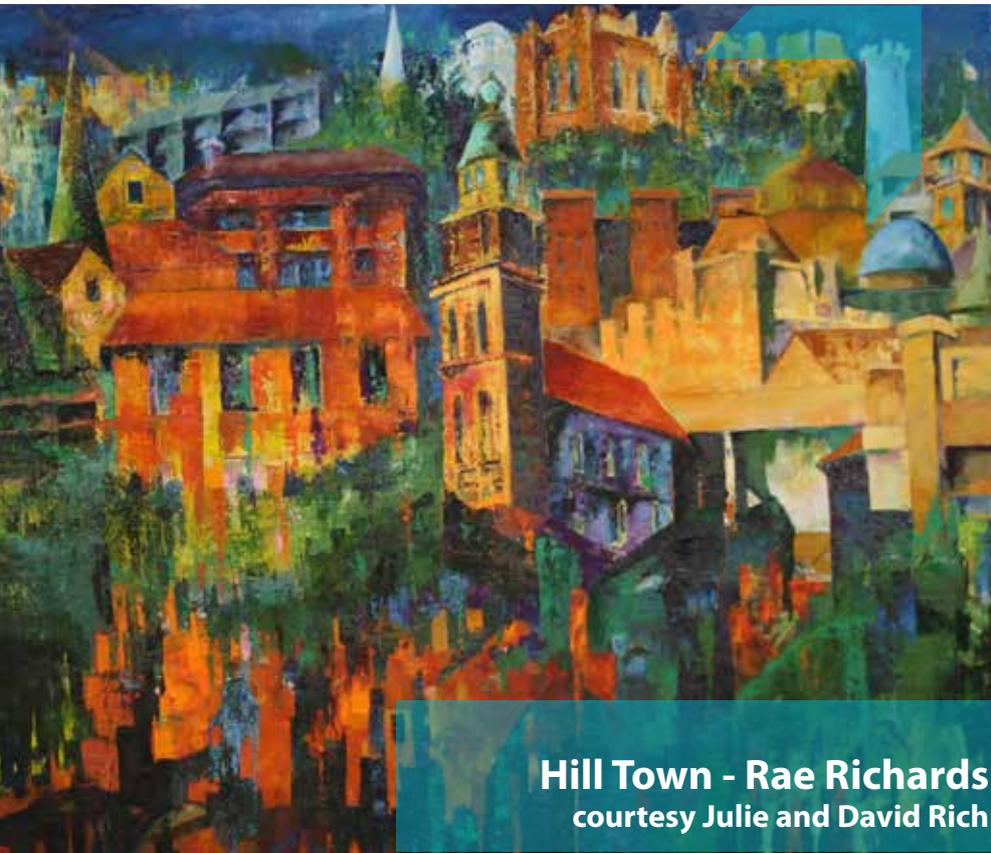


Newsletter

Summer
2016



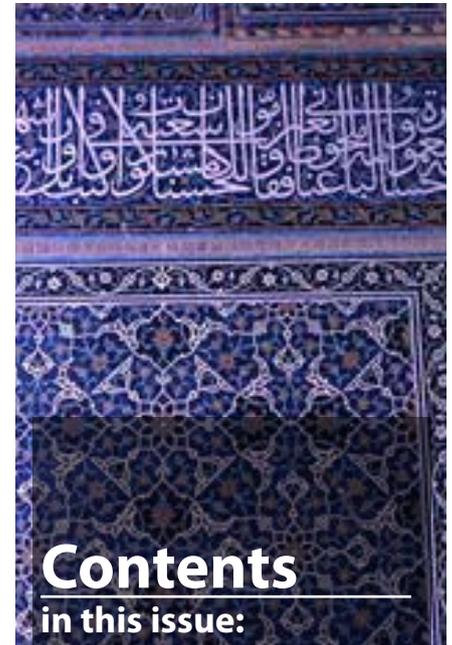
Hill Town - Rae Richards
courtesy Julie and David Rich

Chairman's Welcome to 2016

Welcome to ADFAS. We are delighted that you have decided to join - or rejoin our Society and we hope that you will have a long and happy experience as a member of ADFAS Newcastle.

By way of background, ADFAS began in Sydney in 1985, and ADFAS Newcastle is one of thirty five Societies with thousands of members Australia-wide that form the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies Inc. We are a group member of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) in the United Kingdom, which was Patricia Robertson OAM's original inspiration for starting ADFAS. The Newcastle Society has grown from small beginnings in 1988 to a membership of approximately 200 men and women who share a love of the arts and an enthusiasm to learn more in a convivial atmosphere.

