



**THE VICTORIAN
ARTISTS SOCIETY**

EST 1870

THE **QUARTERLY** JOURNAL

January - March 2016



The Victorian Artists Society 430 Albert St. East Melbourne 3002

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**THE VICTORIAN
ARTISTS SOCIETY**
EST 1870

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and Judge Howard

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Newsletters 2016

The VAS Newsletter will be pleased to consider publication of or photographic contributions on subjects of general interest.

Contributions will be published on a strictly honorary basis and no payment will be made.

January - March 2016

Newsletter Editor

Eileen Mackley President FVAS

All correspondence to: the V.A.S Office
430 Albert St. East Melbourne 3002.

The VAS Newsletter is printed through
the Office of the Victorian Artists Society.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily
those of the VAS Council.



With the recent launch of the VAS Building Restoration Appeal, let us reflect a little on the early history of the State of Victoria.

By 1870 the feverish Victorian gold rush had merged into a solid boom in trade that left the people in unprecedented optimism of a fuller, richer life.

It was in this atmosphere that the Victorian Artists' Society was born. No other society of its kind existed in the colony. It was unique and it still is. It reflected the desire of the people of the day, wishing for the best art society the colony could offer.

This was an ambitious and costly venture with the full costs of erecting and equipping the Society's building. It was no easy matter for a handful of artists and art lovers to establish the Society.

Money was raised by public subscription and the generosity of the art lovers and artists. Government support was limited to a grant of land in Albert Street, East Melbourne.

With its permanent headquarters and fine galleries, Melbourne soon became the art centre of Australia.

The work of many of our great artists found its way onto the gallery walls of the "Vic's" at Albert Street. The Society exhibitions were the only means they had to bring their work before the public.

As it stands today the Society building sits on crown land with the building (opened in May 1892) belonging to the Society.

The President's Message

We are nearing our 150th Anniversary and apart from major renovations in the 1960's only minor maintenance has been undertaken since.

Now is the time to restore the elegance of the building, improving the great gallery space, giving members, artists and visiting groups an upgrade in modern low cost lighting and facilities to enhance exhibitions.

What was true in 1870 remains true today. The Victorian Artists Society follows no circumscribed school but offers tuition to aspiring artists, whatever their artistic convictions maybe. Developing the skills of many of today's successful artists, tutored classes remain popular with waiting lists for many.

The society has a great future with membership increasing and gallery hire bookings at a premium for 2016 and 2017.

Income is derived from membership subscription, gallery hire, art sales and tuition fees.

New services must be added if the Society is to function as it was intended to function as a vigorous and progressive art centre and a meeting place for artists and public.

We are now embarking on a fundraising programme and would welcome members, family and friends who find enjoyment and pleasure in the Arts to become part of our "Friends of the Society" team. Please don't hesitate call the office and register your interest.

Our pioneers showed us the way, let's not fail them.

Eileen Mackley FVAS
President

An evening with McCubbin

The VAS were fortunate to secure a McCubbin painting for the Opening of the Contemporary Exhibition and launch of the Building Restoration Fund Raising Appeal on Tuesday 22 March. A family who owned the painting had approached the VAS and were pleased for us to display it for the event. Ron Smith invited David McCubbin, Frederick's great grandson to the VAS to talk to the media and attend the evening event.

Frederick McCubbin's "An Old Politician" (1879) was one of the first works he sold. This painting was exhibited for its first public viewing in 137 years.

Painted by Frederick McCubbin when he was 24, the painting has

been in a private collection of the same family since it was sold in the 1880's after being exhibited for its only outing in 1879. This was the only time available for members to see the original painting.

McCubbin was around twenty-four years of age when he painted this work, and at the time was enrolled as a student in the National Gallery of Victoria School of Painting, under Eugene von Guerard. The teachings of von Guerard had a strong influence on the young and impressionable McCubbin and this is evident in these early student works.

After the death of his father on 2 May 1877, McCubbin helped his mother in the everyday business of running their bakery, as well as doing piece-work as a painter for the 'Carriage, Coach and Wagon Builders and Dealers', Stevenson and Elliott, who were situated at

181 King Street, Melbourne. This was only a short distance from the McCubbin's bakery, which was situated at 165 King Street, Melbourne.

'An Old Politician' was one of his earliest narrative works and depicts George Elliott, the Coach Builder, for whom McCubbin worked. George Elliott was considered a worldly-wise, educated man, who used to like to philosophize. McCubbin's title for this work was therefore more befitting the character of the man, rather than his station.

Excerpt from Andrew Mackenzie's book.

The McCubbin Family has had a long affiliation with the Victorian Artists Society, with Frederick McCubbin serving two terms as President, between 1903-1905 and 1909-1910.



David McCubbin and Eileen Mackley unveiling the McCubbin painting



Ron Smith & David McCubbin



Frederick McCubbin - An Old Politician

The Building Restoration Appeal

At the launch of The Building Restoration Appeal I made a number of points

- That we would seek to raise \$1,500,000 over a period of time
- That the Society's sound balance sheet would not be put at risk at any time. That we had no intention to borrow money for the restoration
- That we would not close the building during restoration.

