

Watercolours WA

The Watercolour Society of WA (Inc.)

Patron: Dr Ken Michael AC

Established 1980

September 2018

Newsletter 388

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone

Hello from Krakow, Poland where Penny Maddison, Lucy Papalia, Cass Gartner, Dave Conlin, Derrick Fitzpatrick and I have just ended a week of varied activities organised by the Polish Watercolour Society at the 21st Exhibition of the European Confederation of Watercolour Societies, hosted by the Polish Watercolour Society. There is a full report on pages 4 and 5.

The most exciting news coming from our recent and previous visits to Europe and something we feel is a natural progression for our Society - the committee suggested to the August meeting that we should hold our own International Watercolour Exhibition in 2020 and the members agreed with much enthusiasm that this was a great idea—the full outline proposal is on page 2. Please let us know if you have any ideas, questions or comments at the September meeting on Tuesday 18th September or send an email to me or Marion, the Secretary.

The countdown for the main event on our calendar—our Annual Awards Exhibition—is now on so please remember to email or send me your entry forms by Friday 28th September. We have once again had a wonderful response from our generous and loyal sponsors so you will be well rewarded for that extra bit of effort put into what I know will be stunning new paintings in a stunning exhibition.

Flyers for the exhibition will be available at the September meeting and we are asking that as many of you as possible take a wad and do a letterbox drop in your street or area—we have cut down on newspaper advertising as it is a large expense and not cost-effective so other practical measures are essential and this is definitely one way that you can help to make a difference to the number of people attending the exhibition for little effort. If you would like flyers sent to you by post, please contact Marion or myself.

The email version of the flyer will be sent out to everyone at the end of this week—we suggest you send them out to your own contacts, friends, colleagues and relatives in the next week and then again as a reminder during the weekend of the 6th and 7th October. This, together with the printed flyers, is definitely the most effective way to get people to come to the exhibition which is shown from analysis of our People's Choice slips where guests are asked to indicate where they heard about the exhibition.

Many thanks to Lorraine Gardner whose lovely painting will be our raffle prize this year—and please do not forget to bring in to the September meeting, those donations of goodies for our gourmet hamper which will be the second prize—or get them to Annette Wallman who is running the raffle this year. The raffle is a major source of revenue which helps toward the ever-rising costs of running this exhibition.

Finally, Bob Maumill has agreed to come along and open the exhibition to inject a bit of humour and entertainment to the opening. Unfortunately, our Patron, Dr. Ken Michael, will not be able to attend this year but he will try his best to visit the exhibition over the weekend. More information and reminders for the exhibition can be found on page 3.

Look forward to seeing you at the September meeting on Tuesday, 18th September....

Happy painting,
Sue :)

"The only instance where colour and line collide is in watercolour." Walter Benjamin

PS—many apologies for not publishing the pics from last month's "Show and Tell" - they will be in the next month's edition. Also the Amanda Hyatt workshop is of course 18 and 19 October, not 17 and 18 as printed in the August Newsletter.

Committee; Sue Payne, Penny Maddison, Marion Power, Derek Newton, Meredith Scull, Stephanie Boyle, Cass Gartner, Lucy Papalia, Annette Wallman.

Proposal for a Watercolour Society of WA International Watercolour Exhibition and Activities

The proposed exhibition would need to run for a minimum of 4 weeks to make it worth while for all concerned and a viable proposition.

Organised activities (trips out, workshops, demonstrations, plein air competition etc) for all those attending would happen during the week after the opening of the exhibition.

All entrants would be charged an entry fee which would entitle them to matting and framing and a catalogue. All those participating in the “activities” would pay a fee which could cover everything—plein air competition, excursions, demos, workshops, celebration dinner etc.

1. Venue

Several venues were considered but after visiting and talking to the co-ordinator, location and cost finally decided that **The Moores Building in Henry Street, Fremantle** would be ideal.

The cost is approx \$125 per day (\$3500 for 4 weeks) for the whole building which has 6 rooms so workshops etc could also be run there at no extra cost.

