

Liverpool Art Society Inc

Est. 1997

Newsletter



New World Order by Kevin Francis

Jan | Feb 2024 Vol. 28 Issue 1



Liverpool Art Society Inc.

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We've survived, and hopefully enjoyed the Christmas festivities and I for one, am looking forward to a great year ahead for LAS and our members.

To begin with I sincerely wish to acknowledge and express my gratitude to our group facilitators and the supportive members of the committee. It's important to recognise the efforts and contributions of those who play a role in the success and positive atmosphere of the LAS in a meaningful way which strengthens our sense of community and encourages collaboration. Thank you!

On a personal level, recent health issues have understandably led me to a change in mindset, particularly in terms of how I allocate my time and energy. This mindset can be quite empowering and often leads to more fulfillment.... I hope.

I've decided moving forward to prioritise my time on activities that align with my personal values and hopefully bring fulfillment in every area of my life... I feel this is a healthy approach. Call it a *'new year's resolution'* of sorts. As a caretaker of the LAS (with the help of the supportive members of the committee), it's crucial to me to focus my efforts on issues and events that contribute meaningfully to our society's goals and the well-being of our members. I'm not interested in negativity; I AM interested in suggestions which benefit members, positive encouragement, collaboration, generosity of spirit and assistance.

In 2024 let's foster a culture of appreciation within LAS. Please be kind to each other and to those who serve LAS behind the sense. Gratitude fosters a positive environment and encourages continued dedication and support. Keeps me going for one.

Personalized messages or gestures can go a long way in making people feel valued and motivated. Additionally, recognizing achievements and contributions publicly, such as during society meetings or events, can further reinforce a culture of appreciation within the Liverpool Art Society.

We have had a very successful 2023, and the most successful Annual Art Exhibition to date. Anticipating positive experiences will contribute to a sense of excitement and unity within our community. No doubt there is something someone will be unhappy with but overall, we are in the best position as an art society in our 26 years. We have 243 members and are growing. We have so much to be proud of and so much to be grateful for. Sure, make suggestions, offer constructive criticism but be appreciative of those who do the heavy lifting behind the sense at LAS and are doing their best. Be kind and supportive please. Creating a supportive and appreciative atmosphere not only enhances the experience for each of us involved, but also contributes to the overall success and growth of our art society.

If there's anything specific, you'd like assistance with or if you care to share your plans which could involve LAS for the upcoming year/s, let me know. Whether it's an event idea, a collaboration suggestion, or any other topic, I'm here to help if possible. But also, do be prepared to be active as there is only so much that can be done without more active involvement from you. We're doing better than all-right though, so all good.

I wish us all a KINDER, HEALTHIER, or at least a more mindful gentler year.

You mean enough to me to keep going and doing my best. Take care dear members, I love your artistic souls, please be generous, kind, and supportive to each other and each other's efforts and work. We all need each other. Happy New Year!

ChrIs x



COVER:
LAS Youth Winning Entry
'New World'
by Kevin Francis

BACK COVER:
Background image of
Valerie Covin's artwork
from her solo exhibition
'Lotus Pond'

Meet the LAS members whose artwork was awarded either one of the major or one of the category prizes at the 25th Annual Liverpool Art Society Exhibition @ Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre pictures with the 2023 exhibition judge Litza Veldekis... and a few extra.

Photos by Jason Nichol



Litza Veldekis and Shazia Fazal (right) with Shazia's scholarship winning entry "Bret" mixed media piece. As part of Shazia's Scholarship win, she will have a solo exhibition in 2024 @ CPAC which will run concurrently with the 26th LAS Annual Exhibition.



Fangmin (Jack) Wu with Litza Veldekis in front of the Overall winning entry 'Uncle Archie Roach'.

Fangmin also took out the 2nd prize in the Oil | Encaustic Painting category for his landscape titled 'The tree of time'.
Spoiler alert... just between us: Fangmin will be our first Demo Guest Artists in 2024 demonstrating his award-winning painting style... Can't wait!



John (Wen Han) Wang (left) with Litza Veldekis in front of John's 'Beautiful Giant Bird of Paradise – Series 3' awarded the John Mula Memorial Prize which is an acquisitive prize. The artwork is to be auctioned by the Rotary Club of Liverpool and the Rotary Club of Liverpool West for charity.



Masterton Homes Technical Excellence | Innovation Prize was awarded to Svetlana Panov pictured with for her winning ceramic pieces 'Troika Revisited.'