For the reasons outlined above the restoration programme will be tackled on a phase by phase basis with the work already agreed (the roof and balconies) making up phase one.

An outline of phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 is shown herewith. As detailed planning is at an early stage this outline is indicative only and subject to change

Phase 1

Roof

Balconies

Funding approved. Work in progress.

Phase 2

Heating

Electrician/Lighting

Office Rejig

Smoke alarm/Fire plan

Painting Galleries

Phase 3

Ground floor painting

Toilet

Cafe

Kitchen

Studio

Flooring

Phase 4

Lift

Upgrade entrance/Disabled access

Indicative Grand Total \$1,500,000

This leads us to the very important matter of asking for volunteers to help to carry out our fund raising plan.

Donations from members and friends will continue to be gratefully received. In this regard I encourage everyone to study the promotional material, especially the reference to Honours Board Recognition. All money donated is tax deductible and donations can be pledged over a number of years. It is not necessary to donate in one 'hit'!

But it is not only financial support we are seeking. We have formed a "Friends of the Society" and would be delighted if you, your family and friends could join.

We have a real need for assistance in desk research; in compiling contact lists; in developing mailing and emailing lists etc, etc.

The more people involved the better.

Your involvement would not be intrusive on your time. We would tailor your involvement to fit in with how much time you have available.

If you are interested would you please email me at hylton.mackley@outlook.com.au or call me on 0408 150033.

Your involvement would make a difference.

Thank You.

Hylton Mackley.

Chairman,

VAS Building Restoration Appeal

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Monika Alston

Tom Conyers

Matthew Petrucci

Alham Abadiyan

Megan-Jane Johnstone

Felix Blatt

Jock Crosbie Goold

Kirsten Bresciani

Suzanne Johnston

Jian Jimmy Yu

Yu Yvonne Gao

Sarah Holt

Leonie Boltom

Jeff Teng

Nadine Dudek

Joy Tatt

Adrian Johnson

Celia Beeton

Frances Reith

Judith Barowski

SPECIAL PERSON WANTED

Co-ordinator of volunteers

Skills required:

- **Good communication**
- **Persuasive**
- **Affable**

Assistance from the office can be provided

Please contact the manager Ray Wilson on 9662 1484

Contemporary Exhibition



Winner - Fauna - Ruskidd 'Oliver Reade'

The third exhibition of contemporary paintings and sculptures opened with 130 entries of very diverse styles, media and sizes presenting a true challenge for

our team assembling the display of works. Extra stands were added for smaller paintings.

The judge for this exhibition was Kate Daw from the faculty of the Victorian College of Arts. Kate has received many awards and grants, including the prestigious Samstag Scholarship. She has undertaken a residency at the Asialink Studio in India, and has exhibited her work widely, both nationally and internationally. She is interested in involving other people in her art practice, and has worked on a number of collaborative works with artists in both Glasgow and Melbourne.

The winner was a large painting of pattern and colour by young artist Ruskidd (Oliver Reade) titled Fauna. Six Highly Commended certificates were awarded to Annie Finkelde, Moira Laidlaw, Assaf Fayez, Robyn Pridham, Helen Carter and Kate Maher.

The entrance to the building took on a festive look. With the front doors open and the red carpet rolled out, guests to walk through the red banner curtains to the stairs.

Guests were welcomed to a stunning display of art and Derek McDonald on piano. Cocktails were served adding to the special atmosphere of the evening. Guests waited in anticipation of seeing the special painting on loan for the evening. The figure portrait titled "An Old Politician" (1879) by Frederick McCubbin. David McCubbin and Eileen Mackley unveiled the painting to the audience. David McCubbin, the great grandson of Frederick McCubbin gave a short speech following the unveiling.

The Society expresses grateful thanks to the family for allowing the painting to be available for the evening which created enormous public interest.



Left to right: Eileen Mackley President, Moira Laidlaw, Helen Carter, Ruskidd Contemporary Winner, Kate Maher, Robyn Pridham & Fayeze Assaf



Derek McDonald



Helen McKie receiving her Signatory Award from President Eileen Mackley

Highly Commended Awards



Misty River - Annie Finkelde



Mary - Moira Laidlaw



Spirit of Shape's Power - Faye Assaf



The Punters - Helen Carter



Thought Lines - Robyn Pridham



Sky High, Mt Dandenong - Kate Maher

Artist Profile - Ruskidd

'Oliver Reade'

Under the name of Ruskidd, I have developed a unique and diverse style for street art murals and smaller scale paintings. My work engages the viewer with vibrant uplifting colours, free flowing organic lines and recurring motifs. Exploring the interplay between nature's shapes and patterns, gives a dynamic movement to each artwork. Live painting at various venues, commissions and collaborations with other artists drives me to push the boundaries and create works that adapt to any scale and environment. Currently working from the Blender Studios, I am creating a new series of work for an upcoming solo exhibition for 2016.