Cost also includes hanging equipment—we would need to be hands on for hanging and manning the exhibition.

Moores Building is subsidised by the City of Fremantle.

Following the submission of a proposal and application, our dates have been accepted to hold this exhibition at the Moores Building from Friday **13th March until Saturday 11th April, 2020.**

2. Paintings

- One painting each from WSWA members Total 100-120 paintings with about 50% from WSWA
- Paintings would all be for sale
- Invite 5 or 6 paintings to be sent from various European and Australasian Watercolour Societies eg: Italy, Poland, Spain, Germany, Ireland etc plus the Watercolour Society of San Diego, Texas or Houston, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, New Zealand, China, etc
- We could also invite the Arenta/Hermansburg watercolour artists to send paintings as well as other Australian Watercolour Societies ie Victoria, Queensland, S Australia etc.
- We can also consider inviting individual Australian artists eg Joseph Zbukvic, Malcolm Carver, Tony Smibert, John Lovett etc —entry fees would still apply.
- Set sizes such as half sheet and full sheet only—this would mean we only need 1 or 2 frame sizes.
- Framing could be as we have seen at Italian exhibitions—matted with plain, light wood frames with no glass.
- All paintings would need to be sent several months in advance to allow for photographing for a catalogue, matting and framing.

3. Opening

- Would be opened by local Mayor or MP and perhaps a “Welcome to Country” ceremony performed by a local elder.
- All attending participants would be given a “goody bag” which would include a catalogue. Goody bags would contain donated samples of art supplies, vouchers for local attractions etc.
- Following the opening would be a Celebration Dinner for all entrants, partners etc

4. Celebration Dinner

We suggest something “different” and essentially Australian eg:

- A shed, barn or suitable place with a catered barbecue dinner (eg kangaroo tail soup with damper, barbecued shark, steak, pavlova etc—even better would be food using bush tucker)
- A marquee with catered food
- A local hotel or facility which would be able to cater for this sort of function
- Local winery etc

5. Activities

- Plein air competition with paper and a prize/s donated by sponsors—could be judged by local council or as a People’s Choice at the end of the exhibition.
- 1 or 2 day trips for sight-seeing and painting to local areas and places of interest eg Yanchep, Whiteman Park, local beaches etc
- Demonstrations by our members
- Workshops by our members and/or overseas visitors
- Continuing with the local theme—how to play the didgeridoo, visit to vineyard etc

Please let Sue (payne.susan@gmail.com) or Marion (secretaryswa@gmail.com) know any ideas or suggestions you may have. Also, we can only do this with lots of helpers so we will have an organising sub-committee—contact Sue or Marion to join this and be a part of this exciting exhibition.

Annual Awards Exhibition 2018

Opens Thursday, 11th October until Sunday, 14th October

Donate goods for our Raffle

Please would members bring their items for our “gourmet basket” which will be the second prize, along to the September meeting on Tuesday, 18th September. Anything that may be classed as a “luxury” item would be welcome eg chocolates, tinned oysters or pate, wine, speciality oils or vinegars, olives, nuts, truffle products(!), etc etc. Your donations are all very much appreciated by both the Society and the raffle winners!!

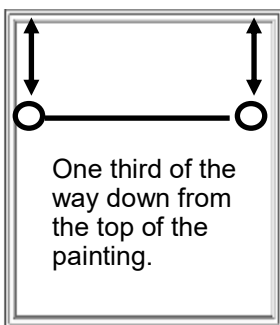


Covering your signature.....

Judging is undertaken anonymously ie all signatures are covered up. For the last 2 years, we have suggested that everyone make their own “labels” to cover up their signature in the same colours as your painting rather than a piece of masking tape which can be distracting. This has proved to be very successful so we strongly suggest that you do the same again this year. Please consider what you stick it onto the glass with so that it doesn't leave a mark and is easily removed ie blu-tac or similar. (Sticky tape tends to leave a mark which requires a solvent to remove.)

Food for the opening night.....

