

MAYDAY HILLS ART SOCIETY

The Mayday Hills Art Society is a non-profit organisation for the benefit of artists in the region. Its objectives are to foster all branches of the visual arts and to provide innovative activities, networking and other opportunities for artists to advance their talents and for all those interested in art.

NEWSLETTER

No 8. July 2020

Kurrajong Way, Mayday Hills Village. Beechworth 3747
www.maydayhillsartsociety.com

Hello all. Many of our members have been using the Art Society's headquarters as a retreat during the lockdown. It is always great to be up at Mayday, in any season; although sometimes it takes a lot more clothing and a hardy soul to venture inside our building on a cold, wet wintry day!

As you are aware, we have had to cancel, or at least postpone because of COVID-19 many of our planned events for Term One. Among them were some fabulous Art Talks. All is not lost as we will be able to reschedule those speakers again at a more suitable time. We have not been idle and are thrilled to report on the fantastic success of **Back** (Beechworth Art Competition for Kids) as well as the fun and eclectic Corona Challenge where members were asked to provide innovative drawings or paintings on postcards. **'An Art a day in May'** has produced some great work that will be showcased in August (fingers crossed). As our lives are constantly subject to change during the restrictions, each of the dates given to activities noted in the newsletter will be subject to change. An email will update you as we progress through the term. Stay safe and well always.

ART EVENTS

Back (Beechworth Art Competition for Kids) Heritage and History



On Sunday 21 June, at a special afternoon tea, we announced the winners with a presentation of prizes. Thank you to all our junior artists who entered the competition. We received some wonderful entries depicting our precious Beechworth heritage buildings. These were accompanied by delightful stories, poetry and songs. Following our function we installed an exhibition of the winning work in the shop window of 58 Ford Street. Thank you to Helen Freeman for the use of the building.



SPONSORS OF Back

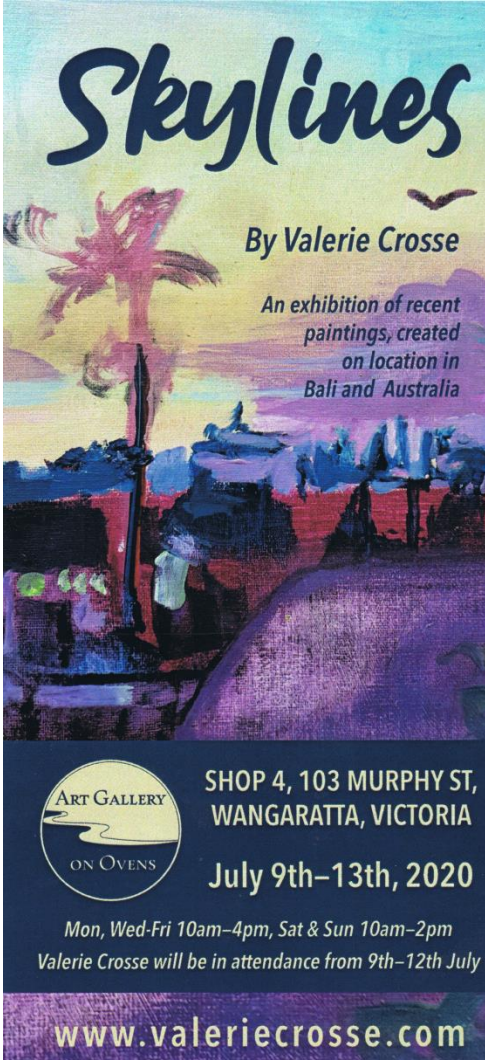
We wish to gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of our inaugural Back competition. Our appreciation is extended to Barbara Lowery, Christine Stewart and Bob Bennett, Heidi and Helen Freeman, Sandra Williams, Patricia Williams, John and Diane Baines, Bill Wilson, The Finer Things of Life. The response to this event has been so positive that the Art Society plans to make it an annual event. More details to come.

