

ADFAS Camden

Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Camden Inc.

ABN: 41 917 925 347

Member of the Association of ADFAS (ArtsNational)



NEWSLETTER

October 2024

From the Chair

Dear Members and Friends

Sadly, we come to our final Newsletter. Yes, we are sad to say goodbye, but at this point our focus is on all the wonderful lectures we have enjoyed and the many friendships made. Our lecturers have kept us in touch with the wider world – the creative spirit and achievement of that wider world. We very much hope you can join us at our Farewell on 30 November to celebrate all that ADFAS Camden has offered.

At the national Conference meeting, the Chair of the Association of ADFAS made special mention of Camden, wishing us well and acknowledging all that the Society has achieved – not only a lecture program over 21 years but two Church recording projects, trips to Canberra and beyond, toddler Proms and sponsorship of the Youth award at the Camden Art Prize.

Since our last Newsletter, we have enjoyed a very entertaining lecture on London and the ever-evolving English language from Alan Read at the Cobbitty Church Hall. The Youth Group of St Paul's even set up the hall for us – to them we say thank you!

In our October lecture, Andrew Spira took us to the treasures and history of St Petersburg.

A reminder again that our April lecture with Susannah Fullerton was postponed and has been re-scheduled to 2 November, and so becomes our final lecture. We look forward to seeing you there.

Linda

The lecture on 2 November will be held at:
Carrington Recreation Centre, Grasmere.

Visitors \$30. Please book for visitors –

camden@adfascamden.org.au or

Gaylene 0417 659 587 or Pamela 0412 311 194

Our Final Lecture

2 November 2024

Literary England: Top Ten Places

ADFAS Camden welcomes back one of our most popular presenters – **Susannah Fullerton**. Join us for a lively tour around the sites in England made famous by literary connections.



30 November 2024

*Farewell
Function*

*At
Belgenny
Farm*

(Details follow)



Save the Date!



ADFAS Camden Farewell Lunch

When: Saturday 30 November 2024

**Where: The Granary, Belgenny Farm,
100 Elizabeth Macarthur Avenue, Camden South**

Payment details:

- **\$30 per person.**
- Payment by **2 November** please, by cash, cheque or EFT.
- EFT details – Macarthur Credit Union, Camden
BSB – 802 388, Account 100026197 (please include your name)



Cost includes:

- Table service, two courses plus celebration cake
- Champagne, wine and juices

We hope you can join us!

WHAT NEXT?

Should you wish to continue your association with ADFAS in some way, such as attending lectures at other Societies, you are reminded that ADFAS has now been rebranded as ArtsNational, and information on activities at other ArtsNational (ADFAS) Societies throughout Australia can be found on:

www.artsnational.au .

Listed below are the 2024 contact details for the four Societies closest to Camden. However, as such information is subject to change at least annually, you should visit the ArtsNational website for up-to-date details such as lectures, dates, venues and contact details.

At present, there are 36 Societies across Australia, including all of the capital cities so if you are travelling interstate you might find lectures of interest to you in your destination city or town.

CLOSEST SOCIETIES

ArtsNational Society	2024		
	Venue	Lecture times	Contact details
Blue Mountains	Wentworth Falls School of Arts Adele St, Wentworth Falls	Friday 1.30 for 2.00pm	bluemountains@artsnational.au
Bowral	Bowral Memorial Hall 16-24 Bendooley, St. Bowral	Tuesday 5.00 pm	membership@adfasbowral.com
Ku-ring-gai	Zenith Theatre, Cnr Railway & McIntosh Streets, Chatswood	Wednesday 10.30 am & 6.00 pm	windeyerann@gmail.com
Sydney	Paddington Uniting Church, 395 Oxford Street, Paddington	Thursday 12.30 pm & 6.00 pm	Artsnationalsydney@gmail.com

ART QUIZ

1. Which famous artist stopped naming his paintings – and why?
2. The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore is world-renowned and has the largest brick dome ever constructed. What is it also known as?
3. Richard Strauss' 'Der Rosenkavalier' translates to what in English?



4. Which British street artist created unusual works with great meaning behind them, including the one below?



5. Who sculpted the Pietà at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome pictured below?



6. 'Shōgun' is a 1975 novel written by which Australian novelist?

7. Who was the teacher of Leonardo da Vinci?

8. Which English Queen was the patron of German composer George Frideric Handel (pictured below)?



9. Humans began to show an interest in photography as long ago as 500 BC. What type of camera was described by several far-sighted people at that time?

