



NEWSLETTER

Number: 2212 (149)

December 2022



From the chair

On the 26th November we held our AGM followed by an end of year presentation and then the Christmas lunch. We were delighted to be able to lift a glass of champagne to toast the year and that so many of you were there to help us celebrate.



As I said at the AGM, we started lectures in 2022 rather apprehensively. We hadn't been able to hold a face-to-face lecture for two years! Would you come? But come you did, full of good cheer and bright conversation.

The people of Camden, Campbelltown and surrounds are community minded (and strong-minded!). In fact, during the year one of the lecturers asked me rather anxiously exactly how long he needed to speak for, as some Societies are apparently very strict, and I nearly blurted out something like 'Oh, around fifty minutes only as we really like to have lunch and a good chat'. But, I assure you all, I remembered to be tactful just in time.

In the event, we managed to hold all eight lectures, despite the threat of Camden floods.

And, following the AGM, members Pauline Downing and Colin Howie provided us with a very interesting lecture on the restoration of the Camden Park gardens, including many beautiful images that certainly inspired me.

At the AGM we made special presentations to two people. Peter Claxton is retiring (after the 150th issue in January) from his role as Newsletter editor and marketing materials, after more than 13 years in the role. And Judy Vermeulen is retiring from the Committee and her role in charge of catering. We greatly appreciate all that both Peter and Judy have contributed to ADFAS Camden.

Lectures for 2023 commence on 4 March and I am very much looking forward to learning how events in 1968 'changed the direction of art'. We certainly hope you can join us then.

For those who haven't paid their membership yet, payment details are provided once again in this issue of the Newsletter.

A very Merry Christmas to all of you and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year,

Linda

Linda Inglis, Chairman,

From the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

26 November, 2022

ANNUAL REPORT from the CHAIR



It is a pleasure to present a positive annual report after a number of challenging years.

In 2022 we have had a very successful return to our ADFAS program with eight lectures from Australian lecturers. Next year we will see a return of the UK lecturers.

Many people have contributed to the success of this year's program and my report this year is essentially much needed thankous.

First, to the Committee. Each lecture needs a good deal of behind-the-scenes preparation and then many tasks on the day. None of this could have been achieved without the commitment of the Committee members. Through false starts, sudden closures and uncertainty in the past few years they have remained unflappable, cheerful and determined that the show would go on.

Gaylene Feld has supported us by taking responsibility for many roles - as Vice Chair, Secretary, raffle co-ordinator, newsletter co-ordinator, and as a very active member of the 'sandwich team'. Thank you, Gaylene.

Pamela Hartley has supported us as Treasurer, managing our income from fees and all required expenditure. Her meticulous record-keeping is much appreciated. Thank you, Pam.

Susan Zamudio has supported us in her role as Membership Secretary, collating the essential member records and manning the front desk with Pam. Thank you, Susan.

Colin Howie has worked with commitment and much needed skill to ensure we have the images and sound needed for our lectures. Thank you, Colin.

In the catering area, thanks are due to Judy Vermeulen for co-ordinating the busy sandwich team. Thank you, Judy. Judy is now stepping down from the Committee, after seven years. We have greatly appreciated Judy's flair for organisation and efficiency through so many lectures and special interest programs.

And in the beverages area, thank you to Carla Hill and Jo Wong for efficiently having wine and juices ready for us at the end of every lecture. Thank you, Carla and Jo.

Our essential marketing has been organised by Gay Wilson (electronic marketing) and Linda Kable (hard copy). Thank you, Gay and Linda.

Paul Gregson has supported us by ensuring that the much-needed ADFAS signs have gone out for every lecture. Thank you, Paul.

I know I speak for all the Committee when I say how much we appreciate the ongoing support of Peter Claxton and particularly as the editor of our excellent Newsletter and as marketing material designer. Thank you, Peter. Peter will be retiring from these roles and will be greatly missed.

Among other things, I have greatly appreciated the fact that Committee members have been so willing to fill any gaps needed and that we have been supported by other members. Here I would like to particularly mention the raffle team, the sandwich team, technical support and the newsletter.

The raffle team have been very effective in bringing in much needed funds. Thank you again to Gaylene Feld and to Meredith Lawrie and to Gay Wilson and Jo Wong.

The sandwich team now have a stream-lined process and Judy has been supported by Gaylene Feld, Rosemary Beckinsale, Linda Kable and Carla Hill.

