

FROM THE EDITOR

This WSA Art Connections Newsletter could not be created without the help of Dianne Yates, Anne Kalnins, Carla Parry, Carril Karr and some of our Executive Committee members and other WSA members and, of course, Eriko who is doing the formatting of this newsletter from Japan. We wish her well dealing with her family illness over there and a safe return to NZ. Thanks.

And a very special thanks to SHARP who continue to help us substantially with our photocopying and to Warehouse Stationery who supply our paper. Please do let them know how grateful we are when you do your buying.

Barry Smith

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WSA
art

WAIKATO SOCIETY OF ARTS

Art Connections

PO Box 1018 Hamilton 3240

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

The judge for the 2012 NZ Painting and Printmaking Award, organized by the Waikato Society of Arts, John Daly-Peoples commented on the beauty of Hamilton's various themed gardens and how they were a perfect setting for the Hamilton Summer Festival. He also commented that each one of us has a favourite garden, or preference, be it; the Japanese Garden, the Chinese Garden, the English, Maori, American, Renaissance etc. Our favourite garden, he pointed out, is usually a choice made because we have some association with that garden – its history, its flowers, its setting and so on. He made an analogy with judging the NZPPA winner. He commented that all the finalists were of high quality but the final choice was similar to choosing a favourite garden among a number of beautiful works.

The NZ Painting and Printmaking Award is the main visual arts event of the Hamilton Gardens Summer Arts Festival and the Waikato Society of Arts is proud to continue our tradition of hosting this event. The Award confirms our role as the major visual arts organization in Hamilton, keeps us viable, and keeps us on the map as a major contributor to the New Zealand Arts scene.

The Waikato Society of Arts could not do this without the support of the Vela family who donate the prize money and support us in many constructive ways. We are also grateful to all the local individuals and businesses who help the support this award and the other activities of the WSA. WSA also thanks the committee who put the show together for us.



Dianne at the NZPPA workplace

We congratulate this year's winner Gary McMillan with "Scene 8", and the merit award winners Peata Larkin with "Pulse" and Stefan Roberts with "Finding Unclaimed Baggage" and Paul Woodruffe with "Rahopara to Memorial Avenue", and all the finalists. We also thank all those who entered this year and encourage them to continue with their artwork and look towards next year's Awards.

I would also like to pay tribute to Joan Travaglia who, sadly, passed away this month.

Joan is highly regarded by members of WSA and her students at our Art School. At some stage everyone in the Waikato has owned a Joan Travaglia print – on the front of their telephone books. Few of our members can leave such a legacy in terms of her art, her teaching and her community involvement. We extend our sympathy to Joan's family and our praise of Joan for her contribution to WSA and the arts in Hamilton.

Dianne Yates

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN TRAVAGLIA

Waikato Society of Arts wants to pay tribute to the life of Joan Travaglia, a member since the early seventies. Joan was a talented artist, an innovative printmaker, brilliant teacher, a committed worker for WSA and was dedicated to the promotion of the arts in the Waikato. Above all, she was a kind, generous and warm person.

During 2005 and 2006, Joan shared the presidency with Robin Cuff, together bringing WSA back from the brink of insolvency and ensuring its continued existence. Close to her heart was the desire that WSA would have its own premises in order to achieve security, independence and the ability to expand. She lobbied, wrote submissions, applied for grants and spent endless hours representing WSA within various committees. Thinking of a possible

home for WSA, Joan sat on the first committee formed by Arts Waikato to create a Community Arts Centre.

She chaired the exhibition committee for many years, organising numerous exhibitions and openings. After she resigned from the exhibition committee, Joan continued to run the successful WaiPrint exhibitions which have promoted and supported printmakers in the Waikato for 23 years. She was a great supporter of the art school and worked hard to obtain grants successfully. In 1998, she managed the shift of the printroom from Ward Street to ArtsPost.

Joan was a very fine painter and printmaker whose work won numerous awards and is held in many collections. She held solo exhibitions and participated in many group shows; her final show was just last December in her Ngaio Garden Studio. She was a prolific and innovative artist who delighted in

experimental techniques. Many of her works reveal her great love of the Waikato, especially its flora and fauna and landscapes. Her influence on printmakers went far beyond the Waikato.

