

Yarra News

Winter 2024 Vol. 35 No. 2

From the Chair

The year started in mid-February with our usual morning tea for new members which was hosted by our Treasurer, Jane Anthony with a delicious spread provided by committee members. Feedback from our new members let us know that they had appreciated the opportunity to meet each other and the committee.

Our first two lectures of the year were well attended. Anne Sebba's lecture Ethel Rosenberg and the Making of an American Icon introduced us to the events which resulted in Ethel's execution and the literature and painting that it has generated since. I was disappointed to have missed Adrian Dickens' lecture Jewels of the Regency but understand from members that it was greatly enjoyed. Adrian also let me know that he thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Photos from our April Mt. Macedon excursion are included in this issue. While we were unable to fill all seats on the bus those members who joined us let us know how much they had enjoyed the day. The guides at both Duneira Estate and the Stokes Collection were informative and entertaining, their collections were fascinating, and the autumn colours were spectacular.

The lecture programme for 2025 has been finalised and consideration of venues for next year's excursions is underway.

New members may not be aware that all ADFAS societies welcome guests. The lecture cost is reduced if you are an ADFAS member so you will need to show your membership badge. Information on other societies, their lecture programmes and contact details are available on the national website www.artsnational.org.au.

We are always looking for members to join our committee and/or to assist us in the running of lectures, special interest events and excursions. For lectures and special interest events this includes producing the slide show that starts each lecture, purchasing and serving morning and afternoon teas, providing and arranging the flower displays and clearing and washing up after each lecture. Excursion options need to be identified and visited and buses, morning tea and lunch organised.

Committee members select the lecture topics for the following year and the organisations that receive our Young Arts funding. They handle membership renewals, name badges, take guest bookings, produce and send out our newsletters, create the TryBooking events, format the lecture programme brochure and look after the society budget and financial management.

Committee meetings are held monthly followed by lunch at a local café.



Why not put your hand up to join the committee or to assist on lecture days? Come along to a committee meeting to see how we operate and if you have an interest in organising excursions, creating slide shows, setting up Trybooking events or managing the catering we would really love to hear from you.

Jan Bennellick
Chair, ADFAS Yarra

Wrap up of previous speakers

We did very much enjoy Adrian's talk on Jewels of the Regency "
He's wearing a fine example, isn't he?



Art History with Anne



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AND
DESIGN HISTORY CHANNEL

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ANNE ANDERSON MEDIA

Anna Anderson ...what a knowledgeable person.
If you would like to find out more see her channel

THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

The Johnston Collection (TJC) is an award-winning House Museum located in leafy East Melbourne at the historic 1860's townhouse , Fairhall. The museum holds a superb collection of English Georgian , Regency and Louis XV fine and decorative arts and hosts a unique program of guided tours , lectures ,workshops and events.

Fairhall and the collection were a gift to the people of Victoria from William Robert Johnston (1911-1986), a prominent Melbourne -born antique dealer , real estate investor and collector. Mr Johnston operated his antiques business between Melbourne's Armadale and Greenwich , London . Over the years , Mr Johnston's collection has been enhanced through the generosity of some extraordinary collectors and benefactors. This includes the late Roger Brookes who gifted his distinguished collection of English Silver , fine paintings , porcelain, glass,timepieces and objet d'art to the collection in 2021.

The museum has been open to the public since 1990. In line with Mr Johnstons's intentions, the collection is displayed in a domestic setting without ropes/ barriers or labels and is regularly rearranged thus offering the perfect setting to showcase how to live with beautiful objects today.

The current exhibition , "Fit for a King" is the brainchild of Melbourne based interior designer Vincent Jenden whose passion is for combining antiques and contemporary styling . Vincent was inspired for this exhibition by the notion that a Royal Tour by King Charles and Queen Camilla was to take place in 2024. Vincent's theatrical re-imagining has brought touches of wit and whimsy to TJC, creating a visual feast that layers antiques , art and luxurious textiles with some modern furniture to create alluring juxtapositions.

And just when you think you have "done" The Johnston Collection, in a short while a dazzling new exhibition will appear in late september . This will be curated by the current CEO , Louise Voll Box, and promises to once again transform Fairhall into a wonderful immersive , themed experience .



Wendy's WA trip ...fabulous exhibition in Manjimup

Contours: Aerial Impressions of a Complex Landscape by Richard Woldendorp

For almost 60 years, Richard Woldendorp used aerial photography to create stunning abstract art pieces inspired by Australia's unique landscape. Long before the advent of drones and digital cameras, he photographed Australia's wild and varied terrain in commercial jets and smaller aircraft to capture its distinctly unique characteristics.

Born in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in 1927, Richard, emigrated to Australia in 1951. He purchased his first camera in 1955 beginning a very successful, life-long career in photography. A career that included being named a State Living Treasure in recognition of his contribution to the appreciation of the Australian landscape and in 2012 an Order of Australia for service to the arts. Richard's stunning aerial images have been featured in over 27 books and displayed in 52 solo exhibitions. Sadly, Richard passed away in April 2023.

His topographical views of textured farmland, meandering rivers, weathered landforms and turbulent coastlines are breathtaking and remind us of the unique beauty of the Australian landscape."



In Richard's own words:

"The Australian landscape has always appealed to me. There's something about it - its spaciousness, its character, the light and its uniqueness. But it also is a very old landscape. It is the flattest and driest continent, which compared with other countries, does not manifest itself in grandeur as we know it - large rivers, large mountains and the dramatic changes of the seasons."



