

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY

Newsletter January 2005

It's always so exciting for me starting a New Year with the thought of a whole 12 months stretching ahead, with days and days for just Botanical painting. Of course this is a dream, in part because my diary quickly fills with what sometimes seem unimportant things, and my precious painting gets shelved. Know the feeling? But after the hassle of Christmas, new resolutions and ideas come to the fore, and our time does seem to be more relaxed.

Our group Show: On November the 19th was enjoyed immensely by some members, friends and relatives. Thanks to Serena for being our hostess and to those who participated with work. Adrienne Moore and her husband from the Friends of the Botanical Gardens were very impressed with our display.

Festival of Flowers: 14 – 20 February.

The Garden Plot at Gallery 2 'Our City', Oxford Terrace
Serena McWilliam, Irene McBryde, Dianne Smith and Rebecca Brown-Thompson are exhibiting as members of our Society. This will be an exciting time for us and the Garden City. It's great that we can participate. Check the festival website and do tell all your friends.

1 February 9.30am.

We continue with our monthly meeting – same room in the arts centre. I will be showing part of a very good instructional video by Helen Fitzgerald, a renown Australian Botanical artist.

1 March

The Delights of Plum painting – Dianne Smith, Water Colour

5 April

Annual General Meeting – lots of discussion: evening classes, weekly classes, venue, tutors, and anything else bugging you.

April

Arrangements are still in hand for Australian Fiona McKinnon's visit this month.

May you all create exciting, simulating, wonderful, exquisite and beautiful paintings and drawings in this year 2005!

Dianne Smith.

CLASSES - SUMMER 2005

- Summer Fruit & Composition** Saturday January 22 – Sunday 23 January **\$150.00** (inc. GST)
Two days with Steph Goss. Painting summer fruit will be an inspiring and enjoyable treat.

- Introduction to Botanical Art with Fiona McKinnon** - Tuesday 18– Friday 21 January **\$440** (inc. GST) 10am - 3pm.
Four days of highly informative instruction on how to use the basic materials and techniques.

- Master Class with Jenny Phillips** - Monday 31st Jan – Friday 4th February **\$550.00** (inc. GST) Covering the botanical analysis of the plant, developing it in pencil, then working through the painting techniques to the final result.

- Tasmanian Painting** Jenny is going to "Woolmers" from Sunday 6th February - Saturday 12th February, (Woolmers is the home of the National Rose Garden at Longford in Tasmania) to **paint!** Places for up to 7 other artists to join her painting roses for a week. Enjoy the beautiful colonial cottage accommodation set amongst 4,000 roses. Price to be advised, (depending on final numbers).


TERM 1 - 2005 (Mon 14th Feb – Fri 8th April)

Term consists of 8 x 3-hour classes or four Saturdays. **\$330.00 including GST**
DISCOUNT: Any student booking 2 classes per term will pay **\$220.00 for second class.**



Rose Fentin-Litour

Jenny M. Smith



Canterbury Botanical Art Society
Newsletter April 2005

Dianne Smith

AGM's are traditionally to be avoided, but not our very first for the Society, held last week at the Art Centre. Well attended with many interactions between the members, ideas flowed as we partook of date scones and coffee. I think we achieved a wonderful momentum to take us through another exploratory year in botanicals as we discover new drawing and painting techniques, appreciate other artists ideas and come to understand that great world of plants.

AGM Report

Meeting Venue: After much discussion it was decided to change our meeting place back to the Avic Hill Art Centre. The Society is to meet 2x monthly to help us achieve, with much more continuity, greater stimulation to our creativity. At this stage we plan to have no set format for our meetings, but we will focus on drawing and painting NZ natives for the winter months. Have you noticed the different types of fungi popping up now?

May 3rd: Our last meeting at the Arts Centre. NZ natives will be supplied for your painting choice.

May 17th: First meeting at the Avic Hill Arts Centre, continuing on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Nov. 15th

Spring exhibition: Members of the Society asked for another small exhibition at the Botanic Gardens Information Centre. Two paintings per person, subject matter of your choice. Date to be confirmed later.

Festival of Flowers: February exhibition – The Garden Plot – was discussed. This is the last time I will mention that ill-fated name. There was great enthusiasm about our exhibition from the public and we feel it was a good time to market botanical art and illustration. Many compliments were received.

Fruit and Nuts art school: Avic Hill Art Centre. We have arranged a five-week course for beginners as well as those with experience, from May 12th - June 9th, Thursday 9 – 12pm. \$150.00. Dianne Smith tutoring, ph 03 312 0318. Mention it to any potential botanical artists. Advertised in the NZ Gardener and The Press.

