

# The Botanical Art Society of New Zealand

## January 2007 Newsletter

Firstly a very Happy New Year to you all!

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing time and is now set for the coming year and whatever it brings.

However, I am reminded of that Morecombe and Wise skit where they sang "Bring me sunshine..."

Various members have been out and about recording plants both here and overseas during the last couple of months. This can make for interesting stories for future newsletters so if you feel like jotting down your experiences to share with others then forward the details to me.

The main purpose of this newsletter is to act as a reminder to you of our pending exhibition.

Remember if you are wanting to exhibit your work you need to let me have the details **asap** so that I can make up the accompanying labels (common/Latin name, medium, and the price-remember the Society is charging a 20% commission so make sure to give me the **all inclusive** price). Alternatively if the work is not for sale this should be indicated.

I can be reached by e-mail at [serenamcw@paradise.net.nz](mailto:serenamcw@paradise.net.nz) or on 981-1592

Paintings need to be delivered to Our City, cnr Oxford Terrace and Worcester Street. at 9am on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. ready for hanging.

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**Invitations** need to be sent this week so that your guests receive adequate notice.

To simplify the invitation process we are not sending out individual invitations to members so **please note that all members (full and affiliated) are warmly invited** to the Exhibition Opening at 5.30pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at Our City, cnr Oxford Terrace and Worcester Street.

We are hoping that this will be an excellent opportunity for people to become more aware of the society and its aims and functions.

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You might be interested in seeing a variation on the blending of art and science if you are able to visit Canterbury Museum and search out the Blaschka glass models in the historic von Haast room. During the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a resurgence of interest in things of a scientific nature and the production of plate glass meant a burgeoning in marine aquaria exhibits. However the maintenance of delicate sea creatures in such an intrinsically unnatural setting was difficult so glass models were made

The Founder of Canterbury Museum Sir Julius Von Haast commissioned these exquisitely fragile ethereal creations in 1884 and they provide a link to the astonishing Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models held at Harvard University. This is a range of more than 3000 models depicting over 830 species that took Dresden jewellers Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka more than 50 years. They illustrate a seamless blend of art and science, devised to further our knowledge of the natural world.

There are several web sites that contain details of the Harvard collections and that would warrant a visit if you are interested but you could start with <http://www.hmn.harvard.edu/glass.html>

So next time that you are having trouble with a particular painting, remember -you could be working with glass!

Oh, and they mixed their own pigments too...

Another site that will keep you amused whilst waiting for your paint to dry is

<http://www.squidoo.com/botanicalart/>

which has a wealth of information and links of interest.

### Forthcoming Exhibitions

#### Australia

-Botanica- the Art of the Plant 2007

10am-4pm 16 March -1 April

-The Margaret Flockton Award Exhibition

Red Box Gallery, The National Herbarium of New South Wales

16 March - 15 June 2007

#### London

Society of Botanical Artists

Annual London Open Exhibition

10am-5pm 22 April -29 April

Central Hall, Westminster, London.

(featuring some 750 works!)

Remember to email anything you think may be of interest to other members.

We look forward to seeing you at the Exhibition Opening.

# The Botanical Art Society of New Zealand

## March 2007 Newsletter

### Botanica 2007.

Thank you to everyone who helped make last month's exhibition such a success. There was a lot of positive comment and we also learned quite a lot for future exhibitions! It went well and we generated a lot of interest and potentially several new members. The workbook display seemed very popular and will probably be a regular feature so remember to keep them up.

We had appreciative comment from the organisers of the Festival of Flowers and have been invited to exhibit there again later in the year when we wish- but we'll let you all recover from this one first. The Committee decided though, to stay with the annual exhibition rather than try for two- we are a fairly small group after all- and just think- in a year's time what will the work be like when we've all had that much extra time to work at it!

Following interest shown at Botanica, the Beginners' Workshop was held and was well received hopefully giving some encouragement to potential members.