2015

Herbarium, Blender Studios,

Melbourne. Solo exhibition
Patterson Project, Collingwood.
Invited artist

2014

N2 Gelato, Fitzroy. Mural
commission
Intercontinental Hotel, Melbourne.
Mural commission
Melbourne Central. Commission and
group exhibition
Kreol Kitchen café, Seminyak Bali.
Mural commission

2013

Melbourne Now, Hosier Lane,
Melbourne. Invited artist
Du Nord, Melbourne. Residency and
group exhibition, 'Six months of
darkness'
Gallery One Three, Melbourne.
Group exhibition and live

painting.
City of Melbourne. Signal art poster
commission Federation square
installation.
National Gallery of Victoria,
Melbourne. Top Arts exhibition.

2012

Saturday In Design, Richmond.
Selected artist, live painting
Great Dane furniture, Fitzroy. Mural
commission
Coco Jackson studios, Brunswick.
Group exhibition and youth
ambassador.

2011

Outpost project, Cockatoo Island,
Sydney. Collaborative mural

Crowdfunding for the Love of Art

The Victorian Artists Society is aiming to raise \$25,000 through an online crowdfunding campaign as part of our wider fundraising appeal to restore the building to its former glory.

Crowdfunding offers creative groups, individuals and organisations a way to raise funds by selling rewards over a limited period of time. The value of these rewards will range from \$20 to \$4,000. You and your friends can support the Society with a wide variety of rewards including limited edition greeting

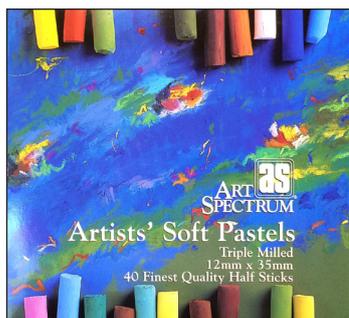
cards featuring paintings from our permanent collection, art supplies from *Art Spectrum*, Victorian Artists Society memberships and workshops, as well as stunning paintings and commission work from accomplished local artists that are all VAS members. All of these rewards have been kindly donated to us.

By hosting a crowdfunding campaign as well as seeking more traditional donations, we will be able to generate more social media and PR interest in the building restoration appeal, raise awareness of the VAS through new channels, as well as provide a range of ways for people to support the appeal.

The crowdfunding campaign will

be hosted through Pozible.com, beginning on 2 May and will run for 30 days. We will be promoting the campaign via social media, our website, member's newsletters and all of our special interest groups on our database.

To ensure this campaign is a success, we need you to help us spread the word. Please let all your family and friends know about it. If you use social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, 'like' our page and share the information. The website address for the crowdfunding campaign is: www.pozible.com/victorianartistsociety



Art supplies on offer



Assortment of cards available



Original art pieces

Sculpture



thing that cheered me most was that there were sculptures on display. I was at the front desk to join VAS and the life drawing group. Disappointingly, there were no sculpture classes. I am still a Wednesday night life drawing regular but thanks to the efforts of council members to reintroduce sculpture to VAS over the last few years, I am now also a VAS sculpture student.

VAS currently has Friday evening and Monday afternoon sculpture classes run by a very experienced sculptor, Gray Nichol, who is also a great teacher. Sculpture is now a regular feature of VAS exhibitions and we are now fortunate to have

“By Land & Sea” sponsor the VAS sculpture awards. Having re-established sculpture as a feature of VAS, Council is keen to encourage its growth and have more sculptures submitted for future exhibitions. As part of this, we are currently compiling a list of VAS members interested in sculpture. We are working from student lists and exhibition catalogues but if you want to make sure you are on the list, please let us know via the office.

Mike Ebdon
Sculpture Convenor

When I first walked into our main entrance at VAS, the

My Plein Air adventure in Bulgaria

Recently over the Christmas break I went on an adventure.

Now I'm not really the venturing type - well not of this calibre anyway, but this ended up being an an adventure of a life time.

I went to Bulgaria to visit a friend and to paint plein air.

In December I had an offer from a good friend of mine who lives in Bulgaria, and she invited me over to see her country. So having had a big year and feeling like I needed the pre mentioned adventure I purchased a plane ticket, a new suitcase, packed my warmest set of clothes, double bagged my oil colours in my pochade box and boarded a plane on Boxing Day bound for Sofia, the capital.

After a very comfortable flight (cattle class) and leaving behind 37+ degrees, I landed in the all but deserted and cold Sofia airport, my first taste of Bulgaria.

I was picked up by an interesting fellow by the name of Andro, pre arranged by my friend, who owned the apartment where I was to stay overnight to await her arrival in Sofia for our next leg of the journey. Andro assure me he was driving after I went around to the left side of the car to get in the passenger seat (yep, I did this more than a few times in the next few days!).....and was immediately thrown into another world of austere concrete buildings, a little slush on the road from some previous snowfall, an old school Audi with a duct taped rear vision mirror and an in depth information session on the Bulgarian cuisine,

wine and their famous rakia.