Thank you also to Ray Herbert for supporting us with all things technical when Colin was away.

Many people have contributed articles this year to make our newsletter so professional, entertaining and informative, including our editor Peter Claxton, Gaylene Feld, Pauline Downing, Colin Howie, Paul Gregson, Cliff Reece and Susan Zamudio. Many more of you have contributed over the years, as Peter acknowledged in his last newsletter.

We are very pleased to have our Honorary Auditor as our guest today. Alan Redman has been very supportive to ADFAS Camden over many years, checking and confirming our financial records. We were particularly grateful to have Alan's considerable experience to support us through the difficulties we faced in 2020, when we had taken membership fees but found ourselves in a position where we could not deliver a service. Through the procedures set in place by our Treasurer with the support of Alan, we managed to navigate our way through that time and ensure that our members were not disadvantaged. Thank you so much Alan.

In October we reviewed the projected costs of a sit-down AGM lunch at the venue we had booked in 2019 and found that those costs had risen significantly. We made a decision to change the planned format and to move back to our usual Carrington venue. We nominated a Sub-Committee to look after the planning and I am very grateful to all of them for their planning and hard work. Thank you, Judy, Gaylene,

Pam and Carla. Today they are being very efficiently supported by the rest of the Committee carrying out the numerous tasks required and also by Meredith Lawrie, Cliff Reece and Rob Wilson.

I would also like to thank the Carrington staff who have been very helpful to us, working with us to have the venue set up and the refreshments delivered to suit our needs.

Finally, I know I speak on behalf of all the Committee when I say thank you to all of you, our members. Through many challenges we have been buoyed by your positive attitude and support.

Some of you have been active ADFAS members since our Society was formed nearly 20 years ago. I make particular mention of our founders, Patricia Johnson and Nola Tegel. Many of you have been members for many years. Some of you have joined more recently and you are very welcome.

Through membership of the national Association, 38 ADFAS Societies across Australia provide lectures on the rich world of the arts and design. And at the local level our local Society provides friendship and community.

Thank you to all of you for supporting the ADFAS spirit.

Linda Inglis
Chair, 2022

... And from the **TREASURER**



More importantly to me than any previous year, has been the professional advice from our very generous auditor, Mr Alan Redman and his wife Jeanette. Every year, Alan welcomes me to sit at their dining table, present my books and just ramble on. The thing to note here is that

Alan is not a member of ADFAS and therefore has no inside knowledge of how we operate nor the intrinsic local decisions about our income and expenses. He does a wonderful job and at this stage I'd like to present a gift of thanks from ADFAS Camden. (Gift presented by Pam)

We have had a strange three financial years which began with the shutdown of ADFAS just one month after we accepted many of your 2020 fees. Having just one lecture in March 2020, we paid affiliation fees accordingly to the Association of ADFAS and popped the balance of your fees into our Balance Sheet Liabilities at the end of that year. Not being able to present anything again in 2021, we offered no memberships except to our 12 committee members and 4 life members. Your \$10,600 remained in our Liabilities.

Come 2022, with an Australian circuit in the offing, you were able to draw on your balance in our bank and pay just \$20.00 to become members once again. At this stage there is still \$1,875.00 still to be drawn down by past members who

may/will join up again in 2023. Having reminded you of that background, I can tell you that we have made (and don't get too excited) a **profit of \$1,308.86 this year, with around 75 members**. We have been excited by several new members and an increase in visitors. **Our Total Equity is \$17,801.58**

I say "don't get too excited" because we had to close our books on the 31st of October BEFORE our last lecture for 2022, as late as 5th November. That means not enough expenses in this financial year and too many expenses will go into 2023 year.

All in all, it has been a very happy year and I look forward to seeing new members and friends, and welcoming back our stalwart flock in 2023.

Pamela Hartley
Treasurer, 2022



ADFAS Camden AGM 2022

COMMITTEE 2023

Executive

Chair: Linda Inglis
Vice chair: Gaylene Feld*
Secretary: Gaylene Feld*
Treasurer: Pamela Hartley*

Committee Members:

Paul Gregson*
Carla Hill
Colin Howie*
Linda Kable*
Meredith Lawrie
Gay Wilson
Jo Wong
Susan Zamudio*

* Extension of term approved by vote of members at the AGM

AFTER THE AGM...enjoying the Xmas Luncheon



Program for 2023

4 March: 1968: THE YEAR THAT CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF ART

A series of major events in 1968 shook the world and artists responded to the changing times by making work that challenged the traditional assumptions of art.

