

December is a busy time for most of us. Getting ready for the Summer Exhibition, sorting through paintings suitable for the bargain sale on 13th Dec, last days of the Australian Art Excellence exhibition until the 6th, not to mention Christmas celebrations, holidays for some and preparing for the hot summer ahead. It can be a time for reflection, rest and recuperation – ideal conditions for painting if you can squeeze it in between the tennis and cricket.

December's featured exhibitions are

10th annual Australian Art Excellence Awards until 6 December

Hearty congratulations to Betina Fauvel-Ogden, Helen Kelly and Chris McClelland for your winning artworks. This is an exhibition well worth viewing and it closes on 6th December!



Betina Fauvel-Ogden



Helen Kelly

Ev Hales and Pam Merlo at Lovegrove Winery

open weekends until 20th Dec at 1420 Heidelberg / Kinglake Rd, Cottlesbridge
~Mel 263 K1

"I have been reading Paul Klee and some of his thoughts are striking a loud chord. *"The artist's communication with nature remains the most essential condition for the artist. The artist is human, himself nature, part of nature within natural space."* Paul Klee 1923

"That was written 86 years ago and never before has it been so relevant. We live in a time when man needs to acknowledge the natural world in ways unprecedented in our history. At no other time have I felt such a strong need to create images that 'drown' in the beauty, majesty, fragility and pure sensual delight of the natural world. It is, in a sense, a cry for us to really look at this wondrous world we live in and fall in love with every little bit of it so that to contemplate losing even the smallest part is unimaginable."

"The exhibition at Lovegrove Winery is ... my way of expressing what happened to me when I 'fell in love' with a precious part of our beautiful country (Karajini National Park in WA) and have translated what I saw and felt - one image at a time." *Ev Hales*

Summer bargain sale

A great opportunity to buy and sell unframed works at reduced prices. Bring a list of your paintings – title and price.

Special Interest Groups at AGRA

gold coin to cover tea & coffee

The **watercolour** SIG's first meeting in November was a really pleasant time planning our meetings and activities for 2010. Next meeting is scheduled for 20th January, 7pm.

Maritime SIG will meet on 3rd March 7.30pm. Many of us enjoy painting boats and all things maritime. Come along to chat while sharing images, stories, techniques and great ideas for resource material.

Check with the Gallery Manager for any late changes. We may get SIG news up on the website soon.

December events

- *Art Excellence Awards at AGRA until 6 Dec
- *Summer Exhibition 9-20 Dec
- *Members BBQ lunch. Opening Summer Exhibition & Bargain sale 13 December
- * Gallery closes 20th December

Gallery re-opens 27th Jan.2010

SUMMER EXHIBITION & SALE 9th -20th December 2009

Entries close Sunday 6th December

The Summer Exhibition will be a busy exciting time. Sunday 13th is the members' bbq at a cost of \$10 per person. Please phone or email your booking to AGRA or complete the entry form. Also on the 13th is the bargain sale to sell your unframed paintings and the official opening of the Summer Exhibition. See Hues or the website for a booking form. For the **bargain sale event bring a list of your paintings which includes your name, titles and prices.**

Collection of Summer exhibition paintings is between 4 & 4.30pm on Sunday 20th the **last day the gallery is open for 2009.**

WELCOME TO THE WATERCOLOUR WORLD OF A J NORTHOVER

1st ~ 24th Dec at VOLUMES Café, Art, Music and Books
70 Commercial Place, Eltham

The paintings are an eclectic mix of artworks including studies to detailed pieces, from dogs, cats and birds to Nonna keeping an eye on the street below.



Tony Northover is an AGRA member & vice-president of the Whitehorse Arts Assn – most of all he likes to think of himself as a Warrandyte artist.

For more details telephone 9844 2077 or 0418 397 246

News from members

Days of 100 Paintings in Beechworth was the last weekend in October. It was a big success as several folk have told me about great weather, great company and lots of paintings – more than 100 in fact. (This must be the traditional target I gather.)



Well done all and thanks to Ian Pascoe and Rodger Scott for organising & Joy Brentwood for the photo. I really hope your obvious enjoyment of this event will encourage other AGRA artists to share and paint together. How about organising a painting picnic day with your fellow artists? Food for thought?

Michael Wilcox – Day of Colour

The dates for 2010 are 20th & 21st March so if you haven't already done so, please contact the gallery to transfer/secure your booking.

**

Drawing Exhibition 2010

If you're entering this exhibition please note that the requirement for 75% line should read 50% line.

**

SKETCHING and DRAWING

It's a good time to get away from the computer over the holiday period so here's an idea. Try a book about sketching and drawing for inspiration and reference.

Alan Rawady recommends "*The Sketching and Drawing Bible*" by Marilyn Scott, approx \$25, most book stores.

ON-LINE HINTS :

PAINTING PAPERS

An interesting website address for all sorts of information about papers is <http://www.handprint.com/HP/WCL/wpaper.html>

AAL is AGRA artists on-line

Have you ever been a finalist in (AAL) AGRA's website exhibitions? We have recently retrieved the past finalists' displays and added them as a link from the ARCHIVED RESULTS page. You may go on line and view the past exhibitions at <http://www.agra.org.au/recent%20results.archive.htm>
 Note the AAL competition in your diary for April 2010



THE GLOVER PRIZE

The prestigious Glover Prize is the richest landscape prize in Australia. It is awarded each year for the best new painting depicting the Tasmanian landscape. The winner receives \$30,000 and a maquette of John Glover. The event is dedicated to artist John Glover (1767-1849). A \$3000 people's choice prize is also voted on by the public. Information and entry details are at www.johnglover.com.au

Some images from the opening of the *10th annual Australian Art Excellence Awards.*
 thanks to Margie and Chris McClelland



Ray Kenyon



Betina Fauvel-Ogden & Lyn Mellady



Rod Edelsten & Alan Rawady & Lyn Mellady's daughter over their shoulders



Karen Buckingham, Thel Cardwell & Lyn



Chris McClelland



Helen Kelly



Di King (2008 winner)



Joy Brentwood, Kath McCann & Ian Pascoe
 Rob La Nauze & Lyn



This is one of my favourite photos as I chuckle every time I see it and hope you will too.
 Hay Jinks and happy festive greetings !
 Kris

