

*Issue date March 2019*

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## The Pastel Society of W.A.

President: Val Brooks  
Vice President Rayma Reany  
Secretary: Lee Calley  
Treasurer: Adrienne Kinnear  
Patron: Kevin Jackson

## Our Sponsors

- Jackson's Drawing Supplies
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## Message from the President

Welcome to a new year of pastelling.

We are looking forward to a year with some exciting plans already in place. As a result of some of our members attending the pastel expo in Queensland last year we have booked two interstate pastel artists to run workshops for us. Maxine Thompson will focus on portraits (pets and human) in May and in September we have Louise Corke who does beautiful seascapes.

I am currently in negotiations with the property manager at Sorrento Quay where we are planning to lease a Pop Up shop for a week in April. This will take place of the Floreat Unframed Sale this year. If it goes ahead it would give us good exposure in a fresh location and hopefully some sales too! Obviously it would rely heavily on members volunteering to be on roster but it could be an interesting venture.

It has been encouraging to see members bringing their works to show on a Monday night. It's great to see what everyone is working on so I hope this continues.

It is sad to learn that our south of the river group who've been meeting at Atwell house have decided not to continue due to increased costs but we hope that some of them will remain members and participate in the coming year's events.

Recently a small group of members demonstrated Pastels at a Seniors Expo at Lakeside Shopping Centre in Joondalup. We attracted a lot of interest (not just from seniors!) and have already gained a new member as a result.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working Committee for all their continual support.

Happy Pastelling

*Val Brooks,  
President*

## Pastel Society Christmas Party- 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018



1. An Australian Painting most suitable to present to the Queen  
– Leanna Taylor



2. A Painting of a quirky and different subject - Judy Hollingshead



3. A Painting with movement and energy - Challis Wilson



4. Winners holding up their finished pieces of a snowman drawn on the head.

Congratulations to our Christmas Party winners above.

Below, images of the Paint Around at the Christmas Party. Each artist spent 5 minutes on each painting and then returned to complete their own painting. On completion the paintings were auctioned. It was an entertaining evening.



## 55+ Seniors Expo 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

On 6th Feb 5 members took part in the Seniors Expo which was a One-Stop-Shop of information at Lakeside Joondalup Shopping Centre.

We set up on a roster with 2 artists at a time painting different subjects which created a lot of interest and had unframed paintings on display. Some people tried pastels and were surprised at the texture of the paper and the feel of the pastel sticks.

Visitors asked lots of questions and Membership Forms and Information Forms were handed out and many took business cards from the Artists. Time will tell if any more interest comes as a result.

We had lots of fun, and I believe those who attended our stand now understand what the Society is and what we do.



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## New Constitution

The new constitution as per Government draft rules is now in place. Thank you to Val and Lee for all their work on creating the new constitution.

The constitution will be made available on Monday evenings at pastels, Mildenhall for any members who may wish to view it.

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## Announcement

Pastel Society Annual Exhibition & Awards, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
at Sorrento Surf Lifesaving Club

Please take note we have added a new Category 'PORTRAITS' to our Exhibition this year. This Section will be judged separately from the other paintings and will be Awarded 1st Prize and Highly Commended.

This is not a compulsory Category; however for those wishing to enter a Portrait will be in place of the 2nd Painting - Standard - Maximum size 80cm x 70cm (including frame). Limit of three paintings per person as normal.

i.e. Maximum number of paintings that may be entered is three (3) as per below.

- \* 1st Painting - **Large** or **Standard**
- \* 2nd Painting - **Standard** (or Portrait)
- \* 3rd Painting - **9x5** only (no more than one 9x5 entry)

i.e.

- \* Large - Maximum size **1 metre in Height or Width** (including frame)
- \* Standard - Maximum size **80cm x 70cm** (including frame)
- \* 9x5 - has an internal image size of "**exactly**" 228mm x 127mm (9"x5")

Entry Forms will be emailed to Members early July and we encourage you to give the new **Portrait Category** a go.

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## Pastel Web-site Update

We are at present updating the Web-site to showcase our best pastel paintings, and invite all new and existing Members to put in 3 of your latest images of your Pastel Paintings.

