

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023 -2024

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The Canberra Art Workshop (CAW) has had a creative and successful year. We continue to maintain and grow our membership; we conducted three planned exhibitions, many exciting workshops and courses; and the art groups continue to attract keen participation.

My great thanks go to the Board Directors retiring at the last Annual General Meeting:

- Prue Power – long time powerhouse of CAW, Life Member, Treasurer and Events Coordinator.
- Sallie Saunders – Secretary and energetic participant in many CAW activities.
- Fiona Baker – Studio Coordinator and Art Group Convenor Liaison.

### Membership Report – Paulina Piira, Membership Coordinator

[memberscaw@gmail.com](mailto:memberscaw@gmail.com)

Our members are the heart of CAW. Often lost in members statistics is everything that members do to make CAW an enjoyable place to come to.

#### Life members

CAW acknowledges and thanks current life members Dennis Bentley, Rick Cochrane, Jill Mail and Prue Power. Our life members continue to support the work of CAW by participating in administrative teams, supporting art groups, attending workshops and in the case of Rick, also tutoring courses and convening art groups. We are discovering that there are some other Life Members hiding in the annuals of time. If you are one of them, or know of any of them, please let the Board know as we are attempting to compile a complete list for posterity.

Throughout 2023/2024 our membership has remained stable. In the last financial year we have averaged 287 members (over five reporting periods).

Some interesting statistics based on our last membership reconciliation in September 2024:

- 50% of members identify as seniors/superannuants
- 50% are either full members or students
- 3 members are recipients of gift certificates

- Visitor passes are well subscribed with 29 people taking advantage of this between July 2023 to date. This continues to be popular, providing members of the public a taster of what CAW has to offer.

CAW is a vibrant and supportive place to meet, learn and be creative. CAW continues to explore ways to improve our members' experience and to encourage members of the public to participate.

## Events Report – Sallie Saunders Events Coordinator

[eventscaw@gmail.com](mailto:eventscaw@gmail.com)

The Events Program for 2023-2024 has achieved a nett result of \$52,711. This is down from the result of \$76,763 in 2022-23 – our best year so far – but still a good result for CAW.

### Workshops

Our workshop program is always popular and we are continuing to develop the program with new and returning artists across diverse genres into 2024-25.

Many thanks to the skilled and generous artists who presented workshops for us:

#### 2023

15-16 July	Basil Hall	Collagraphs – Printmaking with found objects
5-6 August	Kerry McInnis	Be Brave (repeat)
12 August	Michael Creagh	Model Techniques
19-20 August	Gaye Nieuwenhof	The Appreciation of Neutrals
3 September	Rick Cochrane	Expressive Acrylics
8 September	Stephen Clively	Wine, Paint & Pizza
16-17 September	Jan Cristaudo	Bringing the Outside In
14-15 October	Mo Godbeer	Mixed media Encaustic
4-5 November	Noel Thurgate	Dynamic Portraits (repeat)
18-19 November	Amanda Mclean	The Pastel Landscape
8 December	Stephen Clively	Wine, Paint & Pizza

#### 2024

3-4 February	Rita Lazauskas	SITE/InSIGHT: Observational Drawing
10 Feb	Michael Creagh	Model Techniques
16-17 March	Nick Offer	Exciting Approaches to Creating Figurative Compositions
5 April	Stephen Clively	Wine, Paint & Pizza
20-21 April	Anne Rayment	Collage in the Landscape
18-19 May	Noel Thurgate	Dynamic Life Drawing
15-16 June	Peter McLean	Monotype Printmaking

## 2023

28 June

Stephen Clively

Wine, Paint & Pizza

### **Courses:**

2023-24 saw an increase in the number and style of the tutored courses offered by CAW. However, our first thanks must go to our stalwarts, Leigh Walker (“Drawing: the basis of creation”) and Rick Cochrane (“Sunday Fundamentals Oils”) who continue to engage and inspire members and non-members in their courses.

Our new program owes much to some highly skilled CAW members who have designed new courses for beginners and/or people wishing to explore new directions. We offer these courses in the evenings to attract people who are still in the workforce or otherwise engaged during the day.

This has been a successful strategy - all courses offered have been fully booked, feedback has been fantastic and we have recruited quite a few new members. Requests for repeats in 2024-25 are underway or ‘in negotiation’.