Yiwei Shi (left) with his artwork 'Two Mates' which awarded 1st Prize in the Acrylic Painting category, pictured with Litza Veldekis (right).



Litza Veldekis (judge) with the artwork awarded 1st Prize in the Oil | Encaustic Painting category: 'And the birds still sang – No.2' by Kelcie Bryant-Duguid.



Tony Walsh pictures with Litza Veldekis and his 1st Prize winning entry in the Ceramics Category titled 'Snap Shot'.



The Photography winning entry, was a portrait titled 'James' by Jin Huang. The winning photographer Jin Huang (right) is with Litsa Veldekis.



Rebecca Brady pictured with her artwork titled 'Come home to me' which was awarded 1st Place in the Mixed Media category.



Vicky Wacha (left) and judge Litsa Veldekis with Vicky's Innovative artwork titled 'Feathered Tapestry,' Awarded 2nd place in the Mixed Media category.



1st place Watercolour Category winner Marwa Charmand (right) with her winning entry 'Miris Abdirahman, Somalia (Concept) ICRC', with Litsa.



Rafiqur Khan pictured with Litsa Veldekis in front of Rafiqur's, 'Two Birds in the Foggy Morning' artwork awarded 2nd place in the Watercolour category.



Mark Randall with Litsa Veldekis standing behind Mark's ceramics piece titled, 'Smashed' which was awarded 2nd place in the Ceramics category.



1st Place in the Drawing | Original Prints category winning piece, 'Depths of Despair (Inspired by Teresa Bell's book, Lunation) by Pamela Rodoreda.



Litsa Veldekis with the Sculpture winning entry, 'Spring in Blooming' by Selma Fida.



Hedar Abadi proudly holding his certificate for his artwork, 'War & Peace' awarded 2nd place in the Acrylic Painting category.



Marwa Charmand (left) with her 2nd place winning entries in the Drawing | Original Prints category, 'ICRC Concepts' pictured with Litsa Veldekis.



Katuna (Katie) Reid with her Mixed Media entry 'Aunt Rosie's Posies'



LAS member Elizabeth Ellen pictured with her oil on canvas entry 'Dancing the Swan'.



'Hanging on for dear life' Plastic on coat hanger by Mariam Abbas (right) with Hedar Abadi.



LAS member Adris Frety with his Exhibition entry, 'Undefined Gender', Acrylic on Canvas



Litsa Veldekis (left) the exhibition judge, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Fiona Macnaught, who graciously presented the certificates, John (Wen Han), the John Mula Memorial Prize winner, LAS President Chris Hunter, Peter Beagle (Rotary Club of Liverpool West) and Barry Hancock (Rotary Club of Liverpool).

Luke Letourneau, Curatorial and Collections Lead @ CPAC, and our MC extraordinaire. Thank you, Luke.



Full House !!!



Nikita Karvounis, Operations Team Leader @ CPAC (currently acting manager of CPAC) and LAS Pres. Chris Hunter, cake cutting duty.

As most of you would know by now, CPAC's most colourful director, Craig Donarski 'has left the building' after seven years of service. At his farewell in November Craig made the following farewell speech, and I thought that many of you would be interested in reading it.

Craig Donarski's words:

Accustomed as I am to public speaking... this one's the hardest to deliver, in all my seven years at the helm of CPAC...so I'm going to try to stick to the script (so I don't lose it!).

It's funny, you always know this day is going to come sooner or later...but nothing quite prepares you for the rush of conflicting and conflicted emotions, thoughts, and memories that it brings up.

What a ride!

From the highest highs to the lowest of lows this has been the most challenging...yet ultimately rewarding...job I've ever done.

Back when I first started when the Parklands were more like a wasteland and you could fire a gun in here and not kill anyone, I thought: "oh... what have I got myself in for..."

But when the CEO, Kiersten Fishburn, said "First, fix the f**ing food", I thought: "I can do that!"

Big ups to Federico and Rosie and the Bellbird crew for sticking at that task ever since, you do us all proud.

There are literally way too many people to thank by name for all the support, guidance, assistance collaboration and creativity that they've contributed to my time here and to this special place...but it would be remiss of me to not call out a few:

First up, to Kiersten and former Mayor Wendy Waller for taking the chance on a colourful ratbag like me in the first place, aided and abetted by my former Director, the always entertaining Dr Eddie Jackson.

