

Canterbury Botanical Art Society Newsletter January 2006

Midsummer for most of us is a contrast of being very busily involved with holidays, friends and family, with times of relaxation when creative planning can fill our thoughts. I hope that our painting plans will have eventuated and our exhibition will be very special with their reality.

February 7th – First meeting 2006. Avice Hill Centre.

If possible please bring your artwork for the Botanica 2006 exhibition, to this meeting. All entries are to be labelled with your name, address, phone number, and selling price (allowing for 20% commission). Only one painting per person not for sale. Cover with adequate wrapping. As an extra, we are considering having a flip basket/box for paintings which are just mounted and cellophaned or shrink wrapped. These need to be priced accordingly, but must be added to your list for the schedule.

Festival of Flowers – Botanica 2006. Feb 10 – 19th 2006

Our City Gallery Two, Oxford Terrace, 10am – 4pm. Irene will be making a roster. It is always very interesting being on duty. Last year 3,000 people went through Our City during the festival, so there will be no time to be bored!

Holiday Workshops

Two members have been learning more artistic skills – Irene went to the Melbourne Botanical Art School, and Doreen went to Jo Ogier's Methven Summer School workshop. Irene and Dianne put the Canterbury Botanical Art Society on the map, by displaying their artwork at the International Heritage Rose Conference in Dunedin in December. Many people made very complimentary remarks – some bought – some ignored us – some *nearly* purchased. All in all it was an interesting exercise in ingenuity (ie. how do you display beautiful paintings with no hanging facilities and only a two metre long stall?)

The committee would like suggestions for our monthly meetings.

Great painting for 2006!

Dianne



Canterbury Botanical Art Society Newsletter April 2006

'An art which has life, does not reproduce the past, but continues it.' Sculptor Rodin.

The exhibition **Botannica 2006** during the Festival of Flowers was a great success, mainly due to the co-operation and involvement of all members. It gave pleasure to many people, and the Society was much admired for its work. Thank you everyone for your help. We learnt that our signage is still lacking, so this is something that needs a re-think for next year.

Introductory Workshop

Dianne took this at her riverside gallery in Ohoka, on March 18 and 19th. Two people spent two very concentrated days and rewarded themselves by painting a delightful pansy study. The committee realizes it is absolutely necessary for new members to have tuition like this to help them to become integrated into the Society. At our meetings during the month, it is impossible to attend to new members and it becomes very easy for them to become disinterested (and frustrated!)

June 20th – Jo Ogier workshop day.

9.30 – 4pm. Drawing composition and water-colour application. \$50.00 for members. \$55.00 for non members. Avice Hill Art Centre, Memorial Avenue. Jo, from Omarama, is a very enthusiastic teacher of botanical art and illustration. Contact Irene 03 3430368 for information.

May 2nd – AGM of our Society.

Usual time at our 2 x monthly meeting venue. We should have time to sketch some Autumn gleanings from our gardens or roadside. I have medlar, walnut, crabapple, and oaknuts. An AGM is a good time to discuss any needed changes within the group.

Leonie Norton three day workshop September 15 – 18th

You have probably all heard of this well-known Australian artist and teacher. This school must not be missed. Limited to 12. Diary this date **now**.

Helen Fitzgerald

Another very well known Australian teacher of plants and wild life. From Canberra, her videos are useful teaching tools. I had the pleasure of having her visit recently. She was very interested in our development and progress as a group, and is keen to visit sometime in the future to take a workshop. I have the dates of her workshops in Canberra if you are visiting that area of Australia this year.

Some of us are progressing in leaps and bounds with our art work. Continue the great painting in 2006.

Dianne .



CANTERBURY BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

WELCOME TO WINTER!

We're currently enjoying the best of winter's offerings- crisp, frosty mornings followed by clear blue skies which silhouette those tree branches so wonderfully. However, just in case you thought you'd be duty bound to spend all the time in the garden the meteorological chap on the National Programme the other night was predicting a milder winter than average with higher rainfall on the east coast of both islands. That hopefully translates into plenty of opportunity to gather your paintbrushes and do some careful studies in the warm, dry indoors and will give rise to a lush spring with plenty of beautiful plant material to offer.