We have an excellent reputation for having great food at our opening nights so please drop off your donations when you drop off your paintings or by 6.30pm on the opening night (11th October.) Platters will be available at the September meeting—no food that needs heating or dips please! Sandwiches, things on sticks, vol au vents, sushi, savoury pastries etc are all ideal.....



Frames

The hanging team have requested that members make sure the hanging cord is positioned one third of the way down on the back of the painting. Any lower and the painting has a tendency to tip forward. Any higher and it is not only difficult to hang, but the cord may also show above the painting. Even professional framers get this wrong sometimes!! D-rings and cord rather than wire are preferred and please **also tape over the d-rings to prevent damage to other paintings when they are stacked, ready for hanging.** We also suggest that you or your framer use foamcore as a backing board—Masonite, plywood, mdf etc are not usually acid free and they can make the paintings unnecessarily heavy for our hangers to handle easily.

Once again we will be displaying the Mug Shots of members which our visitors so enjoy. Along with this will be information about the Watercolour Society's activities past and future, near and afar. Anyone who would like to help assemble this information please contact the committee. Stories from the recent trips to Italy and Poland would be most welcome. The 2019 Biennale will be advertised as will future planned events. As next year is planned to focus on our members with workshops and open studios it would be ideal to promote those as well as show our followers how active we are.

Labels—for the *back* of your work were attached to previous Newsletters with the entry form—please fill in with your details and attach them to the back of each painting that you are entering in the exhibition so that the hangers can match with the labels. It is also a good idea to have your contact details and the name of the painting on the back so that any successful buyer has your details for future reference, commissions etc.

Guide to Pricing your paintings

Determining the price of paintings can sometimes be tricky.....

As a guideline for new members in particular, the following recommendations are made:

Full sheet from \$850, 1/2 sheet from \$500, 1/4 sheet from \$350, 1/8 sheet from \$250.

These figures are based on previous exhibition prices but adjusted to reflect the current economic climate and other factors. Please note that these figures are simply **guidelines**, they are **minimum** recommended prices and members should price at a level they are happy with.



Please make sure you have read all instructions on your entry form - categories, general rules, dropping off paintings, labelling paintings, 50 words for Innovative section etc etc and that you have paid your entry fees. Closing date for entries is **FRIDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER.**

Krakow, Poland September 2018 by Sue Payne

Following an invitation from Ryszard Regala, the President of the Polish Watercolour Society (SAP), to take part as guest exhibitors at the 21st Exhibition of the European Confederation of Watercolour Societies in Cracow, Poland, 6 members of the WSWA along with 3 non-painters, travelled to Poland on 24th August. We had met Ryszard—or Ricardo as the Italians and subsequently we Australians call him—on several visits to exhibitions in Italy so Penny Maddison, Lucy Papalia, Cass Gartner, Derrick Fitzpatrick, Dave Conlin and myself were looking forward to meeting our Polish and Italian friends, along with members of European Watercolour societies from France,



Our intrepid team in Poland: Back row L to R Derrick, Lucy, Kitty (Sue's sister), Sandra Conlin, Dave Conlin, Penny, Front row L to R Derrick's partner Aileen, Sue and Cass .

Germany, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Andalusia, Catalonia, Basque, the Balearic Islands, Aragon, the Spanish Watercolour Painters Association and the Nordic Watercolour Society. It was also good to catch up with a great friend from Italy—Cristina Bracaloni—the co-ordinator for the ECWS and one of the main influences for our invitation. The first part of our journey was a four day stay in Warsaw where we learned a great deal about the tumultuous and tragic history of Poland. The remnants of communist rule were all too evident in the many stark, box-like massive buildings that were erected after 85% of Warsaw was destroyed in WW2. The Polish people have made the city their own however, since 1989 when they became an independent nation - Warsaw is now a thriving metropolis of new and old. One of the best parts about visiting Warsaw was meeting up with Michal Suffczynski who came to our Biennale in 2015 to run workshops and demonstrate. Michal is an internationally acclaimed watercolourist who has just held an exhibition in Budapest, Hungary. He is also a professor of architecture and is immensely proud of how the Poles have restored Warsaw—and rightly so. He took us to the 17th century Łazienki Park which serves as a venue for the arts, music and culture with its beautiful waterways, statues and lovely palaces. We also had the honour of visiting Michal's studio and viewing his stunning paintings.

