

Wanganui Arts Society Newsletter August 1969

THOMAS L. SPERRING.

With the passing of Mr. T.L. Sperring, the Society has lost a staunch friend and valued supporter of many years' standing. In 1966, both Mr. and Mrs. Sperring finally resigned from the Council of the Society after long service over a period of twenty-five years. During that time, Mr. Sperring had served as President for four years and had been Vice-president before and after his term of office. With the help of his wife, he launched the original Sketch Club and fostered it through it's various phases throughout the years. He was always a regular exhibitor both here and with other Societies, including the National Academy of Fine Arts.

In 1954, the Society recognised the services of Mr. Sperring by conferring on him life membership; the only other life member at that time being Mr. F.J. Denton.

The Society is indebted to Dr. Robertson for the donation of books and art materials which he purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Sperring. These are for the use of Society members or for purchase by individual members - the proceeds for which are to go into the Society funds.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

If you are wondering about the changed appearance of this Newsletter, you will be interested to know that the Society has recently purchased a Gestetner machine and so will be able to deal with all notices, circulars, etc., in the future. This will naturally mean more work for our already very, busy secretary but will be a great asset to the Society. We are very appreciative of the service we have received from Miss Murray and her interest on our behalf, and hope we can maintain her very high standard of work.

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SECRETARIAL NOTES.

PROGRAMME FOR D.I.C. DISPLAY (Subject to Alteration).

<u>Date of Selections</u>	<u>Type of Display</u>	<u>Date Display Changed in D.I.C.</u>
13th August, 1969	Watercolours	19th August.
10th September	Still Life & Portraits	16th September
8th October	Selection from work done by Junior Art Class.	14th October
12th November	Landscapes, Street Scenes and Flowers in Oils & Acrylic.	18th November
10th December	Assorted Selection.	16th December
14th January '70	Display by Waimarino Arts & Crafts Soc.	20th January
11th February	Sculpture & Pottery	17th February

Members are invited to submit more than one entry. Votes for winning entry will be counted on the same day as selections are made, i.e., the 2nd Wednesday in each month. The existing display with the winning entry suitably labelled will remain on display until the following Tuesday to enable publicity to be arranged.

As each display is removed from the D.I.C., exhibits will be held at the Art Centre either for collection by owners or put into displays at Dutch Mill and Cake Kitchen. Would intending exhibitors please indicate on labels whether exhibits will be available for the Dutch Mill or Cake Kitchen or whether they are to be held in the Art Centre for collection.

Pottery, sculpture and crafts are required for each display and are included in the voting for the special

D.I.C. Art Award of a \$20 voucher.

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Congratulations to Mr. Hammond on winning the first monthly \$20 voucher with his Australian scene. Jean Frank was a close second with her Sydney Opera House. The second winning exhibit will be announced this week.

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Members are once again reminded that ALL exhibits MUST be clearly labelled with name and price and pictures correctly framed otherwise they CANNOT be accepted.

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Members are now offered the display spaces in the Dutch Mill and Newsomes Cake Kitchen for ONE MAN EXHIBITIONS for the duration of one month each. Please apply to the Secretary for bookings which can now be taken for the next twelve months. This will make a change from the past arrangement and give individual artists the opportunity of making their work known locally. Combined exhibitions of two or three artists will be acceptable. Watercolours, pen and ink or pencil drawings need not necessarily be framed, as long as they are properly mounted.

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The next Annual Exhibition is planned for late August or early September, 1970.

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A Members' Exhibition will be held in the Art Centre to coincide with the Agricultural and Pastoral Royal Show to be held in Wanganui in 1970.

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MARCH OF PROGRESS.

The Y.M.C.A. is organising a three day "March of Progress" in the Memorial Hall on August 28th, 29th & 30th, 1969. All organisations and long-standing business firms will be contributing to show Wanganui what has actually been taking place over the years. Our Society has agreed to arrange a display in the Main Foyer and help and contributions toward this are needed from members. Our history dates from 1901, and should prove interesting to cover. Adequate supervision and insurance will cover many priceless and irreplaceable exhibits which will be included in displays by all participating. Every care is being taken by the organisers. As these dates coincide with the Gaston de Vel weekend school of portrait painting, many members are already engaged. If other members are willing and able to help, please contact the secretary or editor as soon as possible.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY, 1969.

The Christmas Party is planned for Saturday, November 29th this year. As it was so successful last year, it will be run on similar lines again, the theme being the IMPRESSIONIST PERIOD. This should prove interesting and varied. The painting competition will also be in this style. Further information will be available in the next Newsletter.

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REPORTS.

N.Z. SOCIETY OF POTTERS:

The Department of University Extension, Victoria University of Wellington, has advised plans to hold a residential school at Weir House in Kelburn, Wellington,

from 6th to 17th January, 1970. Other details have not yet been finalised, but there will be a potters' section, and members are asked to note the dates.

