

**President**  
**Sue Wild** (04) 526 7304  
Email: sue.wild@paradise.net.nz



**Secretary**  
**Martin Jenkins** (04) 473 2235  
Email: apdc@paradise.net.nz

**Treasurer**  
**Michael Bain** (04) 934 2271  
Email: mgbain@xtra.co.nz

**WATERCOLOUR  
NEW ZEALAND**  
P O Box 33088  
Petone 5046

**Editor**  
**Phil Dickson** (04) 389 7317  
Email: pandj.dickson@xtra.co.nz

[www.watercolournewzealand.co.nz](http://www.watercolournewzealand.co.nz)

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Summer-2010-2011**

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#### **EVENT SUMMARY**

**Sun 12 Dec**

\***MPG** Painting with Jacky Pearson.  
Burden's Gate, Eastbourne, followed by  
**Christmas Party 1pm** at Williams Park, Days Bay.  
Bring a shared lunch, liquid refreshments provided.

**Sun 30 Jan 2011**

**MPG** Painting with Dan Reeve.  
Corner Aro and Devon Streets

**Tue 1 Feb**

Café: Deliaro, 89 Aro Sreet.  
WNZ Term 1, 8 week Watercolour Classes commence with  
Shirley Sutton.

**Sun 27 Feb**

**MPG** Painting with Jacky Pearson.  
Katherine Mansfield Park, Thorndon.  
Café: Mojo, Molesworth Street.

**Fri 11-Sun 13 Mar**

**Three day workshop** with Guy Gruwier.

**Sun 27 Mar**

**MPG** Painting with Jacky Pearson.  
Houghton Bay, Wellington south coast.  
Café: The Bach, 410 The Esplanade, Island Bay.

\***MPG Monthly Painting Group** (*Details below*)

#### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

"Our wonderful world of watercolour." That's a phrase from committee member, Chris Andersen and it's true. Our society is a world of varied people, a wide range of ideas and painting styles, everyone with experiences to share, everyone friendly and happy. Let me paint you some pictures ... verbal pictures!

On our Safari to Nelson Lakes two weeks ago, the group ranged from 9 to 80 years of age and included as many partners and friends as there were artists. Thirty people came from south and north and were warmly welcomed by the local community. We sat in the sun and painted mountains, water, old baches, bush and each other. The young sought out eels, tadpoles and climbed a peak; the old strolled the shore. For our exhibition, *Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7, over 70 people helped our very hard-working committee. Again, they came from all over New Zealand, family and friends; they chatted and laughed as they worked. Thanks to all those who contributed effort, equipment and exhibits. You made *Splash*<sup>®</sup> a success. We had more visitors to our show and sold

more paintings than last year. Who mentioned hard times? We were delighted that four commercial art businesses found our exhibition merited their sponsorship: Exhibitions Gallery, NZ Art Schools, French Art Shop and Gordon Harris.

I was painting on Wellington waterfront recently and a gentleman stopped to chat; 10 days later he was a happy student in Jacky's workshop. Since July we have welcomed 42 new members! Our members live in such places as Geraldine, Timaru, Akaroa, Upper Moutere, Thames, Gisborne, Pahiatua, Whakatane. (Note to self: contact the Bluff and Cape Reinga art groups!) On the international front, recently I have been in contact with the Royal Watercolour Society of UK, the first International Watercolour Biennale in Belgrade, Serbia; Martin has arranged a Belgian tutor for us, we will welcome Indian artists amongst us next year .... and you'll read about an exciting overseas painting trip in an article below.

The Watercolour New Zealand mix is exciting and stimulating. We are quietly humming. Remember, we always welcome ideas and comments from you, our people.

A couple of notes: I can recommend our new tee shirts. They are quality cotton with neat graphics and come in red, white and black. (\$22 per tee +\$5 postage). Secondly, for those who haven't attended *Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7, we have made a CD with a PowerPoint slide show about the exhibition. (\$10 inc postage.)

Why not sketch the family BBQ, or Christmas gathering?

