



NEWSLETTER

Number: 2210 (147)

October 2022



From the chair



Dear Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe we are nearly in November. The year seems to be finishing in a rush, as it always does. The days are certainly getting longer, the spring gardens are looking wonderful and one day I suppose the sun will actually come out.

I'm very much looking forward to Peter McPhee's lecture on the Paris of the Impressionists on the 5th November, the last in our series for 2022.

Remember that this lecture will still be at Carrington but in the room that is under the Rock Salt Restaurant. Some will recall that we had a couple of lectures there a few years ago. You can park in the usual spot and get the lift down. Peter has given more directions, and we will be there to point you in the right direction if needed.

After two COVID years of lockdowns and lockups we will at last be able to hold an AGM 'in the flesh' on 26 November! Immediately following the AGM will be our Christmas celebration and the presentation by Pauline Downing and Colin Howie on William Macarthur's Garden, both of which I am greatly looking forward to.

We will be treated to champagne on arrival (we intend to toast the year!) and our Christmas sub-committee are very busy planning the catering. Please join us!

And we are also busy with planning for the 2023 lecture program. We think it is a program with a great deal to offer.

The first lecture, next March, has the title '1968: The year that changed the direction of art.' I have a vague memory of 1968. I wish I could say that I was carefully monitoring world events. Truthfully, I think my interests at the time didn't get any further than when the Beatles might visit again. It seems I missed a lot and I'm very interested to learn about the events that 'changed the direction of art'.

We look forward to seeing all of you on 5 November to enjoy the *Paris of the Impressionists!*

Linda

Linda Inglis, Chairman,



COMING EVENTS

LECTURE 8

The PARIS of the IMPRESSIONISTS 1860-1900

Presented by:

Prof Peter McPhee, AM

We celebrate iconic paintings such as Claude Monet's *Impression, soleil levant* (1872) and Pierre Auguste Renoir's *Dance at the Moulin de la Galette* (1876) as marking the triumph of 'Impressionism' in France, one of the most recognizable and cherished of all painting styles. Where did it come from? How might we understand its origins and how it relates to other 'schools' of the nineteenth century? This lecture situates Impressionism in its Parisian historical context and asks questions about the history of artistic 'taste'.

Saturday 5 November 2022

11.30 am for 12.00 Noon

**Under the Rock Salt Restaurant
Carrington Care**

Gate 2, 90 Werombi Road, Grasmere NSW 2570

For COVID and CATERING reasons BOOKINGS would be appreciated (See below for booking details)

XX

AGM

Saturday 26 November 2022

11.30 am for 12.00 Noon

Carrington Recreation Centre

Gate 2, 90 Werombi Road, Grasmere NSW 2570

XX

For more information & bookings, contact:

Secretary: Gaylene Feld

Mob: 0417 659 587

Email: gfeld@bigpond.com

In this Edition

Page 2 has some important reminders in **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS** along with information on the change in venue for our next lecture on 5 November.

On **page 3** you will find a note on nominating for Committee together a Notice of the 2022 AGM and Christmas Function, (26 November) including booking details for the latter.

Congratulations to nonagenarian Peter Hayward on **page 4**.

Also on **page 4** is an article compiled by Gaylene Feld on that incredibly long lasting stage play by Agatha Christie, **The Mousetrap**.

To **page 5** and Paul Gregson brings to our attention *The Signwriter's Art in the Community*, continuing the discussion on where craft ends and art begins.

Gaylene (**page 6**) then provides a very interesting note on Frenchman Jean-François Champollion, who solved the mystery of Egyptian hieroglyphs and is credited with being the founding father of Egyptology.

Page 8 concludes this issue with a note on the upcoming **Sydney Festival 2023** and a preview of the presentation by members Colin Howie and Pauline Downing on 26 November.

Ed

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please don't forget to book for our **AGM/Christmas function** to be held on 26 November. See details on Page 2

The cost is a mere \$25 per person and for catering purposes it would be appreciated if you could make your bookings by 19 November.

