



Wollondilly Arts Group Inc

NEWS Summer 2019/20



OUR PRESIDENTS REPORT

The summer break – for some it maybe time to do some relaxing hobby painting just for pleasure. For most, the on-going bush fire disaster and all that it entails will be your focus for some time.

To all our members and friends in fragile situations, I wish you good luck and courage in such trying and exhausting situations.

Over the year we have been pursuing our theme 'My Backyard' which has brought about memories and observations, our Annual Members' Exhibition, WAG14, reflected this. Since our last newsletter in Spring, we have been very busy.

Unfortunately our Christmas Party was cancelled due to the current bush fire situation – I was disappointed however but better luck next year.

Have an excellent 2020. Good health and best wishes!

Pam Berrell,

President, Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.

Collaborative Dam Project

As part of the WAG14 Annual Members Exhibition, WAG members were to create a collaborative work. It was suggested by Janet Dalton and Sue Southwood of using the work of renowned artist Imants Tillers as a reference point. The project was postponed due to time, funding and management constraints. The Committee then agreed on using Warragamba Dam and environs as the theme. This fitted in with our WAG14 'My Backyard' theme and also community concern over raising the dam wall. The 22 minute video 'Give a Dam' was inspirational as it covered the consequences of world heritage wilderness destruction concisely.

At a meeting in mid August we committed to this project and a Stage One discussion was held. As a result of asking for help in managing the project, Els Dirickx contacted Roswitha Giersch, offering her



Above, WAG14 Peoples Choice Award winning painting 'Majesty' by Ingrida Spole. Below right, the winning miniature by Betty Peachy 'Bargo River Reserve'.

professional help in expediting the idea with Els being Creative Director for the project. What a great offer by such a capable and talented graphic artist. At an official WAG meeting in October, suggestions and ideas began to come together – consequently we look forward to consolidating these ideas under the creative eye of Els.

Curating CASP Grant Awarded

In mid July Susan Conroy from Southern Tablelands Arts approached us to apply for a CASP grant to work with a tutorial team from Campbelltown Arts Centre to enhance some of the skills involved in curating our various exhibitions – a very time consuming project. In early December we received the grant and will proceed under the direction of the Campbelltown curatorial team. My thanks to Roswitha Giersch for her many hours of help, typing, co-operation and suggestions. Also the letters of support from Wollondilly Council Mayor Matthew Deeth, Rob Moran and the team from the Campbelltown Arts Centre.



Picton Show Prize Winners

Our participation in the Picton show at the end of October was not strong, we had several exhibitors, several sales and won many prizes. Roswitha Giersch exhibiting in the Spinning & Weaving section, won two Firsts, two Seconds, a Highly Commended and a Championship Prize. In the Art section, Betty Peachy won a First and Heritage prize, Marie Ewing-Terry a First and two Seconds, Doreen Lyon won a First and a Highly Commended.

WAG14 – A Team Effort

Our final showing was the WAG14 Annual Members Exhibition at the



November Creative Get Together Workshop held at Picton Botanical Gardens 'En Plein Air' run by Steve Underwood.

end of October at the Council Art Space. Rob & Janet Dalton prepared the on-line entry forms, web pages plus the artwork and organised printing of the promotional posters, invitations etc. Natalia Rudnicki collected and collated all entries and supervised newspaper articles, husband Chris did all professional labels. Els Dirickx spent all day up the ladder hanging works, assisted by Rob & Janet & Edla Arzey; Roswitha had everything sorted and organised for the overall success of the exhibition; Doreen Lyon and Sue Southwood assisted with afternoon tea. Councillor Judith Hannan stepped in to open the show and Frank Kaiser-Lauderbach took photos. Rob Moran and Danae were our Council support – a team effort once again.

And the WAG14 winners were!

Peoples Choice Award:

Ingrida Spole, 'Majesty'

Peoples Choice Miniature:

Betty Peachy, 'Bargo River Reserve'

Raffle Winner: Terry Pout

Main Exhibition Works Sold:

Doreen Lyon; Julie Phillips;
Trish Whitfield; Natalia Rudnicki.

Miniatures Sold: Ingrida Spole;
Pam Berrell; Julie Phillips; Bev Stack.

'En Plein Air' Workshop

The last workshop for 2019 was our November CGT held at Picton Botanical Gardens 'En Plein Air' run by Steve Underwood.

Ingrida Spole reports her thoughts

about the day – thanks Ingrida!:

"The 'En Plein Air' workshop was a great success. The weather was kind, not too hot and we were protected from the wind for the majority of the day".

"After scouting around we chose a spot near the pond. This provided water, a near and distant view. Some had never tried en plein air before and one person had not even really painted before".