A special welcome, too, to Fiona and Ken who have recently joined the Society. We hope they'll enjoy this most rewarding art form.

AGM Report

The second AGM of the Society was held on Tuesday May 2nd 2006.

There was a change to the elected officers with Dianne stepping down as President after two years, having carefully guided the Society through its first tentative stages and on to becoming an established entity.

Helen Nutt was elected President.

Irene continues as Secretary /Treasurer.

Committee members: Faye Beckingsale, Fiona Lassen, Serena McWilliam and Dianne Smith.

It was felt that overall it had been a good year for the Society with the two exhibitions, and the workshops. The Festival of Flowers Exhibition at Our City, "Botanica", was quite successful and had led to some new members joining us.

It is hoped that we will continue to have this as our main exhibition focus for the year.

However it was felt that the Botanic Gardens Information Centre Exhibition was disappointing mainly due to the display changes that were forced upon us. It's difficult to produce an elegant result when battling with boldly coloured crepe papers and cramped conditions.

The "Painting White Flowers" workshop held by Susan Worthington was well attended and had raised confidence in tackling this difficult area. I don't think I'd ever looked so closely to try and identify shadow colours!

Botanical Art Society Inc.

Newsletter

September 2006

*'And frosts are slain, and flowers begotten
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins'*

Swinburne (1837-1909)

Spring!

This year it seems particularly welcome after such a bleak winter.

To be able to take pleasure in that first glimpse of green is a wonderful thing and something we should never take for granted.

There are several new members who have joined in recent months so I should like to take this opportunity to welcome

Elizabeth Bennetts

Heather Conibear

Dianne Holderness

Ken Hyde

Penny Nippard

Naoko Shiratori

Jean Stoop

Also Hiroko Jibiki, who joins us as an affiliated member from Tokyo.

New members are always welcome and we appreciate the added dimension they bring to our fledgling Society.

Meeting Times-

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month 9.30 – 12.30 Avice Hill Centre

1st Wednesday each month 10.00 -12.00

Meet at the Botanic Gardens Information Centre.

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Sadly I have some news to convey regarding two of our members.

Dianne Smith, our past President and the driving force behind this Society's formation, passed away at the beginning of September. She was delighted to find that so many shared her enthusiasm for plants and paint, and the Society seems a fitting legacy.

Marion Day passed away suddenly in June. She was a keen and enthusiastic lady and one who gained great pleasure from her painting.

Her husband Lindsay has been in contact with the society concerning some recently purchased botanical art books and watercolour paper.

If anyone is interested, his phone number is 981 1587.

Leonie Norton's Workshop 15, 16 and 17 September

A reminder that this is almost upon us and we can look forward to some inspirational teaching using seasonal subject matter.

In coming sessions we will be continuing to work with the ideas and approaches as learned on the workshops. This will enable a greater understanding of the techniques and should reinforce Leonie's teaching.

N.B. a prompt setting up at 9.15 will allow a prompt start at 9.30!

Workbooks

We are hoping to include some workbooks in our February exhibition. Apart from being an invaluable means, for us, of recording ideas, experiments and specific problems and challenges, for the public they would be a very interesting addition to the finished work on the walls.

We should all be using them as a matter of course now but if there are some late converts to them please start thinking about them now. Use them fully and record everything.

Ideas, shape and colour notes, breakdown of the parts of the plant, location, dates- everything. Quite apart from anything else they will provide you with a clear record of how your own work is progressing- and that has to be good.

I love the informal quality of workbooks and find that they provide valuable information at some later stage.

And all in one easily found location!!

Melbourne School

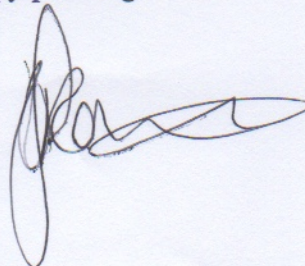
Irene has just returned from another trip to Jenny Phillips in Australia and has brought back details of some classes that will be running in January 2007 that may be of interest to you.

