NOVEMBER 2011

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President’s Jottings

Hi again all

Well it’s now November and we have just finished the Townsville Art Society Awards and the Townsville Open Award for 2011 and we have already started discussions for 2012. It all went well on the Opening night, we had good visitor numbers and 8 of our members sold paintings during the Exhibition. Congratulations to everyone who won an Award and congratulations to all who exhibited. Barbara, our Art Awards Co-ordinator has included some pictures etc further into this Newsletter.

On 5 November some TAS committee members attended at Fairfield Waters Bunnings for its 1st Birthday celebrations. There were many community organizations participating in the festivities with stalls and it was a great day out for all involved and Bunnings customers on the day. There was free fairy floss, a sausage sizzle, music all day provided by the Townsville and Thuringowa Country Music and yummy food titbits provided by Bunnings and cooked by Masterchef contestant, Danni Venn. We got 2 new members and a new Gallery member and made some sales as well.

The best thing of all though at Bunnings was that we won $500 in a prize draw. All that was needed was our attendance on the day and to put our organization name into a bucket for the prize draw. There was 1 prize draw of $1000, 4 of $500, several of $200 and gift vouchers. How good is that?????

On a more sombre note, I can’t help but be somewhat disappointed that we have so many members, and yet it is still the same people who are doing all the fundraising activities. We asked for volunteers in the last Newsletter for this particular activity and obviously everyone had something else to do. It is no wonder that clubs and associations go belly up due to apathy of their members and those same members wonder why there are very limited avenues for their particular interests.

As previously advised the AGM is coming up on 26 November 2011 and all are welcome, especially if you think you might like to be part of the Townsville Art Society’s management committee. So, with that I will close my jottings with a farewell from your present committee and my thanks to each of the Management Committee for all the hard work put into this Society.
From the Awards Co-ordinator

The Awards Subcommittee was gratified by the good response we received with offers of help to receive the artwork, assistance with hanging and also serving food on Opening Night. Many hands certainly did make light work, or at least in the case of hanging the exhibition, shortened the time required to complete the job. A very big thank you to all who helped in any way.

Despite all the drama behind the scenes during the last fortnight, the Opening of the Exhibition was a happy occasion, with Councillor Jenny Lane, officiating at the opening ceremony.

Congratulations to all the Award winners: Laura Castell and Barbara Pierce shared the Open Award and other Award winners were: Graeme Buckley (Acrylic Award), Alan Kelly (Watercolour Award), Margaret Crawford (Oil Painting Award), Marlene Hamilton (Pastel Award), Gai Copeman (Ink, Pencil, Charcoal Drawing Award), Laura Castell (Printingmaking/Works on Paper Award), Gai Copeman (Miniatures Award), Cheryl-Ann Murkin (Sponsors’ Choice Award) and Adelaide Cohalan (People’s Choice Award).

Winners of Highly Commended Awards were: Margaret Crawford (Open), Barbara Pierce (Acrylic), Gai Copeman (Watercolour), Adelaide Cohalan (Oil Painting), Seppo Hau-teniemi (Pastel), Ros Jones (Ink, Pencil, Charcoal Drawing), and June Pola (Miniatures Award).

The Judge’s talk was well received and a summary of her comments made during the Floor Talk the following day appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Her talk commenced by commenting on each section and inviting comments from artists who were present, and concluded with individual critiques where requested.

Finally, congratulations to all artists who sold artwork during the exhibition: Sherie Kinlyside, Richard Free, Karen Grabau, John Roberts, Sally Grattidge, Marjorie Cook, Jo Lankester and Jenny Finn.

Did You Know?

The Townsville Art Society was formed in 1962, although a group of artists had met earlier in May 1955 at Townsville High School to discuss the possibility of holding an art show. The exhibition, entitled ‘As We See It’ was opened at the Tree of Knowledge, Lower Denham Street on 28 July. There were 91 entries, and comments in a visitors’ book were enthusiastic.