10. Which Irish comedian, who was a member of The Goons, wrote a series of books, starting with "Adolf Hitler: My Part in His Downfall" about his experiences in WW2?



Spike Milligan - Harry Secombe – Peter Sellers

ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 8

ADFAS Camden, *A potted history* SOCIAL SCENE and TRIPS & TRAVEL

In ADFAS Camden's early days, the Committee's focus was on presenting the eight lectures each year in a professional manner, while keeping annual membership fees as low as possible. During this period, the annual lecture program included two half-day Special Interest programs presented by two of the overseas lecturers. After a slow start these Special Interest programs, although not covered by the annual membership fees became reasonably popular and usually cost-neutral.

The first Annual General Meeting was held at the wonderful Tegel Gallery, Cobbitty where it eventually became something of a fixture in the first decade, becoming also combined with an invited speaker and Christmas luncheon. (Who says it is hard to get people to come to an AGM?). Some early AGMs were also held at the historic Camden Park House (2005), The Heber Chapel (2006) and Wivenhoe (2008). Committee members of the time can well remember the efforts spent in self-catering for most of these activities, including making sandwiches, ordering and supplying drinks and preparing interesting dishes for special events such as the 2006 Egyptian themed luncheon following an Egyptian lecture.

However, by 2009 it had become obvious that more needed to be done to increase or even maintain membership numbers. So began a publicity campaign, to keep members better informed of present and future activities and to inform the wider local public of what ADFAS Camden had to offer.

The Association recommended that Societies supplement their lecture programs with events such as tours and trips to significant art galleries and other events or venues of artistic interest and merit. In recognition of this, Pamela Hartley put up her hand to organize a one-day coach trip to Canberra so that a busload of members and friends could view an upcoming special event at the National Gallery in early 2010.

This meticulously planned and executed coach trip was enthusiastically fully booked and the participants enjoyed not only a tour of the special exhibition – *Masterpieces from Paris* – at the National Gallery but also a very pleasant 'morning tea in the park' at Goulburn on the way down, and an enjoyable lunch in Canberra.

This early success led to Pamela becoming convener of a Trips and Travel subcommittee and organizing an annual coach trip to Canberra for the next decade – until COVID 19 put a stop to such activities in 2020.

While most of these adventures were one-day affairs, the trips to Canberra in 2015 and 2017 were two-day events, enabling participants to visit not only the National Gallery but also other sites of their choosing, including the National Portrait Gallery, The Australian War Memorial, the National Library and Parliament House. All of these coach tours were very popular with members, family and friends, who appreciated the hard work that Pamela had put into their planning and execution.



Morning tea at Goulburn, February 2010



Packed lunch in Canberra, February 2010



About to enter the NGA to view
Masterpieces from Paris, February 2010

In May 2010, Pamela also organized a very successful coach trip to the Art Gallery of NSW to view the Archibald Prize and Victorian Visions exhibitions.



Waiting to enter the Archibald Prize Exhibition



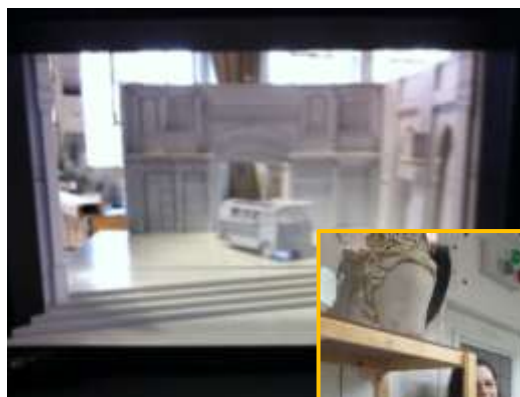
Copy of poster for the
Victorian Visions Exhibition

This was followed by a four-day trip to Melbourne in July 2011 and a five-day Melbourne trip in June 2012, both of which were enjoyed immensely by the small groups of participants who managed to survive the, sometimes inclement, Melbourne weather and rather full itineraries and tight schedules.

During these years, some members were able to participate in several very interesting behind the scenes tours of the Opera Centre in Sydney, organized through the Association of ADFAS.



Workroom for construction of scenery and props
for operas



Model of stage set

Trying on the odd
crown or two!



Hats of all shapes and sizes

In March 2014 Auckland (NZ) DFAS, also through the Association, invited ADFAS members to participate in a four-day exchange visit in November to be home-hosted in Auckland. Participants were to enjoy a guided tour of the historic stately *Pah Homestead*, a very special day tour of the intriguing landscape sculptures of Gibbs Farm at Kaipara Harbour and a day trip to Waiheke Island. Added incentives were picnics and dinners, topped off with time at the Auckland Art Gallery.



