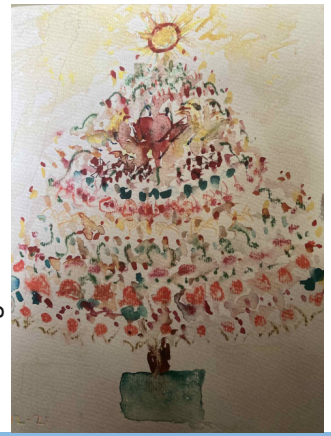




randwick
art
society
inc.

Mark England



Quarterly Newsletter # 55

December 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As 2023 draws to a close, let me wish you an enjoyable Christmas time and a happy and healthy New Year.

To cap the year off Judie Bode reports very positively about our Christmas Fair in saying 'the atmosphere was electric with a wonderful team working together'. Special thanks to Helen's square reader initiative, Marie's beautiful flyers, paintings hung by Harald, Paul and Chris, Rob's labelling, Robyn's professional touch, Dina's help, Aileen's involvement of school children, Pat and Margaret and others answering questions, Harald's removal of paintings and hanger packing.

Welcome Rob and Rory, our new members. Finally, congratulations to Josette for winning first prize - Toni

Bailey's painting 'Western Plains'.

Randwick Council proved supportive by waiving the hire of the main hall at the Randwick Literary Institute and publishing Pat's article in 'What's On' in the RCC Newsletter.

Our RAS search for better premises is incrementally moving forward. To keep you fully appraised I will close this year's address by fully informing you of our recent address to Council.

At the final Randwick Council meeting for the year on the 13th December, a motion was put by Counsellor Pandolfini that Council prepare a report and note that: the Historic Sandgate Cottage and June Moore Place be a permanent space for community and cultural activities and programs. The space at 128 Belmore Road Randwick is under a commercial lease arrangement. It is leased until 30 September 2025. The motion was supported with the provision that the location be on a commercial footing.

Following discussion with Counsellor Pandolfini about the motion, I offered to speak in favour. Our Society has been looking for a better location.

My address to Council had a maximum time limit of 4 minutes and within that constraint, the following is what I had to say:

'On behalf of the Randwick Arts Society, I pay my respects to the elders' past, present and future on whose unseeded land we abide. Merry Christmas one and all!

My name is Mark England, President of the Randwick Art Society and long-time resident of Randwick City. Thank-you Councillors, and Council, for the opportunity to speak to this fantastic proposal. I wish to particularly acknowledge Mayor Philpa Vietch and Cr. Rafaela Pandolfini, for the work they have done in bringing the proposal to this point. I also acknowledge our RAS Patron, Cr. Kathy Neilson and our founding patron, previous Deputy Mayor Cr. Margaret Woodsmith, who gives her apologies.

Just yesterday morning, this Motion was discussed with RAS members at a General Meeting. It was unanimously and excitedly endorsed by all present.

RAS currently has 110 members, young and old, producing art and craft works for personal enjoyment, exhibition and sale. We are a community of painters, drawers, sculptors, muralists, photographers, jewellers, fabric artisans, coming from a wide range of backgrounds all with the same purpose. We serve to build, enhance and promote a Randwick Arts Culture.

Some of you may recall that at the last Annual Exhibition at Little Bay, where Cr Dylan Parker officiated; in addition to art and craft, RAS provided entertainment in the live art forms of poetry and music. We aim to promote and encourage all local art forms.

Our current premises are at the Randwick Literary Institute and a room at the Coast Centre. Both premises are relatively remote and so do not offer a real opportunity to promote and sell our artistic and artisan outputs. For too long we have occupied these out of the way locations.

Sandgate Cottage and the associated June Moore Place stand in stark and wonderful contrast to our current locations. The Cottage bears a proud history befitting of our RAS. By occupying this cottage and Place RAS would experience far more foot traffic as a means to sell our items. Our members have the capacity to produce to meet a high

demand, especially at times of the year like this when customers are searching for 'that special something'. The ease of transportation to Sandgate will be a boon to many of our members who may have limited transportation means.

When the Randwick Historical Society first came to Sandgate Cottage I am informed that it had some 100 members. In a relatively short time it grew to 300 members due to passing traffic. RAS similarly has 110 members and I am sure many others would like to join. We already have the depth of talent and interest to manage a shop, studio, exhibition space and store room, and teaching facilities.

Other regional localities in Australia foster the arts by providing facilities to local art societies such as ours. Blackall in Queensland with a population of 1200 provides a large main street gallery and a building complex for art and craft work. Nelson Bay in NSW has dedicated an old hospital to its arts and crafts.

