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Inside This Issue

- President's Message
- The History of Pastel
- Unframed Exhibition- Floreat Forum
- Stan Sperlak - Workshop
- 2015 committee contact details
- Dates to remember
- Welcome to our New Members
- Congratulations to the following members
- A Note from the Editor
- Favourite Links

The Pastel Society of W.A.

President: Adrienne Kinnear
Vice President Rayma Reany
Secretary: Lee Calley
Treasurer: Mark Thornton

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Message from the President

Hello Fellow Pastellists,

It's hard to believe that we are almost into the mid-year, with our thoughts already turning to our Annual Exhibition in August. It has been wonderful to see so many of you bringing your pastels on Monday nights and creating a "warm and fuzzy" buzz around the hall. Let's keep this momentum going. We are fortunate that many of our top pastel artists attend these nights and give their advice and encouragement so generously. Congratulations to June Payne who won the mat frames and voucher in our first raffle for the year. And while we are talking about winning, it is great to see so many of our members taking off awards and prizes for their paintings in art events around the state - congratulations to you all! (See details later in the newsletter).

Early in the year, we were treated to a very special presentation by Pascale Doumerc who took us on an historical tour through the ages of pastel as an art form. We were all very much the wiser for her beautifully illustrated talk. Thank you Pascale! Our next demonstration will be on June 15th when pastellist and teacher, Caroline Marinovich will demonstrate a cafe scene. Some of you may remember that Caroline was one of the judges at last year's exhibition.

A very big thank you to Rayma and her team for the recent Unframed Sale at Floreat. Again it was a resounding success with nearly 40 paintings sold. Together with the raffle of Rayma's beautiful poppy painting, we raised over \$500 dollars for our Society. Thank you to all who contributed their time and paintings - this event is becoming an important one in our annual calendar.

It's time to turn your pastels into beautiful paintings for our Annual Exhibition and sale. It will be held at Sorrento Life Saving Club again on the weekend of the 21st - 23rd August. This year we have made every effort to ensure minimum competition from other exhibitions, particularly in the northern suburbs. We have a reputation now for the quality of our exhibitions so let's work to make this one of the best we have produced.

Lastly, for those of you, who are yet to indicate your interest in a two-day workshop with Master Pastellist Stan Sperlak next March, please let me know. The first workshop is almost full and we are hoping to be able to offer a second. We will be opening the event to artists outside the Society once we are sure all those members who wish to participate have indicated, so please let us know if you wish your name to be added to the list.

Yours in painting,
Adrienne

The History of Pastel by Pascale Doumerc

On Monday 13th April, members were treated to a very special and rewarding evening when one of our members, Pascale Doumerc presented an illustrated presentation on the History of Pastel. Pascale's background and experience in Art History certainly showed as she took us on a chronological trip from the 15th century to the recent, demonstrating the central role that pastel has played in the history of painting generally. Here are some of the highlights of Pascale's presentation:



- The word 'pastel' is thought to have come from "pastello" from "pasta", and coined by da Vinci because of pastel's thick paste-like consistency, but it was surprising to learn that one of the earliest traded colours was a blue pigment, "the Blue Treasure" extracted from the yellow flower of the pastel plant that grows in the Lauraguais region of France, as well as other parts of Asia and Siberia.
- From initially three colours - red (from haematite), black (black stone) and white (chalk and clay), the manufacture of pastels developed in the 1700s with the prestigious La Maison du Pastel manufacturer in France, taken over eventually by Henri Roche. Today, these Roche pastels are still hand-made, with few concessions to modern day techniques, and are prized by pastellists the world over for their consistency of colour and texture.
- Initially in the 1500-1600s, pastel was associated with the art of portraiture, firstly as a drawing medium, and then with the development of the softer pastels, as a painting medium. With war and a downturn in portrait painting, by 18th century pastel had gone into a decline.
- In the 19th century, a resurgence had begun, and painters like Odilon Redon, Mary Cassatt, Whistler, and of course the Impressionists, particularly Degas, placed pastel firmly in the painter's realm as a recognised medium.
- Today, the pastel medium enriched by past experiments, artists of renown, and supported by the huge range of products offered by such great names as Sennelier, Roche, and Rembrandt is again experiencing resurgence. Contemporary artists such as Daniel Greene, Ken Paine and others, particularly in North America contribute to this resurgence. As Pascale concluded her presentation - "we count today a great number of pastel societies which promote their artists and kindle the public's attention for this art form, being committed to restore the medium to the level of popularity it once enjoyed".

Thank you Pascale for a wonderful, illustrated overview of our chosen medium.

Please note: A copy Pascale's presentation is available from either Adrianne or Rayma, on request.



Unframed Exhibition at Floreat Forum Shopping Centre Saturday 9th May, 2015 - (Day before Mother's Day)

22 Members entered their Unframed Pastel Paintings in this very successful Exhibition. Lots of interest with many shoppers passing by and admiring the beautiful work on display. They were happy to purchase paintings at such reasonable prices. We sold 37 paintings resulting in \$370 towards Pastel Society Fundraising.