And a couple of other reminders:

MEMBERSHIP FEE for 2023 is \$145

Don't forget to log on to the ADFAS website from time to time and catch up on news and updates from the Association and other Societies.

The Association website address is:

www.adfas.org.au

Getting to the venue for the lecture on 5 November

Our last lecture for 2022 will be held in the hall beneath the ROCK SALT RESTAURANT which is behind the Carrington Recreation Centre.

The following directions should assist those who are unfamiliar with the location.



Park as normal but instead of taking the main entrance to the Recreation Centre, enter via the veranda to the left of the main entrance.

This is signposted to the Gym.

Go to the end of the veranda and turn right.



Turn left once you are past the Gym.

You will find a lift and stairs in front of you.

Take the lift to the lowest level and exit.

The hall is but a few paces from the lift.



It is all wheelchair friendly and guides will be there to offer assistance on the day.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2022 / 2023

Nominations will be accepted for the following Committee positions:

Executive Committee: Chairman; Vice chairman; Secretary; Treasurer
Committee members: Ten (10) positions

Nominations should be with the Secretary by 18 November, 2022

Please contact Chairman, Linda Inglis, if you would like a nomination form.

ADFAS Camden

AGM

Annual Reports
Election of Office bearers and Committee

Presentation

William Macarthur's Garden: A Legacy
Pauline Downing & Colin Howie

Christmas Party

Champagne, wine, juices
Savoury & sweet finger foods
Special raffles



Venue: Carrington Recreation Centre, Gate2 90 Werombi Road Grasmere

Time: 11.30 for 12.00 noon

Date: Saturday 26 November, 2022

Cost: \$ 25 per person

Booking: (For catering purposes, please book by 16 November, 2022)

BOOK with: Gaylene at gjfeld@bigpond.com or phone 0417 659 587 or
Pamela at hartraff@bigpond.com.au or phone 0412 311 194

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or EFT.

Cheques payable to ADFAS Camden Inc.†

EFT details: Macarthur Credit Union, Camden
BSB: 802 388; A/C: 100026197

If paying by EFT please ensure you include your name so that we can identify your payment.



Congratulations!! Peter Hayward, OAM

On 13 October, foundation member and staunch supporter of ADFAS Camden., Peter Hayward OAM celebrated his 90th birthday.

In congratulating him on achieving another of life's milestones we would like to pass on to our readers a message received from Lee Stratton, Hon Secretary of Camden History Society, of which he and his wife Nikki have been very active members for many years

'Today, Life Member and Past President Peter Hayward OAM celebrates his 90th birthday. For newer members who may not be aware of his invaluable service to the Society briefly some achievements are:

'Peter was President for three years 2000 - 2003, Vice President 2002 - 2008 and served for 25 years on our Committee. From 1997 - 1999 he was Project Director of the Society's Camden Museum extension resulting in tripling the size of the museum.

'Life membership was conferred on both Peter and wife Nikki in 2006.

"Peter has been a pillar of the community for many years and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia 2006.

'The citation reads: 'For service to the community of Camden through a range of church, historical and business organisations'

'Our best wishes go to Peter on this happy occasion'

Lee Stratton
Hon. Secretary



Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* recently opened at the Theatre Royal Sydney and has had many positive reviews and will run until 30th October. From here the drama will go to Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne.

It is the world's longest running play and for almost 70 years *The Mousetrap* has kept millions of people from around the world on the edge of their seats.

The Mousetrap is a murder mystery play and opened in London's West End in 1952, running continuously until March 2020. Performances had to be discontinued during the Covid 19 Pandemic. It reopened May 2021.

It has been the longest running play in the world with its 27,500th performance taking place on 18th September, 2018.

'Highly Entertaining'
- LIMELIGHT

The play has a twist ending, which the audiences are traditional asked not to reveal after leaving the theatre.

There are eight members of the cast and by 2012 more than 400 actors had played the various roles. Richard Attenborough was the original Detective Sergeant Trotter and his wife Sheila Sim, the first Mollie Ralston.