These will go in the Public Gallery 'All of Us'. If you wish to do this please contact Julie Silvester, Web-site Organiser. Email: [juliesilvesterart@gmail.com](mailto:juliesilvesterart@gmail.com)

**NOTE: To make it easy for you to photograph your paintings. (Before putting behind glass)**

1. Lay painting flat on ground in shade e.g. under pergola.
2. Make sure no reflecting colour on it.

3. Stand over your painting with your camera set at highest resolution and with the painting filling the viewer window as much as possible.
  4. Keep camera absolutely as still as possible (even hold your breath) *A good tip from Dave Conlin, for taking photos is to use the 2 sec time delay. This does away with camera shake caused by pressing the take button*
  5. Take photo.
  6. Check photo to make sure it is well in focus before sending to Julie.
- If anyone is having problems, Julie is happy to help.  
Also you can check with her about having your own Gallery page.

<http://www.pastelsocietywa.org.au>

## Painting En Plein Air

En plein air is a French term which means simply the act of painting outdoors, in the open air. Painting en plein air has a long and famous tradition. In 1820, Corot painted on location in Italy and with the introduction of paint tubes in the later 1800s, the impressionists such as Monet, took to plein air painting and showed the art world how to capture beautiful light directly from nature. Over the last decades, plein air painting has increased dramatically, first in the United States (where Plein Air magazine is one of the most popular art magazines on the stands) but also abroad and in Australia. Here in Perth, Bob Abrahams was instrumental in forming the Perth Plein Air Painters group some years ago. There has been a real resurgence in interest in plein air painting and sketching in Perth over the last decade and the Facebook site now has nearly 700 members.

I first joined the Perth Plein Air Painters group some years ago and have greatly enjoyed the weekly plein air pantouts. There is also no doubt that painting plein air has greatly improved my skills and my studio painting, and reduced my reliance on the photograph. I can recommend it to all!

### What do you need, as a pastellist, to paint en plein air?

Start out simply and look for secure but simple solutions to the main requirements. They are:

- a single, secure and sturdy box for your pastels.
- a sturdy and reliable tripod (it is always better to stand and paint so that you can step back often from your work, as you do in the studio. However, as a start, try simply sitting and painting with your support and paper on your knees. It is still effective.)
- support board to which you can tape or fix your paper securely (and glassine or some other paper to protect your finished painting).
- miscellaneous items ñ pencils, eraser, camera or phone, damp rag or wipes, cloth to keep pastels clean, small container to hold the pastels in use etc.). If you have a tripod, the support needs to attach to your tripod via the camera attachment.

I thought it might help to get you started if I show you the various systems I use on my pastel plein air painting trips both locally and overseas. Start simply.



### 1. A minimalist setup

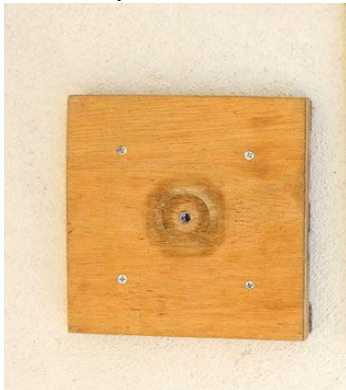
From left to right:

1. Dry and damp cloths (wet wipes are a substitute for the damp cloth);
2. Small notebook for sketching and value studies;
3. Viewfinder - an essential tool for setting the painting boundaries;
4. Box of pastels - I use the Heilman boxes for my pastels. They come from the US and are very sturdy and have an easel attachment (see later), but any sturdy box will do. One idea is to purchase a specific landscape set of pastels (e.g. Unison) then you have a box ready to go.
5. Miscellaneous small items in a pencil case - sandpaper for sharpening pastel pencils, bristle brush for removing pastel, pastel pencils for placing the main shapes, kneadable eraser, assorted pencils for value studies, small Stanley knife for sharpening pencils.
6. Pastel paper (6 x 8") on small clipboard.

