

October 2017

Art News



Sunrise painted by Peter Geen

New Zealand on canvas – as real as it gets

The third and final instalment of everything that's art in the Golden Bay region focusses on an artist who could easily be confused with a photographer as his epic land and seascapes look as much like photographs as they do paintings, such is their splendour.

Peter Geen

There's a reason one could be forgiven for thinking that they were looking at stunning photography rather than paintings at Peter Geen's Earthsea Gallery in Golden Bay.

"I use an airbrush for skies and backgrounds and then lace the work on top," said Peter.

"My paintings can look like photographs because I take so long to complete them

– around two months for the larger ones. Overall, I complete about 12 paintings each year."

"The starting point for me is to go into the wild to take photographs of landscapes that I like before returning to my studio to work out the composition. I then add and subtract paint as I go all the time building up the picture," said Peter.

"For me, it's about what you leave out of the picture so that you're not over cluttering it. My preferred medium now is acrylics because it allows me to refine my work and put the detail of the landscape into the paintings that is not often seen these days."

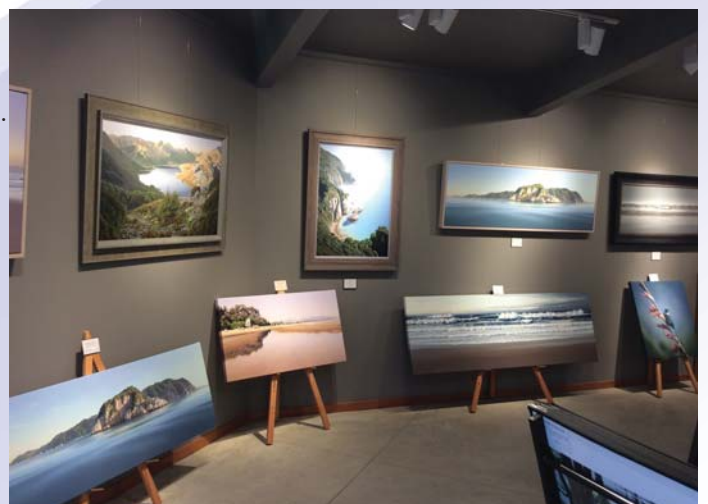
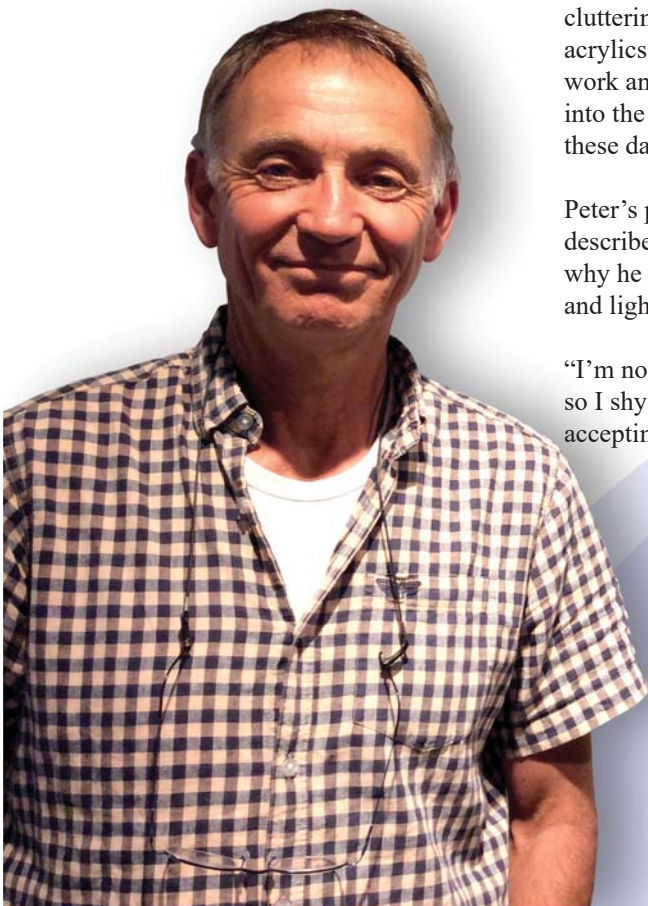
Peter's paintings have often been described as three-dimensional which is why he is known as the master of detail and light.

"I'm not a fast painter so I shy away from accepting commissions.

Instead I sell my original works from my website to international customers, as well as from my gallery to both people in the region as well as tourists, so it can be very much a seasonal business. That said, I do have a number of prints around at other galleries," said Peter.

"When I was starting out I found it hard to find a place that would teach technique, so I just went about solving the problems as I encountered them, learning as I went, although I was fortunate to be mentored by a few respected New Zealand artists such as Ian Scott," said Peter.

"I started painting as a hobby while at school doing small paintings and as my reputation grew, so did the size of my paintings. So it's been around 40 years now, although I've only been painting full time since our children left home about 16 years ago."