Each year, lecturers are chosen from NADFAS's carefully selected pool of lecturers to conduct a tour on one of three circuits. Ours is the Hume Circuit, and six of our lectures are delivered by a visiting NADFAS lecturer. Two more are from ADFAS's pool of Australian lecturers who are experts in their field, and for one lecture during the year, the Newcastle Lecture, we invite people from our own community who are distinguished by their contributions to the arts or the community. We also conduct two Special Interest Mornings (SIMs), usually held at the Newcastle Club, where a visiting NADFAS lecturer examines a topic chosen by us in greater depth.



Contents in this issue:

- 1** CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME 2016
- 2** CHURCH RECORDING
The oldest church in Newcastle:
St. John's Anglican Church, Cooks Hill
- 3** YOUNG ARTS
For talented young artists
- 3** SPECIAL INTEREST MORNINGS
What's in store for our members
this year
- 4** TRAVEL
A member's adventures with
Academy Travel in Spain

ADFAS NEWCASTLE INFO

A GROUP ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF NADFAS

ADFAS NEWCASTLE INCORPORATED
PO Box 531 Newcastle NSW 2300
ABN: 42 374 836 979

Email: newcastle@adfas.org.au

ADFAS NEWCASTLE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE	
CHAIRMAN	- Jane Smith
VICE-CHAIRMAN	- Lindy Henderson
SECRETARY	- Judy Wotton
TREASURER	- Cathy Tate
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	- Elizabeth Turner

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Greg Hansen
John Hendriks
Paul Johnson
Lyn McSweeney
Anne Morris
Rae Richards

As you know, our lectures are held at Hunter School of the Performing Arts (entry is from Cameron St, Broadmeadow) and commence at 6.30 pm. After the lecture we all enjoy a glass of wine and a sandwich. This congenial interlude gives us the chance to discuss the lecture, often to meet the lecturer, as well as to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Your membership entitles you to many things - not only the lectures and Special Interest Mornings, but also excursions and tours from time to time, and the ability to visit any other society

at a reduced rate on presentation of your signed 2016 Programme. This can be a good way of meeting new people or attending a different lecture, possibly one not on our circuit.

Our Society has now been running for 27 years and the bulk of our membership is aging. We therefore have a need to diligently and creatively seek new, and especially younger members. After all, ADFAS's objectives are timeless and are just as relevant to young and middle aged people, who are currently not well represented in our membership.

We believe that by varying our approach, including advertising, we can appeal to younger demographics. The committee has worked for the past year to develop a uniquely ADFAS Newcastle image, including a website, lecture pamphlets, brochure, letterhead and banner. Hopefully other initiatives will arise and also be developed to ensure an ongoing, vibrant and relevant Society, enriching, inspiring and educating future generations of ADFAS members.

Jane Smith

Your 2016 Programme

On behalf of the committee a very warm welcome to our new members. We are delighted to have so many members renewing for another exciting year.

7th March - Ms Pauline Chakmakjian

The City of Kyoto and the Cult of Beauty

11th April - Mr Michael Turner

Sir Charles Nicholson: "Who Do You Think You Are?"

16th May - Ms Lucia Gahlin

Nefertiti: Images of Egypt's most intriguing Queen

6th June - Dr Christopher Allan & Mr Peter Guy

Pomp and Circumstance: English Art Music of the early 20th Century

11th July - Mr Michael Howard

Murder, Mayhem, Mystery and Paint - the extraordinary story of Walter Sickert

15th August - Prof James Allan

Isfahan and the history of Persian tilework

12th September - Mr Stephen Richardson

English Period Styles in Art: 1760 - 1840
A Fascination with the Antique

17th October - Ms Sarah Cove

Conservation and Restoration:
A day in the life of a Picture Restorer

7th November - Dr Karen Pearlman

Australian Film: Defining moments in the National Cinema



Church Recording Report

ADFAS Newcastle Branch is carrying out the Church Recording of St. John's Anglican Church at Cooks Hill Newcastle. St John's is the oldest church in Newcastle, dating to the 1860s. The task has been ongoing for about two and a half years with a small team of eight people, depending on availability, and our working times are the mornings of the first Monday and the last Friday of the month.

The Church Recording's Mission

The aim of the project is to record the entire contents of the church, including the stained glass windows. The record for each item includes its manufacturer/designer, a description of the item, photographs of each of the major items and its history. St John's is an old church and therefore has a large number of items to be recorded. Consequently, the

task has been slow given the amount of research often required. At the completion of the recording task, the results will be published in a limited edition book.