To Tina Bono, who was first a colleague and friend and guide navigating my way through the arcane intricacies of Council, before becoming my director and mentor.

To the Councillors who've supported both his place [CPAC] and my work here...some of you are here today and I couldn't have done it without you.

To my colleagues across the portfolio and the wider Council, who brought so much to this place that helped it thrive and flourish and grow. Thank you.

But biggest tributes must flow to all the staff... past and present...who actually do and did all the work that people credit me for.

Your dedication to providing the people of Liverpool and beyond with the highest-quality artistic, cultural and entertainment experiences possible – proves that people in South-West Sydney CAN have nice

things...because they deserve it as much as anyone, anywhere else does.

Thank you.

To the hundreds, no, thousands, of artists, performers, musicians, makers, singers, dancers, filmmakers, producers, photographers, writers, rappers, comedians, and DJs who've filled these spaces and places and walls with the fruits of your labours and talents...thank you.

To the organisations like **Liverpool Art Society (LAS)**, the Liverpool Performing Arts Ensemble (LPAE) and so many more, the cultural groups, universities, community organisations, schools, disability groups and more...who've brought what you do to this place...thank you.

To one particular organisation I must make a special shout-out – the Western Sydney Arts Alliance – some of the members are here today. The WSAA was formed as a kind of mutual support group for Western Sydney Arts Orgs [organisations] when Covid first shut us all down...and has since grown into one of the most significant groups I've ever come across. Thanks to all my colleagues in it, I wouldn't have made it this far without you.

And I've saved the best until last – thanks beyond my ability to express – to my life-partner and wide Jackie McMillan, who's ridden the CPAC rollercoaster with me for the last seven years...as a big chunk of the 30 years that we've been besties.

A truly multi-arts centre like Casula Powerhouse is a rare and precious thing. This unique building ... with its equally unique capabilities...can do things that just can't be done anywhere else.

From large-scale extravaganza including Soft Centre, Bad Dog, or the West all to the most intimate talks and workshops, or massive multi-dimensional exhibition programs like FLIGHT ... there's nowhere quite like this in the state.

The role of Director here is one of stewardship: preserving, protecting, growing, promoting, and expanding the range of possibilities for the people of the present and the future.

So, it's a really hard gig to walk away from ... there's never a right time.

But it's time.

Bloody scary ... it felt like jumping out of a plane without a parachute.

But fortunately, as soon as I did announce it, a couple of days before going into surgery ... a few people started reaching out to me about what's next.

This made me feel more confident that despite the scariness, perhaps everything would work out okay ... that there would be a Next Thing. A life after CPAC.

So, I'm delighted to be able to reveal that I'll be taking up a brand-new position with the NSW Government - as Manager Arts, Culture and Creative Industries White Bay Power Station... and I start Monday week! No rest for the wicked...

As Jackie said: "What could be better than Casula Powerhouse? A bigger powerhouse!"

And this thing's epic in both scale and the ambitions the state government has for it.

You could fit four or more CPACs in its spaces...heck, it's even bigger than the Tate Modern!

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I look forward to showing those of you who are interested, through it once it finishes being a construction site and is ready for the Biennale to take it over from March to June. You really have to see this place to believe it, photos do not do it justice!

And the best part is, my first Key Accountability reads:

Consult and connect with NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries entities and stakeholders, **with a particular**

I think it's pretty awful how baseline human activities like singing, dancing, and making art ...got turned into skills, instead of being seen as behaviours.

So now it's a bit like "the point of doing them is to get good at them" and not "this is a thing humans do ... the way birds sing, and bees make hives".

You don't have to be good at it to enjoy it. The point is to do it. The benefits of doing it flow to everyone who does it ...and even to the people around them... remember, there is no fail ... there is only make.

So, to wrap up: I think Gough Whitlam probably put it best when he said *everything else, we do in government is a means to an end; what the Arts does is an end in itself.*

So, beware [of] the hard-hearted who know the price of everything and the value of nothing ... or those who confuse scale with impact. They're different things.

Be like Gough. He got it.

I mean don't get me wrong, I love festivals and food trucks as much as the next person, but they're only the very visible tip ... of the artistic and cultural iceberg that makes them even possible.