Peter's Earthsea Gallery where his original paintings are exhibited

Hadley's Art Prize, Hobart

The Hadley's Art Prize is a new landscape art award, believed to be the richest in the world with the winner taking home \$100,000 in prize money.

It is presented by Hadley's Orient Hotel in Hobart which has a long tradition in supporting landscape art since 1834. This annual award seeks to generate interest in cultural tourism by promoting the work of contemporary landscape artists.

The 2017 theme was 'History and Place', which sought the best portrayal of the Australian landscape that acknowledged the past, while also celebrating the artist's creativity and technical skill.

Exhibited in the new custom designed gallery at Hadley's Orient Hotel, the winning entry will be added to the gallery's permanent collection and displayed prominently.

industry contacts within the Tasmanian Arts Community.

Indigenous South Australian artist Peter Mungkuri took out the inaugural Hadley's Art Prize, winning \$100,000 for his depiction of his birth place, Fregon, in Central Australia.

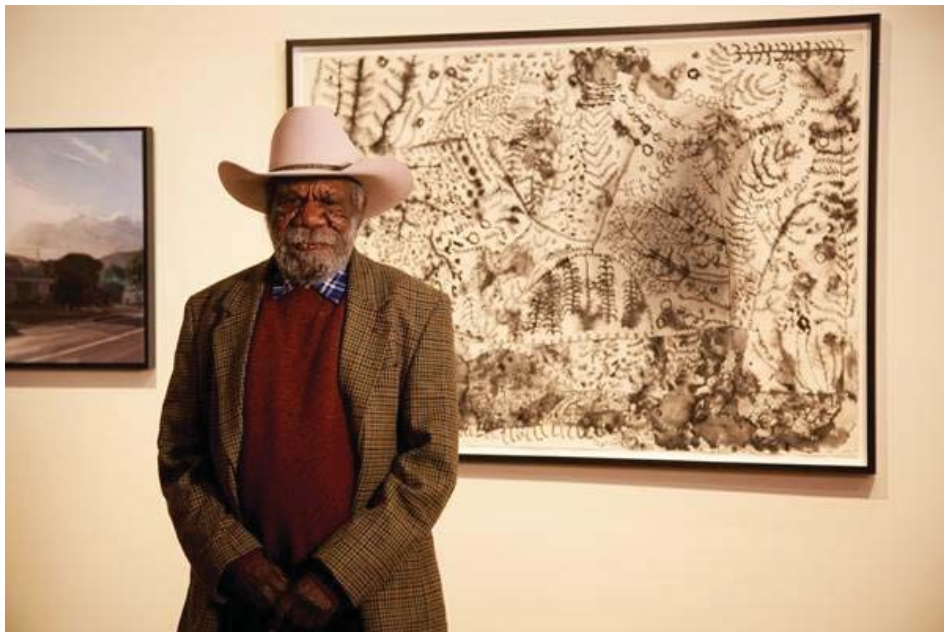
Titled Ngura Wiru (Good Country), it is a delicate ink on somerset paper drawing, telling a very personal story of the place where he grew up.

"This is my story about that creek at Fregon," Peter said. "I was born there."

"Back then we lived in the bush, slept in the warm sand and we lived on the bush tucker. "That place is where it all started, that was my home."

"I love this country, it has watched us Anangu (people) for many years. It is a wise country."

From 385 entries from across Australia, four Highly Commended Awards worth \$2,250 each were also presented to Sue Lovegrove from Tasmania, Guan Wei from New South Wales and Nyaparua Gardiner and Jane Tangney both from Western Australia.



A themed award which celebrates painting and drawing, it is open to Australian artists over 18 years of age who work in two dimensional mediums, and particularly encourages both emerging and indigenous artists to apply. It also welcomes collective works.

As well as the main winner, four highly commended awards as well as the People's Choice Award are awarded to artists, allowing them to sell their work while establishing and engaging with new

Above left, Peter with his winning painting

Below, Peter with the judging panel



What's Newz

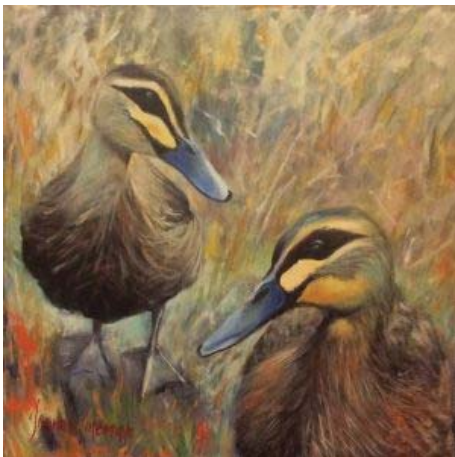
President's Report, by Ray Jones

Our annual exhibition

The statistics are in and I'm thrilled to announce that our 65th Annual Exhibition was our best to date attracting a record number of entries with 223 works of art on display.

We also enjoyed our largest number of art sales with 18 of them attracting red stickers.

