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April 2020

Welcome to our new members, Svetlana and Maria Messerley and Ilona (Trish) Shaheen and welcome back to Susan Drake.

Covid-19: What a strange time we are currently in. You should have received our updates regarding RAS procedures in the wake of the Covid-19 directions from the New Zealand government. The Jubilee Centre is now closed for the duration. Despite being unable to meet on Tuesdays, the Rangiora Art Society continues to function, but now in isolation via our members on the internet. Plein Air is suspended for the foreseeable future. We have a number of ideas re staying connected while in lockdown, please see below. We will continue to follow the NZ government guidelines. We want everyone to stay safe and well.

Main Power Community Fund: We have been notified that Rangiora Art Society was selected as a winner in the 2020 MainPower Community Fund! We have been told that the RAS will receive \$500 'for the upgrade and repair of stands'. Thank you to all our lovely members who voted for us on the Mainpower site.

Staying connected during the shutdown: Jan Campbell has set up a Facebook page just for Rangiora Art Society members. It is a private, closed group so only other Rangiora Art Society members can see the posts. It is a way of helping our members who are used to meeting regularly, to stay connected despite being in isolation. The way this works is that you need to be invited to join; the easiest way to do this is to send a 'friend request' to Jan Campbell. Jan will then invite you to join the group. This is how Facebook works. The purpose of the group is to encourage each other. Post your work, photos, any tips and tricks or helpful notices that you think will be of interest to the members over these next few weeks. So far over 45 people have joined and some are sharing their art while in shutdown. If you are not already connected to this group, you can join by inviting Jan to share it with you. Jan will then work her magic.

Continuing art during the shutdown: There have been several suggestions on how to keep up with our art while in our personal 'bubble', the following are a few of them:

- **Paint according to the RAS topics**, these continue regardless of the shutdown.
- **Try the Covid-19 Challenge** e.g. Pick a '**word of the day**' as a fun activity where we take a word and work on it in any way that it suggests itself to us. This will be The Covid19 Challenge. Jan will post this on both closed and open pages of Facebook.
- **Visit a gallery:** Those with internet access could try visiting museums in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Florence, Sao Paulo, Barcelona, Taipei and other exciting galleries from your computer chair, it is amazing and free until the end of May. Put in the following link: <https://www.timeout.com/travel/coronavirus-virtual-museum-tours> and another site, the Google Arts and Culture has lots to see too: <https://artsandculture.com>
- **Watch YouTube videos** on painting topics e.g. The series 'Portrait Artist of the Year'. Episode 1 is dated 21 January 2020 and there are ten episodes. It is fascinating to watch the portraits in progress and then completed.

Whatever you choose to do, keep drawing and painting, we look forward to seeing your efforts.

RAS Calendar of Events:

April 7 **Topic: Inspired by a Song (March 31 - April 16).**

April 14 **Topic: Inspired by a Song; Garden Shed (April 14 – 27)**

April 21 **Topic: Garden Shed(s) (April 14 – 27)**

April 28 **Topic: Forest(s) (April 28 – May 11)**

Plein Air session: Currently suspended due to Covid-19 procedures.

Tutorials: A variety of tutorials have been arranged but due to Covid-19 procedures the dates are now in question. Jenny Baker's tutorial on acrylic painting was scheduled for April 7 but is now postponed until further notice. We will advise on the May tutorials, portraits with Russell Hobbs and oils with Annie Guise, at a later date.

Plein Air: Good plans were made to venture out and a number of people have now been in contact about plein air outings. The plans are currently suspended but hopefully we will resume once the world returns to whatever the new normal will be. Ideas for organising future expeditions are welcome. If interested, please contact Pip Dobson (03 314 9153) to express your interest and ideas.

Membership Subscriptions for 2020 are due before Mar 31, date now extended to **April 30** due to Covid-19 procedures. Early bird fee for current members is \$25, after 30 April it is \$30. New member subscriptions for the first year \$25. Payment can be made online:

- **Internet banking** made to **Rangiora Art Society 02-0876-0027478-00.**
Please use **your name** and **Sub** as **Reference**.

Setting up tables and seating: Thank you to the kind and energetic folk who turned up early to help us set up the hall and who helped pack everything away at the end of the evening sessions. We hope to see you back when we resume operations.

Exhibitions: Usually we list any gallery and exhibition notices that come to our attention. As far as we know at this point all exhibitions planned for April have now been postponed indefinitely. Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu: Frances Hodgkins exhibition: European Journeys is on until 1 June. Maybe. Do consider joining us on Facebook, already some lovely paintings have appeared and many comments, all encouraging.

This newsletter is being distributed by email. Members who usually receive the RAS newsletter by post only will be telephoned instead. If you know that a member usually receives the newsletter by mail and does not have access to the internet to read it, then please check with them so that they do know what is happening in RAS. The committee will do their best to contact the postal people by telephone.

We aim to be in contact with you by regular email updates as long as the lockdown is in place.

Be kind to yourself and others. Keep safe, connected and well. Happy painting everyone.