*Happy painting, Sue Wild*

### **SPLASH<sup>®</sup> 7 EXHIBITION**

When I was asked if I could write a short review of *Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7 for this newsletter, I thought, yes! It will give me the opportunity to say thanks properly. When it was announced at the *Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7 opening that I was the recipient of one of the awards, I was so taken off balance that I just didn't know what to say, I actually thought Sue was joking when she announced it. So here goes – A big thanks - I feel so honoured and was completely blown away by it, I still can't believe it. (Did you know though, - I think I may hold a world record - I am possibly the only award winner – ever – to have given the drum role prior to his own award announcement - well sort of - I actually held the gallon can up for our artist/musician Duleep to beat, who was also in our band that night.) Congratulations to all the other award winners. (see item following this report) I can imagine that they are all equally as thrilled as I was.

Overall there were many amazing paintings in the exhibition and it is clear that many of our artists are going from strength to strength with every consecutive *Splash*<sup>®</sup> getting even better and more exciting. The combined efforts of our guest artists, John Rundle and Phil Dickson, provided a wonderful and highly skilled entry and focal point for the whole exhibition.

*Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7 was a particularly challenging exhibition for Sue to organise with her committee together with her amazing team of volunteers. We decided that because we were weathering a tough *discretionary spending climate*, we needed to pull out all stops in order to still try and sell as many of your paintings as possible - and we did it. We went full out with promotion and also tried a daring new initiative, introducing Watercolour NZ and *Splash*<sup>®</sup> exhibitions to members of the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce. This was done through a special function held just before the official opening. This was a huge undertaking led by Sue and Martin and ran like clockwork. It meant double the work but everyone came to the party. Thanks to all

our members who worked so hard and contributed to both functions running like clockwork. The food was also magnificent.

Michael Bain led his dance band 'City Jazz' providing the wonderful atmosphere for the first function. But as they had another engagement to go to, our 'op shop' street band 'The Pits' took over for the second half. Thanks to all the fun ladies who joined our rhythm section and took over the kitchen sink percussion instruments. It was so much fun playing with a full-on dancing percussion section.

Throughout the exhibition week we continued with our festival of watercolour painting starting with the popular Saturday morning *Coffee & Scones* session and Adrienne Pavelka's workshop. The ever popular daily artist demonstrations continued to be a hit with some budding artists turning up daily to soak up whatever they could learn from our demonstrators. We also invited over 40 Probus groups to visit, this proved popular and on some days we had several groups visit together. With the increasing fun and momentum of *Splash*<sup>®</sup> exhibitions, maybe we could even work towards a National Watercolour Week – what do you think?

As a result of the extra efforts put in by everybody: - setup, minders, artists, pack up helpers etc, *Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7 did a lot better than we anticipated. We are grateful to Creative Communities of the Wellington City Council for the financial support and allowing us to promote it so well. Thank you also French Art Shop and Gordon Harris for their continued support and to Ron Epskamp, Exhibitions Gallery for coming forward and suggesting the exciting new award - talking of which, as well as winning Ron's award, Pavithra Devadatta with her stunning painting – *The Soloist*, was also voted the most popular painting in the exhibition in the French Art Shop People's Choice Award. Well done Pavithra, a fantastic painting.

All in all a superb exhibition, fantastic quality of entries and superb team effort by all involved - Thanks heaps Sue for a wonderful job.

**Alfred Memelink**

### ***Splash*<sup>®</sup> 7 Award Winners**

Congratulations to the following winners.

We are grateful to our generous sponsors.

#### **Watercolour NZ Supreme Award for the best painting - \$1000**

Winner: *Humpback whale in Cook Strait* by Alfred Memelink

#### **Exhibitions Gallery Award for Innovation in watercolour - \$500**

Winner *The Soloist* by Pavithra Devadatta

#### **French Art Shop Award for People's Choice - \$250**

Winner *The Soloist* by Pavithra Devadatta

#### **Gordon Harris Award - \$500**

Winner: *Customhouse Quay* by Michael Bennett

#### **NZ Art Schools Award for portrait or figure painting - \$500**

Winner: *Dwellers of the Kalahari* by Dianne Taylor

#### **Watercolour NZ Award for Emerging Artist - \$250**

Winner: Robyn Newth

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## **A FOUNDATION MEMBER AND ARTIST ALWAYS**

*After practicing art all her life Mary Annette Hay recalls*

I have had a lifetime involvement in the visual and performing arts as an actress, public speaker, promoter and artist. So I think I can bundle all this activity together, for to me they are all closely related.