Subscriptions: These are now due. \$50.00 per annum unless special circumstances apply.

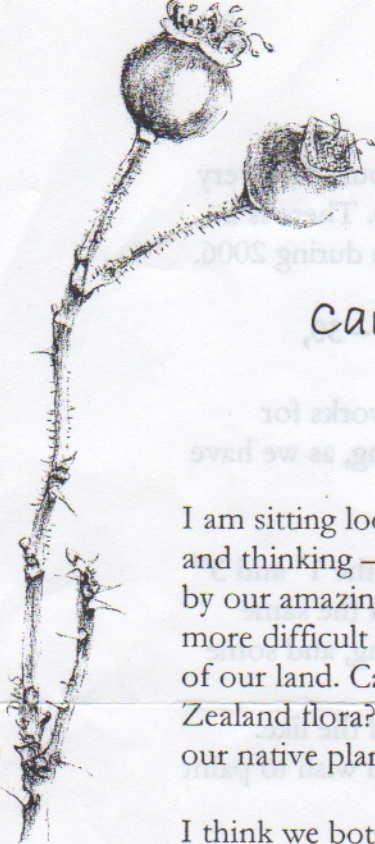
Wanaka Autumn Art School: Some members are looking forward to the Wanaka Art Week – botanical illustration, painting Autumn flowers and leaves with tutor Susan Worthington. Watch for the results!

To encourage new members is always foremost in our minds. Our group is small but we have gleaned several new members recently, while loosing some old ones.

Irene and I did a PR job with the Fendalton Garden Club recently – the 21st Century Renaissance of Botanical Art. We must take every opportunity to promote ourselves. Our city has a very strong cultural foundation, which we can build upon.

Dianne M. Smith





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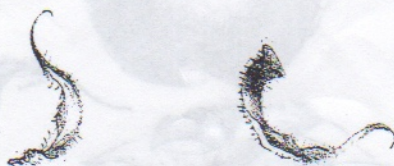
I am sitting looking at an inspiring view of the snow covered Southern Alps, and thinking – no wonder so many artists have been, and still are influenced by our amazing environment. This fact makes acceptance of botanical art more difficult for the general public. We all love the sea bush and mountains of our land. Can we not have the same feelings for our very special New Zealand flora? Found only in very small pockets in other parts of the world, our native plants are revered by international plantaholics.

I think we botanical artists could endeavour to become more involved with the painting and recording of our beautiful New Zealand bush. I know that lack of colour is a problem with some people but hey, what could be more eye catching than green clematis, white mountain daisy, red rata and creamy yellow kowhai? The myriad of foliage forms is fantastic too, as well as being a great challenge to paint.

Wanaka Autumn School, April 05: Five of our members attended Susan Worthington's workshop – and what an enjoyable week we had. The paintings of delicate autumn leaves, rosehips and some small native plants were really lovely. Susan was very generous with her knowledge and it was interesting to hear about her study time in England at the Chelsea Physic garden, for a Diploma in Botanical Art. We look forward to meeting her again next year sometime.

Introductory Workshop, May – June 05: Seven people availed themselves of Dianne's tuition at this workshop, and she was quite thrilled with the enthusiasm and results of the group. Five of the students plan to join our Society. This is great - welcome to you all!

Leonie Norton Workshop, Set 9 – 11, Taupo: How wonderful to have a well known Australian Botanical Artist coming to New Zealand! A first I think. Unfortunately only one of our Christchurch members is going. We look forward to hearing from Ros Taylor when she gets back. Leonie has suggested that the Canterbury botanical Art Society become a member of the Australian Botanical Art Society. There are some benefits of doing so eg. we could appear on their website with information about New Zealand



activities, and a quarterly newsletter is published which we would find very interesting and informative. We are investigating membership. There is a possibility that Leonie could take a workshop in Christchurch during 2006.

**Friends, Flowers and Fruit, Members exhibition Sept 26 – 30,
Christchurch Botanic Gardens Information Centre:**

We would like each member to submit two to three framed works for selection by Sept 26. Only two works per member can be hung, as we have been allocated one wall only for the exhibition.

Meeting Times: Having the meeting two times monthly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday is working well. Once a month we all concentrate on the same subject. This month Irene explained washes for a pear painting, and some now have delightful pear studies.