She graduated from Ilam at the University of Canterbury with a fine arts degree.

She began printmaking in the late 1980s in WSA classes taught by Ruth Davey and soon began helping with the teaching and supporting beginners. When Ruth stopped teaching, Joan and Stan Boyle shared both woodcut and etching classes. Eventually, Joan took over all the printmaking classes. She also organised or taught many workshops in different aspects of printmaking.

Joan was a wonderful teacher who could teach and inspire a wide range of people from hesitant beginners to trained artists learning a new practice. For seventeen years, I have watched her lead and guide and mentor. She could find something to praise in every learner and could always find the right suggestion for improvement. Her classes were places of happy experimentation and mutual support.

Martha Simms

JOAN TRAVAGLIA

Just before I took off for adventures in the South Island I visited Joan at the opening of her December 2011 exhibition. It was good to see other aspects of her work and in her own environment. She was happy and surrounded by family and friends. She wished Catherine and me well in our little exhibition



in Darfield. We often talked about our common background in Canterbury where she still had several friends and I have family and friends. We were both concerned about the impact of the earthquake and the continuing aftershocks and had seen the damage firsthand. Joan expressed her love of Christchurch with the little cards she made and sold to raise relief for her beloved area. I took a photo of her with her press at her opening – didn't realise it would be the last time I saw her ready smile.

All her printmaker students owed her so much – and we were lucky to have her – she was one of the survivors of the Wahine disaster. **Barry Smith**

DAVID SAYERS

WSA notes with sadness the passing of David Sayers last month. As our former President, Brenda Sayers said of her father "You have left your legend Dad, in your story books, poems and paintings and the many buildings you have designed". A fine tribute to a fine person.

When you next visit the Morrinsville Wallace Art Gallery, remember David Sayers – its design was one of David's works – at the time as a Post Office.

WSA extends its condolences to Anne, Brenda and other members of the Sayers family.

WAIKATO SOCIETY OF ARTS MEMBERS' EXHIBITION 2012

Title :

'Humanity in all its Guises'

Media/Theme:

Everything from nudes and portraits to city and landscapes and more.

The Exhibition Committee would like to see some emphasis on recycling and that it would be great to see lots of different media used.

Exhibition dates : 4 May - 4 June

Venue: ArtsPost Galleries

120 Victoria St. Hamilton

Entry details will be included in April newsletter

DEAN BUCHANAN

At the New Zealand Alpine Club Unwin Lodge at the Hermitage, Chas Tanner, the lodge manager, informed us that an 'Artist in Residence' was present. Indeed the next morning we were greeted outside our bedroom window by the sight of this energetic busy man frenetically taking down one canvas and nailing up another. His open-air studio was the back of a building where a large sheet of ply had been nailed up to provide an easel. Other benches had been nailed in place to provide space for oil tubes and brushes. Although a cold morning,

COMING TO CLARENCE ST THEATRE DICKENS' WOMEN

7.30pm 2 May

Bringing to life twenty-three of Charles Dickens' most affecting and

colourful characters, Miriam Margolyes, one of the world's most celebrated

character actors, presents her powerful, comprehensive, and at times

hilarious exposé of Dickens the writer and the man, and the real-life women

who found themselves immortalised on his pages.