Demonstration of restoration work at the Auckland Art Gallery

The participants, departing for Auckland on 19 November, came from six Australian Societies with seven of the 17 being from ADFAS Camden – which just goes to show what a peripatetic lot Camden’s membership had become.

Patricia Johnston provided a glowing report on the trip, concluding that the exchange visit was ... ‘four well planned days full of stimulating and exciting activities shared with our New Zealand friends and I sincerely thank and congratulate their Society for their generous hospitality to us all’.



Landscape sculptures on Gibbs Farm



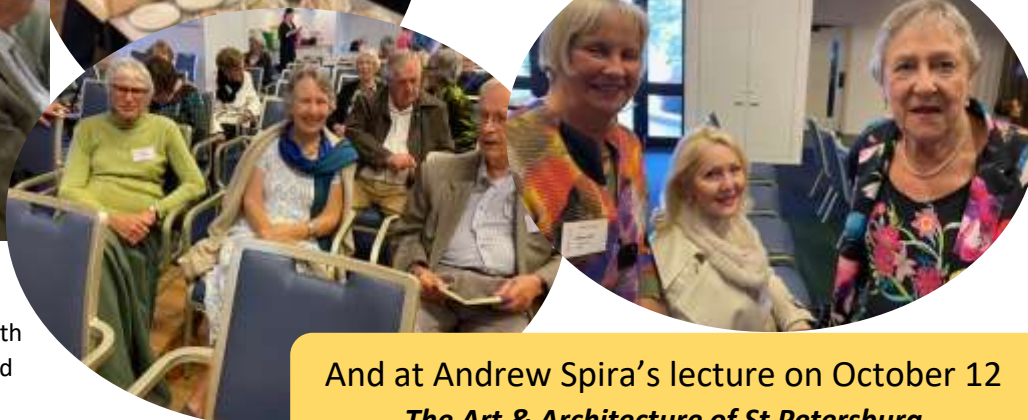
1. Although not all members were in a position to participate in these ‘Trips and Travel’ opportunities, they were enjoyed immensely by those who did and they indeed added another dimension to the ADFAS experience for Camden members.

Seen at Alan Read’s Lecture on September 14
Phrases & Sayings: The etymology of the City of London

Meredith and Linda,
multitasking before the lecture



The audience at Alan Reid’s lecture (above) and Andrew Spira’s lecture (right), along with Carla Hill, Janina Learmont and Judy Vermeulen (far right)



And at Andrew Spira’s lecture on October 12
The Art & Architecture of St Petersburg

A big thankyou from the Editor

This is the very last issue of the Newsletter, and it signals my third and final, retirement from the role of Editor, which I have enjoyed immensely over the past 16 years. I thought it would be appropriate to add the history of the Newsletter to the 'Potted History of ADFAS Camden' that has been serialized in this and the previous three issues and at the same time offer my thanks to the many members who have contributed to its content over the years.



The first issue of a regular newsletter was produced in April 2009, largely in response to the then Chair, Nola Tegel encouraging Committee to do whatever was needed to increase our membership. Since then the Newsletter has evolved from a single double-sided largely black and white sheet containing the occasional colour image issued eight times in 2009 to an 8-page full-colour version issued monthly. This continued through the lock-down years of the COVID19 pandemic until the 150th issue in January 2023, after which I retired (for the second time). ADFAS Camden Chair, Linda Inglis, produced a new format version in December 2023. In early 2024, I offered to assist with the production of four issues in this format for the current year.

Beginning in 2009, and without too much twisting of arms, successive Chairs have religiously provided the **'From the Chair'** used as the introduction to each issue.

The first direct member contribution was a report in the February 2010 issue by Rodna Siebels on the coach trip to the NGA in Canberra to see the exhibition *'Masterpieces from Paris'*. Also in that issue was a short contribution from Patricia Johnston calling for interest in the proposed Church Recording exercise at Cobbitty. Over the next months and years, that morphed into regular progress reports on the project, first at St Paul's Cobbitty and then, St James' Menangle.

As the activities of ADFAS Camden expanded, regular reports were provided on Membership Matters, Young Arts (the annual Toddler Proms and the annual recipient of the Marjory Baker Memorial Art Prize) and Social activities including Trips and Travel events. The committee member(s) primarily responsible for each event usually produced these reports, which kept the membership well informed of the activities of our Society.