Presented by: **Anna Moszynska** (TAS)

1 April: LEONARDO DA VINCI'S LA BELLA PRINCIPESSA - THE REAL THING?

Explores the recent controversy surrounding two works recently attributed to Leonardo da Vinci: *La Bella Principessa* and *Salvator Mundi*.

Presented by: **Jos Hackforth-Jones** (AUS)

6 May: THE STORY OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE

The Crystal Palace dominated the south London skyline for over 80 years until its tragic destruction by fire in 1936.

Presented by: **Ian Gledhill** (TAS)

3 June: ART NOUVEAU-AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Popular in Europe and the United States from 1890 – 1910, Art Nouveau was a decorative style that influenced architecture, fine art, illustration, advertising, jewellery, glass and furniture design - a "new art".

Presented by: **Claudia Chan Shaw** (AUS)

8 July: SINGING IN SECRET - BYRD

William Byrd led a complicated existence as a devout Catholic in troubled Tudor times, when to infringe strict religious rules ran the risk of imprisonment or even death.

Presented by: **Sandy Burnett** (TAS)

12 August: THE CULT OF GLORIANA

With reference to architecture and gardens, this lecture will focus chiefly on the portraits, miniatures and music of Elizabeth I's court.

Presented by: **Mark Cottle** (TAS)

9 September: TRAVELLERS AMONG MOUNTAINS AND STREAMS

This lecture invites you to explore Chinese landscape painting through the ages in an attempt to convey the development and evolution of this important tradition.

Presented by: **Marie Conte-Helm** (TAS)

7 October: ATHENS AND ROME: A tale of two cities

Athens and Rome were two of the most beautiful, powerful and important cities of the ancient world - Athens the home of democracy, the cradle of the arts, Rome the eternal city, the capital of the world.

Presented by: **Paul Roberts** (TAS)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2023 are now due.

Your committee has decided that **for the 2023 Lecture season the:**

MEMBERSHIP FEE will remain at \$145

If you have not already done so it would be appreciated if you could renew your membership by the 4 March.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer).

Cash: pay at the 4 March Lecture

Cheque: (payable to ADFAS Camden Inc.)

**EFT: Bank – Macarthur Credit Union Camden
BSB – 802 388
A/C No – 100026197**

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

For more information, or if your contact details have recently changed, please contact our:

Treasurer: Pamela Hartley (M: 0412 311 194;
E: hartraff@bigpond.com.au)

OR

Memb Sec: Susan Zamudio (M: 0499 636 885;
E: scherbs@bigpond.com)

And as we start to rebuild our membership post COVID, please invite relatives and friends to one or more of our lectures.

You may also consider giving a membership of ADFAS Camden to a relative or friend as a Christmas or Birthday present!

Just a reminder, too, for members to log on to the ADFAS website from time to time and catch up on news and updates from the Association.

The Association website address is:

www.adfas.org.au

NOTES:

- Your email address may be forwarded to ADFAS Travel for the sole purpose of receiving information relating to ADFAS tours. **You can unsubscribe at any time.**
- Public Liability Insurance of \$20 Million is held by ADFAS Camden under the insurance policy of the Association of ADFAS.
- **Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society Camden Inc** is registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission

At some stage in life I imagine each of us has sung or recited the song, **The Twelve Days of Christmas** but what do we know of its meaning or origins?

With Christmas 2022 almost upon us, Gaylene has been delving into these and other questions and has compiled the fruits of her very timely research in her contribution below....Ed

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

What are the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'?

The 12 days of Christmas, is the period in Christian theology, known as **Twelvetide**, marking the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi (the three wise men). It begins on 25th December, Christmas Day and goes through to 6th January, the Epiphany.

The four weeks prior to Christmas is known as Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on 24th December.

The Twelve Days of Christmas is a Christmas carol/song, which is an example of a cumulative song. The lyrics detail a series of increasingly numerous gifts given on each of the twelve days of Christmas.

The words of the song were first published in England in the late eighteenth century, with twelve verses, each describing a gift given by 'my true love' on one of the twelve days.



The Lyrics of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

There are many variations of the lyrics but those discussed here are from Frederic Austin's publication 1909 as these established the current form of the song.

