

President

Lesley Alexander

Secretary/Treasurer

Elizabeth Yuill Proctor

Committee

Lorraine Thompson
Jennifer Duval-Smith
Janet Marshall
Suzi Pearce
Gillian Receveur

Sub - Committees

Regional Reps

Chch - Lorraine Thompson
Hurunui - Suzi Pearce
Nelson - Janet Marshall
Wellington - Jane Humble
Taranaki/Wanganui/
Manawatu - Sandra Morris
Hawkes Bay - Gillian
Receveur
Auckland - Lesley
Alexander

Communication

Jennifer Duval-Smith
Lesley Alexander
Suzy Abbott
Michelle Watson
Elizabeth Yuill Proctor

Workshops

Elizabeth Yuill Proctor
Sandra Morris
Tina Grey
Suzi Pearce

Newsletter

Elizabeth Yuill Proctor
Suzy Abbott

Introducing our new logo!

Introducing our new logo! Congratulations go to Tina Grey for the winning painting which is the centrepiece of our new logo. Tina wins a year's free membership. Many thanks go to Rosemary Crick and her team who have turned the painting into the fabulous logo you can see above.

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. This has been quite a year so far. Covid19 has had far reaching effects, not only in New Zealand but worldwide. I must say I am very proud of how our country and our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in particular has navigated this crisis. Let us hope that by the time our Winter Issue arrives in your Inbox that things will be back to normal.

It has been interesting to hear how people are coping with our 'new normal'. I am not alone in finding myself too unsettled to sit and paint for long.

With this in mind, we have words from a number of members, telling us how they are managing Lockdown.

Despite the Covid19 Lockdown, our AGM managed to go ahead. We used the app Zoom, which after a glitch in getting started went ahead with many matters being resolved. Much to our surprise, we did not talk over each other and managed to stick to the matters in hand! I can see us using this method more frequently in order to stay connected.

Inside this Issue

- 2 AGM - Presidents Report
- 5 Financial Report
- 5 Exhibition News
- 5 Featured Artist
- 7 Review of Nature Journal Sketchbook - Round 1
- 8 Images from Lesley Alexanders Sketchbook Round 1
- 10 Covid19 Lockdown
- 17 International Lockdown
- 20 What to Do During Lockdown

AGM April 2020



President's Report

Good morning everyone. Thank you for being here today.

It is a very strange and unsettling world we find ourselves in today - only a few weeks ago I was looking forward to actually sitting down with you all to give this report, and never in a million years would have thought we would be sitting in our own living rooms 'virtually' chatting to each other.

Firstly, I hope you and your bubble are all well, keeping safe and staying at home. Ironically this is what so many of us have often wished for - more time to stay indoors and draw or paint but in this frightening and unsettling time, like me, many of you I am sure, are finding it hard to concentrate when we have loved ones who, by no fault of their own, live in places ravaged by Covid19. We are in a privileged position, both geographically and by virtue of our love of botanical art. We can find peace in our art, observing and documenting our beautiful flora, we can lose ourselves and escape for a few hours from the reality of what is going on around us. My thoughts go out to any of you who have family members or friends either working on the front line or ill from this dreadful virus

Members

Over the past year our numbers have continued to grow and we now have 47 members, up from 41 last year, an increase of 6. We now have 38 Full Members and 9 Associate Members.

Facebook group numbers for our small 'Society members only' group have grown by 4 this past year to 20 with members sharing work and news to encourage and inspire others.

We are always looking for ways to attract new members and with that in mind, having seen it work well in other Botanical Art Societies, have introduced 'Local Representatives' or 'Go-To Reps'. These reps will use their local area knowledge to encourage others who may be keen to either take up or follow botanical art. Thank you to those who have agreed to take on this role. So far we have local reps in -

Christchurch - Lorraine Thompson

Hurunui - Suzi Pearce

Hawkes Bay - Gillian Receveur

Wellington - Jane Humble

Nelson - Janet Marshall

Taranaki- Wanganui- Manawatu region - Sandra Morris

And I will cover the Auckland area - unless anyone else is keen :-)

We are hoping others will put their hand up to be reps in other areas to really give BASNZ a truly national coverage. If you want to know more, or feel you might like to be a 'go to' person for your area, we would love to hear from you.

Exhibition 'Botanica 2019' Chamber Gallery Rangiora

Our annual exhibition, 'Botanica 2019' was as usual a great success. It was held during September and October last year at the Chamber Gallery in Rangiora. A huge thank you to those who worked so hard to get the exhibition up and running. We had 20 artists providing 62 artworks for exhibition, 5 of whom sold work. Congratulations to them and all artists producing the high quality work that people now expect from BASNZ members.

Congratulations also to Gillian Receveur who had an exhibition of her botanical work in Hawkes Bay. It is exciting to see members holding exhibitions of their work in other areas of New Zealand, promoting botanical art and allowing people to see first hand the incredible skills our members have.

