

randwick
art
society
inc.



Quarterly Newsletter # 47

Issue: December 2021

Photos Above from Left: Inktober Prize winners, Judie Bode "Fan" & Alana Best "Raven"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lock down ! What lock down.....!!

We certainly live in roller coaster times. With the recent lifting of restrictions we have all seen activity in our wider community re-emerge.....sometimes with gusto. At the same time and logically enough, quite a number of us have approached it all with some caution. It's a bit like creeping out of the house after some massive weather event has moved through. Has it really gone ?

Maybe not. If you consult your Greek alphabet there are quite a few other letters apart from Delta (something like 24 to 28).....and it seems Omicron is now with us.

Well, we saw pretty clearly in lock down what we needed to do – identify our core values. And the reality is, claiming those values is important.....**all the time**.....no matter how many letters the alphabet has.

For now we have more freedoms. That's nice. But together with those freedoms we shouldn't lose sight of our values. We might again lose some of the freedoms. We might again be forced to abandon our cherished plans. And if that happens, we again place our core values front and centre.

How do we do that ? We help one another. We think about ways and means to provide support and encouragement – then go and do it.

So that's what we've been doing. I see a Ctee with members who want to help to the extent of their abilities....and at the same time they have not stopped producing art works while working to support our members. All of this tells me, if we continue to work together, we can achieve a great deal for the good of our members.

Be well, stay well, make art.

Rick Bardsley-Smith
President



Workshops

Members may recall we had intended to run a Dee Jackson Workshop in the 2nd half of 2021.

Covid of course mucked that up. So we moved to the idea of an online Workshop. However, it turned out that potential participants were not so interested or comfortable in undertaking a workshop via an online format. So that workshop was cancelled.

We are now pleased to confirm that our Dee Jackson Workshop is set down for February 19th 2022. It will be held at the Coast Centre and run between 10am - 4pm. Make a plan to be involved !

RAS Calendar Dec-Jan-Feb

- Sydney Children's Hospital Exhibition on now through to February 2022;
- Bendigo Bank Exhibition on now through into 2022;
- CASS Online Special Price Christmas SALE on now until 9th Jan 2022. Go to www.cassartonline.com;
- Return to Coast Centre Mon 31 Jan 2022 & trial return to RLI.
- Dee Jackson Watercolour Portrait Workshop 19 February 2022.
- International Women's Day Art Prize 2022. Entries online at <https://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/community/randwick-city/arts-and-culture/womens-art-prize> and due Mon 21 Feb. During the holidays why not work on an entry.
- RAS AGM 28 Feb 2022.
- 2022 Membership Fees due 1 March 2022



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@randwickartsocietyinc



Randwick Art Society Inc. PO Box 1062, Randwick NSW 2031
randwickartsocietyinc@gmail.com | www.randwickartsocietyinc.org.au

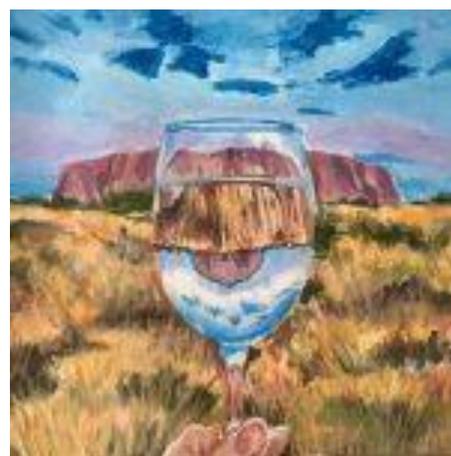


Photo Above: November Art Challenge entry "Drinks at Sunset" by Christine Langdon

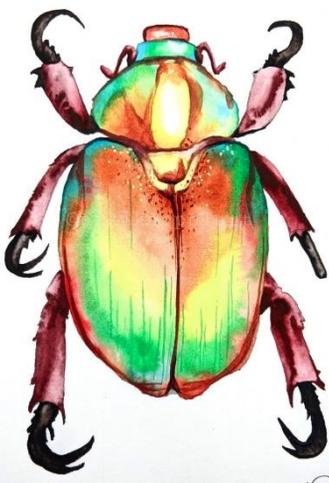


Photo Above: November Art Challenge prize winner "Christmas Beetle" by Niki Koepl.

Combined Art Societies of Sydney (CASS)

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.

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 (possibly Easter). 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 is running its Online Special Price Christmas SALE. It went online from the 6th Dec 2021 and will run to the 9th January 2022. No painting is priced over \$450. The sale web site is www.cassartonline.com.

As reported in the last Newsletter, it was disappointing to see both the 2021 Art in the Mountains (commercial gallery space) and 2021 Art at the Tops (live-in workshops at Stanwell Tops) succumb to Covid restrictions.

CASS have locked in 2022 dates for both initiatives. Pop these in your diary:

- Art in the Mountains, 7th July to 25th July 2022;
- Art at the Tops, 25th to 28th Nov 2022.



Our new web site

Just a reminder, why not visit our new web site. The web site can be found at

www.randwickartsocietyinc.com.

Members are encouraged to Bookmark this new web site and start utilizing it. Apart from other benefits, the new web site can accommodate PayPal online payments for upcoming Workshops.

So, for now we have 2 functional web sites. The web site we have had for some time is:

www.randwickartsocietyinc.org.au.

In due course we intend to move to just one web site and that will be the new site (with the .com ending). This is a work in progress and will take a little while. Bear with us.



Committee work

Your RAS Ctee has been busy working through routine matters. At the same time we have been looking at a wide range of aspects of our RAS life together. This has included:

- Planning and exploring Monday Studio time;
 - Planning and implementing the monthly sketch challenges;
 - Exploring possibilities for merchandising;
 - Exploring possibilities with Sponsorship and marketing. Grant submissions to Council and the Bendigo Bank. Production of PR flyer. A Thank you Christmas Card to sponsors;
 - Reviewing aspects of the Annual Exhibition and exploring improvements. Considering ways to encourage and expand craft/sculpture exhibits. Looking at ways to streamline purchase payments;
 - Exploring possibilities with our Newsletter format;
 - Seeking to expand ongoing exhibition possibilities (local galleries, Library, Children's Hospital, Bendigo Bank);
- For many of these things the work starts with a review of what has happened in the past, how we have handled a particular matter, and the issues that emerge. We then have to explore the possible way forward and formulate an approach.

It takes time, it takes thinking, it takes creativity. So it's a process. But your Ctee is keen to grapple with these matters. We ask for patience and support as we do this. Obviously we have to prioritise and it may well be that in any given year we can only achieve so much – so be it. But with each step, its another rung on the ladder that we climb seeking to achieve our common Objectives.

Photo Top: Inktober entry "David Attenborough" by Lee Elder.

Photo Centre: Inktober entry "Artichoke", by Francis O'Rourke.

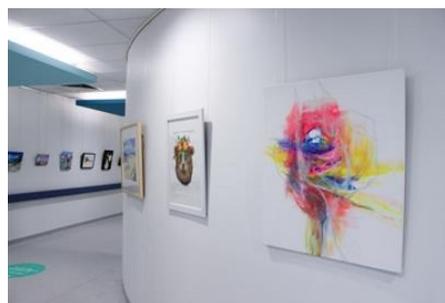
Photo Bottom: Inktober entry "Queen & Spicer Sts" by Masaji-Hashimoto.

Sydney Children's Hospital Exhibition

As previously reported this exhibition was knocked around by Covid. We were originally scheduled for Spring and everything was in place – but in the end we couldn't even get the art works together and to the Hospital.

Thankfully that all changed, we were given a new Summer timeslot and on Monday 22nd Nov our art works went to the Hospital. They have now been placed on exhibition. (See photos opposite).

This is very encouraging. Probably the only downside for now is that we are not allowed to visit just to browse and look at the works. But that may change in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, permitted visitors and staff get to enjoy our works. Commissions on sales go to the Hospital.



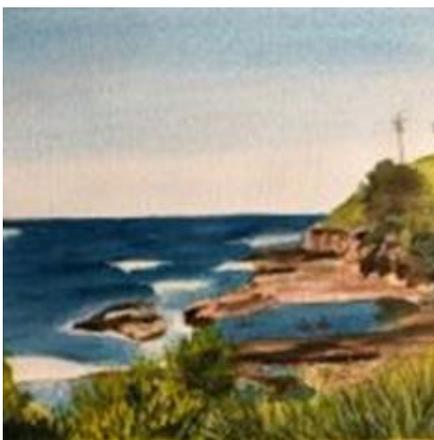
Centre Photos: Sydney Children's Hospital Exhibition

Photo Top: November Art Challenge "Coalstoun Lakes" by Nivedita Sen.

Photo Bottom left: November Art Challenge entry "Malabar headland" by Jan Cook.

Bendigo Bank Exhibitions

After running a few exhibitions in the Bank since the 20/21 Christmas/New Year period, our next scheduled dates to exhibit works were set down for July/Aug with a theme based on 'Winter'. This of course ran into problems with the lock down. So we jumped to an online exhibition of the same works using our new web site: www.randwickartsocietyinc.com.



Since the lifting of restrictions we have talked further with the Bank and we can now exhibit those same works....plus a few more. Our works were installed on Tuesday 14th Dec and will run into the New Year.

We decided early in the year that monies raised from commissions and/or entry fees were to be forwarded to charities of the Bank's choice at the close of the year. In that regard we have now made payments of \$150 each to 'CaringKids' and 'Project Kindness'.

RAS Annual Arts, Crafts and Photography Exhibition 2022

We have booked dates for our Annual Exhibition at the Prince Henry Centre (PHC) for 2022. Our grant application was recently approved by Randwick Council and effectively sponsors the staging of the event. We are very appreciative of the support given to us by Randwick City Council.

Just a reminder, the total 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 – Delivery of Artworks to Little Bay
 - Thurs 28th April – Judging
 - Frid 29th April, first day and Opening Night
 - Sat 30th April
 - Sun 1st May Closing Day
- Pop those in your diary and make a decision to be involved in one way or another.

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.

Art Studio Time

Well....'morning finally broke' and we returned to gathering together on 15 Nov.

The wash up is we use the Coast Centre's QR Code to check in, we have to provide double vacc. proof for the Coast Centre, but once done its done, we are required to wear masks, we are allowed up to 20 people in the Art Room and we are allowed tea and bickies.

At the time of writing we have just completed 5 weeks and I think its fair to say, it has been a pleasing experience.

We have had some excellent times of 'show and tell' with various members explaining and showing what they have been doing, what they have been trying out, matters they want to share in order to obtain feedback. These have been positive and helpful times.

Even more encouraging is that some of those who have attended and shared are new members and visitors. Each brings their own story and their own journey – and from that we all learn and are encouraged.

Another activity was our chance to contribute to graphic material RAS wants to generate for the months ahead. A little like young children, we grabbed all sorts of coloured acrylic paint and produced abstract images of vibrant colours on large pieces of paper. These were then photographed with the intention of creating a resource of images that could then be selectively cropped or collaged and then used as backgrounds for flyers, our web sites and the like – look for them in the future.



Photo Top: Inktober entry "Azaleas" by Maria Kapodistrias.

At our General Meeting on Dec 13th we decided to run our regular 2 hr Monday mornings at the Coast Centre in 2022 rather than at the RLI. However, we are aware that for some members this can involve considerable travel. To assist those members, as a trial we are also providing the possibility of gathering at the RLI on Monday mornings for 3hrs (between 9am and noon). This means two venues will be operating at the same time. This trial will be reviewed after 8 weeks (late March).

Our monthly challenges

Last Newsletter we reported that in 2021 RAS's Monday Studio activities were temporarily suspended during the lockdowns and restrictions. In response, and for the first time, members' activities were moved from The Coast Centre at Little Bay to online, with Zoom Drawing Classes held on both Mondays and Thursdays, hosted by RAS's Secretary Heather Egan, and Committee Member Marie Widolf. This move also gave members an opportunity to chat and socialize.