The Corona Challenge: An Art a day in May

Friday 7 August at 5.30pm

All being well, we will be holding Happy Hour with a presentation of entries by those who participated in the Corona Challenge. Members were invited to create a postcard-sized artwork each day in May and to frame or mount the postcard selections in a creative manner. Thank you to the many who worked hard (and are still doing so we hear) to complete the challenge! It was great fun and very inspiring. We are looking forward to seeing the entries and to learn from all the reasons behind their ideas and subject matter and the technique used to create the postcard sets. We will send out a reminder and a call for RSVPs closer to the event date.

EXHIBITIONS



Skylines
By Valerie Crosse
An exhibition of recent paintings, created on location in Bali and Australia

ART GALLERY ON OVENS
SHOP 4, 103 MURPHY ST, WANGARATTA, VICTORIA
July 9th-13th, 2020
Mon, Wed-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat & Sun 10am-2pm
Valerie Crosse will be in attendance from 9th-12th July
www.valeriecrosse.com



You will have seen the front page of the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* (Friday 3 July) with a feature about Valerie Crosse's forthcoming exhibition. Works are predominantly in acrylic and were created on locations in Bali and from local landscapes around Beechworth.

The recurring theme of sunset, sunrise, dusk and dawn feature in this wonderful exhibition which opened on July 9 in Wangaratta.

WORKSHOPS

TERM 2 ART WORKSHOP



'Day lily'. Watercolour on paper. Christine Cansfield-Smith

Introduction to botanical art with Christine Cansfield-Smith

(New date) **Sat and Sun 19 and 20 September**

9.30am - 4.00pm

\$160 members. \$180 non-members.

Bookings essential. Christine 0412 126 219

bibart@bigpond.com

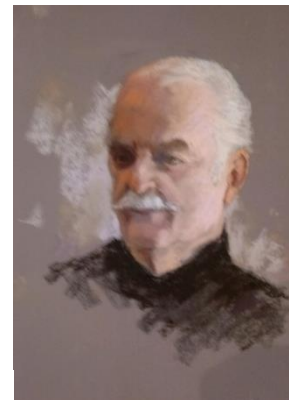
Materials provided. Information on enrolment.

During this two day intensive workshop for beginners students will be guided step-by-step through the basics needed to understand and enjoy the fascinating world of botanical art. Students will learn how to observe light and to be aware of tone in drawings, to sketch and compose and to understand the methods for mixing watercolours. The aim will be to draw a live plant specimen in order to apply the techniques necessary to render a fine painting. Students will leave with a finished painting and have the tools and techniques to continue with botanical art as a hobby.

PORTRAIT PAINTING

Date to be advised

We are continuing this term with our popular portrait painting and life drawing sessions. Portrait painting in July promises to be safe, warm and socially distanced! BYO drawing, painting equipment and easel. \$15 per person. Please contact Judi Moncur 0421 509 088 to register your interest in participating in this art session so we can advise you of the next meeting date.



'Mark'. Pastel on paper. By Wendy Stephens

MEMBER FACILITIES



Our art library at Mayday is growing richer by the day thanks to the many donations from members and people outside the Society who are interested in adding to our resources.

Don't forget to visit the library on the ground floor. Here you will find a plethora of art books on a range of subjects as well as coffee table titles and even the odd cook book or two. You are welcome to take and read...but please return for the use of others.

HAPPY HOURS AND ART TALKS

We hope that we might be able to continue with our Happy Hours and Art Talks this term. They are held on the first Friday of each month. Many of our members, their friends and guests, enjoy this social event where we can network and hear from artists and other creative professionals from around the region. Bring a gold coin donation and/or a contribution towards nibbles or wine.

