



Summer, 2024



Newsletter



Margaret Lipscombe

A warm welcome to our first year as ArtsNational Blue Mountains! I hope your Christmas was joyous, and I wish you a happy and healthy 2024. We're delighted that our new title has been so well-received by members. As I said in my AGM report, "While our name has changed, we are still your local society which works hard to promote the arts and to be a focus of cultural activities that connect people with the arts and each other".

At the 2023 AGM, two of our members, Judy Gipps and Dianne Conomos, spoke about their individual crafts and exhibited some of their intricate work. Judy is a skilled pillow bobbin lace maker, and Dianne creates amazing Japanese golden silk embroideries. Those present very much appreciated hearing from them and viewing their work.

We hope you agree that our 2023 lectures were a great success. Your committee is enthusiastic about our 2024 program, which

promises varied and interesting topics to be presented by our six UK and three Australian lecturers. The committee planned this year's program early last year, and we hope you're as excited by the selection as we are. The committee's work will begin again for 2025 in the next few months. We will choose our Australian lecturers, but the National Lecturers' Committee chooses the UK speakers. Each lecturer offers a range of topics, and our job is to choose one from that selection.

We have welcomed Di Bentley and Lyn Drake to our committee this year. I'm delighted that they agreed to join us, and I know they'll be great assets to our hard-working group, as you'll see from the article later in the newsletter, where we'll tell you a little about each of them.

We do encourage you to use your free guest pass. After attending one lecture, many first-time visitors discover the advantages of joining our society. As always, we need to attract new members to remain viable. Please take extra brochures at the February lecture and spread the word among your friends, neighbours, and family.

The committee promotes the lectures via notices in the Gazette each month and on our Facebook page. We hope you saw our advertisement in the Gazette last week. We are also working on a new ArtsNational banner which we hope will be displayed at Katoomba in the next few months. Please look out for it. The committee has also ensured our brochures are displayed in shops, cinemas, libraries and cafes around the mountains.

Our lecture program begins on February 2, and we'll hear again from the wonderful Susannah Fullerton. What a fabulous introduction to the ArtsNational year!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Margaret Lipscombe
Chair

Lectures 2024

15 March

David Worthington
Sculpture and Architecture

This talk will examine the connections between sculpture and architecture and how understanding these connections is more important than ever in the age of computer-aided design.

12 April

Peter McNeil - Dressing Sydney:
The Jewish Fashion Story

Many Jewish refugees who fled Europe to Australia in the 30s, 40s, and 50s worked in 'the rag trade.' This lecture will explore that migration and examine other areas of Australian commercial life transformed by Jewish emigres.

24 May

Andy McConnell
Swedish Glass: Orrefors to Ikea

This lecture will examine what led to the emergence of Swedish glassmaking, focusing on a group of strong-minded, egocentric individuals and the designs they created.

ArtsNational Blue Mountains Executive Committee Members

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AGM and Christmas Party
6 December, 2024

Your Society

ArtsNational Blue Mountains, like all community organisations, operates on a blend of hard work and the smell of an oily rag.

With an annual expenditure of around \$20,000, the organisation hosts nine lectures annually, six from the UK and three Australian.

We receive no funding other than an occasional modest grant from the Blue Mountains City Council; all costs are covered by membership and visitor fees.

Like all incorporated associations, ArtsNational Blue Mountains has legal requirements that must be met, including keeping books of account and having these audited annually.

This responsibility falls to our Treasurer, who is also the Society's Public Officer.

The Treasurer oversees all financial management of the society, liaises with Council regarding our venue, and makes payments to lecturers, the catering assistant and audio-visual technician.

Financial administration is just one aspect of the society managed behind the scenes: the committee puts a lot of energy into organising publicity and other advertising, as we need over 100 members each year to be viable.

This involves liaising with a graphic designer to create our brochure and newsletter, (Committee members distribute brochures to various businesses and organisations within the upper Blue Mountains), keeping our Facebook page updated, placing ads in the Gazette, and updating the PowerPoint presentation that runs on a loop at each lecture.

Another major area of running the society is managing the catering for afternoon tea, which follows each lecture. The catering coordinator does this by overseeing members' contributions for forthcoming lectures,

ensuring we have adequate tea, coffee, milk, etc., and sending reminders to all members who have volunteered to contribute to the afternoon tea.

The coordinator arrives first at the Hall to ensure it's clean, heaters are turned on, and the chairs in the tiered seating have been placed in the correct lecture-style position.

They liaise with the Society's catering assistant before the lecture day to ensure everything is in place.

The co-ordinator also checks the placement and hygienic presentation of the food for afternoon tea.

Once afternoon tea has concluded, the committee collects crockery and cutlery, which the catering assistant washes before they are placed back into the ArtsNational cupboard in the kitchen, ready for next time.

With the UK lecturers, much planning goes into arranging their transport, accommodation, and meals.

Details of members are maintained by the membership secretary, who also sends out regular updates on the society.

The minute secretary has the unenviable task of trying to capture the thoughts of all committee members at each meeting.

Our badge and raffle coordinator brings members' badges to each meeting (ensuring each new member has one created) and selects a raffle prize each month, with the money raised going to Young Arts in the Blue Mountains.

All of this is overseen by the Chair, who, as well as running meetings, liaising with lecturers, and managing emails from the Executive, must keep a keen eye on the running of the Society as a whole.

This is the biggest job of all, so although we have a generous-sized committee, each person is needed, and each works hard to ensure that things run smoothly.

The latest additions to our committee, Di Bentley and Lyn Drake, were warmly welcomed at the society's AGM. A little about each follows in the next column:



Di Bentley moved to the Blue Mountains in 2019 and lives at Blackheath.

She has had a life-long interest in the arts, developing a particular interest in Asian and Islander art when she was lucky enough to spend nearly 13 years living and working in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Living in those countries provided a great opportunity to learn about local cultures, religions, everyday life, and how traditions and values are expressed in the arts and daily living.

She looks forward to learning more and participating in ArtsNational's work in the Blue Mountains.



After a long-standing connection with the Blue Mountains and, during that time, an introduction to the ArtsNational Blue Mountains, Lyn Drake applied for permanent membership upon moving to Wentworth Falls about three years ago.

Lyn looks forward to meeting you and helping the Committee in our ongoing efforts to grow our Society.

She is particularly keen to promote the benefits members enjoy, including the opportunities to learn more about a wide range of topics from both overseas and Australian lecturers, all being experts in their particular fields.

Her interests are across the Arts, focusing on the Impressionism art movement, architecture, classical music and instruments, particularly the concert harp, violin and cello and the French and German languages.

A click on the link will take you to our website and Facebook page

<http://www.artsnational.au/societies/blue-mountains/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1345566145585914>