



NEWSLETTER

ARTISTS SOCIETY OF CANBERRA INC. www.asoc.net.au

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Welcome

Welcome to our new look ASOC Newsletter. A really big thank you to everyone who sent in material to make this bumper edition. Please note that there is a lot of supplementary material in the links provided so click on these to see images of the wonderful work that people have been doing. If you would like to see your news in the next edition (deadline 22 November) or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me on communications@asoc.net.au.

Helen McFadden
Editor

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Letter from the President

Are you OK? A simple question, yet an important one, especially now that the ACT is in lockdown having escaped the grim reality people in NSW and Victoria have been experiencing in recent months. We hope that all our members are able to keep safe and have support from relatives and friends when they need it most.



A picture can speak a 1000 words! I thank Ian Sharpe for his cartoon, which captures what, I am sure, we all hope for: the ACT achieving the 80% vaccination target soon so that restrictions can be lifted and life resume as 'normal'. While I acknowledge that not everybody will be able to be vaccinated, we hope that ASOC will then also be able to safely re-open the Studio to its members.

We are still planning to hold the Spring Exhibition from 11 – 22 November at the Fitters Workshop. Peter Haynes, Director at Strathnairn Arts and Virginia Rigney, Curator of the Canberra Museum and Gallery, have kindly agreed to judge the works entered. For

those who haven't registered yet, please check our website where you can find the entry forms as well as the terms and conditions for entering (closes 24 October).

In the meantime, the Management Committee is continuing with the planning for next year's activities, some of which may be workshops that had to be cancelled. Also, in response to members' suggestions, we are looking into how we can encourage members to keep their hand at creating art during lockdown e.g. by providing suggestions for on-line 'classes' and ideas. However, we are trying to ensure that what we promote is of good quality, bearing in mind that ASOC does not benefit financially. So if you have any courses to recommend please get in touch with Jo Anne Pulko at

workshop.coordinator@asoc.net.au or another member of the Management Committee.

Contact details can be found on the website at

<https://asoc.net.au/asoc-committee-other-contacts/>

Your suggestion may provide others with an introduction to a medium or style they haven't explored before or ways to modify or improve on what they are already doing. We hope to hear from you!

In this newsletter, the members of the new MC, elected at the AGM of 29 August, are introduced. We are very happy that during the AGM three members rose to the call to join the MC. This means that we now have a team of eight! Also, most Office Holders and all Convenors agreed to continue in their existing roles. We thank them once again for their support. That leaves the following roles to be filled: Assistant Treasurer, Promotions Officer and someone who can assist us with the archiving of records and maintenance of our DropBox. Please don't hesitate to call me if you would like to help.

Finally: please continue to share your works with our members. It's great to see all the beautiful work that just keeps emerging! Helen McFadden has created platforms (courtesy Canberra PhotoConnect) for workgroups to share their works. With their permission she has been placing images from participating workgroups in the galleries and providing links so that workgroup members can upload their own images. She has also been posting selected images to ASOC's Facegroup and Instagram pages.

Images and information for social media platforms and for the next newsletter can be sent to communications@asoc.net.au.

Have a look on our Website and Facebook, submit your works, be inspired and give us your thumb's up!

Peter van Rens
President

Laughter and Power: A message from ASOC Secretary, Cheryl Parkins



We may not admit it, but we all have our addictions. Hopefully not the sad, self destructive kind, but just the small obsessive interests that amuse us from time to time.

Last year, one of my friends became particularly obsessed with finding jokes which were heavily laden with dark, gallows humour. No matter how

depressing the Covid-19 situation became, he'd find solace in the grimmest of jokes to muffle the impact of world events.

Similarly, I lost count of the number of hilarious emails that appeared in my inbox during the various lockdowns we all had to endure. Like everyone else, I had those glum days and then suddenly there was an avalanche of silliness before me which made me laugh. My wonderful family and friends were sharing their angst and fluctuating moods, and we all 'stared down' the evil threat of Covid-19 together - bonded in defiance by our laughter.

We'll always remember the jokes of 2020: the toilet roll jokes, the quarantine jokes and of course Donald Trump's never ending, incredible stupidity to add to the mix. Laughter helped to connect us all and made us feel better about the horrible situation we all faced.

Gradually through 2021, the supply dried up as we became more complacent thinking that the Covid contagion was perhaps now under control. Suddenly, the dreaded Delta arrived and we rushed back to our comfort zone - a swathe of new jokes.

