



Society of Mountain Artists Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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Meetings at St Bonaventure Church Hall, cnr Hartley Espl. & Railway Pde Leura

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The Editor

Society of Mountain Artists

Newsletter

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By the second Monday of the month

Presidents Annual Report 2010-2011

That time again when I try to recall all that has happened in the Society over the last twelve months and my memory seems to pass as quickly as the time.

I am preparing this earlier than usual as our editor Lia is off away on holiday shortly so she will be relaxing in the sunshine when the newsletter arrives.

It has been a busy year with our two exhibitions, plein air excursions, gallery visits and demonstrations. For the first time Painting in the Gardens as part of the Leura Festival was held at the end of the Spring Exhibition and in the same venue. Though shorter than normal this event judged by Jane Canfield was very successful with a high percentage of sales.

The 2010 SMA painting holiday to Hill End was very well patronized and in spite of changeable weather spring blossom everywhere contributed to a wonderful selection of subject material. With accommodation and meals at the Hill End Lodge close to town there was lots of time to paint and socialise. Many thought this was the best holiday so far and enjoyed it so much we hope to go again shortly after Easter.

Plein air excursions were well supported and it was especially pleasing to see some new faces coming along. The most recent was a 'return' to Hartley Vale and the Comet Inn on a glorious sunny day with Ann Warnes winning the coveted Golden Globe award and all enjoying a delightful late lunch at the Ambermere Rose Inn. Over the colder months we ventured into the city for some exhibitions, sightseeing and for the hardy souls, some sketching too.

Our first meeting of 2011 welcomed Joe Penn and Leslie O' Shea to critique portraits of animals and 'copies' of old masters. Some excellent artwork, positive criticism and Joe in very good form made for an interesting and fun afternoon.

The March meeting is our AGM when the new management committee is elected so hopefully those interested in nominating have done so. As President for the last year I would like to put on record my thanks to all the members of the Management committee and Exhibition, Library and Website sub committees.

I am sure that many members do not realize how much time and effort these individuals put into ensuring that our Society continues to develop and prosper but please remember that like you, they are all volunteers. Even if you choose not to play an active role in the organisation your views and opinions/criticisms, are always welcome and important in building a Society relevant to the needs and wishes of its membership.

By the time of our Easter exhibition the new SMA website should have us up and running on line again so please use the site and the many features it includes, such as the gallery facility which opens your work to a potentially huge audience. Thanks again to John Finnerty, Ron Anderson and the members of the website sub committee for all their hard work which has gone into this development.

Last but by no means least, thank you everyone for your support and encouragement to me and the Society over the last year. The Society will continue to develop and evolve and I hope you will all be part of that journey.

Peter Ayres

As the activities of the Website Committee are important to us all, I asked Ron to give us current news.

A Summary of the Website Sub-Committee activities for March.
The PayPal account, which is a responsibility of this sub-committee, is now working and almost ready for use at the Autumn Exhibition. Several remote trial transactions have now been successfully completed. Training on PayPal procedures for some members of the Exhibition and Website Development Sub-Committee members has commenced.

Fred Blakers joined the sub-committee in February and has also agreed to continue to be the Public Officer for SMA.

John Finnerty is the official SMA Webmaster and liaison officer for the sub-committee.

The website application form, which is still a 'work in progress', is to be attached to the website's annual subscription form and is to be completed by those wishing to exhibit through the on-line gallery. This document will be distributed to members as soon as practicable.

An annual fee of twenty dollars (full/part year) is to be charged for those SMA members wishing to exhibit up to 6 paintings on the website. The sub-committee has

set a limit of 6 works while it determines the amount of work and other logistical issues involved in getting images onto the website ready for sale.

There will be 2 designated Sales contact persons through the website, one is to be the Treasurer, and one other person nominated through the sub-committee (Marie Morris). Both will be contactable through sales@societyofmountainartists.org when the website and gallery are up and running.

A 25% commission will apply and be deducted from the sale of each painting by the SMA through the website.

SMA as a legal entity is not required to pay GST and also has tax exempt status.

The existing Membership Application Form and many other SMA documents have been reviewed and in some instances revised by the sub-committee before uploading to the website.

The SMA Rules along with other information will also be added to the website content e.g; Information 'About the SMA' wording for this website page has now been finalized.

However, a set of Instructions for how to use of the website, by members, has not yet finalized by the sub-committee.