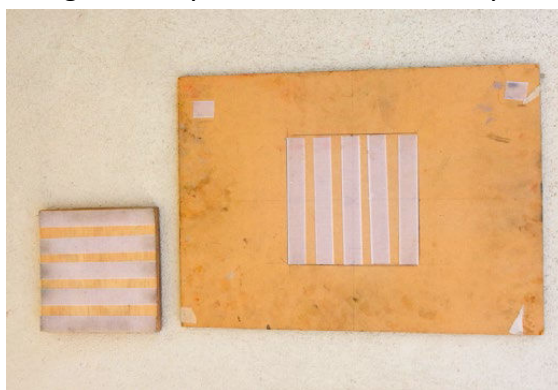
This minimalist setup will work well for trying out plein air painting without any big expense. Just remember to take a small stool with you in case there are no seats easily accessible and in the shade!

## Getting serious!

For painting locally, I like to use a larger set of pastels and mount my backing board on a tripod. Most tripods you buy come with specific camera attachments so you can mount a camera to the tripod. All you need to do is prepare a piece of sturdy plywood with the same screw hole as a camera so you can attach that, instead of a camera, to your tripod head. Add velcro strips to both the plywood base and your backing board and you have a very reliable and sturdy painting surface you can orientate in any direction.



Underside of base showing screw hole for tripod attachment.



Topside of base and underside of backing board with Velcro strips.



Backing board on tripod – front and back views

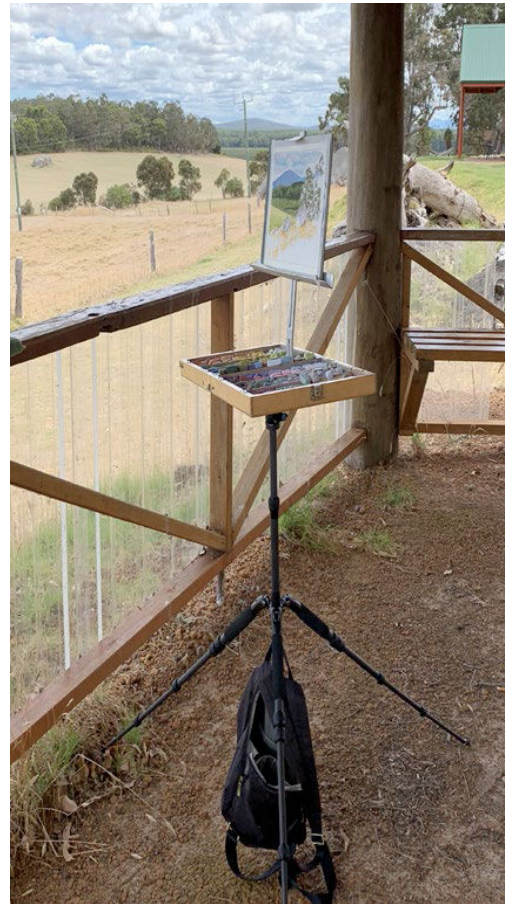
Of course, with this system you will need to have somewhere to place your pastels. This could be a small collapsible tray, or many artists use trays that can be attached to the tripod itself. Just make sure whatever you use can't be tipped or knocked over! Spending the morning picking up broken pastels is no fun!! There are tray systems you can purchase (e.g. The Easel Butler) or ones you can make yourself if you or someone near to you is handy with a jigsaw.



I also like to take my larger size Heilman box (it's called the backpack size) when I know I don't have to walk too far, though it still fits in my wheeled backpack. I have my plein air pastels sorted as in my studio - by colour and value. I also have a section for the harder pastels (NuPastels for example) and a section for neutral colours. Note the holes in the box where you can fit an easel. The aluminium easels are very lightweight and can be purchased with the boxes.



On the right you can see the complete plein air setup that I use when I go out weekly with the PPAP. The tripod is a lightweight carbon fibre, ideal for travelling overseas. However, you don't need an expensive tripod, but it must be stable if it is going to hold your pastel box. Note my backpack hanging from the tripod. It is weighted with a large granite rock for extra security in the strong westerly breeze that was blowing at the time.