The first three verses run in full as follows:-

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me
A partridge in a pear tree

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Two turtle doves
And a partridge in a pear tree

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Three French hens
Two turtle doves
And a partridge in a pear tree

The subsequent verses follow the same pattern with each verse adding a new gift:

- four calling birds
- five gold rings
- six geese a laying
- seven swans a swimming
- eight maids a milking
- nine ladies dancing
- ten lords a leaping
- eleven pipers a piping
- twelve drummers drumming

History of the Song

The history of the song is not fully known. The first recorded version appeared in a 1780 children's book called *Mirth Without Mischief*. Some historians think the song could be French in origin. Most agree it was designed as a memory and forfeits game where the singers were tested for their recall and had to award their opponents a forfeit, such as a kiss or a favour, if they made a mistake,

The work was heavily illustrated with woodcuts attributed to Thomas Bewick.



Illustration of 'Twelve Lords a Leaping' from *Mirth Without Mischief*

In some counties of northern England the song was called *The Ten Days of Christmas* since there were only ten gifts. The song was also known in Somerset, Dorset and other parts of England.

The kinds of gifts vary and some of them became 'alliterative tongue twisters'.

The Twelve Days of Christmas was also popular in the United States and Canada.

The song is NOT a coded primer on Christianity

A popular thought is that the lyrics are coded references to Christianity. It claims that the song was written to help Christians learn and pass on the tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution.

According to that theory the gifts allude to the following:

- 2 *turtle doves* – The Old and New Testaments
- 3 *French hens* – Faith, Hope and Charity
- 4 *calling birds* – the four gospels and/or the four Evangelists
- 5 *gold rings* – the first five books of the Old Testament
- 6 *geese a laying* – the six days of creation
- 7 *swans a swimming* – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 *maids a milking* – the eight beatitudes
- 9 *ladies dancing* – the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 *lords a leaping* – the Ten Commandments
- 11 *pipers piping* – the 11 faithful apostles
- 12 *drummers drumming* - the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

With the *partridge in a pear tree* representing Jesus Christ.

However this theory seems to have been largely debunked with claims of many holes in its logic...the song's gifts really have nothing to do with their supposed Christian equivalents and if Christians had to conceal messages in a song they also wouldn't be able to celebrate Christmas in the first place.

Some Interesting facts about the Song

Since 1984 PNC Bank has been tracking the price of giving each gift mentioned in the song with the PNC Christmas Price Index. The index uses current market rates to calculate how much each gift would cost (on average). On today's market this would be around **\$41,000. This is so high because the total number of gifts add up to 364** (the gifts are cumulative). *I wonder what the current market rate is for a single Lord a Leaping, let alone ten or twelve of them.* Ed.

A first edition of the children's book, *Mirth Without Mischief* sold for \$23,750 at a Sotheby's auction in 2014.

Variations of the Lyrics

Since first published in *Mirth Without Mischief* subsequent versions have displayed a number of variations of the words and sequence of gifts.

- In the earliest versions the word **on** is not present at the beginning of each verse. **On** was added in Austin's 1909 version and became popular from then on.
- In the early versions 'my true love sent' me the gifts. A 20th century variant has 'my true love gave to me'. This wording became common in North America.

- In one 19th century version, the gifts come from 'my mother'.
- Some versions gift a juniper tree or June apple tree rather than pear tree.
- The 1780 version has 'four colly birds' (colly being an English word meaning 'coal black'). Other versions have canary birds, coloured birds, culey birds and Corley birds. Frederic Austin's 1909 version 'standardised' the 4th day's gift to 'calling birds'.
- Five gold rings has often become five golden rings.
- In some versions the gifts associated with the final four days are reordered.

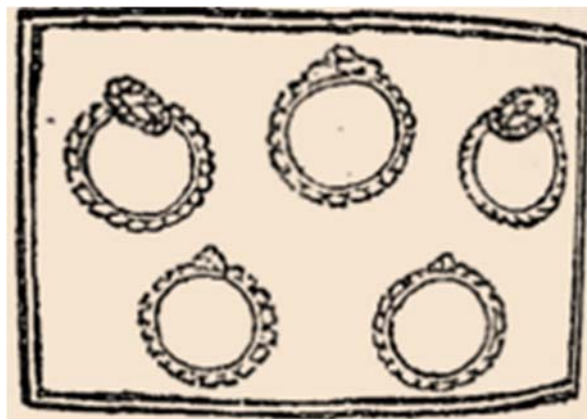


Illustration of "five gold rings", from the first known publication of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (1780)



The now standard melody for the song was popularised by the English Baritone and composer Frederic Austin.