Status of the Project

During 2015 the bulk of the recording was completed. Progress slowed over the Christmas New Year period but the



St John's Church - Cooks Hill

team is now back on task. In addition to the recording task, we have begun to prepare the data for publication and identifying our publishing options. This includes consulting with other ADFAS branches that have previously published Church Recording books. We are targeting completion of publication by mid 2016.

the St John's congregation in November 2015. This generated a great deal of interest, and as a result, we have received a lot of additional information to incorporate into the Church Recording record.

Paul Johnson

Presentation to St John's Congregation

A presentation outlining the recording process was given to

The Young Arts Report

Sponsorship

The Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) actively encourages local societies to promote arts activities. ADFAS's guidelines for Young Arts Small Grants states that applications for funding must have embedded in them, the philosophy that projects will "inspire young people with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts and foster awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation and to expand the horizons of young people through their involvement in creative arts".

ADFAS Newcastle supports this objective by providing small grants each year to enable budding young artists in our region up to the age of 25 years to develop in arts-related activities. Funding for these grants is provided through donations from ADFAS members.

Through ADFAS Newcastle's Small Grants programme, non-

profit organisations can apply to ADFAS Newcastle, requesting funding for specific projects, events or materials.

In 2015 our Young Arts funding support recipients were: Hunter Youth Orchestra, the Hunter Performing Arts High School, "Dance Rites" (an innovative program which was based at the Sydney Opera House, promoting appreciation of issues surrounding Aboriginal culture,

traditional and contemporary) and Brayden Harrison, a promising young artist and leader from Windale Public School. Brayden's grant allowed him to attend the Hunter Creative Arts Camp.

Lyn McSweeney



Special Interest Mornings (SIMs)

SIMs are an in-depth treatment of a specific topic that is quite separate from the night time lectures.

*The SIMs are held at 10am at:
The Newcastle Club
40 Newcomen St
Newcastle NSW 2300*

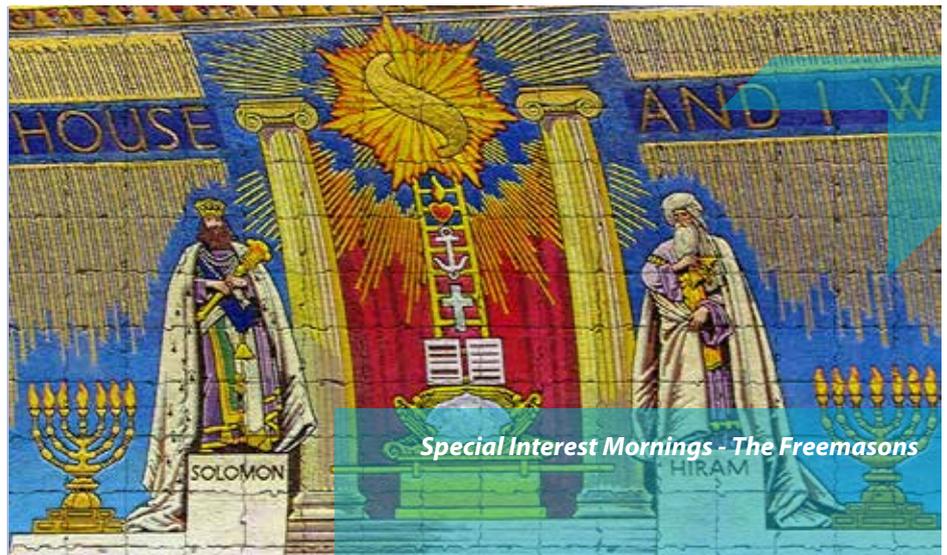
7th March
Ms Pauline Chakmakjian

Freemasonry; The United Grand Lodge of England Royal and Famous Freemasons

This half day examines two aspects of Freemasonry, commencing with an overview of what Freemasonry is as an organisation combined with various exterior and interior features of the United Grand Lodge of England, the ceremonial and administrative headquarters of Freemasonry in England and Wales. Otherwise known as The Freemasons' Hall, the building possesses several Art Deco features.

Many people were freemasons and

many people have freemasons in their families. This lecture explores some of the more famous and infamous people like Napoleon, Mozart and General MacArthur, who decided to become freemasons and some of the reasons and motives behind them doing so.

