



President:	Ngairé Hunt	313 5271	e-mail	nchunt@clear.net.nz
Secretary	Cena Moulson	310 6226	e-mail	kiwi.moulsons@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sue Newick	313 7823	e-mail	newicks@clear.net.nz

Our website: www.rangioraart.org.nz

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GREETINGS EVERYONE

Our Spring Exhibition is nearly upon us. Entries are in and now some of you will be sitting back calmly, all your preparation done, while others may be like me frantically trying to pull together the works I entered on the form! Anyway, whichever category you find yourself in, I know that it will all be worth it in the end. We are looking forward to a great show as always.

This year we have a New Award – The Gordon Harris Award. Gordon Harris Art Supplies has very kindly said they would like to sponsor us and the lucky recipient of their choice will receive a voucher to the value of \$250, which will be valid for 12 months. Before the earthquakes Gordon Harris had a lovely, airy shop in Worcester St behind the Cathedral. But this was munted and they have now set up in premises at 34 Southwark St, between Manchester and Madras St at the eastern end. They have very good stock and are excellent to work with.

Mark Landers, our Patron, is our official judge and this year, for the first time Peter **Smith from Gordon Harris** will come out to judge a work for their award. Peter will be present on the Sunday to present this award in person.

Our Guest Artist this year is Vjekoslav Nemesh. Nemesh has been a professional working artist since 1984. He has won many awards and participated in many group and solo exhibitions. His works are held in collections worldwide. Nemesh describes his work as a transfer of his feelings and emotions in a specific moment onto the surface of the canvas. His colours are vibrant and, indeed, his works vibrate. Nemesh says, “They are filled with the energy of joy and especially Love”.

Our signage is all out and advertising is already in the newspapers. This is great. On Wednesday 3 September Quilliam will be doing an interview about the Exhibition on COMPASS FM.

Please encourage all your friends and relatives to come. A separate attachment with this newsletter is designed for you to pass on to your friends, relatives and acquaintances. I'm sure they'll be delighted with the quality of work presented, and apart from that there are some wonderful raffle prizes to be won as well as our 2015 calendar which will be on sale.

The dates to remember: Thursday 4 September, 8.30 – 10.00am bring your art ready for hanging.

Friday 5, Saturday 6, Sunday 7, 10.00am – 4.00pm come along and enjoy.

Prizes. Sunday 3.30pm – 4.00pm. Presentation of Awards and Raffle
At 4.00pm collect your works of art and help with tidy up.

Payment of cheques for works sold at the exhibition: These will be paid out at the end of September/early October when Sue returns from overseas.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tini van de Loo who has just celebrated her 90th birthday. Unfortunately Tini has macular degeneration and can no longer see to paint, but she still keeps an active interest in the club and wishes she could be with us on Tuesday mornings as she has done for years.

Thank you to Cena Moulson and all her helpers for setting up our panel at the Kaiapoi Expo. This was quite an undertaking as it meant not only getting our work to Kaiapoi, but also bringing back any unsold works at the end. The Expo was very interesting, although I was a little alarmed at how little the auctioned works went for. The prices paid certainly did not reflect the quality of the works or the time put in by the artists creating them. Congratulations to those of our members who sold works. We had very good representation.

Our acrylic workshops with Clark Esplin were excellent. A very good spirit prevailed and Clark was able to give lots of individual time as the days progressed. We have a few copies of the book, which Clark and his brother, Ron, dedicated to their parents.

“Esplin – Tom and Edith’s Creative Journeys” is for sale at the special price of \$20.00. This is a beautiful coffee table collection of art and diary recollections of Tom and Edith’s travels through Europe. If you purchase it in town I noticed it is selling for \$40 so our price is a real bargain! If you are interested in purchasing a copy give Cena a ring on 310 6226 before 26 August.

October Workshop: The workshop date with Patterson Parkin has still not been confirmed. It will, however, be offered only on a Tuesday. If you are interested in this please contact Cena who will have more details next week.

Welcome home to Quilliam Collister who, with his son, has had a very pleasant sojourn in France. Some of you will no doubt have followed his blog, which shows how Quilliam is never starved for subject matter and always eager to capture interesting aspects of his journeys in pen and wash as well as photography.

It is also Bon Voyage to a number of our members who are leaving our shores over the next few weeks to travel to distant shores. We know you will be inspired and wish you all a safe and happy journey and look forward to catching up when you return.

John Ruskin 1819 – 1900 wrote, “When love and skill work together expect a masterpiece”. I’m sure that our exhibition will have many masterpieces and we are really looking forward to a great weekend. See you there,
Ngairé.