Our new logo

A new logo is well on the way to being finalised. Thank you to all of you who entered our competition to find a new logo. We have been working with a designer, Rosemary Crick and competition winner Tina Grey to get the design to the finished artwork stage. I'm really pleased with the design and I'm sure you will all be too.

Workshops

Late last year a group of members were fortunate enough to attend a 'Botany for the Botanical Artist' workshop run by Tanya Scharaschkin. In this very informative workshop, Tanya, an Australian botanist and artist, and now BASNZ member, demystified botany for the unscientific among us, showing us the importance of understanding what we are drawing. Unfortunately, we will have to put on hold any workshops we had lined up for next year.

Over the course of the last year, 12 members took on the challenge of a monthly nature sketchbook exchange. Members from Christchurch, Hanmer Springs, Nelson, Wanganui, Havelock North and Auckland took part working in each of the sketchbooks that arrived on their doorstep before passing it onto the next on the list. Although a few were hesitant, over the course of the year, they became more confident as 'perfection' became less important than observing and documenting what they saw.

It was a great success and would have carried on into a second round if Covid 19 hadn't intervened.

Becoming more digitally savvy

Over the last few months, as the committee members are now more widely spread throughout New Zealand, we realised the importance of being able to communicate in ways other than face to face. We were already looking at using video calls for committee meetings but Covid 19 has really brought that need home - hence our AGM via conference call. It is no longer something to think about in the future, the future is here and we need to utilise online platforms for meetings, workshops etc as we go forward.

I would like to thank Elizabeth, who has already started upgrading our systems to be readily available online such as online membership forms. These have proved to be simple enough for even the technically challenged among us to fill in. To this end all our committee records, forms etc are now being uploaded to Google Docs so our information is now safely in one place and readily available. These can be shared with members when needed, enabling present and future committee members to access them, ensuring the society runs smoothly into the future.

With a website proposed for this year, we can really expand our online presence, promote our regional reps as well as give a platform for all our members in all regions to promote their work and the Society's aims to a larger audience.

Committee Members

It is with regret that I inform you that four members of our committee have decided to stand down. They are

Karen Atherton (Secretary),
Jacquie Carren (Past President),
Suzy Abbott and
Tina Grey.

These amazing ladies have been part of the committee for many years, having voluntarily given many hours of their time and knowledge and it is with sadness that I accept their resignations. Without their commitment over the years, BASNZ would not be where it is today - a huge 'thank you' from the rest of us for all your hard work and dedication.

Elizabeth Yuill Procter will remain as Treasurer and take on the role of secretary and late last year we co-opted Suzi Pearce, Jennifer Duval-Smith and Janet Marshall onto the committee.

Lastly,

I am looking forward to working with the new committee taking the Society forward and until a few weeks ago, we thought we knew what that would look like, however that is now yet to be determined.

I thank you all for attending our AGM as your support and feedback is valued.

Lesley Alexander

President

Financial Report

Due to Covid 19 Lockdown the accounts are yet to be appraised. Our accountant said it is ok to go ahead with the figures we have so far with any adjustments to be made post Lockdown. They will be sent out once the appraisal process is completed.

We ended the year with a profit of \$834.82. The bulk of our income comes from membership subscriptions. Workshops run by the Society also add a small amount to our income.

We ended the financial year with a bank balance of \$13,634.64 plus assets of \$62.83 (a small foldable table).

Elizabeth Yuill Procter

Treasurer

Exhibition news

2020 Exhibition

This was scheduled for June at the Auckland Botanic Gardens will need to be postponed until we are Covid19 Alert Level 2 —so keep painting and watching this space! Remember they must be portrait not landscape and fit mat openings of h/w 140/120mm or 180/160. Lesley has managed to negotiate matting for us at the special price of \$18 each. You just need to carefully post the original to her. Details will be sent out as soon as we know the dates

Wanganui

There is to be a small Botanical Art Exhibition held in May this year, with a larger exhibition in May 2021.

Remember to let us know if you are having or taking part in an exhibition.



Featured Artist

Jennifer Duval-Smith has come up with a new template for us to use to find out more about our members. What better place to begin than with our President, Lesley Alexander Smith.

1. Who or what inspired you to start painting?

I remember going to see the Society of Botanical Artists annual exhibition in London in the early 90s and was blown away by the artwork on show. Billy Showell, then a young up and coming botanical artist was demonstrating and I remember thinking how brave she was putting such deep colour down as a first wash! I had just trained as a scientific illustrator and due to my nursing background fell into medical illustration. I didn't paint any plants until I was commissioned to paint a Clematis for the front of the UK Clematis Society journal. That led to a second one and it went from there!

2. Do you have a botanical artist hero?

Can I only have one? There are too many to pick just one, but if I have to, I will pick Rory McEwan for his luscious works on vellum. His work inspired me to try vellum and although I have only used vellum a few times, love the quality of light and luminosity of colour it brings out! Um, must have another go!