Upcoming Events

Lecture 4

Thursday 13 June 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

The '43 Group - Ceylon's first Modernist Art Movement. How politics shaped the art history of an island nation **CRESSIDE COLLETTE**

In August 1943 a group of eight painters met in suburban Colombo. They came from a well-educated, cohesive society of Sinhalese, Tamils, Portuguese, Dutch and English and had a desire to overturn the form of art education that grew out of a traditional Academic style. They achieved great success in London, Paris and at the Venice Biennale in the 1940s and 50s, but the politics of the country eventually resulted in scattering them across the globe leaving a decades long vacuum in the development of contemporary art in Sri Lanka



Lecture 5

Thursday 4 July 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

The Sistine Chapel Ceiling Cracked

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel is a modern Wonder of the World. It is a sacred building where thousands visit daily. This lecture looks at the decoration of the ceiling by Michelangelo and will concentrate on some of the more unusual inclusions in the Old Testament scheme. It is a mighty piece of painting that demonstrates incredible artistic talent but contains many subversive elements. Sin and punishment were key themes for much of Michelangelo's career and he decided to project these ideas onto the Pope, Conclave and Tourist

DANIEL EVANS



Lecture 6

Thursday 1 August 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

Alchemy and Adventure: a history of exotic colours and poisonous pigments

LYNNE GIBSON

It is easy to take colour for granted in our manufactured world. But before organic chemistry the most desirable pigments were often rare, exotic, or poisonous. Merchants supplied cochineal 'grana' from the holds of Spanish galleons, pungent golden nuggets from India and lapis rock carried by camel train from the mountains of Badakhshan. Alchemists prepared deadly King's Yellow, mysterious Vitriol of Venus and Moorish Gold concocted from basilisk powder and human blood. This lecture tells the stories of alchemy and adventure behind some of our beautiful and colourful paintings.



Guests are most welcome to attend lectures. Prior booking for guests is essential and a \$25 fee applies. Please call Esther Lewin on 0493 433 817 for further details.

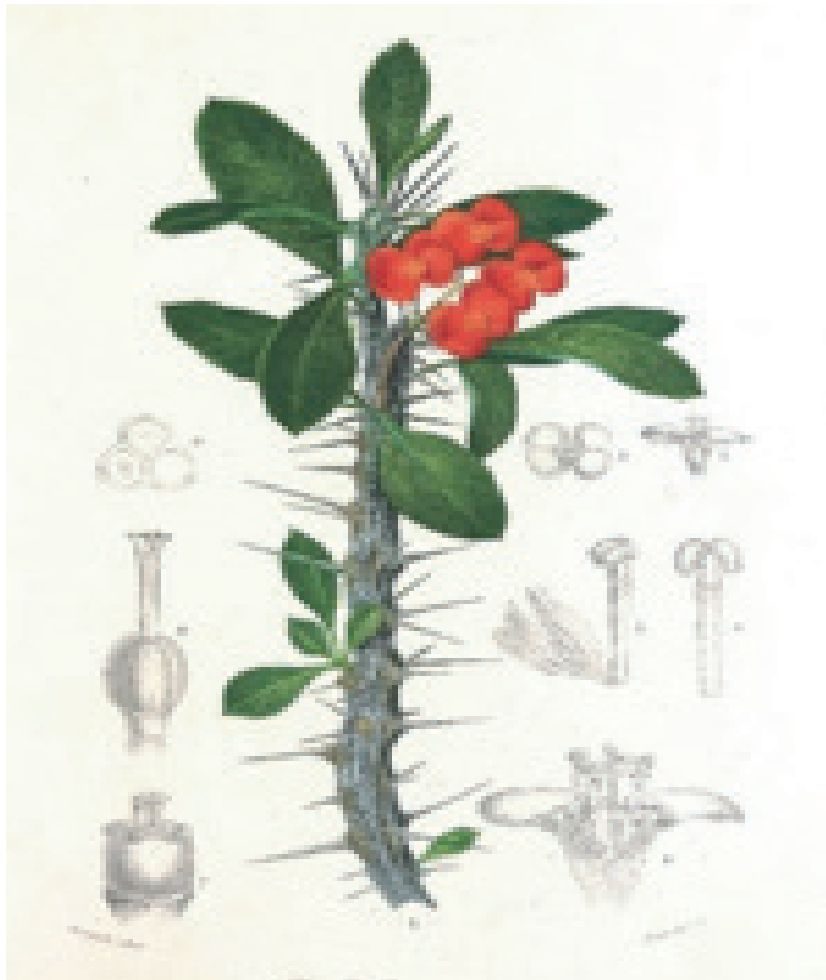
SPECIAL INTEREST AFTERNOON:

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Much more than just a pretty picture: the enduring relationship between medicine and botanical illustration

This 2-part talk looks at:

- I. The history of botanical illustration from the early herbals 1,500 years ago to the present day and explores why a drawing and painting are still considered to be superior to a digital image.
- II. Why, although mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people.



Please book via Tri Bookings Cost: \$45.00

*"Big psssssss keep 19 September available for Spring Garden at Jindivick....
more details next newsletter !"*

Mt. Macedon Excursion



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Send contributions, including interesting art and design articles, travel articles, jokes, life's helpful hints, art exhibitions to: **Editor:** Wendy Coxhead to adfasyarra@gmail.com
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