Competition: Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Peter entered three pieces into the VVVA Competition and received the following awards:

◊ **2nd Prize** in the 2C Art: Other media Novice category for "Silhouette Mountain"

◊ **3rd Prize** in the 2B Art: Oils—Experienced category for "Harry Home:"

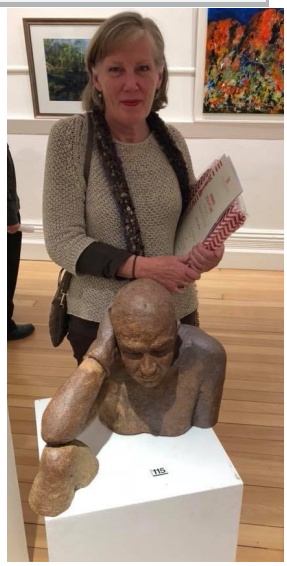
◊ **Honourable Mention** in the 4C Photography—Portraits category for "More, Grandpa"



The Victorian Artists Society: Winner Sculpture Spring Exhibition 2018

Ellen entered her statue of John and won **first prize**.

Well done Ellen!



If undeliverable return to

Diamond Valley Arts Society Inc.

PO Box 171 Greensborough

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

This sculpture made from stone and wire sits at the Grampians Cultural Centre in Halls Gap. It could be a dragon or a frilled neck lizard or even a modern day gargoyle!

Another thought brought to you by the adventuring Jo.

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Dianne has many specials and don't forget DVAS members still have a further 10% off all purchases.

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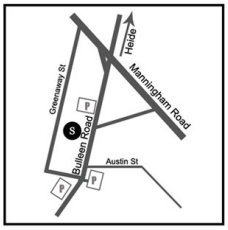

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CLASS AND WORKSHOP SCHEDULE TERM 1 2018 *For more information, contact Ellen or check out our webpage.*

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Morning		Class: Watercolour Tutor: John Orlando-Birt	Workshop: Life Drawing & Painting Convenor: Mick Chick ———————- Workshop: Pottery Convenor: Les Huthnance	Class: Pottery/Wheelwork Tutor: Peter Knuckey ——————— Workshop: Sculpture Convenor: Ellen Jenkins ——————— Trial: Workshop: Life Drawing & Painting Convenor: Mick Chick		Class: Acrylic Tutor: Sue O'Brien
Afternoon		Workshop: Painting Convenor: Neil Crammer ——————— Workshop: Life Drawing Convenor: Lynton Thomas		Workshop: Sculpture Convenor: Ellen Jenkins ——————— Friendship group: Mixed media	Workshop: Life Drawing Convenor: Lynton Thomas	
Evening				Workshop: Painting Convenor: Warwick Cheney ——————— Workshop: Life Drawing Convenor: Terry Ponchard		