In May 2010, the late Ray Herbert and his wife Andrea travelled to China on a 17-day tour that included visits to a number of museums displaying regional arts and crafts. They returned home with a large collection of

images of many of these works. I asked Ray if he and Andrea would put together an article for our Newsletter; they obliged and their well-illustrated article appeared in the December 2010 issue of the Newsletter.

This encouraged me to ask members if they would care to provide similar articles. Over the following years, I received a gradually increasing number of member contributions on a wide range of, usually, arts related topics. They included travel reports and stories, visits to museums and galleries, general interest articles, book reviews, poems and poetry, a little whimsy here and there and even a segment I dubbed *Carla's Corn Corner*.

As we all know, in early 2020, the COVID pandemic resulted in a cessation of all face-to-face activities and the Arts scene ground to a halt. Committee decided that contact with members must be maintained, even though no lecture program could be provided. To serve this purpose, distribution of the monthly Newsletter continued, enabled by the remarkable number of contributions from members.

In August 2020, Cliff Reece produced his first ARTS QUIZ and the Newsletter was increased to eight pages to accommodate the quiz and the answers. This quiz was not only a fun test of one's arts knowledge it was also something of an educational tool through the extensive answers that were provided. Cliff, very obligingly, produced 16 more quizzes on a monthly basis that helped take us through the pandemic period. He also offered to provide a quiz for each of the last four Newsletters, culminating with this issue.

As I mentioned earlier I have found this journey into amateur journalism very satisfying and I am incredibly appreciative of the willingness of a significant number of members to put pen to paper themselves and contribute to making our little newsletter such a success. I hope you as readers have enjoyed the ride as much as I have.

My thanks to the following contributing members:

Margaret Bowring	Patricia Johnston
Hugh Davies	The late Trevar Langlands
Pauline Downing	Jill Lummis
Gaylene Feld	The late Peter Mylrea
Paul Gregson	Cliff Reece
Pamela Hartley	Rodna Siebels
Peter Hayward OAM	Nola Tegel
The late Ray Herbert	James Warrand
Andrea Herbert	Julie Warrand
Carla Hill	Brigitte Wilkinson
Colin Howie	Gay Wilson
Ken Hughes	Jo Wong
Linda Inglis	Susan Zamudio

Peter Claxton, Thrice retired Editor

ANSWERS TO ART QUIZ

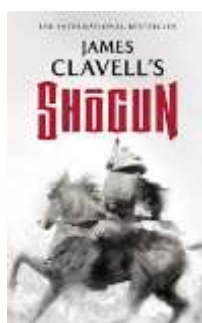
1. Jackson Pollock (1912-56). Pollock stopped naming his paintings - giving them numbers instead - because he didn't want people to look for a subject matter or a meaning in his art. Instead, he wanted them to appreciate his paintings for what they were. He is pictured at work below.



2. Florence Cathedral, pictured below.



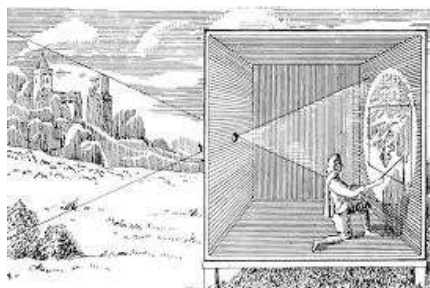
3. The Knight of the Rose.
4. Banksy is known for his profound statements on migration, militarism and modern politics. He is the rare member of the art world whose work is meant to challenge and to criticize what many believe is its elitism.
5. Michelangelo (1475-1564).
6. James Clavell (1921-1994).



7. Andrea del Verrocchio 1435-1488 (pictured below) was a 15th-century Florentine sculptor and painter and the teacher of both Leonardo da Vinci and Perugino, the latter becoming Raphael's teacher.



8. Queen Anne. In 1713 he won his way into royal favour by composing his 'Ode for the Queen's Birthday'. He was subsequently granted an annual allowance of £200.
9. Pinhole camera. It has no lens but a small hole on one side of a box that is otherwise completely light proof. When pointed towards an image of some sort, the light from this image is reflected upside down on the opposite side of the box to the pinhole. This discovery was made by the Chinese philosopher Mo Di in 500BC and by the Greek mathematicians Euclid and Aristotle, in 400 BC.



10. Sir Spike Milligan KBE considered Woy Woy in NSW as 'home' even though he was born in India in 1918 of an English mother and Irish father. He was called up into the British army in WW2 and entertained his fellow soldiers by scripting and performing comic sketches. He is probably best remembered for his role as a member and scriptwriter of the anarchic 'Goon Show', which continues to provide a template for British comedy.

Editor

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