To name a few. Closer to and in Sydney we have many other fine examples.

Randwick Art Society fully supports this motion and would be a very grateful party to its formulation. '

Councillor Pandolfini commented that this is very early days and that this is just a motion to look at getting Sandgate back in Council control. Councillor Pandolfini asked: 'Could you speak of the significance of having Sandgate back in Council control and the lack of space for artists in general.'

I responded by saying:

To have a central space where artists get together and practice is really important for artists.

Many artists work off the companionship of others they are working with and learn from each other. As we look back at the history of art so many movements in art come from groups of people coming together and working together to share knowledge. This location is incredibly historic for Randwick. Mr Pearce who



built this cottage was the founder of Randwick and built a road through to Coogee. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with the history of Randwick and to add to the future of our culture and to our arts and entertainment in a very positive way that is community building and enhancing. We have 110 artists in the Randwick Art Society and that could certainly grow. Art is a very important outlet for so many people. A means of expressing their creativity, of finding peace, wellbeing and joy in their lives. Its certainly a wonderful way

for people to feel a part of their community and of Randwick. Artists need space as often a physical product being built whether a large sculpture or as small as a miniature. This space would be critical to building culture in the area.

The meeting was packed with people concerned with a motion also raised by Counsellor Pandolfini calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Surprisingly, a good number of those present clapped and cheered me when I finished my address.

So, we had good public support from an unexpected audience.

The Motion was carried with an amendment that there be some commercial use

A sad point occurred during the year with the death of Dr. Fred Orr. It was Fred who originally envisaged such a society. He was also active in running the Next Chapter Art Group, which continues to this day. A lovely man who cared for the community. Vale Fred.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your ongoing support to our wonderful society. Sincerely wishing you a peaceful and happy Christmas time with your loved ones and a successful 2024.

Mark England President, RAS

BUS TRIP TO BLUE MOUNTAINS

Our trip to the Blue Mountains on 17 Nov. began at the Penrith Regional Gallery. This site has 3 galleries as well as a café, play area for children and lovely gardens, adjacent to the Nepean River. It was originally the home of sculptor

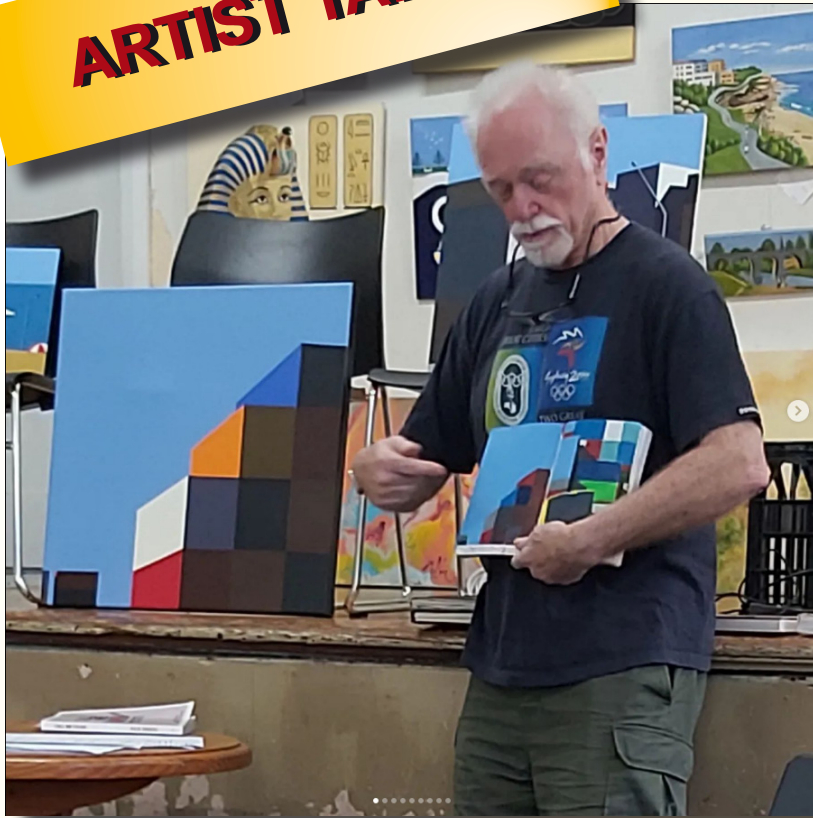


Gerald Lewers and painter Margo Lewers. After our coffee break and exhibition viewing, we continued up the mountains to view the Three Sisters at Echo Point and the Blue Mountains Regional Gallery, then to Leura for lunch and lastly the wonderful Falls Gallery. This has many paintings by well known artists (Wendy Sharpe, Bernard Ollis, Gary Shead) and prints by owner Anne Smith, as well as ceramics, surrounded by well maintained beautiful gardens. All in all a most enjoyable, sunny day with great company and a great driver, Dave.