After a half hour drive from the airport to the apartment where Andro comfortably stowed me. I was left to ponder that in 24 hours I had travelled to the other side of the world, dropped 30+ degrees and could only speak one word of Bulgarian....dobre... ok!

Well....I was after an adventure so proceeded to dig under several blankets and after a big night's sleep, the next morning I unpacked my pochade box and went looking for it.

I only got as far as the outside of the accommodation and was struck by the long blue shadows across the road in the slushy snow so set up to paint them. I had seen many times before in paintings on the Internet and in galleries the marvelous (cool some would argue....) deep blue's of these shadows in the raking light and was delighted to see them and be able to admire and mix them in person. While painting this one I was accompanied by a friendly dog rolling around in the snow and ready for a pat. It was so refreshing an experience as I was so used to painting the grey-violet greens of our dry Victorian landscape with the only thing coming anywhere near it was painting frost.



Painting in Sofia

I found the light was very different to here in Australia, more subtle, softer and clearer. During painting I was frequently distracted and fascinated while painting to see how people navigated their cars up and down the icy hill. All rather entertaining really.



Snow Shadows - Sofia

Next day my friend picked me up in her battered old Ford Escort and we headed off on an all day drive across the entire country, east to Varna with a destination of Balchik further up the coast. It was well past dark when we reached our destination and we were glad to arrive and stop to rest.

We then spent the next five days venturing out around Balchik, (with mostly sub zero temperatures during the day and dropping down to -13 at night!) finding a completely frozen swimming pool, frozen rocks on the coast, a great restaurant with superb but very cheap food and a New Year's Eve spectacular of fireworks that we could see all along the coast from our accommodation perched high up in the coastal hills and a potter, Boril who has invited me back to collaborate in some way in the arts.



Painting in Balchik



Beautiful Summer Palace - Balchik

I ventured out a few times to paint the beautiful light over the Black Sea and really enjoyed the challenge of plein air in such cold temperatures. I found that it made me hone in on the essentials, and to work as quickly as I can to get down the important information. As always when I look at my plein air works in retrospect, I can see a freshness that can be rather elusive in studios completed works.

During my painting excursions I was frequently met with puzzled and interesting stares from passers by - while others took a keen interest in looking over my shoulder while I was working. No pressure 😊. I had one family come up and watch when I was just laying in the sky and it didn't take much convincing to let the young daughter do most of it and she walked away beaming! All this was negotiated with sign language, head nodding and a few dobres.

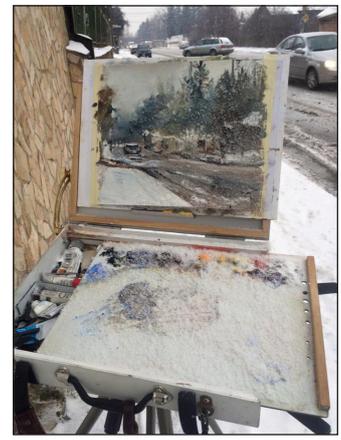
Up until now with the exception of the little in Sofia I have not experienced any snow. But as we left early in the morning to head west back across the country to Sofia it began to fall. Light and powdery at first, but increasingly heavier as we headed east.

Our trip back across the breadth of the country was punctuated by two heart-stopping moments - the first being passed on the left by two loud Mercedes racing each other at high speed and were gone into the snowy fog in seconds! The other when

we were overtaken by a speeding passenger coach who then proceeded to re-enter our lane and cut us off..... in response my friend had to hit the brake which immediately put us into an icy, high speed slide down the freeway....which resulted in us both fighting the steering wheel to try and steer out of it. Fortunately there were no cars around us at this time as there was nothing we could do but ride it out with the end result being us going backwards into the guard rail at about 10 km per hour cracking a tail light. It could have ended much worse and I think both of us were being looked after by somebody. After a quick assessment of the damage we were on our way again.

I stayed another two nights in Sofia, again at Andro's apartment where by this time it was snowing heavily. I was amazed how the ordinary turns into the extraordinary under a blanket of snow and went for several walks around the neighborhood.

I also ventured out again to paint.... but his time while it was snowing! I found a shallow eave to set up under and proceeded to have a go at painting the Main Street which had turned into a thing of incredible beauty. Squeezing out the paint was difficult - as it was quite stiff - and getting it on the canvas even more so, so I resorted to a palette knife and went for it.....spreading it like butter! After 15 minutes I couldn't even get the paint to stick as my medium had become the snowflakes and I was fast losing track of my palette under an increasing layer of snow. So packed up, but feeling quite happy with the result in such a short space of time and in difficult conditions.



Getting Snowed Under



All rugged up

I headed back to the accommodation to warm up, again being accompanied part of the way by the four legged welcoming party and proceeded to await my ride to the airport and flight home and reflect on all I had seen and experienced in my time here and draw some conclusions.