3. If you had to choose a six colour palette which would you choose and why?

I am quite a conservative painter where colour is concerned and like to work with a limited colour palette anyway so this one is easy to answer. However, my colours change depending on the plant I am painting. I like to mix all my colours from 3 transparent primaries and generally start with cooler colours so have settled on W&N Quinacridone Magenta, Schmincke Pure Yellow and Schmincke Phthalo Blue. If I could only afford 3 paints, those are the ones I would go for as you can always 'warm up' a colour, eg add the yellow to the magenta and you get a warmer red but you

can never 'cool' a colour down. I would then add 2 warm primaries - W&N French Ultramarine and Scarlet Lake and lastly, although it is not transparent, a cooler yellow – Winsor Lemon.

My reasoning behind the first three is that I think they are the nearest to the printing inks – remember those small colour swatches you would get along the edge of full colour printed newspapers – red, yellow, blue and black? If they could use just these 3 inks and black to produce all the colours they need then I can too although I would never use black!

I do of course use other colours such as Pere Maroon or Indian Yellow as I change the basic 3 to suit the plant. I always work out which blue and yellow I need to make the green, then choosing a suitable red.

4. What is your favourite paper to work with?

My favourite is probably which ever one I am working on at the time - as long as the painting is going well, of course! At the moment I am working on Saunders Waterford, 420gsm cold press which is very different from the usual Arches or Hahnemuhle I usually use. I am enjoying the Saunders as it is a very robust paper and can take a lot of scrubbing.

5. Would you share a picture of your favourite work

Although I don't really have a favourite, I think I would choose my Kauri painting. It was painted for the Botanical Art Worldwide exhibition and my largest piece on vellum so far.

Lesley's First Botanical Painting





6. Would you share a picture of your workstation (I LOVE other people's messy tables!)

My workstation is a very basic desk squeezed in the area at the bottom of the stairs. It has a south facing window which is ideal but can become a dumping ground if I'm not careful!

7. Is there one book you would particularly recommend?

Even though I have a number of 'how to' books, I love getting out any of Shirley Sherwood's compilation books I have on my shelf. Just looking at the amazing paintings can often give me that eureka moment, perhaps a use of colour, or composition tweak I need to push my painting on to the next step.

8. Which artists do you find most useful to follow online?

Botanical artists I follow regularly are Dianne Sutherland for her incredibly detailed work, Shevaun Doherty for her colours – she uses as many colours as she can in each painting. I also follow artists of other genres as I would love to do more printmaking and more landscapes.

9. What one piece of advice would you give to a new artist?

Keep a sketchbook and draw every day – even 10 minutes each day and you will see an improvement in your drawing skills. A painting is only as good as the initial drawing so look, look and look again!

10. Do you have a special 'hack' or trick which works for you?

Something that I always try to remember when painting a subject is that the true colour and details are only really seen in the mid tones. Colours and details are washed out in the highlights and hidden in the shadows or lowlights. I alternate layers of transparent glazes with layers of details. If I'm not sure whether I need to go darker in an area, I put a wash of clean water down in that area as the water makes the area darker but of course dries without changing the colour of the previous layer.

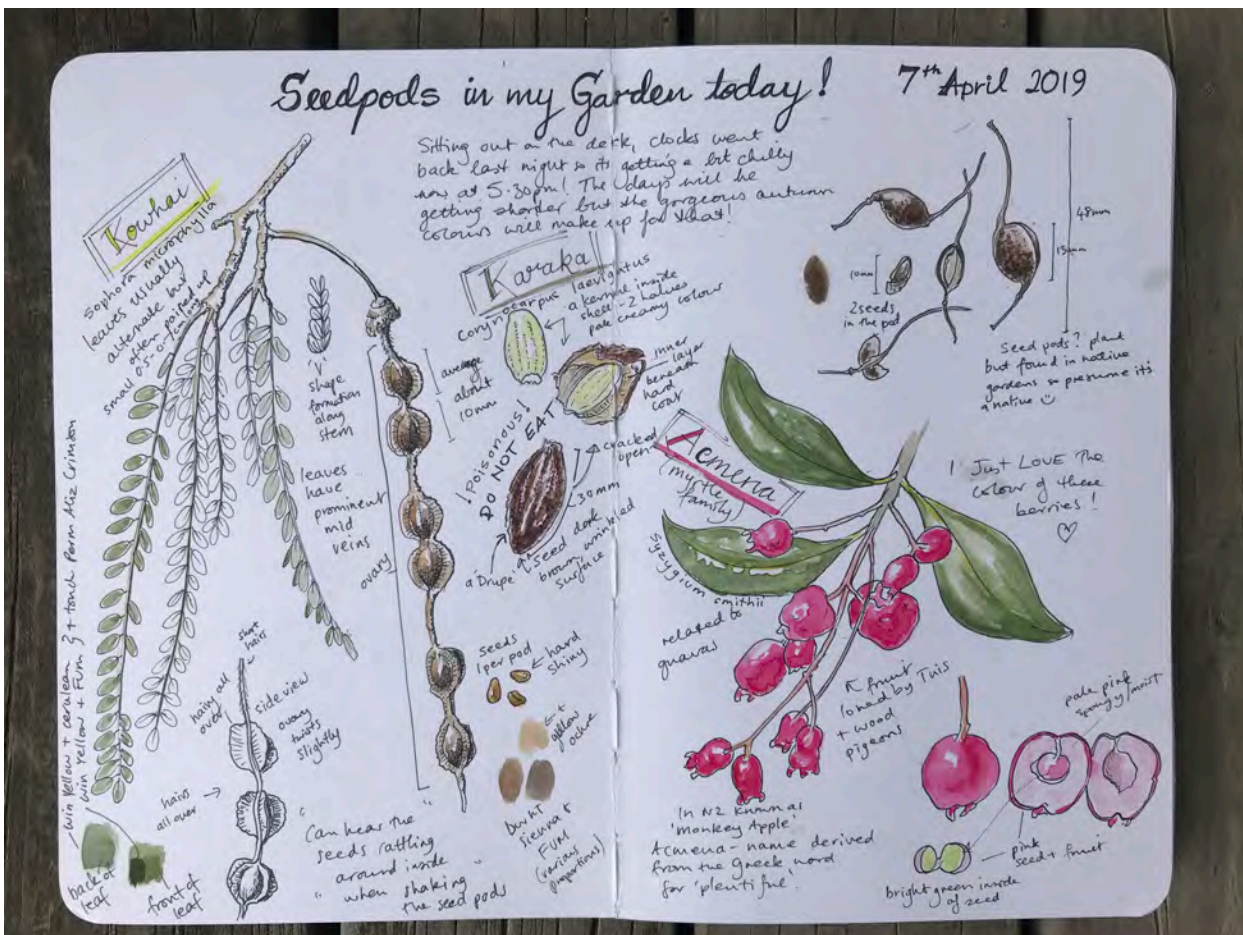
Review of Nature Journal Sketchbook Round 1

