ADFAS AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE



Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

2021 has set all ADFAS Societies on unique paths due to restrictions on overseas lecturers. Hobart has managed by the generosity of Tasmanians who have accepted our request to present lectures. We all held our breath for our last lecturer, Philip Bailey, to finally get to Hobart from Sydney and his lecture on Yehudi Menuhin was outstanding. Your committee is now feeling confident to book lecturers from interstate for the latter part of this year and you will receive the program shortly. The new-look ADFAS website was launched in January and you can find short talks, articles, links to exhibitions. <u>www.adfas.org.au</u>

Recently you were sent the National e-newsletter, ADFAS *Insights*, which is designed to provide an update to all Australian members. If you are having difficulties in receiving this, please let a committee member know. Our local Hobart newsletter will have 3 editions per year. Hobart now has its own Facebook site.

For those of you who are missing the overseas lectures, The Arts Society (TAS), United Kingdom's newsletter gives you access to the lecturers who would normally be visiting Australia. You can freely subscribe by hitting the link below. This month, there is an article on canal boats and last month, Toby Faber gave a lecture on Carl Faberge's Russian Easter eggs. https://mailchi.mp/theartssociety/become-an-instant-expert-on-our-historic-canals?e=f1002cea4f

Whilst holidaying in Queensland, I attended the Gold Coast ADFAS lecture in Southport. If you are travelling, I encourage you to contact one of our 38 societies through our national website as you will be given a warm welcome.

At a local level, our next tour for members is to The Allport Collection at The State Library of Tasmania. You will receive information from our hard-working Secretary, Rosemary Sargison, who is managing Try-Booking to ensure an easier method of booking.

We have been recently advised by UTAS that restrictions on guests in the Stanley Burbury Theatre has been lifted to allow a 75% capacity of LT1 and LT2. The university is looking at full capacity after 12th July. As a result, both the John Simons lecture on 10th May and Jan Dineen lecture on 5th July will be at 6.00 pm only. We await notice from the university on further lectures.

Lorraine Polglase CHAIRMAN Ph: 041 555 8256 Email: <u>adfas.lorraine@gmail.com</u>

Gemma Black and the Book of Kells

Gemma is an artist and calligraphic designer, based in Tasmania. Gemma was a recipient of a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship to study in Europe. This allowed her to research, observe and learn the practice of calligraphy. On February 22nd, Gemma gave an entertaining look at Ireland's national treasure, the Book of Kells. Gemma covered the background, the calligraphy and illumination, the pigments and tools used, and some of the history and the mystery of this astonishing manuscript.



Sally Ledford and Jan Holmes



Margie and Nick Shirley



Nick Stilwell, Joan von Bibra and Alice Stilwell



John Hunter and Bev Richardson



Bernadette Large and Robyn Saunders

Philip Bailey on Menuhin, March Lecture

Philip Bailey was the March Lecturer for ADFAS Hobart. In order to comply with the venue (UTAS Hobart) Covid social distancing requirements Philip Bailey needed to present two back-to-back sessions.

Philip spoke compellingly about the life and music of Yehudi Menuhin. He first encountered the great violinist as a boy, attending an afternoon concert with his uncle at the Sydney Town Hall. Years later, in England, Philip accepted a position and worked for twenty-two years as secretary and personal assistant to Yehudi. Naturally such a close relationship allowed Philip to understand the influences and nuances of Menuhin's long life.

The lecture led the audience from the early years of the musical prodigy and his family in the US through his performance career to the establishment of the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey, England. Occasional musical interludes helped the listeners better understand Menuhin's extraordinary talents as well as aspects of his life. Philip concluded the lecture by quoting the poignant inscription on Menuhin's grave, "He who makes music in this life, makes music in the next."

Kathy Rundle (Committee member)



Roslyn Nixon and Julia Sutherland



Rosie Laver and Diane Bye



Robyn Saunders and Sandy Gumley

News of Lucienne Rickard

ADFAS Members will remember Lucienne Rickards' wonderful program, Extinction Studies which ran the TMAG's Link Building through 2019-20. On April 5, 2021 Lucienne began another personal story at TMAG. Titled Ecology Studies, this project is again funded by the local arts benefactor, *Detached*. Lucienne is working in graphite on a raw plaster surface presenting images of the flesh footed shearwater, whose numbers have suffered a dramatic loss in more recent years. ADFAS members and their families are urged to visit TMAG and talk with Lucienne about her drawings and her deep interest in ecology.

Kathy Rundle (Committee member)

The Glover Prize 2021

The Glover Prize is one of the most prestigious landscape annual awards in Australia. The John Glover Society Inc acquires the winning work each year for its collection.

The 2021 Glover Prize attracted a total of 640 entries from every Australian State and Territory along with entries from UK, USA, New Zealand, France, Italy, Japan, Bangladesh, Rumania, Iran, Thailand and Belgium. Two hundred and 66 Tasmanian artists entered the competition, and 42 finalists were selected by the judges to be in contention for the \$50,000 cash prize. These works were hung at Evandale in March.