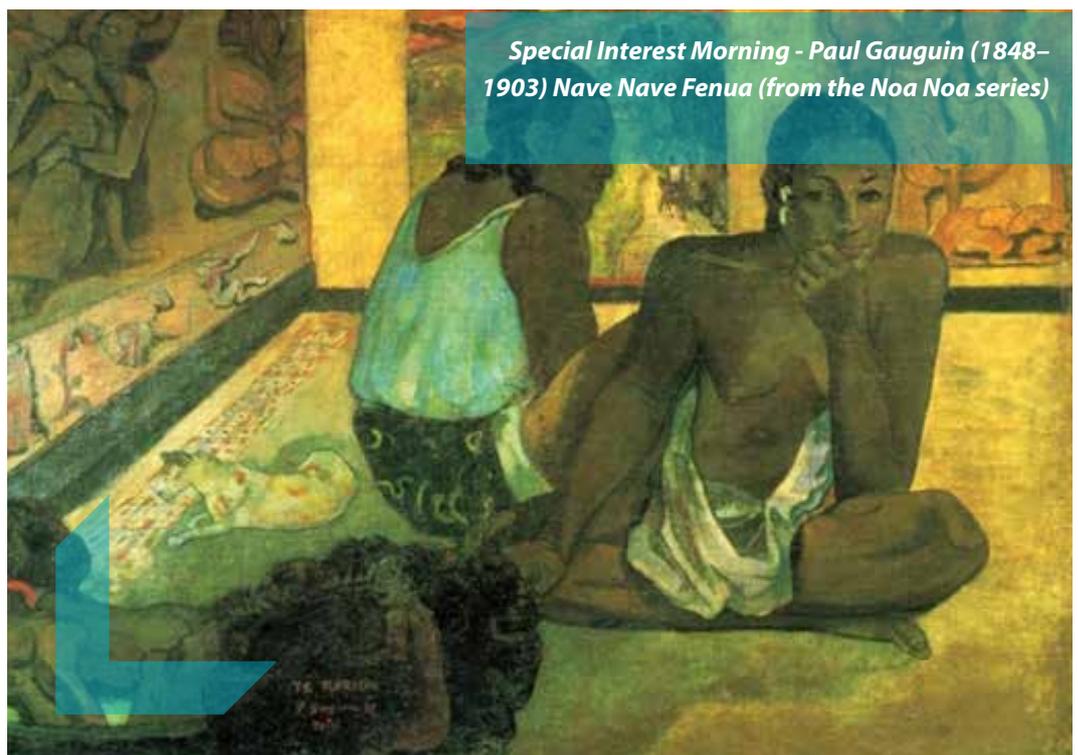


11th July
Mr Michael Howard

Gauguin, Gauguin....Gone

This Special Interest Morning (SIM) is part the extraordinary story of Paul Gauguin and part the magical vision he conjured of Breton, Tahitian and Marquesan life. Fired by his relentless pursuit of the authentic, he created an image of a faraway world where everything was innocent and fragrant – Noa Noa.

Interwoven into this is the story of Michael Howard's own role in the quest to authenticate two supposed "Gauguin" paintings, together worth over eleven million pounds. It is a salutary tale of the contemporary art market and role that the innocent art historian plays within what is a very wonderful and murky business.



Trip to Spain courtesy ADFAS Travel

Each year the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies ADFAS Travel offers a select range of tours. The tours are designed to reflect the interests of ADFAS members and friends. This article is a Newcastle traveller's appraisal.

"In October 2014 my wife Judy and I were part of an ADFAS group tour of Spain. ADFAS had reserved a complete group booking on one of the scheduled tours arranged by Academy Travel, a well-known Sydney company. The name of the tour was "The Grand Tour of Spain", and grand it was.

Usually Academy provides very well-qualified tour directors and guides but in this case NADFAS (UK) supplied an English medieval historian to be the tour leader, and a vibrant young Italian woman as tour manager. The two knew each other and integrated very well. Our "team" was eighteen Australians, of whom almost a half were men. Perhaps because of the ADFAS connection we were a very receptive compatible group. The land content was 16 full days and 17 nights. Add-ons were available but these were undertaken as individual travellers. Judy and I elected to take additional trips to Bilbao to see the Guggenheim Museum and to Figueres to see the Salvador Dali Museum. These were arranged before we left Australia.

ADFAS members considering a holiday where the principal travel agent is Academy Travel can be assured that the organisation is excellent and that all details have been attended to. Our hotels were very central but were of the smaller "boutique" type, not the large multinational chain variety. Centrality meant that many of the places we visited were on foot. Coach travel within each city was kept to a minimum. Travel between cities was by good coaches and the high speed train.