Tina Grey

Last year the Botanical Art Society came up with the idea of a "Nature Journal Sketchbook" - can't remember who suggested it, but think someone had mentioned several groups were doing the same. Therefore it was decided we should give it a go.

Lesley Alexander said she knew how to set the ball rolling, Lesley asked who was interested. About 12 members from around the two islands, put their hands up and joined the group, with some posting, while others were able to hand the sketchbooks to their “go to Person”. Now looking here at my book after one year of travelling and flipping the pages to remind me of seasons and month, what the artist saw to fill the pages. With many varied subjects from insects to birds, trees to fruits, and leaves. Every page is different with each artist using their skills, and method of showing us how they illustrate what they see around them. Most of the people in this group, all said how much they enjoyed working on their next journal book and looked forward to seeing their own sketchbooks at the end. So to all those members in Round 2 Good luck and enjoy your time on those journals. I myself look forward to receiving your books for the following year to come or perhaps another year after that, with more members joining in.

The following images come from **Lesley Alexander’s Nature Journal Sketchbook**



(above) Lesley’s own work in her sketchbook

Jennifer-Duval Smith



Lorraine Thompson



Sandra Morris



Jo Ogier



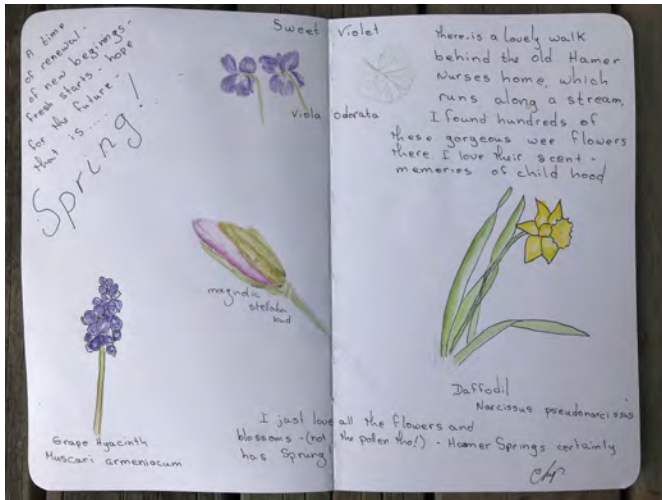
Janet Marshall



Tina Grey



Elizabeth Yuill Proctor



Jacque Carran



Irene Blair



Gillian Receur



Karen Atherton



Covid 19 Lockdown Stories

At the AGM someone suggested that we approach all the membership to seeing what they have been doing during Lockdown. Here are the responses we have received, in their own words:

Rebecca Brown-Thompson -- Oregon USA

“Hi wish I was there to be with you all...hopefully next year I will be back in NZ ...

I am currently still working on the 7 plates of NZ trees with Juvenile forms, has gone very slowly and very frustrating since I don't have the live plant to work with just lots of photos and dried specimens and color swatches I did before I left ...but slowly it is getting done...