We are very grateful for the hard work and excellent delivery of all our course tutors. Special thanks to our new tutors for 2023-24:

- Erin Stonestreet – Introduction to Portraiture
  - Kristine Kershaw – Cardboard Sculpture
- and,
- Cassandra Dove – Venture into Abstraction

### **Art Groups**

Art groups provide a social and artistic meeting point for our creative members and the high standard of work is evident in the regular wall displays in our studio. Art groups are only available to members and all our activities depend on the hard work and support of the group convenors, our web guru Peter Pickernell and our Models organiser, Michael Creagh. A huge vote of thanks to you all.

The dedication and sheer hard work of our web guru, Peter Pickernell, has made the web-based booking system possible. Peter has streamlined our administration and made many improvements over the past 12 months. Once logged in, members can now book-in to multiple sessions and make one payment. All bookings are recorded and booking lists sent to convenors. Suggestions for improvements have been implemented wherever possible.

Models are a vital component of all life drawing and portrait groups. Our Models organiser, Michael Creagh, provides invaluable assistance in providing Models Training workshops twice every year and in maintaining a comprehensive list of models for us.

## Art Groups 2023 - 2024

Day	Topic	Convenor
<b>Monday</b>		
9.30 -12.30	Printmaking	Carolyn Brooks Amanda Adrian and Peter Pickernell
1 – 4pm	Life Drawing	Susan Banks
<b>Tuesday</b>		
9.15 – 11.45am	Portrait	Anne Sawkins
1 – 4pm	ExplorARTive	Sallie Saunders
<b>Wednesday</b>		
9.30am – 12.30pm	Pastels	Pauline Rohan
6.30-9.30pm	Life Drawing	Rick Cochrane
<b>Thursday</b>		
9.30am – 12.30pm	Experimental	Julie Spencer
1 – 4pm	Experimental	Julie Spencer
6.30 -8.30pm	Portrait	Kate Scott
<b>Friday</b>		
9.30am – 12.30pm	Portrait	Pamela Daniel
6.30-9.30pm	Life Drawing	Michael Creagh
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri		
<b>Sunday</b>		
1.30-4.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Life Drawing and Portrait	Cliff Woodward

The list of current art groups and convenors can be found on the website.

Suggestions for Workshops and Courses are always welcome. Please send all your ideas etc to:

Sallie Saunders

Events Coordinator

email: [eventscaw@gmail.com](mailto:eventscaw@gmail.com)

## CAW Exhibitions – Amanda Adrian, Exhibitions Coordinator

[exhibitionscaw@gmail.com](mailto:exhibitionscaw@gmail.com)

### Exhibition Team

- Ilona Lasmanis
- Sonya Thoms

- Rick Cochrane
- Jill Mail
- Francis Johnson
- Amelia Mollett
- Cassandra Dove
- Sonja McAuliffe
- Amanda Adrian

Three successful CAW Exhibitions were held over the 2023-2024 reporting period:

### Testamur 5 - 2022 Exhibition – exhibition of the riches from CAW events

- Gallery 1 M16 – Thursday 26 October to: Sunday 19 November 2023

The annual CAW Testamur Exhibition is for displaying artworks created in, or inspired by these CAW events – workshops, courses and art groups.

### On Show - 2024 Exhibition - Sustainability - Annual CAW Members Exhibition

- Gallery 1 M16 - Thursday 13 June – Sunday 7 July 2024

THEME: SUSTAINABILITY

An exhibition focusing on our response to creating a world that sustains us and future generations along with our natural environment.

Circular economies, Renewables, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, are all part of a more sustainable approach to living on our planet.

The current models we use to maintain our western standards of living and comfort are inextricably linked to profits, consumerism and an insatiable appetite for the latest gadget or experience. A pursuit that rarely looks at the environmental or humanitarian impact.

Indigenous peoples have practiced sustainability over generations living in harmony with the natural world. Are we able to learn from their ways?

Are our own art practices sustainable?

### Still Life Exhibition 2023 - CAW Members Single Subject Exhibition

- Gallery 2 M16 - 6-30 July 2023

tate.org.uk defines Still Life as:

*“Still life includes all kinds of man-made or natural objects, cut flowers, fruit, vegetables, fish, game, wine and so on.*

*Still life can be a celebration of material pleasures such as food and wine, or often a warning of the ephemerality of these pleasures and of the brevity of human life.” CAW, on the other hand, defines Still Life as “Anything you want it to be”.*

## Curation and hanging

Once again, our thanks go to Ilona Lasmanis who curated these exhibitions; and to Berend Kraak and CAW member Francis Johnson who professionally hung the exhibitions.