I'm a great fan of Tim Minchin who remarked that "making jokes gives us a sense of power over the threat". We all drew great comfort from the laughter because it seemed the only power we had when the world was apparently crumbling around us.

However, we all now have true power within our grasp. The opportunity to get vaccinated against Covid is one of the most powerful and important capabilities we'll ever be given. How often do we get the chance to, quite literally, 'save the world'? The ability to protect the health and livelihoods of all those we love and to regain our lifestyle, even in a somewhat restricted way, is in our hands.

As a Pharmacist, I have great confidence in the TGA and ATAGI to keep us safe with informed and clinically proven medical facts. Most of us have been immunised against many diseases since we were young with great success. Remember, in many of our childhoods before vaccination, there were over 1000 deaths in Australia from Polio and many more cases of paralysis.

So please, roll up your sleeves and get vaccinated against Covid-19 so we can reach that goal of 80% and beyond. Let's all look forward to resuming our artistic lifestyles in a much safer environment.

Then we can enjoy laughing at the truly funny things once again.

Cheryl Parkins
Secretary

Introducing your new Management Committee

At the recent AGM the following people were elected to the Management Committee. Below are some introductions. If you would like to have a look at some of the artwork the MC members have produced, [click this link](#) to see a gallery of their images.



Top row from left: Peter van Rens, President, Jo Anne Pulko, Vice President, Stephen Clively,

Treasurer, Cheryl Parkins, Secretary.

Bottom Row from left: Committee Members Katharine Buchanan, Ann Mawhinnery, Lynn Nicholas

and Helen McFadden.

Peter van Rens: ASOC President

I joined ASOC 3 years ago having retired and finding more time to dedicate to painting, which I started about 10 years earlier. I had explored watercolour, oil and acrylics during that time, I joined Sue Cook's 'Fun with Art' workgroup for about a year wanting to explore other options and mediums. I subsequently joined the 'Fun with Printmaking' workgroup being led by Simone Doherty. Lately, I have also been enjoying classes in digital art with Bobby Graham.

During my presidency I hope that, together with my fellow MC members, we will be able to keep our members energised and continue to provide them a home and a channel for their artistic creativity, both now and once we re-surface from COVID lock-downs and restrictions. I look forward to meeting and working with all members and especially hope that we may continue to call on you for the organisation of events and activities, as well as to keep ASOC running. Without your help ASOC simply cannot exist!

Jo Anne Pulko: ASOC Vice President, Workshop Coordinator, Convenor of Portrait and Life Drawing Workgroup

Jo Anne enjoys drawing, and painting in pastels, oils, acrylics and coloured pencil, and has recently begun using the iPad for some of her drawing and painting. She is a member of the Pastel Explorers workgroup and the convenor of the Portrait and Life Drawing workgroup. With a life-long interest in art and art history, Jo Anne joined ASOC in 2017 and has been a Committee member since 2020. Jo Anne is interested in seeing how ASOC can pursue improved opportunities for members to connect, share, learn and work together, whether they have been members for decades or just recently joined. She believes it is important to take on just as much as can be done well by volunteers, and that what can be achieved depends on how many people are willing to lend a hand with various projects.

Stephen Clively: ASOC Treasurer

The Summer Art Experience was an annual highlight before I retired as I could immerse myself in art and forget about work for one week a year. Then after I told Vickie Hingston-Jones that I was happy to volunteer for ASOC, she cornered me at the 2019 SAE and asked me to become ASOC Treasurer. Despite the arm twisting, I have been very proud to serve during one of ASOC's most challenging periods. I like to think that my legacy as Treasurer will be to have set up good systems for monitoring ASOC's finances - and getting plenty of art done.

Cheryl Parkins: ASOC Secretary, Coordinator for Dirty Janes Exhibitions and Convenor for the 'Contemporary' Workgroup.

Although I was always interested in art when young, I only started painting regularly when I retired. Since joining ASOC, I've participated in various workshops and exhibitions over the years and enjoy using all the watercolour mediums as well as collage and mixed media. As a member of the MC, I'd like to hear the views of the younger members of our Society so we can incorporate fresh ideas and ensure that ASOC remains relevant for all interested artists.

Katherine Buchanan: ASOC Committee Member

Katherine Buchanan is an emerging Canberra artist and poet. While she mainly works with acrylics and soft pastels, she also dabbles in watercolour, oil, inks and pencil. Katherine is pleased to contribute to the operation of ASOC as a new ordinary member of the Management Committee. She brings to the role her experience as a former public servant, ANAO Performance Auditor, and Council Member of the Dexter Cattle Association Inc (DCAI).