Even though we are approaching spring there are very few flowers up yet and nothing is blooming right now, we are also approaching a drought as we did not get much snow nor

enough water to feed the Aquifers...so looking at

a potentially dry spring and summer but hopefully no fires... And yes this virus thing sucks but I'm still getting out and about as much as possible..we are in an area where there are fewer people that are sick and only one death so far... We have more land and open areas than our fellow Oregonians that live on the other side of the cascades near the coast.... so that has been helpful for us. I'm experimenting with combining Gouache and watercolor on my paintings, using gouache as accents over the watercolor seems to work well when doing plant veins...

Anyway I won't bore you with any more info , I miss seeing everybody but I hope you are all doing well and keeping busy...”



Tina Grey - Rolleston

“Nature Journal Round 2:

Having had my journal returned by all members on the mailing list, who very kindly add their contributions, I was able to prepare my starter pages and very colourful they are too, having spent several days filling in the pages with whatever I fancy. When the next round continues I am ready to go to my “go to person”.”

Suzy Abbott- Christchurch

“Did anyone else find themselves starting their Lockdown with a fervoured decluttering session? (Only to then bore of it pretty quickly!) Well I did and to my amazement found a very large (Over 100cm by 76cm) piece of watercolour paper hidden under my bed carpeted in dust! So I took the plunge and revisited the Hydrangea theme and am now half way through painting a very large Hydrangea head in

various beautiful shades of blues, purples and pinks. Amidst all the uncertainty It has been a very calming experience and I wondered if it wasn't just the act of painting but whether in fact it also had something to do with the colour palette. So I did a bit of research and found this

“Whilst red brings intensity and energy to the colour, blue brings relaxation and stability and together they make purple the perfect balance of the two.” Well fancy that! Maybe a theme for a future exhibition?!”

Lisa Dickson (Westport)

“Lockdown for me has been working from home (or trying to), with 2 cats, 1 dog, 1 puppy, 1 husband and 2 refugees from Christchurch. I’m used to working from home, but with all the talking, cooking, media briefings and cleaning up the odd wee on the carpet, it has been more distracting than usual... Am also desperately trying to catch up on my extramural study which got behind due to the long work days prior to getting sorted for lockdown.



Have attempted a few painting projects, all of which have ended up in the ‘shit drawer’ for when I am in a better frame of mind and can see some redeeming factors that might make me want to re-work them! I’m attempting a rose portrait at the moment, it nearly went in the drawer last night, but I will give it another day or two to see if it rounds the bend.”

Jennifer Duval-Smith - Auckland

“Since lockdown I have found concentration and routine a little harder, but what has kept me going has been the connection and thread of inspiration from other artists and gardeners online. I have a real fascination with edible crops and just prior to lockdown I was given the most gorgeous basket of beets and kohlrabi by a friend ay OMG Market garden [@OMG aki](#) on Symonds St In Auckland. Levi, the head gardener was so delighted with this kohlrabi painting that he offered to buy it and, what's more he's given me free turnips (contact-free, he poked them through the fence). A turnip for the books indeed. So that's what I am working on now. Viva las vege!”

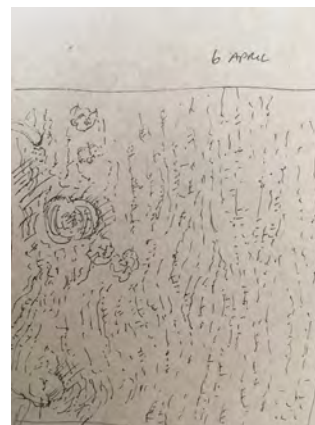
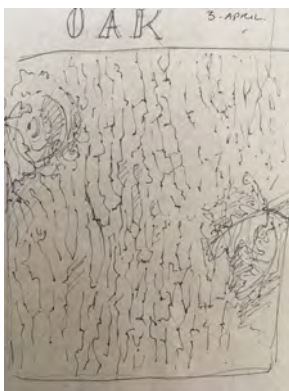


Sandra Morris - Whanganui

“This Covid -19 Lockdown period at level 4 has allowed me so much more time for my personal art projects. To kickstart each day (when its not raining!) I take an hour long walk along the road by the Whanganui river that I reach at the end of my street in Aramoho. Start time varies from between 7am – 8am – I try to go as early as possible to catch all the early bird song. As I walk I keep a tally of all the birds I can identify by sound or by sight. These tallies will go into the national bird atlas.

As a warming up exercise I also make a quick pen sketch of the bark pattern of one tree each day at the conclusion of my walk.

These are quick 2-3 minute scribbles, no longer than that and it sets me up to go on and work on my art projects once I get back. I am yet to ID some of the trees but will load my photos onto Inaturalist and there will be some lovely person who will ID them for me sooner or later...”