### Subs Due

You'll find enclosed the subs. form attached and would request that you are fully paid up by the date of the **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** at the Avic Hill Centre. We are considering introducing a penalty rate from next year if subs are not paid on time so please make Irene's job as Treasurer just that bit easier and pay by the due date. Thank you to those who have already paid.

### Field Trip - Change of Day

Press coverage prior to the exhibition was invaluable in raising our profile but in order to maintain the papers' interest the overriding emphasis needs to be the garden element. So that we might again benefit from press exposure, next year Julia Burbery's garden is going to be the focus around which we will build the next exhibition.

In preparation for this, the field trips will therefore be at 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton until further notice on the first **Thursday** ( n.b. not Wednesday) of the month at 10.00am. In case of rain there is a large verandah...

## Upcoming Workshops.

### **Mali Moir reminder –**

For those of you who have already paid your \$100 deposit, **final payment** is due by 16<sup>th</sup> March.

The balance for members is **\$125** and non-members **\$175**

For the benefit of anyone wanting to go on the waiting list, (31<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> April) the course will include perspective, measured and tonal drawing, wet and dry brush techniques on different weight papers, pencil/wash technique and how to plan a complex painting.

Contact

**Fiona Lassen, Workshop Co-ordinator**  
**63, Trents Road,**  
**Templeton**  
**ChCh 8042**

**Ph.03 349 3982**

Confirmed dates for the next **Leonie Norton workshop** are the **26-28<sup>th</sup> October** .

I know that many of you who attended last year will be eager to learn more from this enthusiastic and energetic tutor. Details will follow as they come to hand.

### Suppliers

There is a new art supplies stockist in town.

**Gordon Harris** ,136 Worcester Street (between Manchester Street and Latimer Square). They carry the blocks of Arches watercolour paper that seem to be so popular. Of course you'll know **The Drawing Room** on Manchester St. and **Brush'n'Palette** on Lichfield St. but I wonder how many of you are aware of **Fine Art Papers** (closed on the weekends )the big blue building on the corner of Madras and Tuam Streets? This is a veritable treasure chest of different papers for all sorts of specialist uses. Be warned though- take cash- no Eftpos available.

### Spring Field Trip

We are hoping to have a trip to the Forest and Bird Society Lenz Reserve in the Catlins during either the last week of November or the first week of December, according to availability. This is a beautiful 550 hectare bush setting 32 km south of Owaka. Anyone interested in going should contact

**Rebecca BrownThompson /Field Trip Co-ordinator**

email [botanical@xtra.co.nz](mailto:botanical@xtra.co.nz)

**ph.337 8053**

as soon as possible.

It would most likely be a 4 day stay plus a day down and back?

Accommodation is in the main lodge which sleeps eight to ten people and has a well equipped kitchen.

Deposits would need to be paid by June

# THE BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC

## June 2007 Newsletter

Happy Autumn greetings to you all and a special welcome to our new members. During the last 12 months our Society has grown positively in members and the Committee is aware that our responsibility is to serve members throughout New Zealand.

### March:

A very successful Beginner's Workshop was held at Avic Hill Centre, Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> for approximately 10 new keen artists who are now well on the road to success.

### April:

Mali Moir from Melbourne, Victoria conducted an intensive 3 day workshop March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. All participating artists thoroughly enjoyed her relaxed but well structured course and were amazed by their personal achievements and outcomes. Crabapples were the preferred subject for this workshop.

Mali Moir has worked at the National Herbarium of Victoria, Australia since 1993 as a botanical illustrator, contributing pen-and-ink drawings for many scientific publications. She was a Gold Medallist at The Royal Horticultural Society's Winter Show in London 2001 and was also invited to exhibit at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

April 17<sup>th</sup> our A.G.M. was held at Avic Hill Centre where it was voted to adopt the Kowhai as our logo. Line drawings of the kowhai are at present being explored and anyone interested in submitting a drawing please do so to: [cbas@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cbas@xtra.co.nz)

### May:

May 12<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Judd conducted an intensive 1 day drawing skills workshop at Avic Hill Centre where beginners and non beginners learnt the basic skills required for Botanical Art. We are keen for Carolyn to conduct this course again in the future but with her little baby due in June, we will plan accordingly. Our workshops are held for a maximum of 12 artists.