*by Liz Burcher,
bus trip co-ordinator*



ARTIST TALKS



Randwick Art Society members were treated to a fascinating presentation by accredited urban landscape artist **Phil McKay** on Monday, October 16. Phil talked about the beginnings of his art practice, where he studied technical drawing and industrial art. After fully embracing and committing to his artist's journey, in 2014, he began keeping an Art Diary. Phil talked about how he catalogued details about each of his paintings, and how he uses his sketches for reference when he works on his new compositions. He joined May Street Studios in 2014, where he still has a studio, and his work can also be viewed on Instagram.

On Nov. 20 artist, **Harry Tolitsas**, gave an interesting talk about his life and art. At the age of 6 he wondered how 'he just knew' how to draw, after a librarian had praised his tonal drawing. At age 13, he was able to study art at school, and later entered and won an Amcol Jean Company Competition, where he won Amcol clothing for himself. He eventually studied architectural drafting, and completed his Certificate in Architecture. His early interest in tapestries led him to work as an embroidery designer for a while. Over the last 40 years he has produced a large body of work including portraits and nude studies completed during life-drawing classes. Harry often used just a ball-point pen, and drew on recycled printer paper he'd revived by undercoating it with gesso mixed with cement dust.

Harry continues leading a fascinating creative life and points out that he never went to art school. He once won an art Prize from the National Trust and was nicknamed "The Master Draftsman".



ARTIST SUCCESSES

Gallery
247



Congratulations to **Hannah Sunita** on a very successful solo art exhibition. Hannah sold 10 paintings and a large range of merchandise (gift cards, mugs, colouring books and Christmas baubles)

Hannah's Art
EXHIBITION

WILD ENCOUNTERS

9 December 2023 | 6 Tweed Place, Zetland
11.30AM to 2PM | RSVP hsunito23@gmail.com



Kurt Koepl won Runner Up to Best in Show for his painting "Thoughts of Winter" Congratulations to Kurt!

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS


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WALSH'S
VILLAGE PHARMACY
Corner of Malabar Road & Meagher Avenue, South Maroubra, NSW 2035

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CHAMBER CHOIR



WONDERLAND

Art Festival

Randwick Art Society participated in the **Wonderland Art Festival** at Bronte Surf Club, 9th - 11th November.

A special thanks to Tracy Rockwell for organising this fantastic event and for all the work that goes on behind the scenes, promoting this event and all the artists. Randwick Art Society had 2 panels with our members' artworks on display.

Some members hired their own panels, expanding the Society's profile. This was a great way to promote our society.

There were a few sales, with money going straight to the artists with no commission (this was covered in the entry fee).





Painting Photography
Crafts

CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Main Hall RLI
60 Clovelly Rd RANDWICK

Saturday 16th &
Sunday 17th DECEMBER

10am - 4pm



The atmosphere at the Christmas Fair was electric with a wonderful team working together to have a professional display set up by 10:00 am. We welcomed a steady stream of visitors over the weekend. The Craft tables did a swift trade. The paintings looked amazing, although there were no sales.

From the outset, Helen Burman's professional input was invaluable over the weekend. The square reader proved an asset in our cashless society.

Marie's beautiful flyers were distributed electronically, by letter box drop and by posters. RAS are grateful to the Maroubra Baptist Church for printing 400 flyers and to Ruth at the Eastern Suburbs Life Magazine for a large display of the flyer and our column.

Marie Widolf took multiple photos and posted them on Instagram.

Harald, Paul and Chris did a sterling job hanging paintings and displaying our banners and signs. Rob was there to help with labelling. Robyn's professional touch helped out in every aspect. Dina contributed with her help throughout the weekend.

Everyone kept to their rosters and plenty of raffle tickets were sold. The first prize, Tony Bailey's painting, "Western Plains", was won by Josette Nicholls.

Aileen Anderson's initiative to involve local school children in an art competition was a great success.

Everyone worked together as a team and it was great to welcome our two new members, Rob and Rory.

Judie Bode

RANDWICK ART
SOCIETY INC



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our final day at RLI was on 11th December where members enjoyed a Christmas lunch after a General Meeting. We will resume again at RLI on 5th February 2023.



We wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a great new year with our Society. Our Annual Exhibition will be held on 2, 3, 4 and 5 of May 2024 so you may like to work on your entries over the holidays.