Please make a note of the following events in your diaries. You will be advised by email of any cancellation due to Coronavirus restrictions:

Friday 4 September 5.30pm. Art talk with Paediatric Surgeon Dr Paddy Dewan

Surgery as art and art as surgery



We look forward to welcoming Dr Paddy, as his patients call him. Paddy is a Paediatric Urologist (a plumber in his terms) and a Paediatric General Surgeon offering CARE to children and families and advice to adults affected by congenital conditions. He is also the founder of Kind Cuts for Kids, a foundation making annual trips with medical teams to developing countries and to those with little or no access to medical help. Paddy is a poet, artist and amateur wine maker with a passion for making health CARE better and safer. www.kindcutsforkids.net

Friday 2 October 5.30pm. Art talk with Film maker & Environmentalist Steve Curtain

With a thorough grounding in environmental science, Steve's work career began as Assistant Editor at *Wild* conservation and adventure magazine. This was followed by a stint as a camera assistant with the BBC Natural History Unit. Steve's focus is trying to restore the balance between people and natural ecosystems. He films, edits and produces nature-based films in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, Japan's Hokkaido, Russia's Kamchatka, the Australian Alps, Blue Mountains and the Tasmanian wilderness. vimeo.com/stephencurtain



Friday 6 November 5.30pm. Art talk with Ceramicist and artist Judy Pierce



A reflection on studio ceramics since 1975. Craft, art or sculpture?

According to Judy, she has been around long enough to reflect on the vexed question as to where studio ceramics fits into the art world. She has been on an interesting journey that allowed her to drop out of the 'fast lane' in 1980 to move into a more relaxed lifestyle in Beechworth. While her main work revolved around functional ceramics she has also dabbled in the non-functional art and has exhibited widely in Australia, India and France.

THEATRE

PLAY READING

Sunday 18 July at 5.00pm. MDHAS Gallery (downstairs)



'I'm a Beautician not Magician' by local writer Sharon Jarrott.

Thank you to Sharon for this delightful and light-hearted look into the sometimes bizarre workings behind-the-scenes in a beauty salon. You are welcome to get together to read this play, share some laughter and some refreshments. Because of restrictions there will be a limit to numbers to be able to be gathered for this event so please register your interest with Wendy 0402 288 207 or wendystephensarts@gmail.com.

BEECHWORTH THEATRE COMPANY

The Art Society welcomes the Beechworth Theatre Company as a member. Their extensive costumes collection and many of their props are now located on the top floor of our building. We look forward to more of their location theatre productions in the near future.



The MDHAS Players have also postponed productions until next year. We hope to bring you more great theatre productions at our Upstairs Playhouse very soon.

FILMS @ THE PLAYHOUSE

The Art Society is now an official member of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies. Our appreciation goes to Rosemary Ryan for negotiating this valued membership. Founded in 1949, the Federation of Victorian Film Societies (FVFS) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Film Society Movement across Victoria — film education and study, film appreciation, history, and culture. Its members are film societies as well as NPV (Non Profit Volunteer-run) film festivals and NPV cinemas across Victoria. With our state-of-the-art movie house upstairs we are looking forward to resuming our movie nights when allowed by social distancing guidelines.



LOOKING AHEAD

WORKING BEE

While we work very hard to keep maintaining our building in a clean and tidy manner and for the comfort of all our residents, it will be necessary in the spring to do some major spring cleaning tasks. The plan is to have our dear old building spruced up and looking sparkling and fresh for summer.

We also plan to finish painting the theatre and its reception foyer to give them a more upmarket, theatrical look. Many painting hands will certainly make a speedier job! We will let you know by email when we plan to have these working bees – when the weather gets warmer.

PEOPLE PROFILE

In this and future newsletters we thought we would feature at least one profile of a Mayday Hills Art Society member. If you wish to be included please send an email to Wendy or Christine, although we are sure to get around to all of our members in due course. Enjoy reading about Celine.

CELINE FORSTER



Celine has been working in the music and performing arts industry for over twenty years as a qualified classroom music specialist and instrumental teacher, and as a professional performer. She has successfully run two music and performing arts teaching businesses, both up here in the North East and from her home town of Melbourne.

