



Winter, 2024



ARTSNATIONAL
Blue Mountains
Connect, Enrich, Inspire

Newsletter



Margaret Lipscombe

What superb autumn weather we've had, with many gorgeous sunny days and cool nights and the chance to enjoy the spectacular colours of deciduous trees.

It's definitely my favourite time of the year, and I feel very fortunate to live in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

However, today, as I write, the rain is steady, and the heating is on! I think winter is definitely just around the corner.

Belinda Coates and I recently had the pleasure of attending our annual conference, the first as ArtsNational. This event, held in Mascot, Sydney, was a unique opportunity to meet society chairs and their observers, as well as the national executive.

We were particularly excited about the 'Australian Lecturers' Marketplace', an evening event where we could meet lecturers face-to-face and learn about their areas of expertise.

It was also a chance to reconnect with some familiar lecturers, including Susannah Fullerton and Kathleen Olive.

I want to thank all our loyal members who have re-joined this year. Indeed, many members have belonged to our society since its inception.

Welcome to our new members; we hope you enjoy our lecture series and, afterwards, have lots of friendly conversations over a cup of tea and some delicious food.

We're still working towards our 2023 membership goal. Your support in promoting the society is crucial, and we're grateful to those who have already brought friends along to our lectures.

Many of them, impressed by the quality of our talks, have decided to join. If you haven't used your free guest pass yet, we encourage you to do so and share the unique experience of our lectures with your friends.

I hope you agree that our first three lectures this year have been fantastic. We aim to provide a variety of interesting topics.

I believe the lectures on Hans Christian Andersen, Sculpture and Architecture, and Jewish Fashion did just that.

I'm certainly looking forward to the rest of our year together.

Margaret Lipscombe
Chair

Lectures 2024

21 June

Claudia Chan Shaw

Florence Broadhurst:

The Enigmatic Design Legend

This talk will examine Broadhurst's vibrant wallpaper designs, beginning with her humble beginnings and how she passed herself off as a French couturier and an English aristocrat.

27 July

John Stevens

The Architecture of Mughal India

Prior to British rule, India was governed by Mughal emperors. The stunning buildings of this era left an indelible stamp on India's cultural landscape. This lecture will examine the buildings in their historical context and the personalities involved in their construction.

23 August

Viv Lawes

What have the Huguenots ever done for us?

In answering the question above, this lecture will focus on three areas of the arts impacted by the migration of the Huguenots in the 16th and 17th centuries. In particular, the style of the great Huguenot designer Daniel Marot, will be explored.

AGM and Christmas Party
6 December, 2024

Winner of ArtsNational Outstanding Conservation Prize, 2024

Vera Olbrycht is the winner of the 2023 AICCM/ArtsNational Outstanding Conservation Student.

Vera is a former student at the University of Canberra and a member of AICCM (Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material). She graduated from the University of Canberra at the end of 2023 and is now working in her chosen profession.

She achieved high academic grades and was an inquisitive and meticulous student with great potential in her bench skills.

Vera has an inquiring mind, is unafraid of asking questions and is keen to accept intellectual challenges in the lab and when engaging with fellow students.

She has demonstrated a strong commitment to conservation, is an active student member of the AICCM and has been involved in local ACT AICCM events.

Vera provided this report in support of her application to ArtsNational: “My developing expertise as an object conservator is drawn from a lifetime of making, mending and restoring textiles, furniture, ceramics and tinkering with mechanical things. The specialised conservation skills and knowledge gained at the University of Canberra built on my volunteer experience, cleaning and conserving historic houses and contents, and previous work in graphic design, photography, landscaping and picture framing.

Typically, my work involves cleaning large outdoor sculptures, with various remedial treatments done under magnification, designing and constructing archival storage boxes, environmental monitoring, and condition reporting.

It is a fusion of craft and materials science, with patience being the overall ingredient.

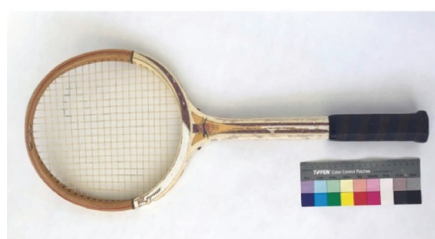
My current work as a Conservation Assistant with the Art Collections section at Australian Parliament House is all of this on a grand scale!” Below are some examples of Vera’s work.

Painted wooden Slazenger ‘Challenge’ tennis racquet, circa 1970s. Made in Australia



Before

After



Theatrical Costume

The collar is part of a costume designed by Luciana Arrighi for the State Theatre Company of South Australia’s 1981 production of Lulu. It was worn by actor Judy Davis.



Before



After



Before



After

Fijian Shell Souvenir



Before



After

ArtsNational Blue Mountains Executive Committee Members

Margaret Lipscombe, Chair - 0414 263 692 - mmf110@bigpond.com

Belinda Coates, Vice Chair - 0428 895 690 - beemcee5759@outlook.com

Kay West, Secretary - 4757 3135 - kathleenjunewest@bigpond.com

Denise Schoer, Treasurer - 0417 261 341 - lucydjs@hotmail.com.au