Ann Mawhinney: ASOC Committee Member

Hello, I am Ann Mawhinney and creating art has always been my place of Zen. I have dabbled in watercolour, pastels and acrylics and been both surprised and delighted to win a few awards and sell my art. I am honoured to be part of the ASOC management committee as it looks to its future - strategic direction. I have some understanding of the challenges ahead having been/am an active member of over 40+ boards and committees (some in the arts) and look forward to a year ahead of lively debate with a strong directive outcome.

Lynn Nicholas: ASOC Committee Member, Workgroup Coordinator

Lynn Nicholas has drawn all her life on a casual basis and has been painting and printmaking full time since 1999. She has won awards for her soft pastels and printmaking, selling both locally and internationally. Although largely self taught, Lynn has studied with many local artists such as Amanda McLean, Val Johnson, Val Fitzpatrick, Jo Hollier, David Hatton, Lesley Wallington and Michael Winters. She has also studied with Victorian artist, Trudy Rice and Queensland artist, Kim Herringe. A past member of Canberra Art Workshop, Pastel Group, Lynn is currently a member of the ASOC Contemporary Group and Fun with Printmaking Group.

Helen McFadden: ASOC Committee Member, Communications Officer and Newsletter Editor

I have had a lifelong interest in art. For many years I was a regular at the ANU Open Art Workshops and Studio One where I held my first solo exhibition. I painted and drew botanical subjects in coloured pencil, gouache and acrylics. Being a scientist by training, I love the combination of the technical and aesthetic aspects of printmaking. I am a member of ASOC's Printmaking Group. I am also a keen photographer and am interested in the production of photobooks. I have taken on the role of Communication Officer because I believe that good communication pathways are essential for us to share common goals and interests.

Membership News

A big welcome to our new members Lindsay Timmiss and Bobby Graham.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of long-standing member Stan Jones (14/12/1927 - 25/8/2021). He is seen in the image below right working on his last painting at age 92. We send best wishes and condolences to Stan's family. Thanks to Vicki Bennett for sending us the news and providing the photos. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.



Workshop News

Just a reminder that our Summer Art 22 workshop program for January has been cancelled, because of the uncertain path out of Covid restrictions. Local artist Leigh D. Walker is still on the books for Friday 14 to Sunday 16 January to present her Sketchbook Inspiration workshop. If conditions improve and look like remaining stable, we might be able to continue with plans for that.

Information about workshop availability will be emailed to members. Watch your inbox.

On behalf of our members, I want to thank Katerina Mortensen and Jenny Millett for the many hours of voluntary work that they put in on the design and the website preparations respectively for Summer Art 22. All of this work was complete and ready to 'go live' before we cancelled.

These **online learning opportunities** are recommended by members.

- Tricia Taylor, pastel: [PLAYING WITH PASTEL - Home](#) – see below offer
- Vivi Palegeorge, watercolour Zoom classes: [Vivi Palegeorge Art | Facebook](#):
- Ev Hales, watercolour: You Tube demonstrations and newsletter, go to [www.evhales.com](#) or [www.evhalestuition.com](#).
- Junko Azukawa, tips for learning Japanese ink art <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf5UKKJ1RSyZmHfaPIg88qw/videos>
- Bobby Graham, digital art: [www.antipodigital.com.au](#) Several of our members have completed courses run by Bobby. [Click here to see some examples of digital art done in recent online courses.](#)
- Tricia Reust, pastels, acrylic, mixed media: [www.triciareust.com.au](#)

At the time of writing there are still some **50% discounts available to ASOC members** for Tricia Taylor's self-paced, online course Understanding Colour – a saving of \$75 on the basic course and \$137.50 on the extended course. Email me your name and member number and I'll send you the code. Details of the course are at <https://www.playingwithpastel.com/0-understanding-colour.html>.

Jo Anne Pulko

workshop.coordinator@asoc.net.au

Workgroup News

Although there have been disruptions to studio access many ASOC workgroups are flourishing and using online methods to keep in touch. Some workgroups have accepted the offer of an online gallery to which they can upload work. If your work group doesn't have an online gallery and you would like one, get your convenor to contact Lynn Nicholas, the Workgroup Coordinator on workgroups.coordinator@asoc.net.au or contact me via the general communications address: communications@asoc.net.au.