Originally, a short radio play, it was written as a birthday gift for Queen Mary. It was broadcast by the name *Three Blind Mice*.

Christie asked that the story not be published as long as it ran as a play in the West End of London. The short story has not been published in the UK but it has appeared in the United States in the collection, *Three Blind Mice and Other Stories*.

'The Mousetrap delivers everything adored by legions of Christie Fans' - Suzy Goes See

When Christie wrote the play she gave the rights to her grandson.

In the UK, only one production of the play in addition to the West End can be performed annually, and under the contract terms of the play, no film can be produced until the West End production has been closed for at least six months.

The play was renamed *The Mousetrap* and as a stage play, it premiered at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham in 1952.

Christie herself did not expect *The Mousetrap* to run for such a long time. "Fourteen months, I am going to give it", said Peter Saunders. "It won't run that long. Eight months perhaps" was Christie's reply.

The play has also made theatrical history by having an original cast member (Deryck Guyler) survive all the cast changes since its opening.

The set was changed in 1965 and again in 1999, but one prop has survived – the clock which sits on the mantelpiece of the fireplace in the main hall.

'The enjoyment level is so high and the cast is so entertaining. What fun' – *Deborah Jones*

A TWIST ENDING

The murderer's identity is divulged near the end of the play, in a twist ending that is unusual for 'whodunnit' plays where the cliché is that the detective solves the crime and exposes the remaining plot secrets.



St Martin's Theatre Covent Gardens, West End London

Compiled by **Gaylene Feld**

Resources
Wikipedia – en.wikipedia.org
Theatre Royal advertisements
Todaytix.com

'Traditional' signwriters use methods that do not depend on technology - they will set out a sign with chalk and write it by eye in freehand. They have their own individual lettering styles, yet also have the ability to render standard fonts closely to brand when required. They draw or paint signs by hand using a variety of paints depending on the background i.e. enamel paint for vehicles and general signs, and water-based paints for short-term window signs.

Very few signwriters practice the traditional craft today. However, we have in our local community such a person. MIKE WEBBER who, with his wife Joan, operates a business under the banner of M & J Signs in Narellan, has spent his career, following an apprenticeship under eminent signwriters, plying the traditional practices.



Fully hand painted boxing mat

I met Mike over a decade ago when I had a job that needed to be done by an experienced 'brush hand'. I had watched him from time to time working on different tasks and thought he may be the right person for my task at hand. The job called for reverse wording on glass with genuine gold lettering and four colours including the background, displaying 'Windsor and Newton's Artist's Materials'. It was completed perfectly.

Many of you will have seen Mike around Camden and Narellan in his white overalls, adding seasonal greetings on shop windows for Christmas or touching up their awnings. For instance, you may have been impressed in recent years by the Christmas window displays at Tildsley's in Camden, or further afield at Authentic Flowers at Mittagong.



THE SIGNWRITER'S ART IN THE COMMUNITY

Paul Gregson

Today, the work we see of the signwriter is usually very public, telling us where to go, what to do (or not do), directional or advertorial. The sign may be of many fonts and colours; it may be comical or ambiguous, even to some – stupid. The works or design may or may not be at the discretion of the maker.

The term 'modern signwriters' is somewhat of a misnomer when applied to most modern exponents, as most do not use the traditional brush as the method of application. They may use vinyl masking screens designed to replicate traditional signwriting. They frequently employ computer software and a range of equipment such as large format digital printers, plotters, cutters, flat bed routers and engraving.

His work is sought after for all manner of interests, such as the collector market for motoring paraphernalia, vehicles, florists, etc.

Although he is familiar with the 'modern' methods his desire is to keep all of his work now by hand. Many and varied examples of his craftsmanship can be found in our local area.

The Rail Museum at Thirlmere requests his hand during the refurbishment of their rolling stock of different vintages. Those steam buffs among the readers will find an example of his work on the pride of the fleet – the streamlined locomotive 3801.



When I rescued it the Arnott's chair had little to save other than its components. After I rebuilt it, Mike was given the task of decorating it to its original specifications which he was able to replicate exactly.