Specialising in Classical Voice, Celine has developed a purpose designed highly educational Early Childhood Music program for young children, she plays and teaches over ten instruments, has taught drama, music theatre and choreographed many jazz dances for large- and small-scale productions. Celine has written and directed multiple small- and large-scale productions and facilitated many arts based events over the years.

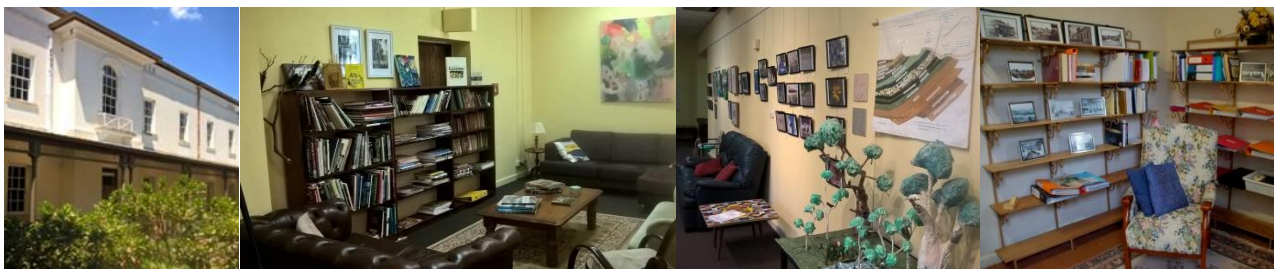
She has performed professionally with both local and international conductors as a mezzo soprano and alto voice artist and has conducted many choirs. The highlight of her conducting career has been working with Opera Australia and developing their children's choir for two of their touring opera performances, *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage Of Figaro*.

Celine currently uses her studio to film music education content for her forthcoming business - Anywhere Music Online Education Services and to teach privately. Anyone interested in what teaching services are available with Celine can contact her on 0414 902 191. Celine Forster B.Mus., Dip.Ed.

Celine is the newest studio resident at the Art Society and is settling into one of the upstairs studios. Welcome! Celine, we hope you will be very happy in your space.

MDHAS ONLINE

At last our building has its own WiFi access. The modem is located upstairs on a coffee table in the sitting area (to pick up the maximum reception). To use you will need to make sure the modem's ON button is switched to a **BLUE** light. This should stay switched on for several hours. Next find online the **MDHAS** network. Your password is – artsociety00. We have 200Mb per month and ask that our residents and members use our WiFi account responsibly.



SOCIAL EVENT

'THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH 1920s' party



When: **Sunday 25 October, 2.00pm**
Where: **MDHAS Rhododendron garden**

Help celebrate the Art Society's 3rd birthday and the opening of the new fountain that is soon to be installed in the courtyard at the front of the MDHAS building. The function will commence with the official opening of the beautiful working fountain.

It has been a great adventure for the Art Society during its three years. We have welcomed many new members and friends, each of whom have brought their own special passion and interests in the arts to our community. This year's party (and we are giving you advanced notice to save the date) will be the 1920s. This theme is reminiscent of garden parties, lovely clothes and an optimism after the terrible tragedy of WWI. It also heralded in a time of hope and freedom for art, poetry, music, theatre and dance. Come dressed to suit. Bring refreshments to share. More details to come closer to the date.

EXHIBITION

Arts of gold



The Arts of Gold exhibition has been postponed until Easter 2021. The Memorial Hall has been booked and planning is already underway. This exhibition will be open to all artists to showcase and to sell their work and will be one of the major events to be held during the Golden Horseshoes Festival. Exhibition timetable with key dates will be published soon on the website www.maydayhillsartsociety.com

Mayday Hills Art Society Management Committee

President/Secretary – Christine Cansfield-Smith 0412 126 219 bibart@bigpond.com

Vice-President – Wendy Stephens 0402 288 207 wendystephensarts@gmail.com

Treasurer – Bob Richards. Archivists – David Lawrence, Jenni Munday