"Steve gave us some general



pointers, especially regarding what to decide about what to include in our composition. He was extremely busy all day helping people with their work. Thank you Roswitha for providing a wonderful morning and afternoon tea".

"At the conclusion of the day everyone was more than happy with their efforts and how the day has played out. We didn't all fully complete a work but I think we gained an appreciation of the difficulties of painting outside and Steve gave us lots of useful guidance. Overall we thought it was a great success and people were eager to do it again".

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN GESSO

By Leanne Perry.

Gesso is used to prime a canvas or a wooden surface before painting to make it smooth and give your work a consistent texture. It also protects the canvas fibres and gives





flexibility to the surface. There are many recipes online for making your own Gesso using ingredients that are available in any \$2 shop.

The best recipes I found after searching for hours and watching demonstration videos, used Baby Powder. The Make You Own Gesso video I watched listed the following necessities and ingredients:

- An empty jar, stirring stick or plastic spoon, measuring spoons or cups.
- One quarter cup of baby powder,
- One quarter cup of simple white school glue,
- A half cup of white acrylic paint,
- 4 tablespoons of warm water.

That's a ratio of 1 part talc / 1 part glue / and 2 parts paint. The water is just to make the mixing easier and allow you to obtain the consistency you prefer by altering the amount.

I needed a fairly large amount of Gesso to cover my board so I doubled each ingredient as I added it to my empty jar, trying to stick to the ratio 1:1:2. I quickly blended out lumps with a pencil, popped the lid on and gave it a good shake.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hA5DwMUPTDc>

When I applied it using a wide paint brush, it was a little too thick to glide on easily, so after struggling to cover the entire surface I dipped my brush in water and brushed over the whole thing to give me a nice smooth surface to paint on. Back to the video:

A demonstrator shows a comparison of Baby Powder Gesso / Plaster of Paris Gesso / expensive Liquitex Gesso and no Gesso at all.

- No Gesso was a disaster,
- The plaster Of Paris example cracked and
- The example using baby powder

was almost identical to the store-bought Liquitex Gesso.

Good Luck.

Leanne Perry

A Sense of Wonder

Congratulations to WAGs Sue Southwood for her short story titled 'A Sense of Wonder' which was one of the 100 chosen from over 600 entries in the NSW Seniors Card 'Seniors Stories Vol.5'. Sue's story appears on page 22 of the 208 page volume which is available at NSW libraries and can be downloaded as a .pdf from

<https://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/news-activities/seniors-stories>

Storage – An On-going Problem

Thanks to Rob & Janet Dalton, Ingrida Spole and Roswitha & Thomas Giersch for organisation, transportation and storage of all the exhibition equipment for 2019.

Also thank you to the Picton Theatre Group for making some of their valuable temporary storage space available after WAGs loss of the usage of the Scout Hall in Mason Street. Both groups are desperate for adequate, weather proof storage of props, costumes, painting and exhibition equipment. Government assistance is required to keep these two Community Groups (and their assets) viable.

WHAT'S ON CREATIVE GET TOGETHERS, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS etc:

Wollondilly Arts Group

Creative Get Together

Saturday 8th February

**Taara Gardens Hall
25 Estonian Rd, Thirlmere
10.00pm – 12.30pm**



Please join us for creative endeavours, fun and chats. Work on your own project or gain knowledge from our established members. New members most welcome. Morning tea provided. \$3. Members, \$5 non members.

WAG Executive Committee

President..... Pam Berrell
Vice President..... Natalia Rudnicki
Treasurer Marjorie Kaye
Secretary..... Natalia Rudnicki
Publicity..... Natalia Rudnicki
Public Officer..... Janet Dalton
Website/
Newsletter Rob Dalton

Ordinary Committee Members

Edla Arzey; Janet Dalton;
Rob Dalton; Doreen Lyon;
Betty Peachey; Julie Phillips;
Sue Southwood.

Visit Our Web Site!

Wollondilly Arts Group welcomes your feedback. Go to:
www.wollondillyartsgroup.com.au
and the WAG 'what is on' page.



or visit us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WollondillyArtsGroup>



We are supported by
Southern Tablelands Arts
and Wollondilly Shire Council

To submit an article please
contact Rob Dalton
dalton@bigpond.net.au



Address all correspondence to:
The Secretary,
Wollondilly Arts Group Inc.
PO Box 799
Picton NSW 2571
or
email: Natalia Rudnicki
artngraphics.nrud@gmail.com

**"A good painting to me has
always been like a friend.
It keeps me company,
comforts and inspires"**

Hedy Lamarr