The sub-committee has estimated that the first twelve months after the website launch will be 'teething' time for the website.

A brief presentation will take place at the meeting following the AGM by Marie Morris and Jenny Morrison on 'Tips on how to take photos for the website' This presentation will cover making these photos into jpeg images.

Sub-Committee members will also be available to answer any general queries you may have about this project of the Society. They are Dennis West, Anna Marshall, Fred Blakers, John Finnerty, Marie Morris, Jenny Morrison or myself, as chairperson of the sub-committee.

Ron Anderson, Chairperson.

Autumn Exhibition News. Dennis West.

Some thoughts on our forthcoming Exhibition at the new venue, St Albans church hall between Tuesday 12th and Friday 15th April.

This is an experiment brought on by the poor attendances at our last Easter Exhibitions. The Exhibition Committee feel that placing the Exhibition in a new hall, in the ever busy location of Leura should boost the figures attending the Autumn show.

Please be aware of the following points when delivering paintings on Tuesday, 12th April.

1. Be there between 9 and 10am. Late arrivals will not be hung.
2. When arriving for roster duty, and please take note of the new times. The church do not allow parking in their forecourt. However **we will find you** a parking place if you come by car.
3. If you submit three or more framed paintings, you will be allowed to have up to two unframed paintings shown. These must have a mount and be covered by clear covering. We suggest transparent book film, available at most newsagents. Remember to put your name, cost and other relevant information on the backs.
4. We have stretched the opening time to 5pm, aiming at maximum sales.
5. Please note the painting dimensions allowed. Hopefully these will be increased in future exhibitions always considering the space available.

We still intend to have our Spring Exhibition at Leura Fairways in conjunction with the Leura Garden Festival.

Here's hoping we have a successful Exhibition!

P.S. No photographs of hung paintings will be allowed during the Exhibition by anyone.

If you want a record of your painting, photograph it before you bring it in for hanging. This applies to all members and contributing artists.

Library Notes

Thanks to the successful sales of Videos at the last meeting Maunie is flush with cash to by some new resources. Check the library table at future meetings. A selection of large art books and exhibition catalogues that were recently donated to the Society, is coming up as well. Let Maunie know if you are interested.

Social News

After the enjoyable holiday at Hillend last September, many of us were keen to go back and paint in the autumn. This plan is well on the way with the dates being Monday 9th May to Friday 13th May.

Motel cost \$35 per night twin share room, or \$70 to have the room to yourself.

Breakfast included in room tariff, evening meals from \$20. These were great last time. Expressions of intent to be signed on the front table list, March meeting or ring Peter 47589005.

Note from the Editor

Unfortunately I will miss the AGM, due to a family milestone birthday, which is taking place in Phuket. Some folks choose interesting places to retire to. It has been a busy beginning to the year for me and looks like continuing. As I will not be there, I will take this opportunity to say it has been a challenging, informative and relationship building exercise. I would be willing to continue. However if there is

someone in the Society who would like to take on this job, please step forward and have a go at it. There is nothing like a new 'voice' to keep things interesting. That is why I have encouraged you all to contribute articles and opinions. Should you do so you will get all the change over support necessary, as I did, when I took over from Fred, 12 months ago.

I received pleasant feedback from several sources on the day out painting around the old Inns at Hartley. Painting direct from the subject, outside is challenging. Just managing the materials, and then there's the subject! However the sense of the day and place lends an immediacy and flare to the work, that is in the best tradition of Australian landscape painting. It is worth persisting. Afterwards there is always a pleasant café or historic pub to visit, and commune with friends.

I was fortunate to attend a 2 week workshop with John Wilson in February. I know several other members who have attended this year's workshops as well. It will be interesting to see if our personal painting styles have been enhanced by the experience. John is a very patient tutor. We are lucky to live in a place where we have access to so many talented artists who are willing to share their experience.

Lia

Exhibition Calendar-notes for your diary

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

- ❖ National Photographic Portrait Prize. Open till 26th April

National Trust SH Ervin gallery .Observatory Hill

- ❖ Wendy Sharpe-'The imagined file' until 10 April

ART GALLERY OF NSW

- ❖ Art Express-Schools HSC artwork until April 10
- ❖ Art and Soul-Indigenous art from gallery collection
- ❖ Rosemary Madigan –sculptor until 22 March
- ❖ Photography and Place-Australian landscape photography from 1970's onwards; 10 March until 29 May
- ❖ Archibald ,Wynne and Sulman prizes opens 16 April until 26 June

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

- ❖ Gustave Moreau and the Eternal Feminine until 20 April
- ❖ Eugene von Guerard 'Nature Revealed' Starts 16 April until 7 August

BEN ROBERTS GALLERY, Lawson.

