

A Real Treat: MAG @ Brighton Central

In the Festive Loop

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Our first-ever Brighton Central Shopping Centre MAG exhibition can only be described as a success.

As the venue is small, we only managed to place seven screens, so artists who planned to exhibit their paintings, were restricted to quarter and half screens. Despite this restriction, thirty artists participated and most sold paintings.

Sixty paintings were sold in the two weeks of the exhibition. Some of our new members sold for the first time as MAG members.



Liz Maxted demonstrating

MAG made a most satisfactory profit from the exhibition and that money will be used to improve club facilities and equipment (we will be commissioning a new sales desk). We became ecofriendly and got rid of our plastic bags, thanks to the efforts of Kay for sourcing very smart paper bags.



Preparing for Sales with some training by Jim Green

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES in 2020

Noarlunga: March (dates TBA)

Bayside, Glenelg: August (dates TBA)

Brighton Central: October (dates TBA)

Rotary Art Shows—Go to www.rotaryartshow.org for information exhibitions, forms and entry dates.

More Opportunities...

If you wish to display your work on our MAG website. Documents are ready if you would like to showcase your work. **For more information, see Jim Green.**

Privacy Policy: MAG members' personal information will be limited to MAG-purposes only. This information will not be conveyed or sold to a third party (including electronic means), without the member's consent. MAG will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure of information.

To contact the Editor or MAG committee, go to the MAG website for details.



Lynne Wong's Flower Display

Thank you again to Liz Maxted for donating her splendid painting "Near Leigh Creek". Liz also did a demonstration on the two "Friday night Meet the Artist" events held at Ruggy's Wine Bar. These evenings were entertaining, but the vision of art patrons floating around the exhibition with glasses of wine sadly didn't eventuate due to restrictions on the liqueur licence. However, we discovered people in wine bars are exceptionally generous and sales of raffle tickets for Muddy Puddles went through the roof.



Floating around with wine glasses—sort of

The set up and running of the exhibition went smoothly. I think we do remarkably well at the complex sales tasks and promotion of our work. When you consider we only have two or three exhibitions a year it's a credit to club members that we process sales of raffles and art as well as we do. Well done everyone. We also got some great feedback from the public about the art on display. Also, Brighton Foodland were tremendously supportive of our efforts. Hopefully next year will be even more of a success.

~Lynne Wong

For members who prefer to pay their fees etc by bank transfer, the bank details are as follows:

Account name: MARION ART GROUP INC.

BSB number: 085 333

Account number: 77773 7765

IMPORTANT: Members will need to put their surname in the reference box, so we know who the payment is from.

[President's perspective from page 1]

As we wind up 2019 and approach the festive season, I am reminded that we need to do some Christmas shopping. It may be that some artwork laying around could be wearing some Christmas paper very soon! Have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year. See you all again on Monday January 13, 2020. The season's Greetings from your smiling President, **Jim**.

Issue
22

December
2019



Welcome to our **twenty-second** edition of iMAGine.

A Christmas "Dauble" From The Editor



Christmas approaches and with that the season to spring clean and declutter. With good reason for MAG as changes in the Marion council and community hall are impending, which could mean changes for us.

And so, behind the scenes, on a recent Monday, the tireless committee, gave up their painting for one session to clean out the back cupboards and rooms.

Bubble wrap found a home. Excess cardboard relegated to the recycling bin. Left-over art supplies from the recent rummage sale, picked over into oblivion by MAG members circling for a freebee. And I confess, I took my fair share, which then inspired me to cull and tidy up my art room at home.

But we were thankful that in the end, tidying up the cupboards was a MAG community effort. **Blessed Christmas**

~Lee-Anne Kling

iMAGine



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MAG puts on a show at Brighton Central

MAG EVENTS 2019

2019

Monday 9 December

End of Year Lunch

2020

Monday 13 January:

1st Studio Session for New Year

Monday 20 January:

Studio Session & Committee Meeting

Monday 27 January:

Public Holiday: No Session

Monday 3 February:

Studio & Portraiture Session

Monday 10 February:

Studio & Still Life Session

Monday 17 February:

Studio & Pastel Session

Monday 24 February:

Newsletter 23 Release

Monday 24 February:

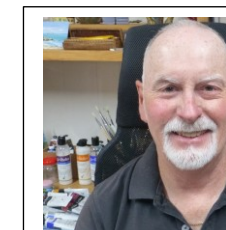
Studio Session & Committee Meeting

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THE PRESSIE-DENT'S PERSPECTIVE

What a year we've had! Personally, I can say that it has all been very enjoyable and hope you all feel the same way.

We all have a life outside of MAG, and I have appreciated members' honesty when I have approached people to come onto the committee. Family and other community responsibilities, health issues, and holidaying etc., of course, come first. I have appreciated also that new members need more time to fit into the culture of the group before perhaps taking on more responsibility.

Personally, this year, I have loved becoming a biological grandfather for the first time. Asher is now 5 months old and smiling at me when I see him. Probably it's my funny face or 'wind' or he's just figured out that he will be spoilt unmercifully by his Pop and will be given many Christmas presents in years to come! I have also devoted some time to my golf club's social committee as secretary/publicist this year and will continue in this role in 2020. Significantly, Sharon and I have holidayed in our caravan quite often as well.

I have been in the fortunate position of being able to fit in all the other aspects of life and contribute to MAG in my way, with loving encouragement from my better half.

[Continued p.4]

Marion Art Group Website: marionartgroup.org

Artist in Focus:
Charlie Shears

Several years ago, I was privileged to be a member of the Marion Art Group; a time when the group were travelling under the auspices of our stalwart president Jan Ulrich and faithful veteran Bruce...and a motley crew who supported these dear folks in various roles. My friend (Roger Goodall) and I volunteered the supervision of the transport and delivery for all the display and furniture paraphernalia to exhibition sites. He would meet me at the crack of dawn at the hall, ready with a list of instructions, to prepare the load, take charge and advise the transport drivers.