- **Mon 8 – Fri 12 Jan**
INTRODUCTORY Masterclass for Beginners with **Jenny Phillips**
9.30am – 4.00pm **Aus\$550.00 (inc GST)**
For total beginners to botanical art, or if you just need to brush up on your skills.

- **Mon 15 – Fri 19 Jan**
Painting 'The 20 Minute Landscape' with **Andrew Gemmill**
9.30am – 4.00pm **Aus\$375.00 (inc GST)**
In this Intensive you will learn how to achieve a wonderful painting with minimal paint strokes!

- **Mon 22 – Fri 26 Jan**
Masterclass with **Jenny Phillips**
9.30am – 4.00pm **Aus\$550.00 (inc GST)**
This week Jenny will inspire you to produce a 'masterpiece' with her usual enthusiasm.

That's all for now, happy painting.



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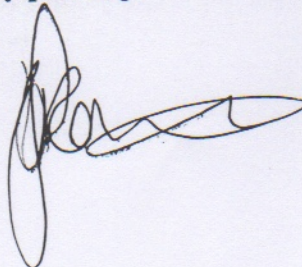
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November 2006

We seem to be in the midst of a somewhat turbulent spring as far as the weather is concerned but most of you are making the most of the opportunity of getting together at the meetings and working hard. The summer exhibition is looking good if everyone's efforts come to fruition!

The **Leonie Norton workshop** was enjoyed and valued by all who attended with plenty of individual attention given despite a rich and varied selection of plant material being studied.

I certainly found the idea of working a reasonably complete drawing and then just taking aspects of that through to work on as part of a colour study, with detailed colour notes, to ease the transition to a fully completed painting to be a helpful process.



It was obviously a time of immense concentration, as one member, who shall remain nameless, was heard to despair that her "water was too wet".

Many of those who attended were able to share in a very enjoyable pot luck dinner at Irene's on the Saturday evening.

It is hoped that despite a fairly full calendar we may be able to arrange a return visit from Leonie next October.



Field trips to the gardens are proving rewarding for the stalwart few, with a fine example being shown here by our President. The hot houses hold a definite appeal when the weather isn't too obliging!



As you can see the trip to see Doreen and Tony Connelly's wonderful collection of orchids led to some keen concentration and many thanks are extended to them for giving us this opportunity.



Future Workshop

Mali Moir is an Australian botanical artist who will be leading a 3 day workshop on Saturday 31st March, Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd April 2007.

Fees \$225 members

\$275 non-members

Discussion was had concerning **the day and time of the meetings**. It was agreed that the twice-monthly sessions worked well and gave a greater sense of continuity than the single monthly meeting of the first year. However there is still some concern at the automatic exclusion of working people and young mothers by the holding of both sessions in the mornings. At the most recent Committee meeting it was proposed that we change both the day and time of the meetings to try and work around this problem.

The venue, the Avice Hill Centre, would remain the same
But we propose changing the day to Wednesday and holding the second monthly meeting in the evening 6-9pm.

i.e. 1st Wed of the month 9am-12 noon
 3rd Wed of the month 6-9 pm

We really need to know what you think so please let us know your views!

Forthcoming Workshops

Jo Ogier 20 June.

This is now fully subscribed and those of you who will be attending can look forward to a stimulating day. You will be working with simple flower forms and leaves with a view to giving them a real sense of dimension. Jo will be bringing a microscope along in case you feel like dissecting something- of a botanical nature!

Leonie Norton 15,16,17 September.

“Spring Flowers and Fruit”

There are only two or three places left on this course so be quick if you do want to secure one of them. Cost: members **\$225**
 non-members **\$250**

In order to obtain maximum benefit from future workshops we will be continuing working around their theme for a short while immediately afterward. After all, if we're learning new techniques or skills in a workshop then it makes sense to pursue them in some way. How many of us finished any more white flowers...

This would obviously not be compulsory as not everyone would have attended the workshop but could provide a further incentive to keep practicing with that tricky technique.

Please note that some Subs are still outstanding.

Fees are set at \$50 - full membership
 \$20 - affiliated membership

Keep warm, keep drawing!