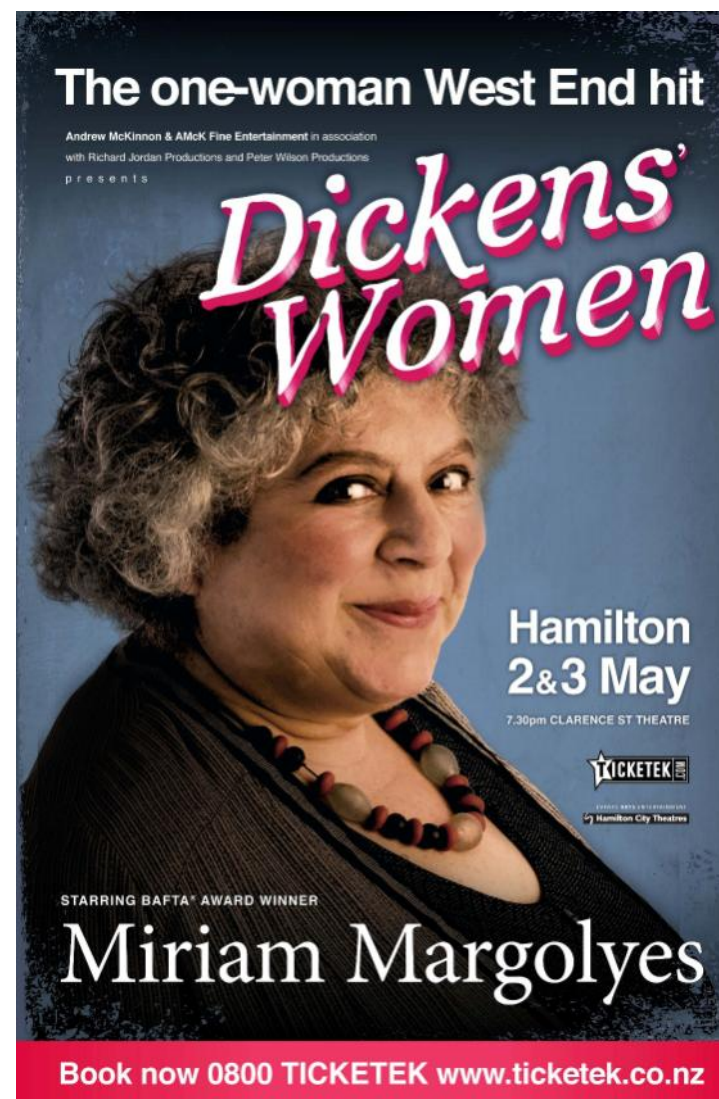
BELONG WITH THE BEST

Waikato Society of Arts is a major contributor to the visual arts in Hamilton.

This is largely due to the quality and contribution of our members. Learner, amateur, semi-professional, professional and supporter artists. We remind you that the subscriptions for this year are due but also encourage members to invite those with similar interests and talents to join up.

Belong with the best in the arts in Hamilton and the Waikato!

Dianne Yates



SOCIAL MEDIA – FACEBOOK, TWITTER ETC

If you're short on ideas on your creativity or marketing your work have a look at this site which will give you some good tips on marketing and setting up your Facebook page – and the advantages of doing so. It is part of 'the Big Idea'. Click here <http://www.thebigidea.co.nz/generator>

THE WSA WEBSITE – MEMBER OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE OWN PAGE

An artist's page is a benefit for paid-up WSA members only. To get started with your own page, email Janice Meadows at jmeadows51@gmail.com and she will reply with further instructions. Janice now has the pages underway. There are now new pages. Have a look at the WSA site - artists - to get an idea of what your page might look like and the information Janice requires. WSA can provide help with photographs etc.

Contact Janice as above.

Thanks to Trust Waikato for the Development Grant that funded the website upgrade.

ARTIST ROOMS FOR HIRE

The art rooms at WSA Art School are able to be rented. If any members are interested in hiring these for themselves or a group, please contact Anne 07 839 4481

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Art Connections monthly newsletter welcomes articles and images relating to the arts, and listings of upcoming art events. All contributions need to be provided by 20th of each month to the WSA office, email wsa@wsa.org.nz or direct to me at 2smiths@wave.co.nz Please type "Newsletter" in subject line.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription Rates (1 Sept 2011 – 31 Aug 2012)

Double	\$65 (Seniors \$50)
Single	\$45 (Seniors \$40)
Student	\$20 (Current Student I.D. required)

You can make pay your subscriptions (or make donations) to the WSA by post or via the Internet. Our WSA Account is: Westpac 03 0306 0217827 00

WSA SKETCH CRAWL

February Report

The festival and the sunny weather made it a really good sketch crawl. We were able to draw against a backdrop of music and other festival activities. The numerous people attending the festival also provided good subject matter, although you have to get the details down fast because when you look back up from your sketchpad, they had often moved or were gone altogether!