If you don't belong to a workgroup or if your workgroup doesn't have a gallery and you would like to see your images shared in the next newsletter or via a link on the ASOC website then you can upload your images to a general gallery for all ASOC members. Have a good-quality photo of your work in jpg format. Preferably rename the file Yourname_title.jpg so people can see whose work it is. Then [click on this link](#) and follow the instructions. When you have finished uploading click DONE to see the contents of the gallery. Be patient as it can take a few minutes for your images to upload.

Please note that if you upload images to this gallery, or any of the other galleries provided for image sharing, then you are taken to have given permission for the images to be used

online, on social media and for ASOC publicity purposes.

If you sent in a report and I have overlooked it in my crowded in tray, my apologies. If you don't see a report from your workgroup, please send in something for next month so others can see what you have been up to. Send material to the communications email.

ASOC Workgroups

Pastel Explorers

Mondays 9.30am – 1.30pm

Convenor: Ian Bignall

ianjbignall@gmail.com

[Click here to see the Pastel Explorers' Gallery](#)

The Pastel workgroup has been keeping together by regular sharing of emails with photographs of new or in-progress work attached. We have also started regular Zoom meetings where the topics range from sharing current work and use of materials, framing tips as well sharing the work already hanging on our walls at home. It works well and it is good to see each other in our home environments surrounded by our art materials and work in-progress.

We do have vacancies in the Pastel group so prospective new members are welcome to contact me via email. I can link them in via Zoom in the expectation that eventually we'll be able to meet them in person.

Ian Bignall

Portrait & Life Drawing

Tuesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm

Convenor: Jo Anne Pulko

maryjo.jap@gmail.com

0408 400 472

[Click here to see the Portrait and Life Drawing's Gallery](#)

At the time of writing, the Portrait and Life Drawing group is looking forward to its first drawing session on Zoom using photo references of professional life models rather than hiring a model as we do for studio work. Until we can return to the studio, we will use a combination of meetings online and outdoors once restrictions ease. During lockdown, some of us have revisited our studio sketches and developed them into more 'finished' pieces. Interiors, views from windows and still life are also getting a good workout. Would you like to get involved in life drawing or portraiture? The workgroup is very well-attended and there is a long list of people wishing to join. If I had the time and energy I would start a second group, perhaps an evening one. If anyone is interested in doing so, I would be happy to help you get started, share our list of models and give pointers on

managing bookings and fees. Rather than languishing on my list, you might like to have a go. Are you interested in a life drawing or portraiture workshop? Perhaps you have an idea about a tutor you would recommend. If you have ideas please contact me.

Jo Anne Pulko

Fun with Printmaking

Tuesdays 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Convenor: Simone Doherty

simonemdoherty@gmail.com

0418 234 954

[Click here to see the Fun with Printmaking Group Gallery](#)

The Fun with Printmaking workgroup has been staying in touch during lockdown via email. Many useful web links and videos have been shared as well as tips and techniques. We also had a very enjoyable zoom get-together which included our distant "member", Angharad, now based in Germany.

Simone Doherty

Ways with Watercolour

Wednesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm

Contact: Josie White

josie.white.au@gmail.com

Creative Drawing

Wednesdays 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Convenor: Tim Hardy

timahardy@hotmail.com

0427 369 117

[Click here to see the Creative Drawing Group Gallery](#)

During the current lockdown our workgroup keeps in weekly contact (including school holidays) using Skype. We have been sharing images for over a year now whenever we have not had access to the studio. Currently we are having a weekly Wednesday Skype session in which we discuss works that have been emailed as attachments a few hours before our meeting. We have about 10 of our members participate in our Wednesday sessions and almost all submit images. A workgroup subgroup has been doing similar things every fortnight, for a whole year. Recently works discussed included the portrait drawings that members had done from the excellent two hour online workshop that the National Portrait Gallery had run.

Tim Hardy

All Comers

Thursdays 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Convenor: Annette Rennie

mrennie@bigpond.net.au

6291 4212

Flora and Fauna

Thursdays 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Convenor: Gillian Bellas

bellasgillian@yahoo.com.au

6288 5041

Expressive Drawing

Thursdays 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Convenor: Jann Ollerenshaw

jann1@grapevine.com.au

0428547502

ASOC Contemporary

Fridays 10.00am – 4.00pm

Convenor: Cheryl Parkins

cparkins@grapevine.com.au

6290 2692

During the current lockdown, some of our members have been sharing images of their artwork at home via email. We've also sent interesting art website links and many jokes, of course. A few have done online courses and it's been a good opportunity to complete unfinished paintings and experiment with new techniques.