Suzy Pearce - Hanmer Springs

“The best laid plans and all that...for the first two weeks of lockdown I set up my workplace on the dining room table and looked at it for the entire two weeks. Try as I might I simply couldn't feel inspired enough to pick up a paintbrush so for the first time I actually had the time but not the motivation. We ate our meals in front of the TV while my 'art studio' covered the dining room table. I've since heard of other artists struggling with the same malaise. The whole situation was all just too surreal and so mentally draining. I couldn't find the focus needed for botanical so I picked up a whimsical frog ornament entwined with ivy from my garden and started on that. I've yet to even start on the ivy but the frog is looking great half finished! I progressed to an iris from Anna Mason's course then got inspired by the bright colours of the Autumn leaves with some progress made there.

The new rock garden is finished, the house is spring cleaned and I'm sure the dogs must be asking each other when we're going back to work so they can get a rest from our long winded conversations with them. Freddy frog and the autumn leaves are calling; I may even add that ivy after all.”

Irene Blair - Christchurch

“We are now into week 4 and I only now seem to be getting into my nature sketch-booking. I’m well behind everyone else but as this lock down will go on for some time for over 70’s I think I’ve plenty of time to achieve something. I know this isn’t a race but I think perhaps I’m always going to be the Tortoise in life and not the Hare. A few days before Lock down, the Monday actually, I ended up with e-mails I deleted coming into my inbox at an unbelievable rate. The more I tried to get rid of them the worse it got. I ended up with 4,000. When I finally deleted them a similar thing happened with the deleted box! I now find saved messages have been deleted! I struggle with technology at the best of times. Now onto sketching, but wait my beloved moggy got seriously sick on Good Friday. The whole of Easter was spent going to the After Hours Vets (my first drive in 2 weeks surreal(and worrying about him. An interesting experience in retrospect as the vets and staff were in full PPE and it was all No Contact. i.e. cat in cage deposited 2 metres from car and 2 metres from vet staff. The cat is almost back to his old self. One son is in my bubble but like many looks like being without a job. Just another stress that is making this lock down more difficult. However, we are all well and I have finally finished my first sketch book page! I have many ideas for the next page. I keep collecting or photographing things to sketch or paint on my daily walks. The autumn colours are wonderful and I can’t wait to paint the Fly agaric toadstools that are appearing near the local dairy. I feel lucky we are all well and the Government is doing a better job than most countries at getting us through this. Take care and keep well.”

Jane Fitzgerald - Dunedin

“I am beavering away on SBA diploma online and nearing the end of the assignments. Learning heaps and enjoying the process. Currently working on an eggplant work with dissections and life cycle kind of. Getting used to black skin... bit frightening but relaxing into it and has red purple tones too which makes it more interesting. Hope to get to one of your meetings but covid has not helped but good for painting for me as a distraction from worries.”

Lesley Alexander - Auckland

“Well lock down has not seen me as productive as I thought I would be - at least painting wise. The news and fridge kept distracting me! I have however knitted 14 hats for the 'Make, Give, Live' initiative - knitting hats for the homeless”



Elizabeth Yuill Proctor - Hanmer Springs

“Like others, the start of Lockdown saw a fever of activity here in Hanmer. Anything but painting or drawing! Making curtains, jams, jelly, a giant batch of pasta sauces to freeze and we even made our own hot cross buns for the first time!

Our dogs are having their legs walked off as well. I just could not settle to Botanical painting. So, I gave my first Landscape a bash - ummm could do better!

Plus finishing the accounts (which sadly I couldn't get to the accountant) for our AGM, and now the Newsletter. Hey ho only two weeks (hopefully) left.”



Lorraine Thompson - Christchurch

“The first week of Lockdown L4 was a roller coaster of emotions ranging from incredible stress due to having a business and how we were going to keep it viable, relief in that I could stop frantically preparing for the long haul in our bubble with my 70+ husband and huge excitement in all the painting and gardening I was going to do. Thankfully our staff have done a brilliant job of keeping our business ticking over. The weather has been spectacular, I have attended to some long forgotten parts of my garden AND to my amazement I have done some work for the journals. Despite heading into winter I feel optimistic that New Zealand is making progress with fighting Covid19 disease and it will be wonderful when social distancing is safe for our art groups to start meeting again.”

Dot Lovell-Smith - Christchurch

“Being an asthmatic-over-70 year old I suspected my lock down would go on for quite some time. and for the first 2 weeks I felt very lucky having my art, a large garden and a younger brother to buy my groceries. I decided to get stuck into improving my water colour skills, so with Billy Showell's book in one hand and a paintbrush in the other I started to record examples of my fruit and nut crops. Life was relaxed and I was enjoying myself. Then sadly one of my old Auckland friend, my best friend's partner, had a serious fall and then a week later, died from a massive heart attack. Supporting my friend with phone calls, Skype and text has become a priority during this terrible time when I can not fly up to be with her. My art has been put on hold, and I distract myself from memories with the heavy labour needed to build a new chook run for my young pullets, and various autumn gardening projects.

My kitchen table is still covered with water-colour paraphernalia, fruit, flower samples, leaves and sketchbooks. I'm almost ready to get back to it. And for sure I will have lot to do!”