We spent about two hours traversing the gardens and stopped wherever took our fancy; we drew people/plants in one of the gardens and lily pads/ducks by the lake.

Carla

Our next sketch crawl will be in April and we'll advertise the time and venue in the April newsletter. Bring the usual gear for art and the weather. Not special skills required and fellow WSA members are usually generous with their help and ideas. Show and tell is not compulsory.

Have a look at the article on the Monet exhibition to see the importance of the sketch (and more basically 'the line') in art.

FROM THE ART SCHOOL

Joan Travaglia has been an inspiration to hundreds of students /artists over the last 28 years. Her legacy in the printroom will continue. Joan always had a smiling face, she exuded enthusiasm, which propagated much creativity from those that came into contact with her. For at least 28 years she was at the art school 3 days a week. And during her shared Presidency was on the phone to the art school many times. She really cared. Very kindly Joan made many successful funding applications, which has kept the WSA financially viable. She loved the WSA and the Art school passionately. I miss Joan very much, it does not seem right without her. But I like to think her presence will always stay in her beloved print room.

The summer term is well underway and students and artists are settling in. We have two new tutors Loryn Engelsman a third year WINTER student in Media arts and Sarskia Melville a first year student in media arts. They are taking the 5-7 year olds classes. Unfortunately we had to cancel our new Saturday class, as there were no enrolments. Otherwise this term is going well, with many full classes.

Pre School art for mums and tots, a new 1 hour session will be offered through the school holidays. Next term is the Autumn term and it commences on 30th April.

We hope that Eriko will be back in the not to distant future.

Anne Kalnins

TWO WORKSHOPS, APRIL AND MAY 2012

The Waikato Society of Arts is planning two weekend painting workshops for members and other artists in Hamilton and the Waikato.

WORKSHOP ONE

time 28 – 29th April
tutor Carole Shephard, well known NZ artist now resident near Kawhia.
class size up to 15
venue Kaipaki Rd (Cambridge)
theme **humans and their environment with the emphasis on using recycled natural and man-made materials in the art work.**

WORKSHOP TWO

time 19th and/or 20th May
tutor Colin Gibbs, artist and partner in Gibbs Lang Gallery, at Tamahere
class size up to 10
venue Colin Gibbs studio, Tamahere
theme **Looking at the Waikato, with an emphasis on recycling and using natural materials in the work.**

The workshop fees have not yet been determined and will be advised in the April newsletter. The first workshop will precede WSA's Members show at Artspost in May. We expect the workshop to contribute to a wider scope of work being submitted. The theme of the show is Humanity in all its Guises.

The second workshop will precede a show for the artists enrolled in the workshop to be held at the time of the Agricultural Field Days. The show will be held at the Gibbs Lang Gallery and will be advertised to Field Day attendees.



the sandflies were in force and voracious as I approached to ask if he minded my presence. These seemed not to bother him as he set about sketching his initial design onto the canvas – and at great speed – talking all the time. My presence and conversation seemed not to interfere in the slightest in his creative process; a commentary on the depth of my conversation, perhaps.

We soon established a rapport and, seemingly, empathy for one another's ideas. The words flew. And the stories. It seemed as if all the imagery came from some evolving process lodged behind his eyes. I've since heard that he does plan his work but never directly from a landscape or a photograph. There are sketchbooks but these are just a step towards the final explosion of effort. The whole final composition is performed at great pace – and the ongoing conversation seemed to only facilitate his creative process.

As his sketch lines develop I could discern different elements appearing – an overall composition – the height and depth of his subject matter – the strata of the mountains – the fracturing and shattering of rock and ice – colour comes later and with it a certain darkness and a limited palette. Here is an artist who has well and truly found his voice; one whose work you can easily identify, in much the same way that you can say – 'this is a Nigel Brown' or 'this is a McCahon'. Bob Harvey has written a book about



Dean Buchanan's works in progress – note the artist's defence against the cold and sandflies

Dean's work. Its title is well chosen: "Wild Beast".