Gaylene Feld

Resources

- vox.com
- goodhousekeeping.com
- en.wikipedia
- catholicnewsagency.com



And remaining on the seasonal theme, I could not resist sharing with you this shortish poem.....

CHRISTMAS CARDS

I have a list of folk I know, all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time I open it and look.
For each name stands for someone whose path
touched mine, and then;
Left such a sense of friendship that I want that touch
again.

And though it may seem trite of me to make this
solemn claim,
I really feel there's part of me in each remembered
name.
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere
routine,
With names upon a little list, forgotten in between.

See, when I send a Christmas card, and it's
addressed to you,
It's because you're on a list of folk that I'm indebted
to;
For every year, when Christmas comes, I realize
anew,
The biggest gift that life can give...is knowing folk
like you.

ANON.

From:

The Book of Australian Popular Rhymed Verse,
Ed Jim Haynes, ABC Books, 2008

the North Building, you'll find art, both historical and contemporary, from across Australia and around the world, enriched by a diverse and engaging program of events.

From the recent press releases and the website, the North Building is worth a visit just to view its architectural features, let alone the objects on display.

'Designed by award-winning architects, SANAA, the new building is a series of light-filled pavilions and graceful; outdoor terraces that step down towards Sydney Harbour. A vast rammed earth wall cuts a dramatic curve through the building. On the lowest level... a reclaimed underground WWII fuel bunker, which is now home to the first of a series of art projects.

On top of that experience your visit can take in the revitalised original South Building with its 19th century Grand Courts, refurbished Members Lounge and new library and archive.

Definitely worth a visit!

But first visit the website: www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

Ed.

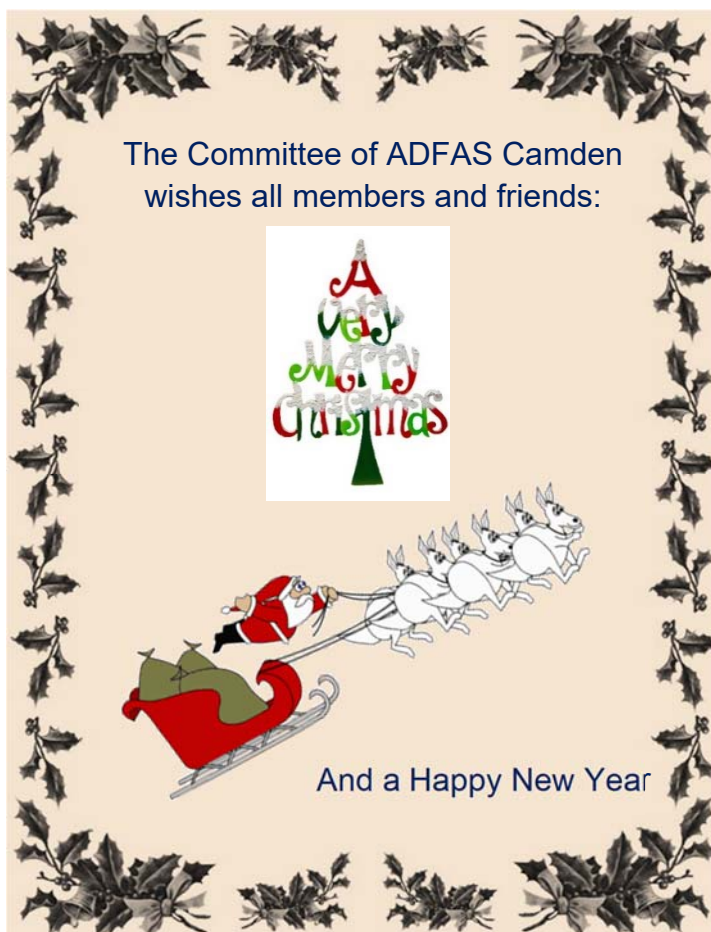


The new Art Museum Campus
is now open

If you are looking for something to do in the New Year, the recently completed and opened extensions to the AGNSW in Sydney would be well worth a visit. According to their website:

'The Sydney Modern Project has transformed the Art Gallery of New South Wales into a unique art museum campus with two buildings and an art garden, on Gadigal Country, overlooking one of the world's most beautiful harbours.

'From our reimagined original building, now known as the South Building to our stunning new building, known as



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