The 'Arnott's' chair or 'Arnott's Biscuit's' shop chair was commissioned in Australia by Arnott's Biscuits Company between 1920 and 1940. These chairs of painted wood and transfer decoration were installed in grocery shops around the country as point of sales advertising. The seat was raised slightly higher than a normal chair so that the customer could sit at the counter while doing their shopping.

The original chairs had 'This chair is the property of William Arnott Limited' stamped under the seat.

Mike is often asked 'Do you do that by hand?' To which he is known to reply 'Not really – I mostly use a brush!'



So when next you are attracted to a display or a window decoration, have a close look and see if you can pick out if it was done with creativity, artistry – and a brush.

There are not too many craftsmen like Mike around so admire what can be done and you never know there may be a Camden milk cart around screaming out for his touch.

JEAN-FRANCOIS CHAMPOLLION
Gaylene Feld & Ed.

Some of you may have watched a recent TV series on Egypt and might recall that one episode focussed on French historian and linguist, Jean-François Champollion (1790 – 1832).

Champollion's major claim to fame is as the decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs and he is also credited with being a founding figure in the field of Egyptology.



Jean-Francois Champollion, 1823, holding his list of phonetic hieroglyphic signs. *Portrait by Victorine-Annelique- Amelie Rumilly*

However, he was also a very interesting and rather complex individual and something of a child prodigy.

By the age of 16, when most of us have just about become proficient in our mother tongue he had apparently mastered six ancient oriental languages as well as Latin and Greek and had presented his first public paper to the academy of Grenoble in which he asserted, incorrectly as it turned out, that Coptic was the ancient language of Egypt.

For many years scholars had wondered as to the meaning of the Egyptian hieroglyphs. During the early nineteenth century, French culture in particular became engulfed in what has been described as ‘Egyptomania’ as a result of Napoleon’s discoveries during his campaign there between 1798 and 1801. The meaning or function of the hieroglyphic script became the subject of much academic debate, and attracted the interest of Champollion who became obsessed with deciphering these strange symbols.

The discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 by a member of the French Expedition, an officer named Bouchard, stimulated the interest of scholars on both sides of the English Channel. The Stone carries inscriptions of hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek texts. It was called the Rosetta Stone because it was discovered in the city of Rosetta which is a port city of the Nile Delta, 56 Km northeast of Alexandria.



FILE – The Rosetta Stone

The British seized the Stone in 1801 during the dying days of the French campaign in Egypt and it is currently housed in the British Museum.

Over the couple of decades following the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, English physicist, Thomas Young had limited success in deciphering the hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone, but it was Champollion who was

able to finally solve the riddle. He was fluent in the Coptic language and noted the similarities between some Coptic words and the hieroglyphic text on the Stone and that became his starting point. He was also fluent in Greek, one of the other texts represented on the Stone.

A major breakthrough came when he realised that the six identical cartouches in the hieroglyphics on the Stone carried the name of Ptolemy, also proving a long-held assumption that the cartouches found in many other inscriptions enclosed the names of royalty. This became the key to unlocking the mystery of the hieroglyphic language.

He was the first to realise that some of the hieroglyphs were alphabetic, some were syllabic and some were determinative representing an idea or object previously expressed. By noting the direction in which birds and animals faced he was also able to establish in which direction a particular inscription was to be read.

Interestingly, he was also able to determine that the hieroglyphic text on the Rosetta Stone was a translation from the Greek and not the reverse, as had been assumed by others.

1821-22 saw the beginning of a stream of papers published by Champollion on the hieroglyphic and demotic texts on the Rosetta stone. In fact, he was ultimately able to establish an extensive list of hieroglyphic signs and their Greek equivalents. In addition to an Egyptian grammar (1836-41) and dictionary (1841-43) published after his death in 1832, his published works during his lifetime included *Primer of the Hieroglyphic System of the ancient Egyptians* (1824), and *Egyptian Pantheon; or, Collection of the Mythological Figures of Ancient Egypt* (incomplete, 1823-25).