If I had to choose one word to describe Dean Buchanan, it would be ENERGY. The energy with which he attacks his work, his bush tramps, his cycle training and mountain climbing, his conversations, his art - everything. That morning at Unwin Lodge the vicious sandflies were well and truly out of their depth.

For someone nigh on 60 he is remarkable – at an age when many of us are thinking of slowing down he seems to be speeding up. He recently climbed Cook and Mts Aspiring and Madeline. No sign that his passion for doing things is burning him up either. Great advertisement for giving up the booze!

Barry Smith

GRATEFUL

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NEW ZEALAND PAINTING AND PRINTMAKING AWARDS

Gary McMillan, with "Scene 8" was the winner - with an interesting self portrait - him and his wife running on a deserted motorway and obviously anxious.. The judge pointed out that while most paintings draw the viewer into the picture, Scene 8 gets us to concentrate on something outside ourselves and to follow the line of sight of the subjects... it stretches our imagination and our vision of a future happening - perhaps ominous. The Merit Award winners were : Paul Woodruffe, in Association with Auckland Print Studio, with "Rahopara to Memorial Avenue", Peata Larkin with a very detailed and complex "Pulse" amalgamating Maori and modern imagery, and Stefan Roberts with an intriguing photographic image entitled enticingly "Finding Unclaimed Baggage". What were those two suitcases doing out on the hillock under a solitary street light seemingly miles away from a station or airport!

Despite the economic situation, this year had more sales than the previous year and the entrants can be pleased that art works are still attracting audiences and selling.

There were over 3000 visitors to the show in the Pavilion and 1430 of those visitors took the opportunity to vote for their favourite art work.

The most popular work was 'Hydrangeas' by Auckland artist, Janette Cervin and this large oil painting, which was sold during the exhibition, has won the artist vouchers from Gordon Harris sponsor of this People's Choice competition.



Barbara Swarbrick and assistant hang an artwork



Gary McMillan with wife Ruth who won the NZPPA in 2003



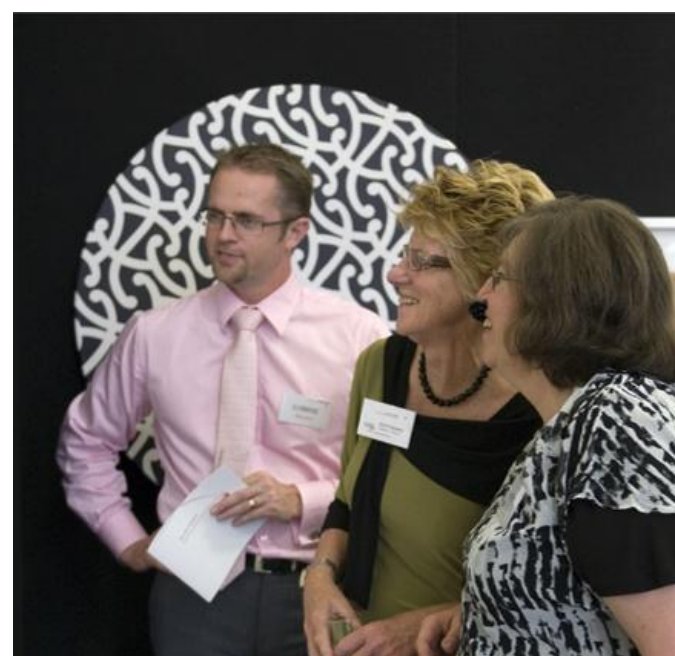
Sponsor, Lyn Vela



Dianne with Steve O'Sullivan of Gordon Harris with Peoples Choice Winner



Winning Entry- Gary McMillan



Stuart Anderson (Craig), Dianne + Martha



Kay Crosby, Janet Knighton and Bernie Crosby



Winner Gary McMillan receiving the award



Barry Hopkins with Prue Butler and Elsa Lye