I think on this trip I began to fall in love with this seemingly small and forgotten country, its hardworking people, the beauty of the frozen Black Sea overlooked by the Summer Palace and had begun to look forward to hearing the gentle and mispronounced Bulgarian English. Most of all though I fell in love a little more with plein air painting. The experience of being at the mercy of the weather and the landscape, of looking for new ways to respond immediately to what is in front of me. Of trying to capture something of the fleeting and ever changing light and weather conditions. And the simple act of playing with paint surrounded by beauty. It truly makes me feel alive!

Footnote:

I want to visit Bulgaria again in the summer. See the magnificent Summer Palace and botanical gardens in full bloom and swim in the Black Sea. Bulgaria supplies 85% of the worlds rose oil products and to see and paint the acres and acres of roses amongst the perfume and the sun would be amazing. I'm toying with the idea of organizing a tutored plein air painting trip to Bulgaria....so if you're interested feel free give me a call or send me a message through my website www.benwinspearart.com and you can see more photos at <https://www.facebook.com/benwinspearart/> and <https://www.instagram.com/benwinspearart/>

Ben Winspear

Gold from Expo Milano 2015



Jan Francis

Signatory and financial member of the Victorian Artists Society since 1996, Jan Francis was thrilled to receive an international award for artistic achievement in Italy at EXPO MILANO 2015.

This journey began in 1986 after the birth of my fourth child when circumstances led me to dabble in oils despite a rather large family commitment. Happily, a level of

achievement, awards and solo exhibitions quickly followed and I soon toyed with the notion of international experiences. After a challenging period of trial and error, in 1997 an invitation was accepted for a solo exhibition from Piera Contemporanea, a significant gallery in Piedmont Italy. Spookily I used to whisper to sculptor husband Geo (also a VAS signatory) before my local exhibition openings.....today Geelong, tomorrow the world!!

The essence of a cultural corridor was born those 20 years ago and Geo and I continue to enjoy a wonderful connection to the Turin, Piedmont Italy region and love the culture, food, wines and its beautiful people. An Honorary Arts Degree from Accademia Delle Belle Arti di Cuneo for art excellence and an Honorary Citizenship of Piedmont for our contributions to Cultural Development were conferred to us in the ensuing years.

So..... responding to an expression of interest, I submitted 3 canvases for a Global Art Competition to be hosted in the Chinese Pavilion at Expo Milano throughout the 6 month Expo from May to October 2015. The criteria was quite restrictive in its timeframe and artwork conditions so I was thrilled to have had all 3 paintings accepted. The aim of this art event was to promote and encourage artistic excellence, to be a catalyst for international networking and friendship and showcase contemporary art to a world audience.....over 20 million Expo visits were recorded!!!

Both Geo and I were also delighted to accept an invitation to attend the Award Ceremony in Milan on September 30 2015 and were fortunate to visit this amazing Expo of world culture and cuisine 3 times

in our short stay. Expo Milano was indeed a multi-cultural hotspot of global excellence and energy. The Italian and Chinese hospitality was also amazing in the art venue at the Chinese Pavilion. Gifts were exchanged, photographs taken and an informative tour was organised by the delegates.

But the highlight was receiving the Gold Third Place Medal and Certificate of Merit amid a throng of international artists and being judged by an extensive and merited panel. I was the only Australian entrant... ..a very proud and emotional moment. A beautiful catalogue is soon to be available. As an exciting segue, I have accepted an invitation to paint for a solo exhibition to be shown in China later this year. Art has certainly opened doors for Geo and me in travel, friendship and amazing cultural initiatives.



SURF CULTURE
oil on canvas 50 x 70 cm

SURF CULTURE celebrates the vitality and well-being of the surfing lifestyle where I live and work on the Surfcoast of Victoria, just around the corner from the world famous Bells Beach. This response to clean oceans, unpolluted air and environmental responsibility to safeguard our precious planet fitted well into the required competition themes.

Jan Francis

Whistler's Mother - A review of the current Exhibition at the NGV

The current exhibition of this iconic painting at the NGV, which has travelled to Melbourne from the Musée d'Orsay in exchange for Bonnard's sumptuous nude bathing (*Siesta (La Sieste)*, 1900), provides an opportunity to see this beautifully composed and restrained work, and to gain an insight of the influence which James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) had, on Australian painters.

Whistler was born in the USA and attended West Point where he did badly. Subsequently he worked as a navy cartographer where he learnt the technique of etching before going to Paris to study painting. His etchings are masterly and several examples, which are part of the NGV collection, are displayed in the exhibition.

Whistler was a friend of Fantin-Latour, and Degas, and was influenced by Courbet and Manet. However, he was particularly influenced by Japanese art and this led him to emphasize the aesthetic

nature of his pictures in conscious reaction against the dominance of the subject in Victorian painting.