This year a 31-year-old Tasmanian artist claimed the coveted prize with his unique circular oil on copper piece. Sebastian Galloway, who has won a number of prizes since his student days at Elizabeth College, "blew the judges away" with his work *View of Mt. Lyell through an Acid Raindrop*. After achieving his Bachelor of Fine Arts at The Tasmanian School of Art in 2013, Sebastian has been praised for his atmospheric scenarios. His artist statement reads:

"Although the environment of Queenstown is slowly healing, its Mars-like landscapes are as striking as ever, a persisting testament to over a century of copper mining. As the trees on the hills were felled for building and firewood, acid rain, caused by sulphur dioxide emitted by the copper smelting process, fell to earth and further transformed the landscape. The barren hills of exposed rock remain as stark evidence of an environmental catastrophe, yet they bear a strange and otherworldly beauty and are captivating for many."

Kathy Rundle (Committee member)



Sebastian Galloway, with his winning painting. (Oil on copper, Sassafras frame, 85x95cm 2021) *Image: Examiner.com.au accessed 18/04/2021*

Patricia Giles

ADFAS Hobart joins with members of the wider Tasmanian Art community in recognising Patricia Giles. Trish died in March this year after a long life as a practicing artist and supporter of the arts. Her paintings and skills as an artist are highly regarded and celebrated by many collections and she was a treasured friend to many people.



Patricia Giles

Image: <u>www.abc.net.au</u>. Accessed 18/04/2021 Trish was born in Hobart, studied art at the Hobart Technical College and was active member of the Art Society of Tasmania. She was a valued contributor of the Tasmanian watercolourist school and especially "The Sunday Painters". Trish loved the Tasmanian landscape and with her painting companions championed many special locations including Lake Pedder, the East Coast and the highlands. She also painted closer to her Sandy Bay home and her oeuvre included still life. Her loose confident stokes of colour and her pencil lines captured landscapes, seascapes, as horizons. Her passion extended to Tasmanian flora and birds. Many recent exhibitions featured the currawong motif. Trish is represented by the Colville Gallery.

The 2019 publication by Alison Alexander, Patricia Giles "The Waking Dream of Art", is an excellent work and was written alongside Patricia. This book incorporates many of Trish's stories and recollections and is illustrated extensively with her works.

Kathy Rundle (Committee member)

Salute to Tony Colman

We were saddened to hear of the death of Tony Colman, in October last year. Tony was a member of the current committee of ADFAS Hobart and had been a member of the society since 2015. Tony was very generous with his time, knowledge and skills and we acknowledge his contribution to the society.

He contributed much to the fabric of various Tasmanian institutions and had given to the community in many ways. Apprenticed as a French Polisher to F H Vallance & Sons, Hobart, Tony developed a passion for everything old.

After establishing Ashmore Antiques in Richmond in 1969, Tony became very involved in the local community. He was founding member of the Richmond Tourist Council, Richmond Fair Committee and a member of the Coal River Products Association.

Tony influenced the restoration and conservation of many of Tasmania's important buildings. He undertook the following:

- Extensive interior work at St Patrick's Church, Colebrook; the most minimalist Pugin church in the world
- Commissions to conserve valuable items in St David's Cathedral and St Marys' Cathedral
- Maintenance of the original heritage content of the House of Assembly at Parliament House, Hobart, as well as Government House and the Hobart City Council Collection
- Establishment of Government House State Room furniture tours
- Conservation of wooden objects at the Female Factory
- Major restoration of the buildings at Port Arthur
- Internal restoration of the old Hobart Savings Bank building, as well as Sandy Bay homes, "The Elms" and "Waimea"
- Restoration of the MONA collection and the interior of the Alcorso residence
- The set up the Heritage Furniture Restoration Unit at TMAG 1998
- Restoration of 3 Hobart trams for the Hobart City Council
- Influential in the restoration and interpretation of the heritage display of crockery and furniture at the Coffee Palace on Maria Island. This was a special project for Tony, as his grandmother had once run the Coffee Palace.

Tony was the Preferred Conservator for the Heritage Council and National Trust. He was passionate about architecture and the future of Hobart's development. He was interested in old pubs, rugby, vintage cars and Tasmanian social history.

Jenny Holmes (Vice Chairman)

Narryna Special Interest Day

On April 28th an ADFAS special interest group visited Narryna for a rich experience of early colonial life. With wonderful gardens flowering in recently replanted glory, the group engaged in a tour which followed the lives of Haigs' servants. They toured the elegant building which showcases collections of paintings and furniture, decorative arts and costume.

As only 20 ADFAS members were able to undertake this special interest tour and enjoy a Narryna morning tea, we encourage all members to visit Narryna when they have time, especially on Tuesday morning when the Servants Lives tour is offered.

Guides, Scott Carlin, Manager of Narryna and Felicity Hickman provided professional expertise during the tours and joined the group for morning tea in the sunny courtyard of Narryna.



Sandy Gumley, Rodney Cameron Tucker, Guide Felicity Hickman and Helen Cameron Tucker enjoy tea in the courtyard.

Kathy Rundle (Committee member)



Scott Carlin chats with Sean Collins over morning tea.

Looking Forward to 2021

Lectures to follow:

John Simons	Picturing the Kangaroo	May 10th
Jan Dineen	A Special Place	July 5th
Raymond Arnold	The Egotistical Sublime: a lecture about artists and the West Coast of Tasmania	August 9th

ADFAS Hobart Committee 2021

Lorraine Polglase (Chairman) Jenny Holmes (Vice Chairman) Sherryl Stephensen (Secretary/Public Officer) Rosemary Sargison (Administration Secretary) Tiina Sexton (Treasurer) Biz Ritchard (Membership Secretary) Dale Anning (Committee member) Kathy Rundle (Committee member) Juliet Stephens (Committee member) John Williamson (Committee member)