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**Our website:** [www.rangioraart.org.nz](http://www.rangioraart.org.nz)

MARCH 2016

Greetings Everyone

The weeks are rushing by. We've met six times this year already and it's great to welcome new folk on a weekly basis. We do hope that you will enjoy working with us and take part in as many of our programmes as possible. Carolyn Abernethy and Lynette Rate have been pioneering an outdoor painting group on the first Tuesday of the month. Last week several of us joined them for a great day up at Ashley Gorge and came home feeling well pleased with our day's efforts. It was great just to be out there in nature, breathing in good doses of fresh air and committing to paper the scene before us on an immediate basis.

The next outdoor painting day is Tuesday 5 April. Why not join them at Amberley Beach? Give Carolyn (03 132 8524) or Lynette (03 424 4665) a phone call to check out meeting place etc, pack your lunch and your Art equipment and you'll be amazed at what you can produce.

Meanwhile back at the Gospel Hall Rosie Pack and a small band of helpers are producing some more fresh and colourful posters for the hoardings on the Farmers. These are to give us a preview of the new shops we can expect to be shopping at later this year. Already the High Street has a real buzz about it as the bright new retail areas open their doors. Lyn Peckover, our Secretary, works at Paper Plus and she has been attempting to add more Art resources to their stock, so that if you can't get into Christchurch to our sponsor Gordon Harris or to The Drawing Room or Brush and Palette you will find more of the basics out here.

Our Tuesday topics over the next six weeks are: Tues 8 & 15 March – Café Culture, Tues 22 & 29 March – Easter Theme, and Tues 5 & 12 April – Autumn. While you don't have to do any of these they are offered for you to interpret in any way you so choose. And, of course, you can exhibit up to eight of the Tuesday topics/workshops/en plein air works at our September exhibition.

We are working on our workshop tutors for this year, but as yet nothing is finalised. These will be over the winter months, so more about them in due course.

However, here is some very exciting news for you to get your thoughts into and onto paper or canvas. We have been invited to produce a themed and selected exhibition in the Rangiora Chamber Gallery during Autumn 2017. The theme is 'Our Land – The Waimakariri,' so every work must be focused within the boundaries of the Waimakariri District. Our works will build up a collection of landscapes that portray the diversity of our region. If you sit down for a moment, pick up pen and paper and start writing I am sure you will fill up your sheet with all manner of ideas to portray the features of our burgeoning district, which could give our viewers a colourful and thought provoking account of what makes us The Waimakariri. What will you choose? Be bold and consider what makes up our social landscape/history. Through our work we will tell our story.

**MISSING DVDs:** As you know we have a good selection of books and DVDs for you to borrow and enjoy, but a problem arises when they are not returned. The following DVDs have been taken out without even being signed out, so we have no way of following up on the borrower. Please check your shelves, cabinets or wherever and return the following DVDs as other folk would like to use them.

John Crump – Painting the Great Outdoor

Tom Coates – Painting with Oils

Ron Ranson – Big Brush

Robert Wade – Water Colour --- Wade's Way.

**PAINTINGS FOR DISPLAY AT PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL SERVICES:** Viv Knowles is our Co-ordinator the works we put on display here. In the past we have also put works in the Rangiora Hospital, but with their new buildings they don't wish to have them any more – something to do with security! Anyway this is the month to change over those at the Presbyterian Centre and they still want lively and colourful paintings. We will need approximately 15 pieces up to A3 in size. If you have something suitable please bring to The Gospel Hall over the next two Tuesdays and Viv will be able to make the changeover. If you have work there already Viv will bring it back to the Gospel Hall for you to collect. If you wish to check with her her phone number is: 03 313 8335.

**2016 SUBSCRIPTIONS:** These are now due. \$25 if paid before the end of March; thereafter \$30. Thank you to all of you who have already done so.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** We are sad to be losing Sue Newick, our Treasurer from the committee. Sue has done a power of work and has been a marvellous treasurer over the last years. But she and Nigel have bought another property at Waikawa and as is only natural are wanting to spend more and more time up there, which means that Sue cannot devote the time needed to keep our books. Tracey Parker has indicated that she is willing to take the job on and we are very grateful to her.

Jan Campbell also has to relinquish her position on the committee due to new work commitments. Jan took on the job of opening up and closing up the Gospel Hall every Tuesday. This is a really important aspect of housekeeping for the group and we thank Jan for this and her other contributions she has made to the committee.

Thank you to all those folk who are now stacking their chairs as they leave, washing their cups and in general helping with the clearing away at the end of the day. It does make life so much easier if not just left to one or two people.

Our **AGM will be at 7pm on Tuesday 10 May** at the Gospel Hall. We will send out voting papers in our next newsletter as all nominations need to be in writing before the meeting.

**END OF THE CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION (Prosser Quirke):** Sadly the exhibition committee has decided to wind up this annual show, which has been a feature of the Rangiora art and craft scene for at least twenty years. Several years ago the quilting group withdrew and this year it appeared likely that the woodworkers would pull out. In addition the organisation of the exhibition had increasingly devolved around fewer and fewer individuals and without any really enthusiastic new committee members the existing ones found the load too great.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:** How many of you would be interested in making up a bus-load and venturing to Art Galleries further south? Ashburton has a new gallery and the Aigantighe in Timaru has a really excellent permanent collection. We haven't been on one of these jaunts for some years now, but when we did go it was great fun and we learned a lot. We would subsidise the cost of our trip to make it affordable for all who wished to come. Please think about it and let us know if you are interested. We will then find a good time for exhibitions on offer.

Also how many of you have been to our own Christchurch Gallery since it reopened? COCA, which is next door, is also up and running but closed on Mondays. Min Kim has recently bought the Bryce Gallery in Riccarton and would love to see you there, browsing if not buying! Min has a solo exhibition 'Echo' of her work from her recent trip to Iran & Europe opening on 23 March. She has completed some exquisite pieces, which I'm sure you'd enjoy.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

I would be interested in joining a party to go to Ashburton/Timaru Art Galleries.

Signed:

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