Ivan McMeeken from Sydney arrives in Auckland at the beginning of November. He will spend two days selecting the pots submitted for the National Exhibition before going to Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin to tutor master classes and to study paeloysitic clay deposits. He returns to Auckland for the Opening of the National Exhibition on November, 15th.

A new addition to the Reading Room is a recent publication, "Pottery for Pleasure in Australia and New Zealand" by Elizabeth Lissaman, published by A.H. & A.W. Reed.

JUNIOR ART CLUB:

This Club has been well attended each Friday despite the numbers of absentees during the 'flu epidemic. It was necessary to close the enrolment list in a very short time and a waiting list is growing weekly. In consequence, those children not attending regularly without an acceptable excuse will have to drop out in favour of the pupils waiting to join. A number of children are now working on the poster competition for the 'Save the Children' Arts & Crafts exhibition. Those attending range in age from 9 to 15 years, and all work together with great interest and enthusiasm. Clay, chalk, crayons and paint are the materials used.

We are very grateful to Mr. Hardie for his whole-hearted co-operation and also for the support of the Arts & Crafts section of the Education Department. The Society has to supply suitable equipment and material for the use of the Club and this is being arranged in the most economical way.

More help will be welcome from any members interested in this project. Please contact the editor for further detail if you are willing to help. The Club meets from 3.30 to 5 p.m. each Friday.

SOCIAL EVENING:

There was an average attendance on August 2nd when Mr. Hammond screened the National Bank's Watercolour Exhibition slides. These proved of great interest and showed a marked change in format. The subject was also more varied than in the past.

At the opening of the evening, Mr. A.V. Jones gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the subject of framing pictures; of special interest to those who do their own framing, but also of general interest to all present.

Mr. Jones has been a member and keen supporter of the Society for many years and is always willing to co-operate when called upon. He now holds a special import licence for further art materials and would like members to put in their orders as soon as possible. It is very difficult to order for a year ahead unless he has some idea of the materials needed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Art Centre on the 6th September at 8 p.m. In fairness to the incoming committee, a full attendance is requested. It is important that all ideas, suggestions and queries should be considered in a full general meeting. The success of the Society depends on the interest and co-operation of each individual member.

DEPUTATION to the CITY COUNCIL WORKS COMMITTEE:

Eight Committee members conferred with the Works Committee of the City Council at the Council Chambers and fully discussed the problem of adequate heating for the Art Centre. We were very well received and are assured of every consideration in this matter. Several proposed solutions will be tested out at the Centre and a record of

heating checked before making any final decision for improvements. Members of the Works Committee had made a full inspection prior to the meeting and were well aware of our situation.

We have also been assured that the parking space at our entrance door will not be included in the permanent rental lots, thus maintaining access to the Centre at all times. This matter was raised when the Council made known their decision to extend that parking area for permanent lease.

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.

As part of this Conference, the Government set up a Social and Cultural Committee to work in parallel with the Committee for Economic Development. At the end of 1968, the Association of N.Z. Art Societies received a request to submit a case for the furthering and improvement of the Visual Arts. This was done on behalf of the Affiliated Societies, which includes our Society. Further to this, the Association requested Mr. E.C. Simpson, Association Newsletter Editor, to submit his personal suggestions resulting from 40 years' experience lecturing for University Extension classes and W.E.A. on Art Appreciation. A full report of all these submissions is filed at the Art Centre and available for all members to peruse. It would be impossible to cover all this in our Newsletter, but is of vital interest to us all.

Following on from this, a meeting of Combined Arts Organisations and persons interested in the Arts was called. This meeting was held at Challenge House on the Terrace, Wellington, and was attended by some 90 people covering 49 different organisations - mainly National or N.Z. Bodies, not individual central groups. The National Arts Federation (N.Z.) was formed and a Steering Committee of 12 members appointed to determine a policy and draft a constitution which will be presented at the next general meeting in September. In the meantime, the Steering Committee is open to suggestions and recommendations from all organisations, National or local. A full report of this meeting is filed at the Art Centre.

This inaugural meeting was chaired by Mr. Hilton, President of the Chamber Music Federation of N.Z. In his opening address, he stated, "Because none of us are strong enough to achieve all we can and should in the community on our own - we should try instead to build a strong, yet at the same time flexible, structure on the basis of the combined arts in New Zealand. To make a success of this, people have come prepared to work for the arts as a whole."

He outlined the functions of such an organisation as follows:-

1. Co-ordination of activities and provision of information services.
2. Promotion of the Arts which includes increased space and informed comment by newspapers, radio and T.V.
3. Audience education.
4. Education.
5. Audience Research.
6. Negotiation with Government, Statutory Bodies and Business.

