



# Art News

**October 2016**

## Colourful characters

***The Box Hill Art Group attracts members from all walks of life and with all sorts of life experiences that they bring to their work. Heather Mansell is one such person and shares her story here.***

“I joined the Box Hill Art Group nine years ago after completing an eight week evening course at Box Hill TAFE with Farimah as my tutor. I had an ambition for many years to take art more seriously after retiring from bringing up a family and following careers in nursing and education.”

“Farimah continued to be my mentor for the next few years at the Box Hill Art Group, initially in pastels and later acrylics. The opportunity to learn in the art room and compete with more experienced artists encouraged me to experiment and enjoy other media but pastels remained my first love. Two years on the committee also helped to increase my understanding of their organisation and gave me a chance to give something back to the group.”

“Before retirement, I had the opportunity to travel with my husband and children between work and home commitments. Living in Wales and Papua New Guinea for many years gave me a chance to appreciate art, life and other cultures.”

“The early years in Wales were spent supporting my student husband and caring

for a very young family. While I tried and failed to learn to speak Welsh, I did learn much about the local history, locality and people and revelled in being in the land of famous Welsh music and choirs.”

“Later, when living and working in P.N.G I had a chance to see art developments in the senior and tertiary schools in Lae and be involved casually with screen printing programs. Students were encouraged to use traditional designs in their work which consisted of carving, sculpture, painting, and screen printing. Dance was taken very seriously and being invited to sing-sings and regional cultural shows was a privilege much enjoyed.”

“My husband and I have been keen walkers for many years. We have been active members of a local walking group which we were partly responsible for developing over twenty five years ago. Because much of P.N.G. is inaccessible by road we had the opportunity to visit many out-of- the-way places through the jungle and stay in villages away from the main stream. Having a basic knowledge of Pidgin English proved to be an advantage when walking into remote areas where contact between white and local people was rare.”

“Being qualified in both nursing and education has meant that I have had the opportunity to be professionally occupied for most of my adult life. Experiences in hospitals, private practice and in the community have opened many doors both locally and overseas. I am delighted to occasionally meet former clients and compare stories of past contacts.”

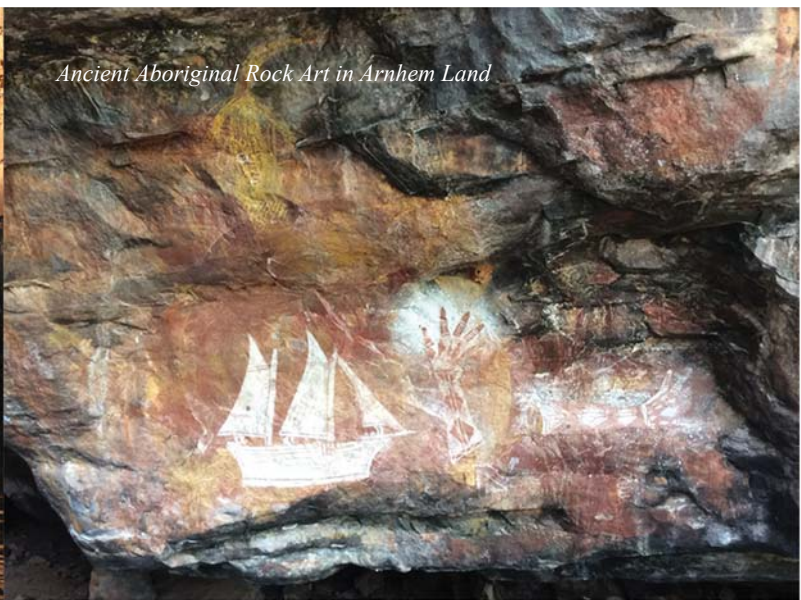
“I am presently enjoying art time with Joan Richard in her watercolour class and Pamela Pretty at her pastel class in Ringwood. I’m also looking forward to making new friends in Castlemaine where I will soon be living and even though I’ll therefore be leaving the Box Hill Art Group, I am indebted to its teachers and extended associates for their friendships and inspiration.”







*Katherine gorge in shadows*



*Ancient Aboriginal Rock Art in Arnhem Land*

## Great painting locations in the Top End

For those artists in search of inspiring landscapes and wildlife to paint, a trip to Australia's Top End won't disappoint.

Cascading waterfalls, lily covered wetlands, mesmerising sunsets, rocky escarpments bathed in breathtaking earthy reds, browns and greens, along with a wide variety of wildlife await for those willing and able to make the trip to Katherine Gorge, Kakadu and Arnhem Land.

Not the easiest places to get to, but even without a four wheel drive (a must for all off-road locations) there are still many beautiful locations accessible by car.

Staying at Katherine Gorge - around 62 kilometres out from the township of Katherine - will allow painters to soak up stunning early morning and late afternoon natural light shows of half shadowed gorges dotted with brilliant golden and green leaved trees on the rocky outcrops.

Then there is Jabiru, the only town in Kakadu, although there are some other settlements in the national park such as Yellow Water Billabong where a lodge and camping ground has been established close by. Riddled with salt water crocodiles, local guides take visitors out in boats onto the Yellow Water Billabong to experience the splendour of waterbirds, water lilies and mangroves with accompanying historical information.

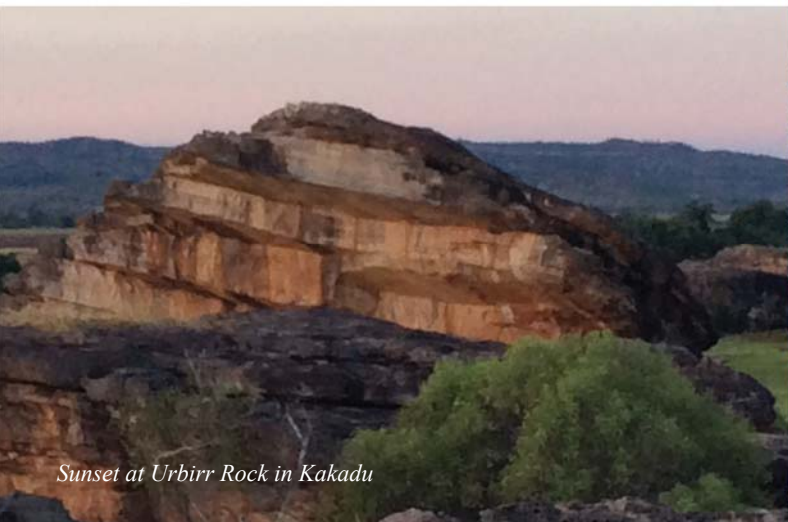
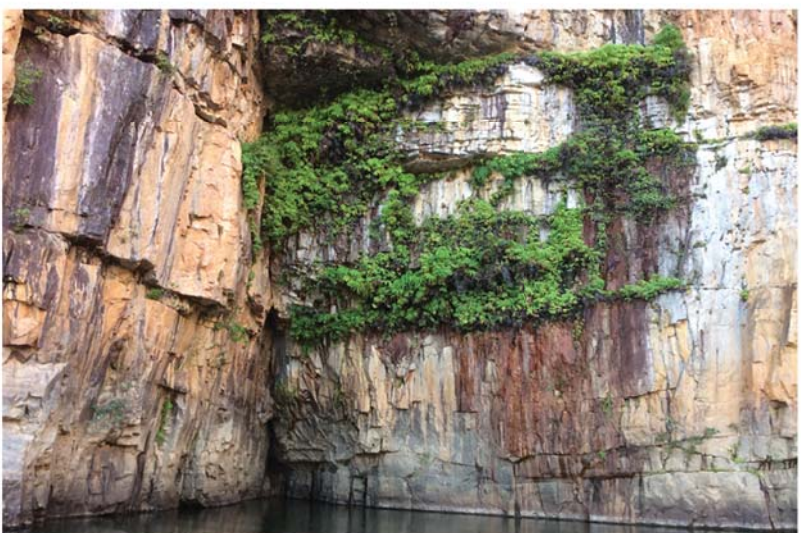
Urbirr Rock is another magnificent place which is covered with ancient Aboriginal rock art, and where visitor's climb up onto the various levels of rock to watch beautiful sunsets over planes stretching out into the distance.

Crossing the East Alligator River into Arnhem Land by four wheel drive with water lapping the tops of the wheels is a real experience as large crocodiles lie in wait within metres of the passing vehicles.

Arnhem Land has its own look with similar, but different mountainous terrain, rock formations containing rock art, and quite spectacularly coloured billabongs with sandy beaches at their shores.

Best time to visit is in the dry season between May and September with daily temperatures between 33 and 36 degrees.

*Walls at Katherine Gorge give life to green plants*



*Sunset at Urbirr Rock in Kakadu*



*Yellow Water Billabong in Kakadu*





### Mid-year exhibition wrap up

Judged by Gillian McCarthy (Arts Officer for the City of Whitehorse) and Stephen Armstrong (arts tutor from Emerald Hill Arts Group) our exhibited works of art were varied and of the highest standard.



**Best oil or acrylic** was awarded to Kathy Best for The Farmhouse which attracted a cash prize of \$150. The judges said that Kathy's painting was an "Exciting use of texture. Ridges echo the landscape. Bold colour."



**Best work on paper**, which also attracted a cash prize of \$150 was awarded to Ray Jones for his Still life with bottle. The judges commented, "Interesting perspective. Strong tonal contrasts create a powerful three dimensional effect."

**The \$50 Encouragement Award** went to Nerida Richardson for her Summer Stroll, an acrylic on paper.

**Other artists who were Highly Commended for their work were:**

**Colin Stephen** for Two Trees, water colour

**Julie Garner** for Bridge in Winter, pencil  
**Tessa Joy** for Estate, a limited edition print

**Rosemary Morgan** for Eagle Owl, ink and water colour

**Robin Guthrie** for Male Gang Gang, oil

**Robin Wren** for Sunbathing at the Point, oil

All winning paintings can be viewed at [www.theboxhillartgroup.com.au](http://www.theboxhillartgroup.com.au)

### Annual Art Exhibition

Entries are now open for our annual art exhibition. Scheduled between the 11th and the 13th of November at the Box Hill Lower Town Hall, new exhibition strategies will be put in place that will better showcase works of art on display, such as improved lighting.