Unable to find a model, his mother posed for him. The elegant composition and subdued tones of her portrait became a household name when the thirty-second President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, was so taken with it that in 1934 he himself devised a design of it for a Mother's Day stamp.

Whistler lived the life of a dandy and was known for his wit. His notoriety increased when he sued Ruskin for defamation because he said that Whistler had "*flung a pot of paint in the public's face*" by exhibiting his painting *Nocturne in*



Black and Gold. Whistler succeeded in his court case, but was awarded only one farthing in damages. The legal costs of this suit ruined him.

The Victorian Artists Society organised a visit to this show on the 19th of April 2016.

Nathan Moshinsky



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WITH BETINA FAUVEL-OGDEN**

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at local TGV Station

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12-26 August 2016

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CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Not for profit organisations such as the Victorian Artist Society rely on Volunteer support.

The VAS remains in an enviable position having developed a workable Volunteer Programme which resulted in a strong team of supportive Members giving valuable time supporting the Society.

The time has come for us to refresh our team with Members who wish to help where needed.

Please phone the office on 9662 1484 if you can help .

Fancy Mont De Lancey



Bev Braddy & Warren Braddy

A couple of years back the brave souls of the VAS ventured to Mont De Lancey for a paintout day. It turned out to be one very wet and icy experience.

Well for the first paint out day of 2016 a revisit was in order and this time the weather was perfect.

The historic homestead, just out of Wandin in the Yarra Valley, offers spectacular views, historic buildings, gardens, blacksmith forge and a museum featuring a gallery. The property was purchased in 1865 and produced fruit and vegies until 1927 and then became a dairy farm. In 1984 it was decided it would be open to the public and artist types, just like us. The grounds and buildings are cared for by volunteers and so supportive are they that there was coffee, tea and biscuits set up for us in the garden gazebo. Well utilised at lunchtime.

Our group of 18 artists made the most of the venue and all its beauty by painting the day away. We virtually had the place to ourselves.

It was also fantastic to introduce new people to our regular team and we certainly look forward to many more at future sites. There was even

a Dansey at De Lancey. Well done to all who attended and a big thankyou to the staff and caretakers of Mont De Lancey Wandin.

Outdoor Co-ordinators
Gregory Smith and John Hurlle

Paint Out at Banksia Park



Kate Maher & Hiro Yoshino

The venue for the March paintout was Banksia Park at Bulleen. The park is one of those included in the Heidelberg Artists Trail. Three information boards within the park mark the site of works by Tom Roberts, Charles Condor and Arthur Streeton.

It's nice to know we can still be connected to our history by wandering this trail and discovering the sites of such well known and beloved paintings

I was interested to find that we were near the location of one of my favourite Streeton paintings, "*Spring*". With a glorious blue sky, rich green and golden grass and a beautifully rendered Yarra River, it was one of the paintings that first captured my imagination and prompted me to pick up a paint brush.

The landscape has changed greatly since Streeton painted here but

Banksia Park still offers a wealth of subjects, particularly if you like trees! There are beautiful trees everywhere. All shapes and sizes. Tree study's to be made at every turn!

A small group of nine turned out for our paintout. With a forecast of an overcast and coolish day we were delighted to see the sun break through by noon and it seemed everyone had settled in to make the most of what Banksia Park had to offer. The river isn't very accessible here these days with a fairly steep and overgrown bank but a couple of adventurous painters found their way down for a better view of the water. The rest were happy to stay up on level ground and take in the vistas

We enjoyed a quick picnic lunch and a chat in the sunshine and then got back into it for the remainder of the afternoon.

Bloomers and budding artists

The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show comes to the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens each year attracting over one hundred thousand visitors. The VAS plays its role in promoting art and all that we stand for by having our own display of floral themed artwork on show.

Co-ordinating for the 5 day program with our team of volunteers means answering hundreds of inquiries, handling sales of art and generally promoting membership and art classes for the 'Vics'.

As we have been a part of this magnificent event for some 14 years we have displayed artwork by new members who had met us at the

Flower Show.

We also work alongside other art societies and unite together in our common cause. Many of those groups are also VAS members and combined together we certainly leave quite an impression on the visiting public. Every possible style and approach to art is annually on show.

A special thank you to our team of artists and volunteers Kate Galea, Bev and Kevin Braddy, John Hurlle, Rachel Dettmann, Ray Wilson, John Vander Reest, Neville Thomas, Nina Gale, Ann Jolivet, Jo Reitze, Jane Jones, Ursula Tursky, Jenny and Barry Gilpin, Karolyn and Alan Mitchell, Tom Conyers and the staff of IMG.

Well done to all involved and we look forward to future events where the VAS comes out on top.

Gregory R. Smith
Co-ordinator

Rochester Mural Festival



Jon Lam accepting his award

Early in much 2016, two of VAS members, Ellsworth Overton and Jon Lam were selected as finalists in the Rochester Mural Festival. This annual event is opened to international, interstate and local artists.