Breakfast every day was included as was either lunch or dinner. The standard of

the meals was excellent and (with the exception of breakfast) the complimentary wines were very acceptable. On about five occasions, our historian gave informative formal illustrated talks at the hotel before we left for the day. At each place we visited a specialised local guide was provided. In all the museums and cathedrals, we were issued with "whisper sets" those little radio receivers that allow the guide to speak quietly and each guest to hear clearly at some distance from the speaker. All the guides spoke very good English. The cities we visited were:-

- Granada for the Alhambra and the Alhambra
- Ubeda
- Cordoba for the Mezquita and the Medina Azahara
- Seville for the Reales Alcazares and the Cathedral
- Madrid for the Thyssen Museum and the Prado
- Segovia for the Roman aqueduct, cathedral and Alcazar
- Barcelona for the National Museum of Catalonia and Gaudi's Casa Batllo and Sagrada Familia.

The Basílica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, designed by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926).



Although incomplete, the church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in November 2010 Pope Benedict XVI consecrated and proclaimed it a minor basilica.

It will be obvious that the visits were comprehensive but not so many as to exhaust the participants. Ample time was set aside for individual meandering. The attractions were of world class. At no stage did our group feel that we were being pushed too far or too fast. At no time did I feel that we were not in the capable hands of experienced guides who were ready to help. English is not widely spoken except in the more touristy places but our tour manager was fluent in Spanish.

Hotel transfers were executed efficiently, the meals were abundant and of a high standard. No-one finished a meal in need of a drink. All in all this was a very informative,

easy and friendly holiday shared with like-minded people. I recommend it to those who want to see some of the best that Spain has to offer from the security of an efficient and considerate travel company."

James Hart

ADFAS in the community

ADFAS is undertaking a new project similar to the current Church Recordings; the recording of the Schools of Arts buildings and Mechanics' Institutes. These public places, sometimes humble timber structures, sometimes grand "statement" buildings, have served communities well, some for almost 150 years, and survive to tell a story of ambition, aspiration and the best of the human spirit.



ADFAS'S Schools of Arts / Mechanics' Institutes

On the 15th May 2016 ADFAS Newcastle is holding a Special Interest Morning to promote the need to preserve our historic and unique Schools of Arts / Mechanics' Institutes.

The National Vice Chairman of ADFAS, Marlena Jeffery who has the responsibility of heading up this project nationally, and Helen Creagh of ADFAS Canberra, will be conducting this Special Interest Morning. The focus of this talk will be to encourage interested members and volunteers to become involved in recording this soon to be forgotten part of our cultural, educational history, which is proving to be a fascinating and absorbing project.

The Schools of Arts and Mechanics' Institutes are in abandoned Hunter villages, such as Baerami, and fast-changing cities, such as Newcastle and Maitland. Even individual suburbs had their own; Tighes Hill's is a true beauty and is now a retro dress shop. In a throw-away age of obsolescence and residential expansion, most of them have defied change. Even better, they have supporters and protectors to provide the help they will need to survive into a third century. Without places such as these, Hunter rural communities will be without a heart, a place of refuge and a central focus for the ceremonies that underpin our social life. The Schools of Arts and Mechanics' Institutes offered unprecedented opportunities for education. They were the only places where women could obtain an education above primary school. They evolved into free public libraries and from 1913, into a government public education system, including technical colleges that we know today as TAFE.

The buildings were often paid for and built on land donated by the philanthropist businessmen of the day, men such as William Arnott. Top Hunter architects, such as the Penders and Frederick Menkens, designed the buildings. They were statement buildings about the importance people placed on education. Mechanics' Institutes were more likely to be left-wing, controlled by the workers and catered for "miners and their lanterns". Schools of Arts delivered a more general, perhaps more genteel education.

It is feared that these buildings, often a symbol of rural history, will be swept away by the pressure of development and the desire for newer and bigger community assets. It is the ADFAS mission to record as much as possible of these buildings before they become but a memory.

Wickham School of Arts appears to have lost its battle. A prized architectural asset for Newcastle, and where it is said poet Henry Lawson went to night classes, it sits abandoned, next to Newcastle's renewal showpiece Honeysuckle.

The substantial 1875 Newcastle School of Arts building remains on the corner of Hunter Street and Wolfe Street. A cafe occupies the mall corner frontage of the building, part of the reemerging commercial life of the mall.

This story is condensed from an article by Frances Thompson, "Our places: Hunter Schools of Art", Newcastle Herald, 29 March 2013