The Committee met every month and some committee and members met regularly on zoom to draw each other and just to socialize.

RAS' Monthly Online Art Challenges with themes were also introduced, encouraging members to enter as many times each month as they liked, and to choose any medium they preferred. This has had a fantastic response from members, with a total of 99 entries received in just the first month of the August Pet/Animal Challenge! The monthly themes were created and authored by Heather and Marie, and moved to online with support from Niki Koepl and Nivedita Sen.

Congratulations to our new monthly winners, who each won a \$25 Eckersley's Art Voucher!

OCTOBER – "InkTober 2021" – received 131 entries, and was judged by Tom Parslow.

Best Interpretation of Sketch List – "Fan" by Judie Bode

Most Original Artwork – "Raven" by Alana Best

NOVEMBER – "Postcards From Australia" – received 21 entries, and was judged by Clara Patricia Alfonso.

Most Iconic Postcard – "Australian Christmas Beetle" by Niki Koepl
Most Nostalgic Postcard – "Malabar Headland" by Rosita Simmons

Photo Middle: November Art Challenge Prize Winner "Malabar Headland" by Rosita Simmons.

Photo Bottom: Inktober entry "Moonshine" by Shirley Hughes.

Photo Far left: Inktober entry "Slither" by Heather Egan.



Member News

The Innovation of Cut & Paste – Waverley Collage Makers

Against the backdrop of the year that was 2021, Waverley Library Collage Makers have been busy meeting weekly via zoom, and more recently back at the library. RAS's own members Heather Egan and Michele Day, along with many artists from Waverley and also from the greater Sydney, have been experimenting with different styles of collage-making each week, exploring different techniques and composition using cut-out images and materials. The result is their latest exhibition, titled: The Innovation of Cut & Paste, which showcases a body of 80 striking eclectic works by this group, with members focusing on expressing their own unique styles. The exhibition opens from 9th December and runs to 8th February 2022 and is a truly fascinating show to take in during the school holidays!

Waverley Library Gallery
Monday-Friday, 9.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9.30am-3pm
Sunday, 1-5pm

Waverley SketchFlash exhibition

Our member Nivedita Sen has been part of a drawing group run by Waverley Library This exhibition was inspired by nature and the joy of the garden and is on display at Waverley Library along with the Collage Makers exhibition.

Graeme Bogan has done it again!

A familiar sight to many of our RAS members, is Graeme Bogan and his impressive Nikon 850 digital camera, out there on the greens of Little Bay and surrounds, happily snapping away. Be it at the edge of a small pond, or from a cliff overlooking the ocean, or amongst the shrubs and wildflowers, Graeme makes sure he gets that one-in-a-million shot each time of Little Bay's abundant native birdlife.



He has also been busy putting pen to paper since 2019, writing poems commentating and reflecting on his life and experiences. Graeme has had many photos reproduced in the Sydney's Beaches & eastern Suburbs monthly **Beast** Magazine, and since our recent RAS September newsletter he has also had another poem published in the October issue, on page 18. It reads as follows:

JUST A PASSING PHASE

*I dreamt that Lockdown was just a passing phase,
We all caught up and felt so free but my mind was still in a daze,
I eventually recovered as there was lots to cover,
We continued our conversation as we did discover,
That we can now travel anywhere since we have passed first base.*

Graeme has also had a bird photo of a Noisy Miner reproduced in the Beast's November issue, on page 39. He also has a photo titled 'Sun Worship' reproduced in the December edition on p46



Photos Top: Inktober entry "Watch" by Heidi Hereth.

Photo Above: "Noisy Miner" by Graeme Bogan.

Photo Top: November Art Challenge entry "Cairns" by Marian McIntosh.

Next Photo down: Inktober entry "Young Girl" by Paula Service.

Photo Centre: November Art Challenge entry "Uluru & Red Centre" by Ana McGhie.

Photo Bottom: Intober entry "Portrait" by Maria Widolf.