



The Botanical Art Society of New Zealand Inc

PO Box 29568, Fendalton, Christchurch 8540

Winter 2013 Newsletter

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Welcome to the latest news bulletin and things of interest to all fellow Botanical Artists in N.Z. And those lucky people who are travelling through and sharing our beautiful country.

This is my first newsletter for the society and the first time I have held such a position, I hope that I can reflect your interest, patience and passion which are some of the characteristics of this artform.

Thinking a little wider than N.Z., there are (metaphorically speaking!) more fields to plough where we can unearth additional skills and good practice.

Susan Worthington is one person who comes to mind, one of a select group of botanical artists who has work included in the Prince of Wales' 'Highgrove Florilegium'. Thinking of Susan caused thoughts



to wander over the world and think how lucky we are to have instant access to other Societies, Artists and Botanical Gardens throughout the world.

Indeed, with internet we don't even have to leave the house if we choose not to, although family and friends may lift an occasional eyebrow! Sharing our excitement and knowledge is something common to many artists especially in Botanical art. The commonality with gardening gives us a never-ending basket of resource and pleasure.

Let us use this forum to share and express our thoughts.

Filoli Gardens - San Francisco

With family in the U.S. I have been fortunate to travel to Northern California. The Americans are very generous and I have been received into the Northern California chapter of the A.S.B.A., with friendship and laughter. The A.S.B.A. are a great source of interest and inspiration. Do check out their recent website arrival online. <http://www.asba-art.org/> I hope you find the inspiration that I have.



Filoli Gardens -small part of Spring Bulb display February 2012

Filoli Gardens near San Francisco is just one of many beautiful public gardens educating us all in the manner of landscape design, glorious buildings, the love of plants and Botanical Art classes. The property was gifted to the state of California by a family who created their wealth during the gold rush. It is lovingly cared for by a board, small administration staff and a large team of volunteers. The following shots are from Filoli Gardens. If you want more info, check out their website. <https://filoli.org/>

There is so much to learn and time does get away on us by the very nature of our creative choice. However, many of us continue to learn from excellent individuals and international groups.

Closer to us in Australia, there are many classes of course in addition to classes throughout N.Z. We may embrace all of the knowledge that is available to us. Not to mention books! There are Botanical competitions and displays to look at and enter. Oh, dear! How many of us just can't resist one more Botanical illustration book! One year I became so ardent after discovering the plethora of books on [Amazon](#), that I ended up with 2 of the same from [Billy Showell](#) (UK)!



Before I finish my little ramble, I would ask you to please pass stories on to me and thoughts, ideas for botanical art adventures, product information, breakthroughs, classes and get-togethers. Let's enjoy ourselves and expand the next newsletter!

It can be difficult in terms of time and finances to get together with water separating our islands, (I worded this carefully just in case we have interested artists on Stewart, Waiheke, Barrier, or perhaps the Chatham Islands!) but we could work at it. Certainly my home in Tauranga can host a few people and I'm sure I could rustle up a few more comfortable bedrooms up if there is interest in a workshop in this location! Failing physical connection, we can do our best by embracing this very clever internet.

NZ Alpine Garden Society Combined Spring Show

21& 22 September 2013 - Horticultural Society Centre, Christchurch

The NZ Alpine Society is having its annual Combined Spring Show this year on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September at the Horticultural Society Centre, Christchurch. This year, for the second

time, new classes of botanical art and embroidery will be included. This is in addition to our normal class of plants and photography. We encourage members to submit some of their work - it can have been submitted elsewhere.



Class 30a:

Paintings – Picture/s in colour of alpine plants (native or species plant).

Class 30b:

Drawings – Monochrome drawing(s) of alpine plants (native or species plant) in either pen or pencil.

Class 30c:

Botanical Design –Drawing or painting inspired by alpine plants(native or species plant) in either pen or pencil. While the design must be in the “character” of the subject matter chosen, sympathetic interpretation of the plant for design purposes will be acceptable.

The criteria for judging the paintings and drawings is as follows:

Paintings and Drawings Classes 30a 30b, 30c

Judges will give most importance to botanically accurate studies showing relevant identification, i.e. structure of flower parts, stem, leaf, fruit, roots or bulb. All entries to be exhibitor’s own work, to be originals (not photocopies) and have exhibitor’s name and address on reverse and name of plant(s) on front.

Works can be submitted from 4-p.m. on Friday evening 20th and Saturday morning 21st September from 7.30-9.30 am. There is no entry fee and one doesn’t have to be a member of the NZAGS to submit work. Works will not be for sale at the Show, but I am sure this popular venue is great for promoting our art.

Workshop Success

Two Introductory Workshops have been held at The Lodge, Mona Vale during May/June with 5 new members now well on the road to success and enjoying their newfound artistic appreciation.

The Canterbury Plains Florilegium Exhibition

The artwork for the Florilegium is progressing well with several completed works finished ahead of schedule.

The 14 artists participating have enjoyed their new experience of studying their chosen plant in detail and recording the same, scientifically accurately with the help of our resident Botanist Mr Roger Carran together with wonderful composition, layout and technical guidance by Jo Ogier.

The Committee is working toward 1st week September 2013 for final completion of the artwork. Funding for the Exhibition installation and catalogue and related costs are being applied for through Art Grants, which we are hoping will be successful. Approx. \$10,000 is required to prepare for the Exhibition with the major expense related to the artwork preparation.

All the best for the rest of winter and this very wintery blast signing off the month of June! I'm sure I reflect thoughts from throughout New Zealand toward all of those suffering in Canterbury. Hopefully the major push to bring resolution to the housing issues will provide satisfaction.

Kind regards,

Jenny