### July:

The Committee has become aware that many of our members would welcome a Saturday workshop and we are putting our first "All Day Open Workshop" in place:

JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> at Avic Hill Centre, Memorial Ave, Burnside - 9.30 - 3.30pm

Bring your packed Lunch - Tea and coffee is provided. Members - no charge non Members \$20

All members welcome and if sufficient numbers attend we will trial the Saturday workshop during the colder winter months. Bring artwork you are currently working on and anything you may be having difficulty with. We will try to assist. This will be a self help workshop.

The Society has recently adopted the overseas method of taking bookings for workshops with full payment required at the time of placing the booking.

#### October:

Leonie Norton will conduct a 3 day intensive workshop October 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at Avic Hill Centre. The subject will be Spring flowers, so for those artists attending you may wish to give some thought to your preferred subject.

Leonie Norton is a past President of The Botanical Art Society of Australia, is also a member of the American Society of Botanical Art which affords exhibiting opportunities. The prestigious Hunt Institute of Documentation recently purchased two of her Australian flora paintings for their collection.

Leonie has become a teacher of International repute conducting regular classes in Sydney and regional N.S.W., together with summer school courses in N.Z., U.K., Fiji and her latest endeavour is conducting classes via the internet to students in Israel, U.S.A. and other countries. To contact Leonie for further course information : [leonienorton@iprimus.com.au](mailto:leonienorton@iprimus.com.au) or [www.botanicalart.com.au](http://www.botanicalart.com.au)

#### Field Trips:

The first Thursday of the month is our Field Trip Day and this year we are working in the glorious garden of Julia Burbury at 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton. All welcome 10.00 am onwards.

A further reminder of our Spring Field trip to the Forest and Bird Society Lenz Reserve in the Catlins during the last week of November. This is a beautiful 550 hectare bush setting 32km south of Owaka. It will be a 3 – 4 day stay plus travelling down and back by 4WD vehicle sharing fuel costs, food kitty expenses and accommodation at \$15 per night. Accommodation is in the main lodge which sleeps eight people and has a well equipped kitchen for gourmet cooking!! If you would like to take part in this amazing expedition which will be lead by our Botanical illustrator Rebecca Brown-Thompson please contact Rebecca for further information. Email [botanical@xtra.co.nz](mailto:botanical@xtra.co.nz) phone 337 8053. \$25 non refundable deposit will apply due to the booking of the Lodge. Deposits would need to be paid by June end.

#### Exhibitions:

We have been invited to exhibit at the annual Alpine Society Show September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to be held in the Horticultural Hall and also at the International Study Weekend for the Alpine Society at Lincoln University 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008. I do hope you are all happily painting during this wonderfully warm autumn and will have one or two exhibits completed and available for showing.

#### Botanica 2008 – Advance Notice!!

Entries to our February Member's Exhibition – Botanica 2008 will need to be ready for selection by the first week in December. Details will follow later in the year so keep painting steadily.

#### Book Review:

Tina Grey (U.K.) one of our members has kindly introduced us to the following practical reference book.

Watercolour Flower Portraits by Billy Showell. Search Press.

Billy illustrates step by step techniques for the watercolour artist and I feel this book would be extremely valuable for the members who are unable to attend our meetings and workshops.

Scorpio Books – Christchurch ordered copies for our regular members but I am sure if you were to go on-line you would find a copy. “It’s a must have.” Good Luck.

We are half way through the year which brings us to the forward planning for 2008. The Committee will be looking at future workshops, future field trips and future exhibitions.

Particularly for Affiliated members if there is a specific requirement needed please alert us by emailing [cbas@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cbas@xtra.co.nz) and we will do our very best to deliver.

There may be one or two outstanding SUBS – please assist our Treasurer.

Fiona Lassen  
63 Trents Road  
Templeton  
Christchurch 8042.

The Committee feels very proud of the Society and confident of the future. We feel honoured to represent the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand and support our artists.