## What about travelling and plein air painting?

I have had no problems travelling with my pastels. I only have one rule - my pastels always travel in my hand luggage - usually in my wheeled backpack! To make the customs process as simple as possible, I have my name and business card on the pastel box and the expression "Artist's Chalks" can also be useful as a descriptor - the only time I refer to my pastels as chalks!! You will usually be required to open the box - I usually ask can I open the box rather than the officials, and I have had no issues with all my travels. I prepare all my paper beforehand so it is as easy as possible once I get painting. Paper, tripod and all other supplies go in my checked in baggage. From left to right, my plein air painting kit for overseas travelling includes:



- Backpack
- Small pastel box (I will often supplement this with small boxes of neutrals and extra colours I think I might need for a particular country (e.g. blues and aquas for Greece!).
- tripod in carry bag (goes easily over my shoulder)
- prepared pastel paper (I carry two sizes, 6 x 8" and 9 x 12" , each one in a cellophane bag and sandwiched securely between two pieces of foam core. The foam core can also act as a backing board if you wish.
- Easel (goes in my tripod bag or in backpack)
- Backing board
- Ockie strap - to hang backpack from tripod if necessary
- small plastic bag with all my miscellaneous items and cloths.

All these supplies are lightweight and I can carry them on my back if necessary (the wheels on my backpack are detachable).

## **How to get started - the PPAP.**

The Perth Plein Air Painters Facebook site is the best way to get into plein air painting. You don't have to be a member to access the site. Here's how it works. There are three weekly painting group opportunities at the moment. Two are on Monday morning. One has sites for those who wish to paint south of the river, and one for those who prefer to paint north of the river. The third opportunity is the original PPAP time on Thursday morning. Sites can be anywhere around Perth but are within reasonable driving distance for most. Normally sites, with directions, are posted on FB a couple of days prior to the date. Then, all you have to do is turn up! Depending on the site or the weather, there might be anywhere from 6 to 20 painters. Everyone is very welcoming of new members and plein air beginners especially! All mediums are on display, and it's a great environment for picking up the tips of the trade! So get your starter pack together - keep it simple and easy to organise and get plein air painting. I can promise you that your studio work will reap the benefits. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to someone to go with initially or would like any more information about the PPAP.

**Adrianne Kinnear**



## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

### A GREAT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY IN MAY!

**Maxine Thompson, well-known New Zealand portrait artist,  
will be conducting two 2-day workshops for the PSWA**



#### Human Portraits

Sat May 4th - Sun May 5th:  
Atwell House, 9am - 4pm



#### Animal Portraits

Mon 6th May - Tues 7th May:  
Tuart Hill Community Centre, 9am - 4pm



*"I am a realist artist. My teaching method is by demonstration with full explanations. My forte is portraiture and to motivate students to achieve accurate likeness and to capture the character of their subjects."*

This is a great opportunity for those members who may be thinking of entering the portraiture section of our Exhibition this year - a first for the PSWA!

Places are limited and we are taking expressions of interest now! If you wish to definitely register for a place, then we recommend you do that sooner rather than later. Members will be notified of details of costs and materials etc shortly.

This is an exceptional opportunity to learn specialised techniques from one of the Masters!

Contact details to register an interest or secure a place in one or both workshops:

**Adrianne Kinnear**

[adrikinn@bigpond.com](mailto:adrikinn@bigpond.com)

Mob: 0488773305

## Contact details for the 2018 Pastels Society Committee

OFFICE HELD	NAME	HOME PHONE NO.	E-MAIL
President	Val Brooks	0421 123 394	<a href="mailto:brooks_val@hotmail.com">brooks_val@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Lee Calley	0437 317 590	<a href="mailto:rexandlee@bigpond.com">rexandlee@bigpond.com</a>
Vice President	Rayma Reany	0400 511 584	<a href="mailto:raymareany@inet.net.au">raymareany@inet.net.au</a>
Treasurer	Adrianne Kinnear	0488 773 305	<a href="mailto:adrikinn@bigpond.com">adrikinn@bigpond.com</a>
Committee	Challis Wilson	0421 639 482	<a href="mailto:ichallisw@icloud.com">ichallisw@icloud.com</a>
Committee	Jill Buckrell	0458 527 793	<a href="mailto:jill_millar@hotmail.com">jill_millar@hotmail.com</a>
Committee	Avis Clements	9445 8536	<a href="mailto:avisc@aapt.net.au">avisc@aapt.net.au</a>
Committee	Michele Scott	0407942200	<a href="mailto:mmscott9@bigpond.com">mmscott9@bigpond.com</a>
Committee	Ros Griffiths	9305 3015	<a href="mailto:rosgriffiths@bigpond.com">rosgriffiths@bigpond.com</a>
Committee	Leanna Taylor	0417934175	<a href="mailto:leannataylor@inet.net.au">leannataylor@inet.net.au</a>
Newsletter	Karyn Platt	9444 9328	<a href="mailto:kpl90005@bigpond.net.au">kpl90005@bigpond.net.au</a>
Web-site	Julie Silvester	0416 196 244	<a href="mailto:juliesilvesterart@gmail.com">juliesilvesterart@gmail.com</a>