The Rochester Mural Festival is a

key project initiative for the town to link with Sheffield in Tasmania and implemented a Victorian version of the famous Sheffield Mural Fest. Under license to Sheffield, Rochester is the only town in Victoria to run a mural fest in conjunction with Sheffield.

Visitors to the festival witnessed the artists in action all week. Brush down was on the Sunday (13th March @3pm) of the long weekend. The murals are located in Moore Street adjacent to the Northern Highway ensuring that they will be visible and accessible to passing visitors. The murals will stay there until March 2017 and are for sale. The winning mural is acquisitive and will stay there permanently.



Mural by Ellsworth Overton - Finalist

The theme this year is “Times of Change”. At the end of the event, the C4R (Committee for Rochester) awarded artist Jon Lam, VAS, Melbourne with the first prize of \$5000 for the best mural, \$1000 to the Judges Highly Commended mural Sharon Fensom N.S.W and \$500 to the People’s Choice Award Kerry Nicholson, Queensland. All eight finalists including Ellsworth Overton (VAS) and Jon Lam (VAS) from Melbourne received \$500 .

Chance encounter in the South of France

In September 2015, after the completion of my Painting

Workshop conducted in Italy in the company of a charming and enthusiastic group, Rory and I extended our stay in Europe, specifically in the South of France, for an additional three weeks, partly for the purpose of doing some research for a possible new venue of a future workshop and partly to enjoy once again a part of France which we both truly love.

During one of our excursions in Cassis, a dainty and charming coastal town, I stumbled upon its Municipal Mediterranean Museum. What caught my eye was the beautiful poster displayed at the front door with what looked like a watercolour painting entitled “*Rencontre avec Charles Minel, 1887- 1953*”, translated as “Encounter with Charles Minel”. I felt immediately drawn to go in.



Poster of the exhibition

It is not that often, that one gets the opportunity to view an exhibition of watercolours when on vacation, and I was not disappointed. This was a retrospective exhibition of watercolours, sculptures, photographs and drawings, aiming at paying homage to this talented artist, albeit not so famous, who had lived in Cassis.

I was enchanted by his sensitive and fresh work, rendered with brilliant colour, perfect draughtsmanship and by his ability to recreate the magnificent provençal light. It was also an unexpected delight to be able

to obtain the illustrated catalogue, enabling me to discover all about his full but relatively short life, which I would like to share with you.

Born in Paris in 1887, Charles Minel completes his studies at the Beaux Arts de Paris School and works as an architect, sculptor and decorator. He marries Augustine Maurel, a school teacher who dies when still young at the age of 37 and have a daughter, Katoune. He becomes a topographical artist during the First World War, then pursues his passion as an artist, decorating the arch of the Paris’ Opera Comique” in addition to painting countless landscapes and seascapes of Brittany, the Var valley, the coast of the Marne in addition to portraits and still life. He holds numerous exhibitions in Montmartre when Picasso and other famous artists were just starting out. After spending summer holidays regularly with his family in the south of France, predominately in Cassis, he decides to settle there in a house in Rue Bonaparte. A big man wearing a white suit when travelling, he is reported to have been kind and generous, never hesitating to offer to give his friends, his beautiful watercolours. Eager to learn new skills, he is initiated to paint in oils by his painter friend, Jean Baptiste Olive and he learns how to speak the local language, Provencal. However, his passion remains

painting in watercolours and it is in Cassis that he will execute his most beautiful works, painted mainly en plein air.

Being quite familiar with Cassis and its surroundings, I was able to recognise the different localities in his paintings, the very same subjects I had photographed or sketched earlier with the intention of painting them later. I was taken by his seascapes which were of timeless beauty, painted on numerous occasions at different times of day or from different vantage points. His painting of the port of Cassis remains a pronounced favourite of mine, depicting the way it was in the mid 1900’s, a secluded little port, nestled underneath a small hilly outcrop with a fortress perched on its top, its old fishing boats, painted at a time before too many tourists were crowding the foreshore.

I also loved his rendering of remote picturesque villages of Provence, their composition and the handling of the luminous shadows on their weathered walls (unfortunately not so luminous in the reproduction of the images of the catalogue).

This chance visit will remain for me, the highlight of my stay in the South of France this year, forever imprinted in my memory.

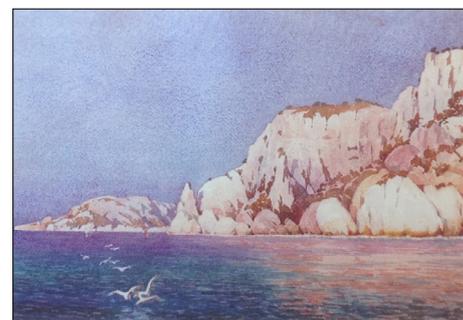
Annee Kelly



Le Chateau vu du Port



Roquesteron, Grasse - Charles Minel



Falaises Blanches - Charles Minel

MEMBERS ROOM EXHIBITION

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2016 Concert Series

at Victorian Artists Society



2016 Concert Series at Victorian Artists Society

Presented by Matthew Fagan
10 String – Spanish Classical Guitarist

Concert 1- VIRTUOSO- A Homage to my Ancestors CD Launch
Saturday 4th June, 8pm, doors 7.30pm

Matthew Fagan (Guitars)

Rimsky-Korsakov, Paganini, Mozart, Monti, Vivaldi, Spanish Classical and Flamenco and Carolan's Harp and Lute Music arranged for Spanish Guitar.