## Graphic Designer

The colourful and delightful CAW posters and exhibition catalogues are the work of the very talented CAW volunteer, graphic designers Carolyn Brooks and Iona Walsh. Great thanks to them for their professional and creative work.

Sadly, Carolyn died on 16 March 2024 and is much missed.

## **Communications, Marketing and Website Report – Peter Pickernell, Communications Coordinator**

[canberraartworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:canberraartworkshop@gmail.com)

### Overview

A steady flow of images (from members' work on the studio wall, events and exhibitions) go out to social media and the CAW website. Images dating back to 2020 can be viewed.

### 2024 Gallery and Studio wall Exhibitions

Photos of exhibition entries can be seen via the 'Memory Lane' link on the CAW website.

Photos of artworks posted on the studio wall throughout the year can also be found via the 'Memory Lane' link.

### Blogs

The ArtsACT newsletter and other articles that may be of interest to members are regularly posted in the 'What's New' section of the website.

### Interface Improvements

There is still room for improvement on the CAW website and the committee are always looking for ways to enhance members' experience.

### Website

The IT support team are looking at ways to improve the website's response time.

Conveners now receive a more accurate list of members booked into each weeks art group and a spreadsheet of numbers and attendees is created.

Soon conveners will receive a monthly copy of these records.

## Social Media

CAW Instagram page has 1328 followers, up from 1230 this time last year.

Facebook has 728 followers, up from 683 this time last year.

## The CAW Studio Team – Peter Pickernell and Paulina Piira, Convenors

[studio.management.caw@gmail.com](mailto:studio.management.caw@gmail.com)

Many of you will be aware of the studio's ongoing power issues. These have been caused by the inadequate power infrastructure in the building. Initially the building was a school, then it was a library, neither of which required a lot of power, however, a workshop full of students wielding hair dryers quickly overloaded the circuit. Three large studios were all on the same power circuit, so when one studio caused an overload the other all had to wait in darkness until the circuit was restored. To overcome this problem M16 issued a decree that all water was to be boiled in the communal kitchen and carried to the studios.

The CAW board brought this to the attention of the Minister for Arts and the issue was quickly resolved with three new twenty Amp circuits installed to provide a more reliable supply.

If there are any issues with the studio that can be improved please contact the studio manager with your suggestion.

## Finances

Financial Report provided separately.

## Mavis Hall Trust

### Trustees

- Merrilyn Fitzpatrick – Treasurer
- Paulina Piira – Vice President
- Amanda Adrian – President

## 2023 Grant

The 2023 Mavis Hall Grant recipient was Iona Walsh and Iona has provided the Trustees with her interim Report as required under the terms of the Grant.

## 2024 Grants

Nine applicants have submitted proposals for the two available Grants Of \$5,000 in 2024.

The Awards to the successful applicants will be announced at the 2024 CAW AGM.

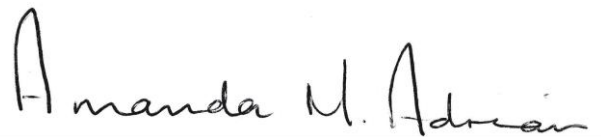
## M16

Our thanks go again to the M16 team for their continuing support.

## CAW Board

My thanks also go to the 2023-2024 Board in the run up to AGM:

- Trish O'Neil – Secretary
- Merrilyn Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Mavis Hall Trustee
- Paulina Piira – Vice President, Mavis Hall Trust Trustee, Membership Coordinator and Studio Coordinator, Events Team Member
- Peter Pickernell – Communications, Website Liaison, Studio Team Coordinator
- Ami Ward – Board Director, Events Team Member
- Carolyn Brooks – Board Member until January 2024 - Exhibition Team Member, Events Team Member, Graphic Artist, Art Group Convenor
- Iona Walsh – casual appointee Board Director from January 2024, Graphic Artist, Mavis Hall Grant Recipient 2023
- Ilona Lasmanis - casual appointee Board Director.
- Amanda Adrian – President, Events Team and Exhibition Team member, Mavis Hall Trust Trustee.



**Amanda Adrian**  
**President**  
**October 2024**