I see drama in the scenes I paint, the dark and the light tones and the brilliant colours of the New Zealand landscape which is my passion; and to all this I add movement. Hence I sit outside often in great discomfort to try and catch the beauty before it changes, which it does of course, all the time.

I was trained at the Wellington Art School attached to the Technical College. It was a very fortunate time; a time of F. V. Ellis who was also a pianist, so he talked to us in musical terms, and Nugent Welsh who took us outside to paint in watercolours. Nugent was wonderful; he didn't talk much, he simply took over our brushes and paper, so we went home with a Nugent Welsh masterpiece! We called him Daddy long legs, he was so tall.

It was difficult to earn a living in those days, even with the good training we'd had. But through other activities and the teaching I'd received, I eventually became Director of Wool Promotion for the Wool Industry. In 2007, Te Papa Museum of New Zealand mounted an exhibition and a film on my career entitled, 'The Queen of Wool'. It depicted and explained how as a young woman, the unique form of wool promotion I had devised.

Now after a lifetime of activity in the creative arts, I'm still involved with the New Zealand Portrait Gallery which now has a permanent home at Shed 11 on the Wellington waterfront. The current exhibition there features two portraits, not by me, but of me originating back to those Art School years. The portraits are by Leonard Mitchell who was a student and teacher at the same time. One portrait is unfinished. Why? Well thereby hangs a tale!

*Right: Painting by Mary Annette of Lake Rotoiti; now in Denis Adam Collection.*



*Left: Mary Annette as a young student painting in watercolour by the water, brush in mouth.*

### **NEW ZEALAND ARTISTS EXHIBIT IN INDIA**

Watercolour NZ members Jacky Pearson and Pavithra Devadatta were in Kolkata, India in September to hold their first joint exhibition in the country. This was Jacky's first visit to India and though the heat and crowds took a bit of getting used to at first, she fully enjoyed the food, culture, customs and colour of the place. They met and painted with local artists, visited their studios and even once requested the maid at the guest house to pose for a portrait session.



There was plenty of inspiration at every street corner if you weren't too preoccupied with the crazy traffic and many quick sketches materialized from time to time. It was an action packed holiday with a visit to Mother Teresa's memorial, a trip to the ancient university town of

**Shantiniketan** where they took part in a drawing workshop and visited several artists' and potters' homes and saw huge pieces of art in progress. The evenings often found them at the pavilion under a ceiling fan with Pavithra sipping a very welcome pint of Kingfisher beer and Jacky elbow deep in her favourite crisp Masala Dosa at the Tollygunge Club hobnobbing with Kolkata's very friendly elite. It was a very memorable trip thanks to the hospitality of Kolkata watercolourist, Watercolour NZ member and friend Swaroop Mukerji.



*Swaroop, Jacky and Pavithra with the Deputy British High Commissioner to India.*

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### AVIS HIGGS IN HALL OF FAME

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Avis Higgs, a foundation and Honorary Life Member of Watercolour New Zealand was inducted into the Massey University College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame.

For 125 years, as the School of Art, Wellington Technical College, the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design, and now the Massey University College of Creative Arts, is where some of New Zealand's finest designers and artists have been educated. The College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame, recognises alumni who have made an outstanding contribution to the New Zealand's economy, reputation and national identity through art and design. Congratulations Avis.



*Avis holding her College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame award with nephew Martin Jenkins - Watercolour NZ's most recent Honorary Life Member*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Christmas Party is set for **Sunday 12 December** and will follow the last of our Painting Mornings for 2010. \*For those of you participating in the Painting Morning, meet at 9.45am at Burden's Gate, Eastbourne. (end of the public road past the bus depot).

The party will be at **Williams Park, Days Bay at 1pm**

Bring a shared lunch, sunhat and sun block. Liquid refreshments will be provided.

## MONTHLY PAINTING GROUP

Monthly Painting Group with Jacky Pearson and Daniel Reeve.

Come out each month and enjoy outdoor painting and good company.