Jo Ogier - Taylor's Mistake

"Inspired by Ann Clay's bookbinding workshops I have taken the time to create my next crop of journals to work in. I have found the process quite cathartic during this unsettling time. The covers and end pages have been collected over the years from various places."



Janet Marshall - Nelson

Well I haven't been anywhere apart from walks around the block and painting and watching interesting documentaries and gardening programs online. It must be a struggle for some people to actually relax and paint and doing botanicals can be a bit exhausting with the detail needed. That's why I've just done watercolour sketches, which I call Lockdown 2020.

Here are some of Janet's Lockdown 2020 series



Claire Broughton - Matamata

"As I am self employed (holistic therapist and medical transcriptionalist) I am always busy, and even though I cannot see clients at the moment I am planning for an aromatherapy workshop which is taking considerable time. I have appreciated a bit of time to have a thorough spring clean of my treatment room so that is good.

My other work as a transcriptionalist means that I am still busy with that, so unfortunately it is not quite the same time out as it is for a lot of people. Not having clients though has given me a little more time though as I am not having to juggle quite so much!

I am preparing work on an aromatherapy workshop ad I also have had it in my mind to host a watercolour workshop for sometime and again it seems to be taking a long time to get my head around what would be needed in order to do this. I also continue with the aromatherapy study all the time, there is so much to learn.

I walk my dog and try to do other exercise but am missing my swimming. I also have had a bit more time to have a good clean up which was long overdue!

For me this lockdown will be over all too soon, so with that I need to make the most of every minute and get on with some painting!"

International Lockdown Stories

I enjoyed reading what everyone was up to during Lockdown, so thought...why not extend this to some of my favourite overseas botanical artists. This was instigated by Denise Ramsay's chatty newsletter, which dropped into my inbox. I asked a few artists and they were generous enough to reply.

Denise Ramsay - South of France

I am loving the lock-down I am in, here in South West France. I have done two paintings so far.. which sounds good, but I know used only a fraction of the time we have been staying at home. I keep wanting to do more, but the days slip by. I have made more batches of scones and pikelets than I have done in all the past years put together! ..I am not sure if that goes on the "good" list or "bad" list. Also, I am running out of big watercolour paper.. sigh.

Oh, but MailChimp tells me the newsletter I sent out this month (that goes on the good list) is my 4th... in four years, oops! Must do better.



To read Denise's chatty Online Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/1398a7e7a79f/from-lockdown-in-south-west-france-18600352?e=3584e18a41>

Here is the blog post based on that issue, why I paint what I do:

<http://www.deniseramsay.com/news/2020/4/20/all-things-alien-and-painterly>

Instagram link:

<https://www.instagram.com/deniseramsayartist/>

Website:

deniseramsay.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DeniseRamsayArtist/>





Dianne Sutherland - UK

Most of the projects I was involved in are currently on hold but one good thing is that I'm now 'tied to the mast' and in the studio and painting even more. I was fortunate to have had a small exhibition of British Native Plants, which ended a couple of days before lockdown. The online teaching is still busy, which is great as many others are also finding they have that much needed time to draw and paint. So I'm busy making new videos for the tutorials which launched last year; they are stand alone techniques based tutorials rather than taught courses and

are very popular as I think they tap into a lot of the 'missing links' in the Botanical art students' learning process.

Also, I'm experimenting on different papers to see how they perform and combining that with painting flowers for a exciting new website, which is all about plants and in particular reproduction in flowering plants, so lots of dissection illustrations, which we hope tell some interesting (if slightly risqué stories). I'm working on this project with my daughter Polly, so it's an exciting new venture that we're both interested in and both studied at University, (a long time ago for me) , I can tell you more about that project soon. Lockdown has actually given me time to reflect and focus on projects that were previously just ideas!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/diannesutherlandart/>

Blogspot:

<http://diannesutherland.blogspot.com/2020/04/british-wildflowers-exhibition-easton.html?m=1>

Courses:

<https://www.botanicalart-online.com>

Instagram: [dianesutherlandartist](#)





Shevaun Doherty - Ireland

During Lockdown, I haven't done a lot of botanical art. Instead I've been painting insects... partly because of the whole cocooning issue, but also because I was asked to design another set of stamps for An Post. The theme is Endangered Wildlife. I've decided to champion invertebrate, so have been looking at moths, ants and beetles all month! Some of them are so beautiful, and they are essential for a healthy ecosystem.

Website:

<https://shevaundoherty.com>

courses:

<https://shevaundoherty.com/botanical-elements-online-art-course/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/shevaundohertyart/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/shevaundohertyartist/?hl=en>

Blogspot:

<http://botanicalsketches.blogspot.com>

Youtube: https://www.instagram.com/p/B_Ud8AkjT9F/

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UUdaSzLu03rgB5d9EtNzfmCQ>



Jarnie Godwin UK



During the lockdown I decided to help out a bit and changed the format of my newsletter to include fun articles to read, relaxing music choices, some of my tips and videos, and a few easy recipes. Anything to raise a smile. And, to keep the painterly momentum going, I'm putting out loads of free tip sheets via Instagram, doing demos and exhibitions on Instagram live, and adding more

videos to my YouTube channel.

