

# RAS

## RANGIORA ART SOCIETY

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**April 2020**

**Covid-19:** Really just the one topic seems to have dominated our thoughts and actions over the past six or so weeks, Covid-19. We have become familiar with its effects on its victims and the devastation for those connected with the deaths. As a country we have worked hard to 'flatten the curve' and now to 'eliminate' the virus on our shores. It will be a long haul and the affect on New Zealand society is unfolding and will not be fully understood for some time. The Arts have been hit badly but it does give us time for reflection and opportunities to paint, preparing for 'normality' in the future. New Zealanders have done well being kind, keeping safe but the procedures will have to continue. Safe distancing and good hygiene are going to be our tools for the immediate future. As a small society we have managed to stay connected despite the lockdown restrictions. The Facebook page has been a joy for those who have been able to connect with it. Clearly some lovely paintings have been done during lockdown. It is going to be exciting when we can share with each other our painting progress.

**Bernice Groufsky:** We note with sadness the death of one of our long-standing members, Bernice Groufsky. Bernice died early in the lockdown, having been ill for some time. Bernice is remembered fondly for her paintings, especially her favourite subjects, landscapes of the high country, and her love of flowers. Bernice is shown here in 1996 when she won the Viewers' Choice at the Creative Art Show. Bernice continued to paint and exhibit with the RAS until a few years ago.

**Main Power Community Fund:** As reported to you previously, the Rangiora Art Society was selected as a winner in the 2020 MainPower Community Fund! We have received \$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 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. To join, just contact Jan and she will send you a 'friend request' to join. The purpose of the group is to encourage each other. You can still join this group and enjoy seeing the art works posted on the site.

**AGM and the Auditor:** Usually we hold our Annual General Meeting in early May, but this year is different. Our Auditor for many years, Graham Lawrey, has informed us that he is unable to review our financial records now, due to ill health. We are grateful for the help he has given us in the past and wish him well with his treatment. The search for a replacement auditor looks like being resolved quite soon but has been complicated by changes made by the Chartered Accountants Institute, limiting our options. As things stand at the moment, once our replacement accountant has reviewed our records, we can then plan when to hold the AGM. We will keep you posted.



## **RAS Calendar of Events:**

**May 1-30**            **The 30-Day Challenge (see the attached details).**

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

**May 12-25**        **Topic: Children**

**May 26-June 8**    **Topic: Night**

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

**Tutorials:** The arranged tutorials have been put on hold until we have a clear idea of when we can resume our Tuesday art sessions at the Jubilee Centre. Hopefully alternative times can be arranged. We will keep you informed of dates when we know what can be provided.

**Membership Subscriptions for 2020** were due before Mar 31, and the date was extended to **April 30** due to Covid-19 procedures. The early bird fee for current members was \$25, after 30 April it is \$30. New member subscriptions are \$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.**

A big thank you to those who have paid up on time. The RAS has expenses even though we are shut down and your subscriptions help us. Those who have not yet paid your 2020 subs an email was sent out on 28th April explaining that we understand if you can't pay at the moment due to lockdown, but we would like to hear from you by the 5th May as to whether you intend to remain a member or not. Please contact Jan Campbell ASAP.

**May 30-Day Challenge:** We have a golden opportunity with restrictions on movement still in place to throw ourselves fully into the 30-Day Challenge. The guidelines are attached to this newsletter. It is a chance to practise, perhaps to plan and even to polish some of the works done during this time. Set aside a bit of time daily and lose yourself in the moment, drawing, painting whatever you like or following the topics provided. See what happens. We look forward to sharing the results later.

**Exhibitions:** News comes to us that various planned exhibitions have now been cancelled e.g. Kaiapoi Expo and possibly the Ashburton Art Society exhibition. Others are in doubt. The RAS has also reluctantly cancelled our exhibition for 2020 due to several compelling reasons. We are exploring ideas for some sort of alternative that may be acceptable in the changed environment we face.

This newsletter is being distributed by email. Members who usually receive the RAS newsletter by post 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.**

**Attachment: The May 30-Day Challenge Guidelines.**