**Meet at 9.45am** and after a painting session have a coffee in a nearby café.

**Dates and venues for the Monthly Painting Mornings are as follows:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting place/painting location</b>	<b>Café</b>
*12 Dec	Painting with Jacky Pearson. Burden's Gate, Eastbourne (end of the public road past the bus depot).	Christmas Party at Williams Park, Days Bay.
30 Jan	Painting with Dan Reeve Streetscape, interesting buildings (including Philosophy House) Corner of Aro and Devon Streets	Deliaro Cafe, 89 Aro Street
27 Feb	Painting with Jacky Pearson. Katherine Mansfield Park, Thorndon. Located off Tinakori Road / Hobson Street on Fitzherbert Terrace.	Mojo Café, Molesworth Street.
27 Mar	Painting with Jacky Pearson. Houghton Bay car park	The Bach, 410 The Esplanade, Island Bay.

For painting morning details, Ph. Martin Jenkins (04)384-4881 or (027) 604-7329 (take that number with you on the day to phone or text if you get lost). You are urged to check the weather forecast. If you live on the Kapiti Coast or Hutt Valley, it pays to check with Martin before travelling to Painting Mornings as the weather can vary district to district. The painting morning may need to be cancelled or postponed if it is unsuitable at the designated location.

## WATERCOLOUR NEW ZEALAND CLASSES Course Schedule – First Term 2011

	<b>Period</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Course Level</b>	<b>Tutor</b>
1	8 wk – Tue 6- 8.30pm	1 Feb – 22 Mar	Advanced beginner/ intermediate	Shirley Sutton
2	3 days	11-13 Mar	All levels	Guy Gruwier

### Course 1

#### 8 WEEK – WATERCOLOUR LANDSCAPES with Shirley Sutton

#### Tuesday 1 February – Tuesday 22 March (Term 1)

Having recently returned from a 6 month trip to Europe the subject matter for the classes will be based on Shirley's sketches and photos taken during this time. With inspiration at every turn and such spectacular and dramatic scenery Shirley spent many hours with paint brush or pen in hand recording the sights from the Tuscan countryside and hilltop castles to the medieval villages in the Czech Republic.



The classes will begin with some tuition on tonal sketching techniques using pen and ink. This will be followed by variety of painting methods from the more traditional to using abstract coloured backgrounds. Skills taught will include wet-in-wet painting, flat and graded washes, dry brush work, lifting effects and how to achieve different textures. Lessons will cover different painting techniques with step by step demonstrations.

Two of Shirley's photos are now on the Watercolour NZ website - Gallery page.

Date & Time: Tues 1 February – Tues 29 March, 6 – 8.30pm. (There will be no class on Tuesday 22 March).

Tutor: Shirley Sutton.

Location: Band Rotunda, 245B Oriental Parade, Oriental Bay.

Cost: \$140 Please bring your own materials. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

## **Course 2**

### **3 DAY – WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP WITH GUY GRUWIER**

**Fri 11 – Sun 13 March 2011**

We are fortunate that renowned Belgium watercolourist Guy Gruwier is coming to Wellington for this 3 day workshop organised by Watercolour New Zealand.

Interested artists should register their names as early as possible. At this stage the venue still needs to be finalised, but in the meantime please register your interest by contacting Martin Jenkins, Ph. (04)384-4881.

The numbers attending will be limited to fifteen.

Cost: \$300

Some background on Guy can be found at <http://www.watercolourpainter.eu/>

### **Course bookings**

To book any of these courses please contact Martin Jenkins, by either sending an email to [apdc@paradise.net.nz](mailto:apdc@paradise.net.nz) or by phoning (04) 384-4881 (H).

### **Cancellation of classes and workshops**

Please note: Interest in WNZ watercolour courses is high. Last minute cancellation can result in fellow members missing out and a potential loss to WNZ.

A cancellation fee will be applicable for any course cancellations – In the event that you withdraw, a refund will be given less a \$25 administration fee.

## **THE HISTORY OF WATERCOLOUR NEW ZEALAND**

### **A special message from the committee**

We are gathering information on the history of our society and the individual artists who have been part of the last 35 years of action. We have many members with memories and experiences we would like to record. We invite you - in fact, we **request** you - to write about yourself as an artist, your memories of events held under the *Wellington Watercolour Society* and *Watercolour New Zealand* names, about changes in the art of watercolour, anything on the history of watercolour that you would like us to archive.