Flyers were given out to the public and we advertised our August Exhibition.

We also ran a Raffle for Mother's Day - a framed Poppy Pastel Painting. This was won by Karena Hearne of Floreat and raised \$200 for the Pastel Society.



Thank you to all who worked Rosters - Jill DeLeo, Val Brooks, Lee Calley, Karen Petrovski, Celestine Dyson, Nira Roberts, Lindy Midalia, Josephine Douglas and especially to Avis who helped me set up first thing and pack up and the end of the day.



Rayma

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!!! PASTEL WORKSHOP FOR PSWA MEMBERS with STAN SPERLAK PSA

Here's your chance to

- ... work with a well-known pastellist renowned for his colour renderings of skies and atmospheric landscapes;

- ... develop your plein-air painting skills (weather-permitting, we will work outside);

- ... interact with a very personable and committed teacher who has an established plein air teaching 'studio' on his beautiful farm in New Jersey.

Your society is working to bring Stan to Perth in March, 2016. Here are the details so far:

Tentative dates: Sat 12 - Sun 13th March (8.30am - 4pm) with a demo/intro on Friday evening 11th.

Venue: Painting sites around Perth (weather-permitting). An inside venue will be available if necessary.

Cost: \$250.00 per person total

Maximum number: 18 persons

What are we asking for at this stage? ...

As we expect demand for this workshop to be strong, we are asking interested members to register their commitment as soon as possible by contacting me,
Adrienne Kinnear (adrikinn@bigpond.com)
and I will place you on the list on a first-in, first-served basis.

At a later stage? ...

Because there is some financial outlay for the Society, around Sept-October, we will be asking for a deposit of \$50.00 (part of the \$200 cost) to secure your place in the workshop.

Want to know more about Stan Sperlak?

Visit his website at www.stansperlak.com. Here you will be able to watch an excellent video by Stan about himself and his art, and view many of his paintings.
Attached is a short article on Stan and his approach to pastel painting.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity - so rare for those of us in Perth!

Contact details for the 2015 Pastels Society Committee

OFFICE HELD	NAME	HOME PHONE NO.	E-MAIL
President	Adrienne Kinnear	9245 3896	adrikinn@bigpond.com
Secretary	Lee Calley	9303 4740	rexandlee@bigpond.com
Vice President	Rayma Reany	9343 2486	raymareany@iinet.net.au
Treasurer	Mark Thornton	9447 8129	malthorn@bigpond.com
Assistant Treasurer	Glenda Turner		
Committee	Val Brooks	9300 2389	brooks_val@hotmail.com
Committee	Avis Clements	9445 8536	avisoc@aapt.net.au
Committee	Michelle Scott		
Committee	Karen Petrovski		
	Margaret Verge	9448 2129	margverge@hotmail.com
Communications	Lee Calley	9303 4740	rexandlee@bigpond.com
Newsletter	Karyn Platt	9444 9328	kpl90005@bigpond.net.au
Web-site	Julie Silvester	9244 8842	http://webmail2.bigpond.com/webedge/do/mail/message/mailto?to=juliesilvesterart%40gmail.com

Dates to Remember

<u>MONDAY</u> <u>1ST JUNE</u>	Public Holiday - <u>No Pastels</u>
<u>MONDAY</u> <u>15TH JUNE</u>	Demonstration by <u>Caroline Marinovich</u>
<u>MONDAY</u> <u>3RD AUGUST</u>	<u>Deadline for Entries</u> to be submitted for the Annual Exhibition 21st - 23rd August. Forms and conditions will be emailed prior to this date.

Welcome to the following new members

Challis Wilson
Jeanette Morgan
Donna Jefferson
Margaret Henderson

Tina Christensen
Roslyn Griffiths
Joshua Franz
Jill Freeman

Graham Symonds
Michael Jefferson
June Payne

Congratulations to the following Members

Val Brooks for winning Best Painting in the Pastel Category for ***Morning Walk*** at the West Australian Society of Arts Exhibition. Well done Val!

Julie Silvester for receiving Highly Commended for her Pastel ***End of Day Lake Ballard*** at the Melville Art Awards. Well done Julie!

Glenis Dolbear who held her first ***Pastel Exhibition at Redback Art Gallery in the Glen Forrest Shopping Centre***

Val Brooks, for winning the Plein Air Competition at the WASA LAURIE BENNETT AWARD.

Dave Conlin for winning 3rd prize for his watercolour.



Great effort.

A Note from the editor

Thank you Adrienne and Rayma for your contributions to this issue of the Newsletter.

All Members, please remember that if you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to promote an exhibition, classes or any other event or item of interest to the members please contact me on Monday evenings at pastels or send me an e-mail at kpl90005@bigpond.net.au .

Karyn Platt
Newsletter Editor

Favourite Links

- <http://www.pastelsocietywa.org.au/>
- <http://pastelpointersblog.artistsnetwork.com/>
- <http://www.pastelsandpencils.com/>
- <http://www.wetcanvas.com> <http://www.ozpastels.com>