After Warsaw we travelled south by train for nearly 3 hours to our main destination,



The main square in Krakow

Krakow (pronounced crack-orf!). The first few days were spent exploring this delightful tourist city where every other building seems to be either a church or a restaurant. The city has many squares and "placs" which are surrounded by beautiful buildings and there always seems to be something going on. I cannot remember a city where there are so many museums and places of culture to enjoy. The old city is surrounded by a belt of parkland and cars are not allowed in the centre but there are many delightful carriages pulled by pairs of beautiful horses of all breeds. I could go on about Krakow for ages which is rightly cited as one of Europe's

most beautiful cities but look it up on somewhere like Wikipedia for more details about its interesting and at times tragic history—remembering that the notorious Auschwitz is only a short distance away.

On the Saturday evening we were invited to the apartments where Ricardo

and several of the SAP members organising the symposium were staying—this was our second taste of the wonderful hospitality of our Polish friends who certainly know how to party! We were invited to join ten Polish artists who were going to paint the next day in the Marly Rynek square next to the main Krakow square to publicise the exhibition. It was a beautiful, sunny day and certainly drew a great deal of interest from the public.

Monday was registration day which was in the Szczepanski Square which was also where the Palace of Fine Arts was situated, where the exhibition was to be held and was also the start of 3 days of workshops and demonstrations. In the afternoon four of us attended a plein air workshop with Anatol Martyniuk, "A synthesis of work in the open air and at the studio", which was very informative and Dave went to the Adam



Lto R front row: Krzysztof, Kitty, Penny, Eddy, Alina, Aileen, Derrick, Top row L to R: Lucy, Sue, Sandra, Cass, Dave and Ricardo.



Michal Suffczynski, looking very suave in his Aussie hat



Wawel Castle, Krakow.

Papke workshop, "Phenomenal Landscape". On Tuesday morning three attended the Jacek Krenz workshop, "Sketching the city in watercolours", which was based on urban plein air sketching while others went to an energetic demonstration by Krystyna Lubanski, "Flower compositions". In the afternoon there were demonstrations given by Tatiana Majewska-Borisovna, "Catch the Movement in Ballet" and Adam Papke, "Phenomenal Landscape". On Wednesday morning we all went to Michal Suffczynski's workshop, "Landscape in Watercolour" - Michal is so popular that he was expecting 18 people to attend—44 turned up!! Despite the overcrowding Michal's teaching skills stood out and we had a very productive workshop. In the afternoon, three went to the Michal Orłowski workshop, "Architecture in natural scenery" while the rest of us went back to our home base to recover! On Thursday morning we watched a demonstration by Minh Dam, "Seascape with lighthouse" which had a gentle musical accompaniment with guitar and violin—very entertaining. After this there were two workshops held by Winsor & Newton about colour mixing and interaction and using watercolour markers, sticks and different mediums. These were so informative and we were able to play with a wide variety of samples provided. Stephanie Nebbia from London and Robert Rost from the Netherlands were both artists whose knowledge about pigments, the history of watercolours and how they perform and interact together was amazing—and they both spoke English which was definitely a bonus!



The 8 Australian paintings: top row L to R: Jude Scott, Sue Payne, Cass Gartner, Lucy Papalia, Bottom row L to R: Derrick Fitzpatrick, Dave Conlin, Stephanie Boyle, Penny Maddison.

Thursday evening was the opening of the main exhibition which was quite spectacular—253 paintings in the grand Palace of Fine Arts and the eight paintings from the WSWA were all hung together looking splendid and attracting a great deal of interest from the hundreds of people attending the opening. It was a proud moment to be a member of the Watercolour Society of WA!