Helen Nutt  
President.

# THE BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY

## of NEW ZEALAND Inc

NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

At last Spring is here with wonderful warmth to aid the growing season and the blooming of many specimens for studying and painting.

Many of our artists who took part in Leonie Norton's Workshop October 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> are in recovery mode after 3 intensive, informative and inspiring days. Concentration plus!!

Leonie Norton is one of Australasia's most travelled Botanical Art educators and the 12 artists who attended her study workshop were very pleased with their own personal achievements and outcomes. A special mention goes to Doreen Connelly who received an accolade for her finished work. Doreen's subject was an orchid while other artists chose the iris, auricula, scabiosa, rhododendron, clematis, azalea and anthurium to name a few.

During our 3 day workshops the artist is able to learn a term's work so it may be worth remembering for future opportunities.

Another aspect of our workshops are the morning and afternoon teas. Several artists enjoyed the tan slice which I think originated from the Selwyn House School recipe book. It's great for the waistline and for positive concentration!!!

### Tan Slice:

Base: 5 oz butter- 4 oz sugar – 1 tsp baking powder – 1/2tsp vanilla essence – 2 Tbsp cocoa – 1 ½ cups flour.

Middle: ½ tin condensed milk – 2 Tbsp golden syrup – ¼ cup sugar – 2 oz butter

Top: Same as base.

Method: Cream butter and sugar and add dry ingredients. Press ¾ mixture into tin foil lined baking tin. Pour over melted filling. Crumble topping over. Bake 200 degs.C. Enjoy.

The trial Saturday workshop July 7<sup>th</sup> proved unsuccessful. It was initiated for members to attend who perhaps work during the week and are unable to attend our twice monthly Wednesday meets. We are not sure if this was because we trialled also sending the June Newsletter by e.mail and may be the date was not diarized. We would examine future Saturday workshops with caution.

Our Diary of events for 2008 has not been finalized but one date is available for your diaries. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 at 6.00pm The Official Opening of BOTANICA 2008. This year, because of an advanced Gallery booking at O-Tautahi Our City we are showcasing our Member's most recent artwork at the home of Mrs Julia Burbury, 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton. Our Guest Speaker has yet to be finalized.



All members are warmly invited to attend and invitations for your guests will be available at Avice Hill Centre for collection and immediate postage February 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Because BOTANICA 2008 will be held later in February please bring your framed entries to our first meet for the new year at Avice Hill Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

PLEASE NOTE: NO entries will be accepted after this date because of the time incurred to catalogue the artpieces. Please assist the Exhibition organizers in this deadline. No Exceptions. Hanging space will not be available so if you have an easel for your work please bring that as well. Thank you.

The Committee will again attempt to have the wine beverages and glass requirements sponsored while your contribution of finger food to share would be very much appreciated.

Our special thanks also go to Julia Burbury as she has very kindly offered her home for our Christmas break-up. Another date for your Diary is 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 5.00pm 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton All members are warmly welcome and contributions of beverages and finger food to share would be wonderful.

Julia's home and garden could be described as exquisite and it has also been the venue throughout the year for our Field Trip work. Several artists have been working on plants in her garden which will no doubt feature in our Member's Exhibition Botanica 2008.

Toward the end of September the Society exhibited at the annual Alpine Garden Society Show which was held in the Canterbury Horticultural Society Hall. The Committee felt that whilst the Society gained a small profile at this event the participation and benefits at future similar shows would be examined.

This will be our last Newsletter for 2007. It has been a busy and rewarding year for the Committee and they join me in wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Dates to note:

21 <sup>st</sup> November	Final Meeting at Avice Hill Centre
5 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm Christmas break-up at 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton Share wine beverages and finger food.
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	First Meeting at Avice Hill Centre Last day for Exhibition entries and collection of Botanica 2008 Invitations
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2008	BOTANICA 2008 - 6pm 83 Clyde Road, Fendalton.

Happy Holidays and Happy Painting.

*Helen*

Helen Nutt  
President