The arts, culture and creative industries are a complex ecosystem that requires investment, nourishment, and support at ALL levels to thrive and flourish ... to create the big names and headline acts of tomorrow ... And all that starts with

**focus on Western Sydney** ... so I'll still get to be part of the vibrant arts and culture scene we're all a part of and so committed to.

I'd like to repeat an excerpt from a speech I wrote that Luke kindly delivered for me, at the launch of the latest Liverpool Art Society exhibition – as I was still stuck at home full of painkillers, after my recent surgery at the time.

The exhibition's still on now, you can check it out while you're here [ended 26 November 2023] ... and its full of the good, the bad and the bloody ugly...but I always looked forward to it each year.

Her's part of what he read out for me:

I love the way this exhibition celebrates the artworks created by local amateur, emerging or semi-professional artists alongside the more skilled professionals like Hedar Abadhi,

Tree is so much to be said for the Sunday Painter of the world...and there's so much good in artmaking and artwork...by people of ALL levels of technical competence and ability.

One life changed

One mind blown

One door opened

One creator encouraged

Which can unlock a butterfly effect that echoes through generations.

I'm done.

Stay humble and ambitious everyone!

Thanks to you all for coming, please stay in touch, my mobile number remains the same and I'm always easy to find on Facebook.

Thanks to all who organized today's sendoff, it's been amazing and humbling... and for the amazing farewell gifts of a fantastic new jacket and some rather special wine...

I'm going to turn into a pumpkin and run away at 6pm sharp...as Jackie has organized a fancy dinner in the city to celebrate my newfound freedom, although that freedom looks like it's going to be rather brief!

Look after each other, be kind to each other, look after this extraordinary place [CPAC]...and keep providing the people with the best in arts and culture and entertainment experiences here.

Take care

By for now...

# LIVERPOOL ART SOCIETY CALENDAR

JAN | FEB  
2024

President - Chris Hunter  
Vice President - Anne Picalovski  
Secretary - Chris Hunter  
Minute Secretary - Sue Drew  
Treasurer - Rod Harris

Committee Members:  
Di Hallinan Sue Drew Jenny Phillips  
Julio Pena Jane Huang

Social Coordinators:  
Jenny Phillips Anne Picalovski

Watercolour | Acrylic Painting | Drawing  
Sue Drew 0425 838 361  
Wednesdays 10:30am - 2pm  
@ The Chipping Norton Community Centre  
(Behind the Primary School)  
Members \$6 Guests \$9

Ceramics  
Selma Fida 0417 434 446  
[clayhouse@bigpond.com](mailto:clayhouse@bigpond.com)  
Wednesdays & Saturdays 10am – 2pm  
The Clay House @Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre  
Member Only \$6

Mixed Media | Oil & Acrylic Painting | Drawing  
Linda Ferlazzo 0418 283 150  
[ferlazzolinda@gmail.com](mailto:ferlazzolinda@gmail.com)  
Thursdays 10am – 2pm  
@ The Lakes Boatshed, Chipping Norton  
Members \$6 - Guests \$9

Life Drawing (Short & Long Poses)  
Peter Thompson 0487 198 714 *(Text Please)*  
Pamela Rodoreda 9601 6078  
Third Sunday of the Month 10:30am – 1:30pm  
Artist's Studio - Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre  
Members \$20 - Guests \$30

## JANUARY 2024

|                        |                                                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday<br><b>24</b> | CERAMICS WEDNESDAY Groups<br>RETURNS<br>@ Clay House CPAC |
| Saturday<br><b>27</b>  | CERAMICS SATURDAY. Groups<br>RETURNS<br>@ Clay House CPAC |

## FEBRUARY 2024

|                       |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday<br><b>1</b>  | MIXED MEDIA Group RETURNS<br>10am-2pm<br>@ Boatshed Chipping Norton               |
| Wednesday<br><b>7</b> | WATERCOLOUR Group RETURNS<br>10:30am – 2:00pm<br>Chipping Norton Community Centre |
| Sunday<br><b>18</b>   | LIFE DRAWING<br>10:30am – 1:30pm<br>Artists' Studio CPAC                          |
| Tuesday<br><b>20</b>  | LAS Social Luncheon<br>11:45am<br>@ Moorebank Sports Club                         |

## Membership Fees Due by end of March

Adult \$35 | Child/Youth \$10 | Family \$50

Pensioner/Concession \$25 | Full Time TAFE & Uni Students \$20

Website: [www.LiverpoolArtSociety.com](http://www.LiverpoolArtSociety.com)

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