Presently we have 12 members but with the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, and the limited availability of space in Studio D, we are unable to offer any vacancies at the moment.

Cheryl Parkins

Saturday Oils

Saturdays 9 am – 12.30pm

Convenor: Trish Dillon

bmeehan@grapevine.com.au

0407 495 415

[Click here to see the Saturday Oils Group Gallery](#)

In the Saturday Oils Group we have been using a Facebook page for some time now and it has proven to be a fun and useful way to keep in touch and see what everyone's been

doing, especially during the pandemic. We share images of our work and also images of other artists we like, and arrange get togethers for lunch, visiting galleries etc. When we had the exhibition at Dirty Janes it was very useful to just discuss what was happening and sharing images of what we would exhibit. Our site is called the Saturday Goils, as our group was mainly all girls back when we started it (we since have one male), and it can only be accessed by the group.

We have had a few requests from people to join the workgroup and when the limits on the number of members lifted we added 3 new people, they are amazingly talented artists and they have fitted in very well.

Trish Dillon

Saturday Afternoon Allsorts

Saturdays 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Convenor: Katie Volter

katie.volter@hotmail.com

The Saturday Sessions group meets using Messenger each Saturday afternoon, and we regularly trade pictures, notes and comments throughout the week.

We also post our stuff to Instagram, our handle is @Saturday_allsorts.

Katie Volter

Open Studio on Sundays

Sundays 1pm – 4.30pm

\$5 pp per studio session

Convenor: Dee Copeland

copelands7@hotmail.com or call 0417 656 173

[Click here to see the Open Studio gallery](#)

The main aim of this work group to provide an opportunity for members who are not already in a workgroup, or who are unable to attend a weekly workgroup, to do art. It's a great way for members to explore various art mediums, in a congenial atmosphere that encourages artistic development.

Covid permitting - members enjoy the relaxed ambience of the Studio as well as the great outdoors every other week exploring Canberra's best kept secrets! The plein air outings are always popular the Canberra region has a lot to offer the Artist. Open Studio members have visited the various Lakes around Canberra, the botanical gardens, historic homesteads, outlying towns and villages, cafes and private properties. Our members work on various personal projects in pastel ink, water colour, acrylic and oils...they also sketch with pen, ink, graphite and charcoal.

The Open Studio workgroup meets at M16 (Studio D) every Sunday fortnight. There is a casual fee of \$5.00 pp/half day (to assist with rent)...en plein air outings are free.

Come along, it's a great way to explore your artistic talent and meet like-minded artists! For dates and further details please contact me.

A warm welcome awaits you at the Open Studio!

Dee Copeland



Art: from the Open Studio Group. Top "Poppies" by Gayle Carson, 2021; bottom left "The Artist's Corner" by Dee Copeland, 2021; bottom right "My Backyard" by Mary Jo McDonald, 2021.

Hanging a Show in the Bunker at Dirty Janes

Our exhibition at Dirty Janes planned for August got caught up in the lockdown, having been up for only a week when DJ was closed. So our works are still on the walls more than a month after it was planned to finish, but of course no one is viewing the works. Maybe when the lockdown lifts we will get the remaining time for public viewing which we were expecting.

The lockdown came as a second surprise for our exhibition operations. Earlier we had been given only a week's notice before the hang that it was not to be held in the Magpie Room. We were told it would be exhibited in the smaller, newly established Bunker Room. The room is situated much nearer the entrance, and that promised more people traffic. During the hang we saw other positives: the lighting is much stronger than in the previous space, and the grey painted walls bring out vibrancy in members' works.

You will see from the photos that the Bunker Room is an effective exhibition venue. As it turned out, we were able to hang all the works submitted, even though the wall space was much reduced.

Our group greatly appreciates the work undertaken by Cheryl Parkins, the Exhibition Coordinator at Dirty Janes, in negotiating, very effectively and at short notice, the move to the Bunker Room. And we thank Cheryl and her husband for removing and then re-installing the hanging system within a very tight timeline. Linda Tawagi, our workgroup exhibition coordinator, remained calm throughout the process and kept her merry band of hangers up for the task. Judith Manning, who handled publicity, had to tweak flyers and posters at the last minute. In meeting all of the challenges for our exhibition, we are quite pleased we proved to be so resilient!

Tim Hardy
Creative Drawing Workgroup Convenor

That's all folks until the December/January edition. Thanks for reading to the end.

Helen McFadden
Editor