The Box Hill Lower Town Hall was full with excited people waiting on the Mayor, Cr Denise Massoud, to present the various art prizes as judged by Jo Reitze who announced each of the winning works. The overall winner – Best in Show – was won by Joanne Coleman for her Two Ducks



To see the other 12 winners and their works in their various categories, please go to www.boxhillartgroup.com.au While much of the event success was due to the work of your committee, (with particular thanks to our Secretary Eric Harvey who collated entries to produce the catalogue and certificates) we could not have put it together as successfully as we did without the help and support of all volunteers and sponsors, so thank you sincerely.

If you would like to be part of our committee to plan for our future, please get in touch with Eric on 0424 775 540.

Post your work on our website

A quick reminder that we have a new Member's Profile Page on our website which is designed to feature our members and their works of art online. Participants can have up to 9 artwork images on their own page along with biographical information of themselves. It's a great way to put your work before potential customers so if you're interested, just send your profile text and images to info@boxhillartgroup.com.au or check out other profiles at www.boxhillartgroup.com.au

Seeking new Treasurer

Our loyal and hardworking Treasurer Jim Shelley is stepping down from his position after more than 10 years of service.

Jim, we will be the poorer for losing you and on behalf of the committee and members, we thank you sincerely for your support and wish you all the very best for your future.

Speaking of which, our committee is now seeking a new Treasurer to take Jim's place in 2018.

No experience is necessary as Jim will be on hand to provide comprehensive instructions, and to allow the handover to go as long as required until the new treasurer is comfortable within the role.

A big fringe benefit of being the Treasurer is that the incumbent is entitled to a 50% discount on all art class fees!

If you'd like more information, please call Jim today on 0400 806 044.

Your key to successful art?

Practice, practice, practice ...

Drawing is the foundation of all art work and so I like keep my hand in by carrying a small sketch book with me when I go to appointments. It is a great productive way of passing the time.



Getting some practice in - Ray's sketch while waiting in the waiting room

Workshops

Ink & Pastel Workshop with Pamela Pretty

Pamela will demonstrate and teach how to combine loose coloured ink underpaintings with pastel to produce vibrant fresh and dramatic images. This technique enables a range of possibilities not possible with either technique on its own.

Participants must bring their own pastels and brushes. Pamela will provide inks and paper for \$10 per person, payable on the day.

Saturday 7 October 2017

10am to 4pm, BYO Lunch

\$90 for members, \$100 for non-members
Book online at www.boxhillartgroup.com.au or, email info@boxhillartgroup.com.

au or, post cheque to Eric Harvey at 1 Katupna Court, Vermont South 3133.

Sketching together plus lunch

- **Nunawading Farmers Market;** 10am, Sunday 8 October
Meet in front of the Nunawading Library
- **Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn;** 10am, Sunday 12 November
Meet in the car park

Free Art magazines

Want to read all about art, written mostly by realist artists themselves from all around the world? Well we have continuous copies of International Artist magazines from No. 1 June-July 1998 to No. 93 Oct, Nov 2013 to give away for free.

There's great variety in the styles and approaches to the artist's work, so you won't be disappointed. If you're interested, call Robin on 9890 7335.



Really?

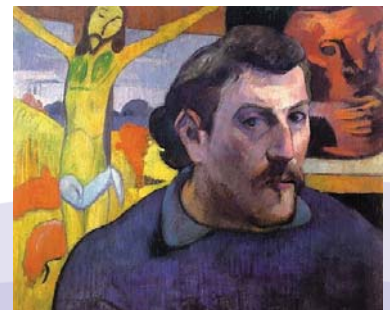
- Henri Matisse's painting *Le Bateau* was hung upside down at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1961 for 46 days before anyone noticed
- Although he produced over 2000 works, Vincent van Gogh only ever sold one painting in his lifetime, which was *The Red Vineyard*. It was purchased by the Belgian artist Anna Boch
- *Mona Lisa* was painted with eyebrows and eyelashes, but they disappeared over time, possibly the result of over-cleaning
- When the *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, the empty space it left on the wall attracted more visitors than the painting had
- Pablo Picasso was considered a suspect in the theft of *Mona Lisa* from the Louvre and was arrested and questioned, before being cleared and released
- Picasso also carried a revolver loaded with blanks, which he would fire at people who asked him what his work "meant"
- French artist Paul Gauguin had to work as a laborer on the Panama Canal
- Being a vegetarian and animal rights activist, Leonardo da Vinci would buy caged birds and set them free
- Impressionist Claude Monet was known to destroy copious amounts of his own work through frustration
- Raphael snuck into the Sistine Chapel to look at Michelangelo's unfinished work while he was gone and upon seeing the paintings, went back to a completed painting of his own at the Church of Sant'Agostino where he scraped it off the wall and started again from scratch
- Renoir's first job was working in a porcelain factory painting designs on fine china
- The Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam is the actual house he used to live in



Mona Lisa – the eyes have it?



Vincent van Gogh – self portrait



Paul Gauguin – self portrait

Contact

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To our sponsors,
we thank you

Box Hill Community Arts Centre

City of Whitehorse

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