He then formally moved that a Nation-wide organisation, representative of all Arts, be established. In this way, the National Arts Federation aims to give the Arts an independent voice.

It was further recommended that Regional Art Councils should be formed in all towns, if not already established. Surely Wanganui should consider this very seriously.

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TOUR OF AUSTRALIAN ART GALLERIES (Continued)

21st October, 1968:

All members of the tour were advised to visit the National Gallery of Victoria for a preliminary look at the collections. This art centre is a most impressive building of blue stone which took six years to complete at the cost of thirteen million dollars. The current value of the collection is estimated at thirty million dollars. The Gallery comprises of four floors grouped around three courtyards. All floors are serviced with escalators and lifts. The spire rises 415 feet, and is visible for 30 miles.

Housed in the building is the finest, largest and most comprehensive collection of fine arts in Australia. Included in this collection they saw a large reclining figure by Henry Moore, also works by Belzac and Rodin, 3 Rembrandts, 1 Cezanne, 1 Van Gogh, Tiepolo's Banquet of Cleopatra (once owned by Katherine the Great of Russia) which was insured for £250,000 when shipped from London.

On the second floor, works exhibited were of famous European art, 15th Century Florentine and French, including Claude Lorraine, Father of landscape painting in the 17th century. On this floor there were two thousand paintings. Of special note among the Australian artists were Hans Heysen, Will Frater, Arthur Boyd, Sydney Nolan, Russell Drysdale and John Olsen. Other artists represented in the collection were Poussin, Van Gogh, Rubens, Durer, El Greco, Titian, Turner, Gainsborough, Goya, Constable, Corot, Vlaminck, Utrillo and Modigliani; also contemporary European, English, American and Australian artists.

Besides the Old Masters and Modern Paintings, the collections include drawings, prints, William Blake water colours, Chinese collection, Gothic collections, Greek vases, period furniture, pottery, ceramics, bronzes, glass and silver.

As well as the preliminary visit to the Victoria Gallery, members were taken on a sight-seeing tour of Melbourne in the Parlour car. This included all Memorial sights, such as Captain Cook's cottage and conservatory. They drove through the industrial area, across the area to Torack and South Yarra, visiting Como House. This last proved most interesting and impressive being an early settler's home. It was built in 1837 and still stands as it was originally built, with chandeliers, period furniture, drapes and mirrors. The nursery is fully equipped with all period furniture and accessories. Even the outhouses have all the original vehicles and stable gear, all in perfect condition and ready for use. Como House was built at Lake Como, originally a billabong where Aborigines once camped.

That night, they sampled a Chinese dinner in Little Bourke Street.

22nd October, 1968.

On Tuesday, they all toured the new part of the city and visited the shops. In the afternoon, they re-visited the Gallery and attended a lecture on the European collection. This was given by Miss McCarthy, one of the official lecturers at the Gallery. She was extremely interesting and informative, readily answering all questions at the conclusion of the lecture.

That evening, they had an Italian dinner at the Pilligrimis, which was very good!!!

23rd October, 1968.

On Wednesday, the party took a tourist trip to Healesville, which lies in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, 39 miles east of Melbourne. Here Australian fauna can be seen in it's natural habitat. Here can be seen badgers, tree kangaroos, platypus, marsupial cats, dingos, all types of bird life including the lyrebird, Australian mammals, etc., and also lizards, snakes and tortoises.

The sanctuary's 432 acres comprise the remaining crown land of the Coranderrk Aborigine Reserve of 4000 acres, established in 1860. In 1921, Dr. Colin McKenzie was given the use of 78 acres to further his study of native mammals, particularly the platypus and koala. 350 adjoining acres of bushland became the sanctuary's Coranderrk Bushland. The 78 acre sanctuary became one of Healesville Shire Council's picnic reserves, with a few pieces of native fauna on show. This has been developed as a tourist attraction, and now abounds in Australian life.

To be concluded

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NEW MEMBERS

The Society is very pleased to welcome the following new members:- Mesdames C.M. Meyer and J. Godfrey from Rastihī and Mesdames K.J. Fox, N.M. Haworth and D.F. Sherriff, all of Wanganui.

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DATES TO REMEMBER.

SEPTEMBER 6TH - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 8 P.M. - ART CENTRE.

SARJEANT GALLERY.

August 16th to Sept. 7th	SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION.
Sept. 15th to 30th	WAIKATO TOURING EXHIBITION.
Oct. 4th to 18th	13TH ANNUAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY sponsored by Wanganui Camera Club.

MEMORIAL HALL.

August 28th, 29th & 30th. Y.M.C.A. "MARCH OF PROGRESS"

ST. JOSEPH'S HALL, WANGANUI.

Sept. 17th to 23rd. SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION.