



Ballarat Society of Artists Inc.

# NewsLetter

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Reg. No. A0009972

Po Box1328, Mail Centre, Ballarat 3354

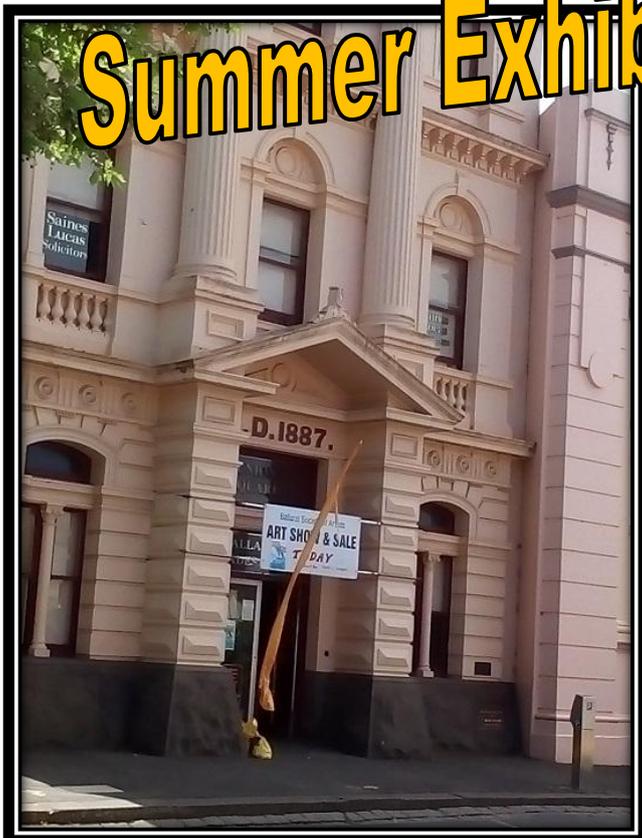
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ABN 31198964142

## December 2017



# Summer Exhibition has started!



Our last meeting of the year

**2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

Come along and join us!

Monthly painting competition is

**Black and White.**

Don't forget to bring something for the Christmas hamper Raffle





## President's Report.

Hi everyone.

Last night, BSA members, partners, family and friends shared conversation, food and refreshments at our Summer Exhibition at the Trades Hall whilst we were gently entertained by the music and song of Lynton Roberts. Thank you for all the members that have contributed their artwork to the display, the biggest number we have seen since using this venue. A number of members have contributed "Skull" themed work including four large tonal Still Life's with Skull oil paintings by Francis Hooper. Yesterday, Julie Maclaren from the Art Gallery of Ballarat (Curator of Romancing the Skull), called in to see the Exhibition. I was reluctant to ask for her "review"..... but hope it was favourable!

The Miner newspaper gave us a mention last week and we have also organised paid advertisements for the next three editions and distributed DL sized leaflets at points around the City. My special thanks to Allan Moody, Barry Walters and Trudy Nicholson for helping with the stand setup, Sue Clarke and Susanne Graham for the finishing touches and of course Lyn Cooke for looking after the artwork entry paperwork.

As some of you are already aware, the Trades Hall has acquired a licence to run the bar installed in the hall. It is open from 4pm each day and during Saturday and Sundays taking opening and closing the hall at most times out of our responsibility. If you are on duty during opening times, say hello to Doug, the Trades Hall bar manager. Visitors are welcome to purchase refreshments but drinks must be consumed on site. Our members can also help themselves to tea and coffee in the kitchen. Machine coffee in there will require a gold coin donation as per the instructions. Members on the roster must also make themselves aware of our own sales procedure and recording, especially the use of our electronic payment facility. This is really very straightforward. Members will be able to replace any sold artwork by paying the \$3.00 entry fee and ensuring it is recorded on their entry form.



We are still in discussions with B.C.C. regarding the Begonia Festival 2018. Trudy and I have met with the Events Team with regards to the Children's Painting Activity and as yet, no final decision has been made regarding the "item or items" to be painted.

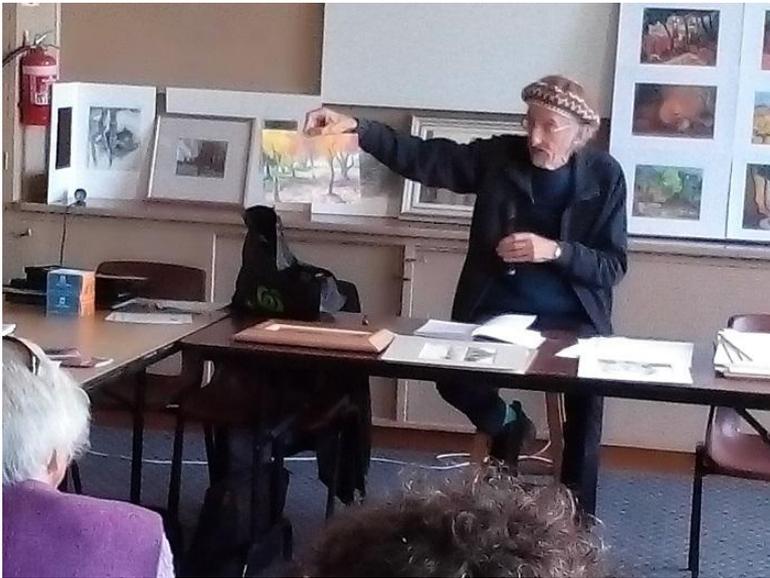
I am also awaiting an official decision regarding Sunday Painting at the lake. The appropriate forms have been submitted. I should add that we have not been notified at any time that we must not paint at the Lake as per our previous arrangements.

So as we fast approach the end of 2017, my very best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy Christmas. I am sure you will also join me in thinking of those members that are dealing with illness and other personal problems at this time. We are indeed so lucky to live, in the main, in a safe, stable, caring and secular society in stark contrast to the pain and suffering in the world around us. I think we all wish for peace in this world and for most of us we can only support that by thinking globally but acting locally.

See you at the meeting,

*John Canham*





# Art in FOCUS

## Artist: Alan Leishman

We are thankful to Alan for taking time out from his busy schedule to come and talk to us. He brought with him a wide selection of drawings and painting examples. Thanks to Susan Clarke, here is a synopsis of his talk which was both interesting and informative.

Alan was born in Mentone, in South of France, which is on the Italian border with France on the Mediterranean Coast. He started to paint at age of four and continued drawing at school. He went to art school and became a draughtsman in 1956. But continued to study art and played jazz clarinet when he could. He worked for an advertising agency in London and travelled, documenting his travels by drawing often in pencil. One of his paintings was exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer exhibition in London and his art career started to take off.



Alan married an Australian and moved to Australia just after this and now has been here for 30 years. Alan maintains that drawing is an important skill and he painted and drew professionally for a number of years, teaching evening classes in drawing and plein-air drawing. Alan maintains that: ***“The beauty of plein-air drawing is that you don’t need a lot of materials and you can set up quickly.”*** As a tutor he felt his job was just advised. He is more interested in his pupils finding the way they liked to work which helps to make their work better.

***“It is possible to do a genuine work of art that can move people just working in black and white”***. Its amazing how you can get ideas over! When he was ill in the 1970s he did drawing that was powerful but on a small scale in black and white.

He works from drawings and not photographs, often using sketches as a basis for a bigger painting ***“You are better, doing drawing from objects not from photographs because you will learn a lot more from drawing from what is around you.”*** Drawing is the first contact with the subject and that is what attracts him to draw. Drawing takes work, the shapes, patterns, light, dark, and atmosphere. Drawing helps with his mind. ***“Landscapes take you out of yourself, I’m not consumed with self when creating landscape.”***



If we look back in history, before the camera was a viable invention, the one thing artists could do was work in colour. Later as cameras and photography improved family portraits took over from portrait artists. During the 1850 period to 1900 colour was still the edge of art, at the time, over photograph and any other art form. Painting was the only way you could get an idea of what colour meant. Colour is so difficult to deal with in words. **“One colour on its own has a relationship only when it has other colours around it.”**

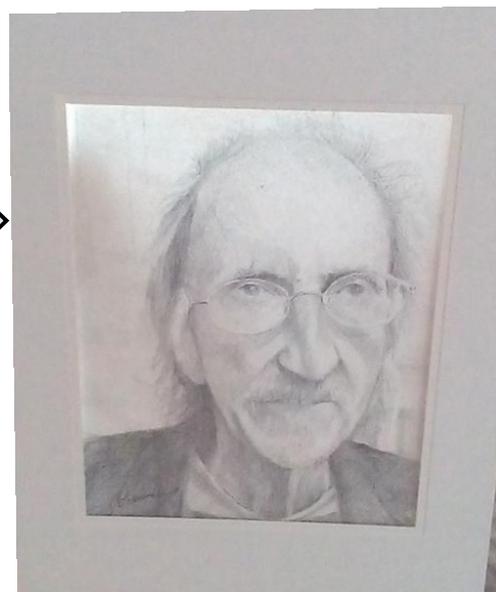
**“Painting starts, makes it presence potent, at the point where words are no longer alive.”** The subject dictates the way the colour is dictated. One size doesn't fit all. How an artist relates to his/her work, depends on the topic. Light and the material you use can play a part in how you tackle a painting.



**Abstract art:** Mark making is abstract when it begins as a drawing. All art is abstracting in a way. When referring to indigenous art what makes it great is not only the story but the marks and limited range of colour. In drawing artists makes the line where it wants to go. It is important to remember that all art is dealing with an abstraction and tackle it in your own way

In spare time Alan painted in Warrnambool. First Exhibition in Australia was at Hamilton Art Gallery.

Brian Lawrence presented Alan with a portrait done in pencil as a thankyou.



## Summer Challenge

**“You are better, doing drawing from objects not from photographs because you will learn a lot more from drawing from what is around you.”**

In light of Alan's words, why not make take the challenge this holiday to do one drawing each week? We will have a mini exhibition on our first meeting in February.

radmac **office choice**

- Art Materials
- Educational requirements
- Office stationery
- Computer consumables
- Drawing & drafting



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# Summer Exhibition



Our Exhibition is under way! The opening night was well attended.

Big thank you to Lynton Roberts for providing the music.





Congratulations to our November Painting Winners!  
Lyn Cooke (1<sup>st</sup>) and Marg Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Next Meeting:

**3rd February**

**Time:** 10.30am

**Venue:** Brown Hill Uniting Church  
Humffray Street Nth,  
Ballarat

**Please bring a plate to share for lunch.**

**Quote of the Month**

*“Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday”*

**Don Marquis**



**Monthly Painting Competition**

*December – Black and White*

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**Treasurer:** Allan Moody

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**Daylesford Art Show**

**Congratulations**  
Lyn Cooke  
Best Animalia

Susanne Graham  
Best Still Life



**Happy Holidays**