On Friday, there was an organised visit to the Krakow salt mines which may sound strange but which was an amazing experience. Descending the 300 steps into the mine there were endless tunnels hewn out of the black salt stone and, being a largely Catholic country, sculpted statues of saints and religious icons around every corner. One of the main highlights was a huge, magnificent cathedral, 100 metres underground which took 70 years to complete. It is still used today for services early in the morning. The visit ended with a wonderful 3 course lunch in yet another massive cavern where concerts and even weddings are held. The journey back to the surface was



The magnificent underground cathedral



no less eventful—there were four small miner's lifts which took a maximum of 8 people—we certainly got to know each other well in those 90 seconds!

Saturday morning was the plein air competition—we collected our stamped sheet of paper and took off to different parts of the city to paint until the deadline at 4pm. This is when we realised we were swimming in a very deep pool of talent but we were very definitely keeping our heads afloat. The Society would be immensely proud of the paintings produced.....

The final event of the week-long symposium was the gala dinner on Saturday evening for 260 artists and participants which was held in the Kazimierz—the Jewish quarter of Krakow. An amazing four course dinner was followed by the announcement of the winners of the plein air competition which would have been a nightmare to judge—there were so many wonderful paintings.

None of our party were chosen but our paintings were well up there with the best of the entries and it really didn't matter because we had been a part of this truly exciting and multi national event where we met so many interesting

and talented artists and where we were made to feel so very welcome. We have learnt a great deal from this visit which has given us a huge amount of knowledge and contacts for our International Watercolour Exhibition in 2020.



The 'A' team from the Polish Watercolour Society: L to R Ricardo, Alina, Eddy and Krzysztof.

The plein air paintings entered in the competition: top to bottom: Penny Maddison, Cass gartner, Lucy Papalia and Dave Conlin.

Annual Camp—Friday 26th October to Friday 2nd November

This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow members and to have a week away painting—plein air or indoors—whatever you prefer. We are revisiting Busselton and the **Bayview Geographe Resort** because it was agreed last year that there was so much to see and paint that we needed another week there!

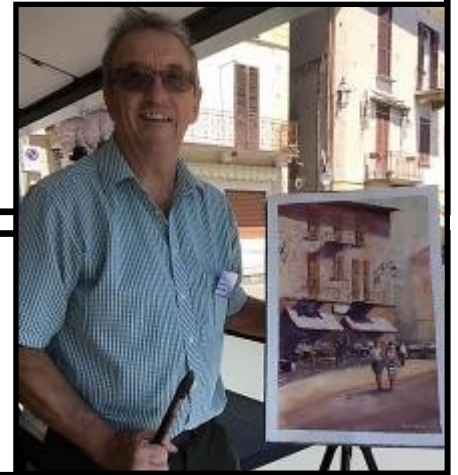
Current prices at the Bayview Geographe Resort for the week are:

Standard 3 bed spa \$1696 divide by 3 = \$566 each

2 bed villa (1 dble, 2 singles) \$1437 divide by 2 = \$719 each, divide by 3 = \$479 each

Studio (1 dbl, 1 single same room) \$995 divide by 2 = \$498

The only rule when we go away is there are no rules! We usually meet up in the evening for a meal and/or show and tell but it is up to each member to decide if they want to paint solo or with others. Partners are welcome. Please let Sue Payne (payne.susan@gmail.com) know **as soon as possible** if you want to come along and the type of accommodation you would like because the rooms are going fast....



Congratulations.....

To **Dave Conlin** who was awarded third prize in the plein air competition which took place during our recent visit to the Italian Watercolour Society's International Watercolour Exhibition in Maccagno. The competition was judged by the visitors to where the plein air paintings were displayed.

Next Meeting

DATE : Tuesday, 18th September 2018
TIME : 9.30 am
 10.00 am
 11.00 –11.15
 11.15
 11.30—12.30

John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Street, South Perth
 Exchange of books, DVDs, videos from the library
Meeting commences.
 Show and Tell "Spring".
 Morning Tea; Gold coin donation.
Guest Hour : Derek Newton with show and talk about his sketching and his approach to art.

NB All times are approximate

October Meeting: Tuesday 16th October 2018

Show and Tell Subject: "Leather and Feather"

Guest Hour: To be advised.

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THANK YOU !!

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