Exhibiting your art with us is not only a prestigious way to display it in front of people from all walks of life, but it also affords you the opportunity of picking up a sale on what you've created. And if that's not enough encouragement, there will be a range of cash prizes across the three major mediums being oil/acrylics, watercolour and pastels.

This year's exhibition theme is to be Marvellous Melbourne which will also attract the Ken Emmett Award for the best themed entry. Entries close 30 October. For more information, including how to enter and/or volunteer to assist in the operation of the exhibition, please go to [www.boxhillartgroup.com.au](http://www.boxhillartgroup.com.au)

### Michelangelo's David,

by Ray Jones



Having a few hip and knee problems I was interested to learn in a recent article in the Weekend Australian that David (the biblical one) had, or should I say has similar problems.

He's got crook ankles! I suppose if you are over 500 years old you could expect a little wear and tear.

It all started in 1464 when the 5.5 metre rock he was born from was hewn from the mountainside. Agostino di Duccio was the guy responsible for choosing the stone and he stuffed up, it was flawed, it had cracks.

It took over 2 years to cart the block to Florence and after hacking and whittling away at it for a while the council gave Duccio the bullet. Poor old David lay on his side for another 35 years until the job was given to Michelangelo in 1531. Mick did the best he could but the damage was done.

### Life drawing

Our two final life drawing opportunities for this year are scheduled for Wednesday 12 October and 16 November between 1pm and 3pm. We have both male and female models who specialise in a range of interesting poses to sharpen your observational and drawing skills, with the session being open to members and non-members for only \$20. Interested? Call Ray to book your place on 0419 114 126.

### Latest from the President

With term four now in session, I hope you all have returned with great new ideas for your next masterpiece. I must guiltily admit that I did not take such advantage of the break but I did do some painting – room walls to be precise.

It is time to get your entries in for our Annual Art Exhibition and don't forget to enter the special theme of 'Marvellous Melbourne'. Our special guest will be Helen Harris who will open the exhibition following our awards ceremony, judged this year by Clive Sinclair. Clive is a member of the Twenty Melbourne Painters and was 2011 Vic. Arts. Artist of the Year.

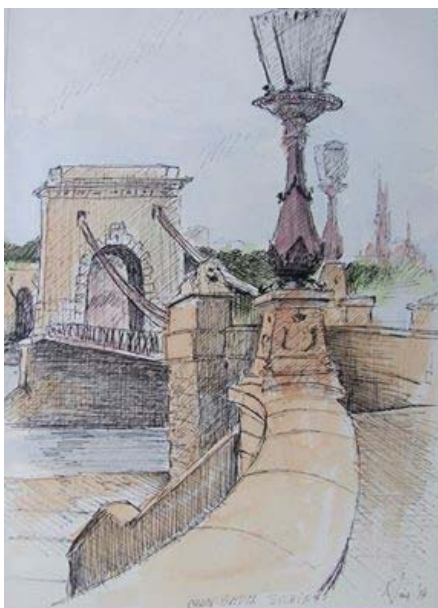
We also plan on having space available for members who would like to come along and paint during the exhibition. The success of our exhibition is dependent on the generosity of our sponsors, so we do urge you to support them. And when making a purchase from a sponsor business, don't forget to tell them that you are a member of the Box Hill Art Group to gain a discount.

Ten artists enjoyed our September Paint-out at South Bank followed by a pleasant lunch. The next Paint-out on 6th November will be a trip on the 109 tram to Port Melbourne. Participants can enjoy a relaxing (free for pensioners) ride to the beach in great company. An excursion not to be missed. Check out the flyer for details.

Our end of year get-together, preceded by a brief A.G.M. will take place in Drycraft West on Saturday December 10th, details following.

### New tutors and class themes

Term four brings new tutors as well as themes for some of our classes.



Paul McDonald-Smith OAM will be teaching our Wednesday morning class and will focus on the secrets of portrait painting, and including the ways in which to include figures into paintings.

In doing this Paul will demonstrate his tonal realist methodology. Keeping up a dialogue as he paints his subject, Paul talks about elements of composition, colour and tone, edges and focus, as well as detail and simplification.

Then there's Craig Rawlings on Tuesday evenings who will focus on sketching the urban environment using a variety of techniques, which will have applications in both travel sketching and studio artworks.

Meanwhile, Hilmi Baskurt will tutor on Wednesday evenings and depending upon which class is attended, class themes will include Urban Environment, Nuances of light and colour, as well as Portraits and figures in paintings.

All details on classes, tutors and themes can be found at [www.boxhillartgroup.com.au](http://www.boxhillartgroup.com.au)



If you have a suggestion or wish to make a comment, please write to us at [editor@boxhillartgroup.com.au](mailto:editor@boxhillartgroup.com.au)

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