Concert 2- SOLSTICE
Sunday 2nd October 5pm,
doors 4.30pm

**Matthew Fagan (Guitars),
Daniel Tucceri (Piano)**

Beethoven, Rodrigo, Bach, Paganini and Vivaldi

CONCERT 3- GUITARRA & FESTIVE GUITAR CD Launch
Sunday 4th December 5pm

Matthew Fagan (Guitar)

Guitarra- Matthew Fagan presents a guitar recital of 5 Centuries of Spanish Guitar music from 16th to the 21st Century. Including music of the ancient Guitar Vihuela, Baroque, Romantic and modern Spanish Guitar. Featuring music inspired by Julian Bream's recording "Guitarra" & "Flamenco Guitar",

Including Flamenco dances Solearas, Peteneras, Alegrias, Bulerias, Sevillanas and Spanish Dances El Vito and La Partida.

Festive Guitar - Featuring the "Guitar Choir" of the 10 String Classical Guitar, a beautiful and spiritual arrangement of traditional Christmas spirituals and Celtic Festival Melodies including Celtic Harp traditional pieces arranged for 10 String Spanish Guitar including The Lass of Patties Mill, Turlough O'Carolan's Air, Turlough O'Carolan's Farewell. Arrangements are in the style of Handel, Bach and Mendelson, Classical Masters.

Venue Details

Victorian Artists Society
430 Albert Street, East Melbourne,
Victoria 3002

Tickets:

Concert packages available
1 concert \$25 Full - \$20 Con
2 Concerts \$45 Full - \$35 Con
3 Concerts \$65 Full - \$50 Con

Subscribers to all 3 concerts receive a free ticket for a friend to the 1st Concert. Please mention intention to claim when booking

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please call 0438 881 985 for form and address to send

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Concert 1- VIRTUOSO- A Homage to my Ancestors CD Launch
Saturday 4th June, 8pm, doors 7.30pm

Join Virtuoso Matthew Fagan 10 String and Spanish guitarist for a very special concert celebrating the musical history of the Victorian Artists society and a unique connection to the present.

Cecil Parkes, the Great Uncle of Matthew Fagan was a child prodigy violinist, famous in Australia from 1916 to 1980. So prodigious was his talent Cecil toured the USA in 1916 performing concerts such as Mendelson's violin concerto. Upon returning to Australia, Cecil was embraced as a concert artist by Dame Nellie Melba, an association that continued until Melba's death. Melba established the Melba Conservatorium with Cecil Parkes at the Victorian Artists Society.

An additional highlight is Matthew's performance of his virtuosic hit rendition of J.S Bach's Tocatta on Celtic Steel String Guitar which featured on Australian ABC TV1 Television.

A special feature of the concert will also be projection of unique film footage of Cecil Parkes performing in 1931 at the Atheneum Theatre Melbourne in Australia's first sound film production by EEFTEE Films (Frank Thring Senior).



**THE VICTORIAN
ARTISTS SOCIETY**
EST 1870

2016

THE YEAR AHEAD AND DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL	JUNE	AUGUST
<p>9 AUTUMN EXHIBITION SEND IN DAYS: 6 & 7 APRIL between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>26 AUTUMN EXHIBITION CLOSES Collection Day: 26 April between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p>	<p>11 WINTER EXHIBITION SEND IN DAYS: 8 & 9 JUNE between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>28 WINTER EXHIBITION CLOSES Collection Day: 28 June between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>30 PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION SEND IN DAY: 29 JUNE between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p>	<p>9 STUDENT & TEACHER EX CLOSES Collection Day: 9 August between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>13 PORTRAIT EXHIBITION SEND IN DAYS: 10 & 11 AUGUST between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>20 & 21 PEOPLE PAINTING PEOPLE WEEKEND OPENS: 1.00PM - 4.00PM</p>
MAY	JULY	SEPTEMBER
<p>20 MARITIME EXHIBITION SEND IN DAY: 18 MAY between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>31 MARITIME EXHIBITION CLOSES Collection Day: 31 May between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p>	<p>12 PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION CLOSES Collection Day: 12 July between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>29 STUDENT & TEACHER EXHIBITION SEND IN DAY: DETAILS AT THE OFFICE</p>	<p>17 SPRING EXHIBITION SEND IN DAYS: 14 & 15 SEPTEMBER between 11.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>21 COUNTRY MEMBER EXHIBITION SEND IN DAY: DETAILS AT THE OFFICE</p>

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