- ❖ Ross Roorda 'Felons and Fighters' portraits; 5 until 24 March.

HAWKESBURY REGIONAL GALLERY Windsor;

- ❖ Richard Green 'Remote and Wild' wilderness photography until 27 March

LOST BEAR GALLERY, Leura.

- ❖ Graham Hallet paintings

Activities Diary

Date	Activity	Time / Venue / Coordinator	Booking
MARCH 17/03/11	AGM. Annual General Meeting	Bonaventure Hall, Leura	No
	'How to photograph your work'	Marie and Jenny with technical support by John Finnerty.	No
Thursday 24/03/11	Trival Pursuit.	Hosted by Patrica.	
	Plein Air Mount Victoria	Meet at the Park on the corner of Harley Avenue, opposite hotel, Mt Victoria.	Yes
Saturday 26/03/11	Workshop Anna Marshall and Dennis West.	!0am til 4pm. Bonaventure Hall, Leura. Cost \$35.	See front table list.
		Bring own lunch and drinks.	
Monday 28/3/11	Entries close for Autumn Exhibition		
APRIL			Entry forms required
Monday 12/04/11 to 15/04/11	EXHIBITION	St Alban's Church Hall, Leura.	
Thursday 21/04/11	General Meeting.	Bonaventure Hall, Leura	No
	Demonstration by Joe Cartwright. Watercolour.		
Thursday 28/04/11	Plein Air	Yarrimundi. More directions will be in the next Newsletter.	
MAY			
Thursday 19/05/11	General Meeting. John Perkins, Oils.	Bonaventure Hall, Leura	No
Thursday 26/04/11	Plein Air	Megalong Valley. More later.	No

Plein air, Thursday 24/03/11, will be at Mount Victoria, meeting at the Park, opposite Mt Vic Hotel. If you want to spend more time painting than lunching, bring your own lunch and only retire to relaxation venues after you finish. There will be plenty to choose from.

Note, Anna and Dennis' workshop, on Saturday 26th March, which is always an enjoyable experience. Dennis has recently been to a workshop at Bathurst with that well known, acclaimed watercolourist, Alvaro Casagenet. Combining this experience with Dennis' already talented results, Dennis will probably have new insights to share.

Anna will circulate and will provide input as requested by members who want to try any media **except oil**. Please bring all suitable materials and be at the hall before 10am as they plan to pack a lot into the day.

Working from 10 to 12.30, then a break for lunch and discussion, continuing on till 4pm. Bring your own lunch and beverages. Urn will be filled and turned on.

Cost is \$35 members and \$45 for non members.

Ring Dennis on 47573135. There will be a list on the front table at the meeting.

Guest Demonstrator - Joe Cartwright

Artist Statement

I paint in a fluid and spontaneous manner, which allows me to capture the mood and atmosphere of my subject with a style that encourages the viewer to involve themselves in my work.

I am always looking for an interesting viewpoint which I can bring to my audience allowing them to connect more closely with the world around them.

I have won a number of first prizes and many other awards for my watercolours. In 2009 I was fortunate enough to win the John Copes Watercolour Prize of \$3000.

I teach watercolour at the Nepean Art Society in Penrith and run a number of five day watercolour workshops. The Australian Artist Magazine has published a couple of my demonstration articles.

Please visit www.joecartwright.com.au to view more of my artwork.

Increasing Costs

Organising guest demonstrators is just one of the tasks delegated in the Management Committee. This has been done by Anna Marshall for some time, indeed as long as I have been involved with the society. It is becoming more difficult for Anna to attract quality demonstrators for the fee that was set in 2005.

As providing the members with quality demonstrators is important, an increase in payment to them has been approved.

To cover this cost it has been decided to increase member contributions at all general meetings to \$4, and visitors to \$5, starting at the AGM in March.

As we have 10 meetings a year at \$4 each, (\$40), a \$40 subscription fee, including 11 newsletters, \$20 to have internet gallery access, this is a total cost of \$100 per year. Other costs are up to individual participation levels. We hope that this step will meet with your approval.