When the group arranged excursions, Roger would say, 'Save me a seat, Charlie.' And we would talk our silly heads off all the way there and back. This gracious man is now a fond memory to many of us. I was fortunate to be with him during his battles against the ravages of his health afflictions until the end. For me, MAG without Roger was an emotional struggle and so I decided to take a sabbatical from the group.

That was then...and this is now. I pondered: Could I possibly squeeze back into the group? Would my art stuff pass their stringent scrutiny?

Well, you know the result. I survived and now feel that I am "back home". As a new bloke on the block, albeit second time round, I am able to discern some of the changes and energy of the Monday morning gathering.

I'll digress to explain my observation...We live in a world where information technology with all of its media intrusions has invaded the space of us from an older generation. Now, I understand that there is a feature identified as *Hardware* which is

the base and conduit for the *Software* of our communication...But, something is missing...It is called "*Warmware*". I have struggled with adjusting to this IT onslaught into my twilight years of retirement. For my wife and me, the "*Warmware*" has been the presence of our grandchildren as they put their arm around our shoulders to lead us through the technological processes.

And, so it is with Marion Art Group. The folk in the group share "*Warmware*" in spades. The atmosphere of support and friendship is special among both guys and dolls. I take this opportunity to thank old and new members who have accepted me into membership. In particular, I recognise the dedication and terrific leadership of the present committee members. ~ *Charlie*

Hi all,
Apparently, I'm supposed to be writing about art tips. I was under the impression I was given licence to ramble on about art stuff. (I have to pay more attention to things.) "Tips", interesting, because what I know about art, probably could be written on the head of a pin.... with a sledgehammer. However, I have made some observations on the journey so far and I'll happily pass them on in the hope that they might resonate, or be of some use, or even provide some encouragement.

I was going to write about blocks, then attitude, then aging, but felt that what I had to offer would've been nothing new to most people. So, I thought, what can I write about that's at least a bit different. Perhaps immortality would be a suitable subject; maybe the topic we have pondered not so much in terms of our own but in terms of our art, or art in general. I mean, some art seems immortal: *Mona Lisa*, *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, and many others. Why? Why indeed. There are books written about that subject. Not my purpose with this little diatribe. I just want to pass on, as said, some observations gleaned through experience, research and conversation. Some of the experience regarding mortality came about through my stint as a preacher.

Art Tipples:
Immortality and Art
By Eric Payne



Yes, you heard right, or at least read right. I hope you didn't hurt yourself when you fell off the chair, but as Pacino said in "*Scent of a Woman*", I've been around, you know. But that's another story. The problem with the issue of immortality is our mortality, of course. And that can, and usually does, lead to the lid being off and the worms everywhere.

So, it's immortality and art, namely my art, your art, our art. The promise is: "Every artist wants his work to be permanent. But what is? The Aswan Dam covered some of the greatest art in the world. Venice is sinking. Great books and pictures were lost in the Florence Floods. In the meantime, we still enjoy the butterflies." (*Roman Bearden*) And somewhere in there is a part of what I want to say. You see, I am taking this from a personal point of view. And if we are concerned to whatever degree that our art continues beyond us to whatever degree that may be, then that may be the subject for another dissertation. What I am looking at is more about our attitude of perception of our art now.

And that is based on this premise: "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying." (*Woody Allan*) At this point, what Bill Clinton had to say on the topic is relevant, namely, "We want to live forever, and we're getting there."

I can get to the point by looking at what Duke Ellington said, "We aren't worried about posterity — we wanted to sound good right now." As some of you may know, I was an English teacher in my other life and the novelist, Samuel Butler, sums a lot of my views, not just on art, but certainly underpins what I'm saying here and that is, "To himself everyone is immortal. He may know that he is going to die, but he can never know that he is dead." For me, that statement makes thoughts of immortality in terms of one's art, kind of, at the least, irrelevant, no? Well, certainly for the artist. (One's religious views aside.)

To the punchline: "No, the thing to do is try to make a painting that will be alive in your own lifetime." That's about the best — all you can do in my opinion. At least it's what I try and do. Food for thought, maybe, which was entirely my intention. Cheers.

Charity 2020
Next year MAG will be supporting Lion Hearts Learning which is a playgroup set up for children undergoing oncology treatment, children affected by cancer aged 2-5years. Great care is taken to provide a safe and hygienic environment where all toys etc. are disinfected to avoid danger of infection.



PORTRAITURE PRACTICE
MAKES PERFECT

Try your hand,
practise your skill.



First Monday every month.



Have a go at STILL LIFE
—every 2nd Monday of the Month.

MAG LIBRARY...a great resource of books and videos for your art...



Your friendly librarians:
Margaret Pope & Anne Bates

Photos in this edition have been taken and provided by Maryla Wawrzyski, Lee-Anne Kling, Jim Green & Lyn Thomas

Snapshots of 2019



Well done, MAG, \$2500 raised towards the Muddy Puddles Foundation.



Pastel workshop May



Melbourne Cup Muse



Congratulations Peter Heinjus for his prize-winning painting at a recent Adelaide Hills exhibition.



Mates Peter Heinjus and Nick T At Bayside Village Exhibition



Charlie Shears and his artwork at Brighton Central Exhibition

Sincerest apology that the following information in the article: **Artist in Focus, iMAGine 21** was incorrect. The painting shown entitled "An English Village" should have read "The Shambles". The corrections have duly been made. Also, details of the artist's prizewinning accomplishments at the Royal Adelaide Show have been added. These can be viewed in the updated version of **iMAGine 21** on the MAG website.