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## Dates to Remember - Up-coming Events -2019

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	Demonstration by Dave Conlin (Entry \$5)
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pop-Up shop at Sorrento Quay for members unframed paintings (Rosters required)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Monday Public Holiday (no Pastels)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm sharp	A.G.M. - Pastel Association of W.A. (no painting)
May 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday & Sunday May 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Monday & Tuesday	Two, 2 day Work-shops with Maxine Thompson:- Master Pastellist from New Zealand Atwell House:- People Portraits Tuart Hill:- Pet Portraits
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Public Holiday (No Pastels)
August 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pastel Society Annual Exhibition at Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club
September Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Two Day Workshop with Louise Corke:- Master Pastellist from Queensland (Venue to be advised)

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## A Reminder

Membership Subs for 2019 are now due for those who have not already paid.

\$50 per Member and \$20 per Country Member.

You can pay in Person at Mildenhall on Monday Evening or by Internet Banking:-

### DIRECT DEBIT BANK A/C. DETAILS

A/c Name: The Pastel Society of Western Australia

Bank: Commonwealth

BSB 066166

A/c. No. 10265909

***(Please put your name as reference so payment can be identified)***

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## Pastel Society of W.A. Annual General Meeting

The AGM is coming up on 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. Put this in your diary as it is a very important meeting for the future of the Pastel Society.

The **President, Vice President and Secretary** are standing down at this meeting and will be happy to assist anyone in these positions for as long as they require (so you won't be left "floating" on your own).

This means we will need replacements for these three positions.

Without these 3 positions we cannot operate so start lobbying prospective people to take over the reins. It's not difficult and the three retiring Executive Committee will be on hand and hopefully will be on the regular committee to ease the new people in.

Job statements will be available shortly however if the three voted on for these positions work together, the task is much easier.

**Lee Calley**  
**Secretary**

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## ‘South of the River Pastel Group’

Unfortunately due to the rising costs of hiring the room for the above group at Atwell House, we have been advised that the majority of members will no longer be rejoining under the Pastel Society of Western Australia’s banner. They will continue as a Pastel Group but no affiliation with us. Of course individual members have rejoined for the 2019 year but the SOR group no longer is operating.

The South of the River Branch started in 2015 when Deb Weber approached us and suggested the group join. It has been a great association including an Exhibition at Atwell House and members exhibiting at our Annual Exhibitions as well as lots of fun times at our Christmas Party. We have enjoyed having them along for the ride and no doubt will catch up at other exhibitions around the town.

Thank you Deb for all your hard work and I know you will be continuing with the group at Atwell House.

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## Quote for the Day

*“Every child is an Artist; the problem is how to remain an Artist once we grow up!”*

- Pablo Picasso

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## Pop-up Shop

Plans are underway to rent a Popup Shop at Sorrento Quay for the week of April 20th to 27th which would give us great opportunities for sales and exposure over the busy Easter weekend and few days following. This is in place of our usual unframed sale at Floreat Forum

It should be possible to display unframed and framed work. The shop is opposite the Pharmacy at one of the main entrances to Sorrento Quay from the Southside car park

We will be calling for volunteers to do a half day roster To man the shop for the week

Times and roster to be advised once we have secured the lease

It will be a new and exciting opportunity for the Pastel Society

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## A Note from the editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. We are so fortunate to share in the wisdom and experience of our very talented members. Thank you to Val, Rayma and Lee for their valuable contributions on the Pastel’s committee. I encourage members to please consider nominating for a position on the committee at our AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

If you would like to contribute any items of interest or advertise a coming exhibition or event in a future Newsletter, please remember to speak to me at Pastels or contact me by e-mail [kpl90005@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kpl90005@bigpond.net.au)

Karyn Platt  
Newsletter Editor

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## Favourite Links

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