In 1829 Champollion travelled to Egypt where he was able to read many hieroglyphic texts that had never before been studied and returned to France with new drawings of hieroglyphic texts. He was given a professorship in Egyptology but only lectured a few times before his health, ruined by the hardships of the Egyptian journey, forced him to give up teaching. He died in Paris in 1832, at 41 years of age.

In case you are left wondering, the inscription on the Stone, written in 196 BC, represents a letter of thanks and gratitude from a group of priests of the city of Memphis to King Ptolemy V for exemption of the temples from paying some fees.

Why was the stone inscribed in three languages? Hieroglyphs were the formal script used by priests and in inscriptions; demotics were a shorthand version of hieroglyphs, used by scribes in documents; and the Greek script represented the very strong Greek influence in Egypt at the time and from around 500 BC. So the message to King Ptolemy V was able to be read by not only the king but also by scribes and priests and others who may have been able to read.



Grave of Champollion in Pere Lachaise Cemetery ,Paris

Resources

Wikipedia. En.wikipedia.org
Egypttoday.com
Egyptfwd.org

WHAT'S ON AT OTHER SOCIETIES?

ADFAS Blue Mountains:

Next lecture: Friday 28 October at 2.00 pm, Wentworth Falls School of Arts, Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls.

Robert & Catherine Ketton will present '*Turner – the Explorer*'.
(Contact: bluemountains@adfas.org.au)

ADFAS Bowral & District:

Next lecture: Wednesday 2 November at 5.00 pm Bradman Museum 7 Cricket Hall of Fame, St Jude St, Bowral.

Robert Ketton will present '*Speak the Speech I Pray you: Hamlet's advice to the Players. Hamlet Act 3, Scene 2.*'
(Contact: secretary@adfasbowral.com)

ADFAS Ku-ring-gai:

Next lecture: Wednesday 2 November at 10.30 am and at 6.00 pm at Zenith Theatre, Chatswood.

Peter McPhee will present '*Painting the French Revolution*'.
(Contact: kuringgai@adfas.org.au)

ADFAS Molonglo Plains:

Next lecture: Thursday 27 October at 2.00 pm at the Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall, 253 Crawford St. Queanbeyan.

Peter McPhee will present '*Two Women Paint the French Revolution*'.
(Contact: adfasmembershipmolonglo@gmail.com)

ADFAS Newcastle:

Next lecture: Monday 31 October, at 6.30 pm at the Hunter Theatre, School of Performing Arts, Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow

Robert Ketton will present '*Turner: the Explorer*'
(Contact: Secretary@adfasnewcastle.org.au)

ADFAS Shoalhaven

Next lecture: Thursday 3 November at 7.30 pm at the Uniting Church Hall, 71-77 Alfred St, Berry.

Robert Ketton will present '*Learn the lines and don't fall over the furniture.*' (Contact: shoalhaven@adfas.org.au)

Programmes & contact details for ALL Societies are available on the ADFAS website: www.adfas.org.au

**Sydney
Festival
2023**

5-29 January, 2023

The preview Guide for the 2023 Sydney Festival is now available, providing details of the wide range of exciting events to be held through Greater Sydney in January 2023.

There will be something for everyone in venues as far afield as Parramatta and Casula. For instance, in Parramatta, *Sydney Symphony Under the Stars* will perform (free) a special Lunar New Year's Eve celebration

For all pricing details, information and to book, visit:
Sydneyfestival.org.au

For disability access call 02 8248 6500 or email access@sydneyfestival.org.au

And a preview, too, of
William Macarthur's Garden: a Legacy
To be presented by
Colin Howie and Pauline Downing
Following our AGM on 26 November, 2022



Editor

Peter Claxton
4655 9781
pclaxton8@bigpond.com

ADFAS CAMDEN Inc.

Honorary Secretary

Gaylene Feld
0417 659 587

gjfeld@bigpond.com

PO Box 146 Camden NSW 2570
www.adfas.org.au