We will read it and store it with a view to a publishing a book in future. You may wish to include newspaper cuttings, photos and images of paintings and artists. When you have your contribution ready or would like to talk about what you have to offer, please phone Sue Wild on 04 526 7304 or Martin Jenkins on 04 384 4881 and we will arrange to accept it from you. Please note that we will pay postage or courier charges and that we can copy items and return them to you.

## **SAFARI TO LAKE ROTO-ITI 12 – 14 November 2010.**

Friday Morning dawned clear and calm, a promising start for a smooth trip across the strait. Sue was at the terminal to greet the Wellington travellers, and issue our tickets. We were all aboard with time to find a pleasant spot to enjoy the journey, an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new. Cruising down the sounds, a few enthusiastic people did some interesting quick sketches.

On arrival in Picton, we transferred to our two vans. Miraculously, with a bit of Kiwi ingenuity, people plus luggage were stored. Chris and Sue did an impressive job of driving and apart from a small difference of opinion on who had taken the right road (!), we all arrived at St Arnaud at 3.00pm and checked into our accommodation of choice. This included the Alpine Lodge, Alpine backpackers and Nelson Lakes Motel. These were in close proximity and from all accounts, very comfortable.

Immediately some of the group headed down to the lake to start painting, armed with insect repellent to ward off the persistent sand-flies for which the area is rather famous. We discovered behind the motels a short very pretty bush walk running by the river down to the lake.

At six o'clock we met at the community centre for dinner, joined by some South Island members and others who had travelled separately. A lovely meal including pre dinner nibbles was elegantly served to us by the local community. This was a fund raising venture for archiving of local historical memorabilia. Jan Thompson, an ex Wellingtonian, now living and working as an artist in St Arnaud, distributed a list of excellent painting spots accompanied by Google maps that she had searched out for us. Thanks to Jan, the difficult business of 'what to paint' was minimised.

In spite of predictions of a southerly change, Saturday shaped up very well weather-wise. The sky was blue with a few interesting clouds scudding around. Many of us chose as a starting point to go to the very quaint and historic Tophouse Hotel, established in 1887. Painters quickly set about capturing various angles of the building with distant mountains and valleys behind. This made a great painting spot for the morning as Devonshire tea, coffee and other food could be purchased. The visit to the Tophouse would be incomplete without mention of Stanley the notorious hotel ghost. A few members have captured a rather strange image on camera in the lavender room. Chris Anderson with his nocturnal experience later that night may be able to throw some light on whether Stanley is friendly or otherwise.

In the afternoon artists went off in different directions to paint some of the areas on our map. These included baches amongst the manuka, rivers, lakes, swans and mountains. An interesting image by one artist captured other artists at work. Saturday ended with us all meeting at the Alpine Lodge for drinks and dinner.

By Sunday the weather was beginning to break up, but the dedicated artists continued to paint. However many of us cruised around the sites we had not visited and took photos with the resolve to paint at a later date. We took Jan and Rob up on their invitation to call in for a cup of tea which was most welcome. It was great to see Jan's studio and how their house building is progressing.

At 1.00pm we met at the community centre where our artists displayed their paintings. There was a good turnout of local people who viewed and also bought paintings.

At 2.15 we said farewell to our South Island members and packed into the vans for our trip back to Picton as a conclusion of a very pleasant weekend. Thanks go to the people of St Arnaud for making us so welcome and to the group who prepared our Friday dinner. A very big thank you to Jan who did a great job in welcoming us and ensuring the weekend was a success. Sue Wild, you are a legend, a big thank you for organising a very successful trip. Not an easy task to shepherd 30 people to be in the right place at the right time.

*Kerry Montgomery*

### **WNZ NEW MEMBERS**

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Annette Straugheir, Swaroop Mukerji, Suda Shenoy, Yee Wah, Dean Walker, Fiona Carruthers, Christopher White, Liz Askin, Glenn Thrasher, Anne Johnson, Rob Blackwell, Deirdre Power, David Rodriguez, Charlotte McCreanor, Toni Armstrong, Lorelee Reid, Katie Voller, Nichol Cheung, Lynda Beveneaux, Glenda West, Jane Blakelock, Robert Rersse, Maureen Cope, Rachel Bradley, James Newmann, Ken Howell, Robyn Blackford, David Saunders, Colin Wall, Duncan Boswell.



*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY PAINTING*