July 5th: We will be grappling with the gills of Toadstools and the like. Please let Irene know if there are any other subject you would wish to paint or draw during classes.

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England: Exhibition of 1000 years of Botanical Art. Serena McWilliam recently visited this exhibition and after spending much time there, she came away feeling absolutely exhilarated. If you can't make it before September, visit the website www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk

Melbourne Botanical Art School:

For information about the classes in term 3, contact Dianne Smith, 03 312 0318, or Irene McBryde, 03 343 0368.

On these cold sunless days that are part of the winter scene, nothing is more enjoyable than sitting inside, in warm room, discovering the beauty of the plant world with pencil, brush and paints.

At last botanical art is becoming more appreciated in our Country. The Society has had many enquiries about this art style, and it is great to be part of the growing interest.

Dianne

*PS thrilled to
hear from you Tina
looking forward to you
coming back.
D.*



Canterbury Botanical Art Society

Newsletter September 2005

Spring has arrived at last and how wonderful it is in Christchurch and Canterbury. Blossoms and bulbs are bursting out all over. There is so much to do with our renewed energy and the plants with their beautiful blooms demand attention from our paints and brushes. We need to move fast with our painting in the Spring as many Spring flowers quickly fade. Magnolias are a good example, but aren't they gorgeous? I plan to do a series of them (one year!).

Meetings

September 6th. Starting literally at the bottom and working up we drew and painted bulbs with their roots, from Agapanthus to Snowdrops. Plants depicted with their roots always look very lively.

September 20th. Finalising exhibition arrangements and painting – well anything – so much choice. We will be sorting paintings. They need to be presented named, framed, priced if for sale, and with the owners name and address on the back. As the space at the information centre is only 3.2 metres in length, we will need to plan a little. The exhibitors' entrance fee is \$5.00 per person. So far the paintings I've seen for submission are really great, and I'm getting excited already.

Events

September 24th – October 2nd. **Friends, Flowers and Fruit** members' exhibition, Botanic Gardens Information Centre. Note change of dates. Our time has been extended a little to cover two weekends. We are hanging the works on Friday 23rd at 1.30pm. If you can help 'on duty' during the exhibition please ring Irene or myself. Affiliated members are also entitled to submit work for the exhibition.

Leonie Norton. Unfortunately nobody could attend the workshop in Taupo of this well known Australian art tutor. We are negotiating with her to come to Christchurch next year to take a three day workshop in September. Dates to be finalised. Leonie has encouraged us to become a member of the Australian Botanical Art Society and we will look forward to their newsletters. It will be exciting to belong to the Antipodean Botanical Art family.

Dianne



Will bring more
on Tuesday.

Canterbury Botanical Art Society Newsletter November 2005

This is the last newsletter of 2005. During the year we have had great interest in our Society. Botanical Art is definitely a wonderful interest for some people and they become fully immersed in it. For others it is certainly an interest, but to find time to commit themselves becomes difficult. This aspect of course, is also an attraction, and the resulting art is often so amazing it's hard to believe how it has 'happened'.

Methven Summer School January 9 – 13th 2006

Information has just come to hand about a five day workshop to be taken by Jo Ogier. She is a botanical illustrator originally from Dunedin. A full time artist, she has an amazing record of achievements. More information is available on the internet.

February 7th 2006 our next ordinary meeting.

We will discuss helpful hints for entering exhibitions, and paper stretching. By then everyone will be getting their entries ready for...

The Festival of Flowers exhibition BOTANICA 2006. Feb 10 – 19th.

Our City Gallery, Oxford Terrace. Three paintings per member to be finished to hang by Feb 9th. Each painting to be labelled with your name and address, and selling price (remember 20% commission). Only one painting per person not for sale. Members will man the exhibition for which Irene will draw up a roster.

Leonie Norton Workshop September 8 – 10th 2006.

A long way ahead but we can plan to keep those dates free. Leonie is a very well known Australian tutor and we are immensely grateful for her coming 'down under'.

****Susan Worthington workshop November 26 – 27th 2005****

Subject: White flower painting. We are excitedly looking forward to this weekend. Susan has spent the last 7 months studying at the Chelsea Physic Gardens. She says "bring white flowers to the workshop, and if you can, bring a sketch of a white flower too".

For those of you who are not coming to the workshop, you are invited to come to our end of year afternoon tea at 4.30pm on 27th, at Irene's beautiful garden, 18 Rochdale Street, Fendalton. This will be a time to relax after the workshop, and have a chat with Susan.

Dianne