Website:

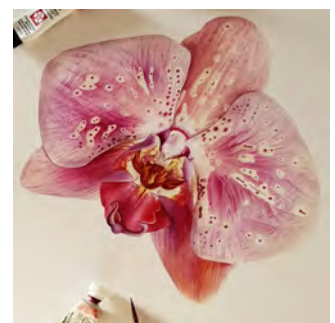
www.sketchbooksquirrel.com **info on courses are on Jarnie's website**
(new one www.jarniegodwinart.com launching soon)

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUb1eRFmu8ePJpgL6cO-gjA

Newsletter Mail list sign up:

<http://eepurl.com/dspAr9>



What To Do During Lockdown

As you will see not everyone has tackled Lockdown in the same way. Like many things, there is no right or wrong way to cope. Whatever it takes.

I have been very impressed with all of the free tutorial for art and other things that people are sharing online. Here are a few links:

Thinking of the Natural Sketchbook Journal, here are a few Sketchbook sites:

Some **free Nature Journaling tips and resources** from John Muir Laws

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/journaling-curriculum/>

This one is from a “**Well travelled Artist**”

<https://mymodernmet.com/travelers-notebook-jose-naranja/>

The Walking sketchbook

<https://thewalkingsketchbook.co.uk/2020/04/13/drawing-sound/>

A travel sketchbook by Liz Steel:

<https://www.lizsteel.com/>

Daily Nature Sketching - free sessions either live or on replay with Christine Elder

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/live-sketching-sessions/register?session=20>

Article from mymodernmet.com “**Artist Keeps Daily Visual Diary of Botanical Illustrations to Document Found Plant Life**”

<https://mymodernmet.com/botanical-illustrations-somang-lee/>

A free video lesson: How to Draw A Lime Wedge in Coloured Pencils He has other lesson available

This could be good for children to get them “hooked”

<https://www.arttutor.com/lime-wedge>

Virtual art tours:

[https://email.vikingrivercruises.com/pub/sf/FormLink?](https://email.vikingrivercruises.com/pub/sf/FormLink?_ri=X0Gzc2X%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puzfIKiyIO1qJeT64tqT3b4Awbw8I8Jv4K7tueze1rdzgvJgNzg1fVXMtX%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puPE0By3T7Xzf9Ak0zgh1GzdlyG7zezbez2ypzdtvzfNm4DR9nK9XH0qR&ei=EskjDGIpaaxB9o8PuDJ8gq8.&di=lquobu57hgdI00b95c85536voighn6hsfgogei7lelv7qbmhbabg)

[_ri=X0Gzc2X%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puzfIKiyIO1qJeT64tqT3b4Awbw8I8Jv4K7tueze1rdzgvJgNzg1fVXMtX%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puPE0By3T7Xzf9Ak0zgh1GzdlyG7zezbez2ypzdtvzfNm4DR9nK9XH0qR&ei=EskjDGIpaaxB9o8PuDJ8gq8.&di=lquobu57hgdI00b95c85536voighn6hsfgogei7lelv7qbmhbabg](https://email.vikingrivercruises.com/pub/sf/FormLink?_ri=X0Gzc2X%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puzfIKiyIO1qJeT64tqT3b4Awbw8I8Jv4K7tueze1rdzgvJgNzg1fVXMtX%3DYQpglLjHJITQGNObSgzeBkuhPzeTgzgBkL4puPE0By3T7Xzf9Ak0zgh1GzdlyG7zezbez2ypzdtvzfNm4DR9nK9XH0qR&ei=EskjDGIpaaxB9o8PuDJ8gq8.&di=lquobu57hgdI00b95c85536voighn6hsfgogei7lelv7qbmhbabg)

Winsor & Newton, as well as being providers of our favourite paints, also have some interesting facts online about the colours, worth browsing from here

<https://email.winsornewton.com/4QA7-BX4D-8EFH01IDA/cr.aspx>



The **Association of British Botanical Artists** are offering free membership until the end of May so cruise around their website and see if they can tempt you. Here is a link to painting on Vellum

<https://www.britishbotanicalartists.com/post/painting-on-vellum-part-ii?postId=5e68aee729279c00170c1136>

And for **something different**. Every have an urge to paint something totally different and in **oils**? Here is a free lesson.

<https://mailchi.mp/timgagnon/this-weeks-lesson-sale-and-50-off-original-artwork-844981?e=d75b3f6172>

Remember you can mail order supplies from both the Drawing Room and Gordon Harris from Tuesday

.....And Finally

Well, that is all for this issue of the Autumn Newsletter. We are always interested to hear what is happening in your part of the country. Remember if you are having an exhibition yourself, or you have been to one (with Botanical Art included) please email us.

Stay Well, Stay Safe

Elizabeth Yuill Proctor & Suzy Abbott
basnzinc@gmail.com