Thus encouraged, ‘Artists of Townsville’ presented a second ‘As We See It’ exhibition from 7 to 10 June, 1956 with 96 entries and, again, an enthusiastic response. On 14 June, the exhibitors formed the Townsville Art Group and began planning their next exhibition. This was to be a display of children’s paintings and was conducted in conjunction with the Children’s Library and held during Children’s Book Week in October. A total of 350 children (ages 3 to 18 years) showed 400 pictures in the open air at the Tree of Knowledge. It was the city’s first display of children’s art and the Townsville Daily ‘Bulletin’ commented that fewer than 20 of the children had any art training, but many had flair and imagination.

The Townsville Art Group was the genesis of the Townsville Art Society which came into being on 18 May 1962.

In 1969, the Society began to lobby the City Council with regard to establishing a regional gallery. The pressure continued until 1974 when the Council agreed to form a committee to investigate the viability of establishing a public gallery for this region. After many battles, the historic ANZ Bank building in Flinders Mall was purchased by the City Council and refurbished. In 1980, it became the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. In the late 1970’s, the Society also became involved in lobbying the Queensland Government for the funds to establish Art Education courses at tertiary level.

(from a History Compiled by Helen Kenny, ‘The Townsville Art Society—The First Twenty Years 1962—1982’).

The Townsville Art Society has had a number of ‘homes’ during its lifetime, and it is hoped that in the near future, we may acquire a permanent address. That would indeed be a fitting celebration in our Jubilee year.
Up and Coming Exhibitions

GALLERY INFORMATION

Attention: TAS Gallery Members and volunteers

Art Sale commencing Monday, 9 January 2012

Take this opportunity to display and sell your works with no cost to hang them for 3 weeks in January 2012. The normal 10% commission will apply on any works sold. You are to price your own works. As this is being advertised as a sale, you may reduce the price of your works if you wish.

Drop Off: Artworks may be dropped off at the Gallery prior to the Christmas closure (closed from Friday 23rd December). Otherwise you may drop works off at the Gallery on Saturday, 7th January 2011 between 10 am and 12 noon.

Conditions: Works must be ready to hang, with your name, medium, and price marked on the back of the artwork. You may bring in up to 5 works, with no size limit.

‘All Together Now Group Mural’. This is the main work featured in the art exhibition currently on display in the TAS Gallery. The work was done by 33 students across three classes and required a great amount of team effort and cooperation.

It is planned to donate the work to the Children’s ward in the General Hospital and negotiations are in process with this in view.

Congratulations to Donna Beningfield’s students on their outstanding exhibition. The opening was well attended and the children were very proud of their efforts. Congratulations also to Donna for doing such a wonderful job in teaching and inspiring her students.

For your 2012 diary:

Dates for 2012 TAS Awards Exhibition:
31 August to 16 September at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery.

Notice of Annual General Meeting—Reminder

The Annual General Meeting of the Townsville Art Society Inc. will be held on Saturday, 26 November at 2.00 pm at ‘Art on Kings’, Kings Road, Pimlico.

Documentation required for voting at this meeting is available at the TAS Gallery.

Final Exhibition for 2011

Sunday, 27 November to Friday, 23 December

Exhibition by Eddie O—‘Something Old - Something New’

A collection of watercolours depicting a variety of subjects from landscapes, seascapes, fauna etc.

Eddie (0427478908) will be at the gallery from 10 am Sunday, 27 November for morning tea.

Please Note: If you missed the deadline for nominations at the Annual General Meeting, ie 11 November, nominations may be made from the floor, provided that there is a nominator and seconder and that the nominee accepts nomination.
Judge’s Floor Talk

TOWNSVILLE ART SOCIETY AWARDS 2011 – JUDGE’S FLOOR TALK – PERC TUCKER REGIONAL GALLERY – (Taken from notes supplied by Tony Fitzsimmons) – Thank you Tony for doing this.

Sue Smith gave a good floor talk on Saturday 15 October. There were some good suggestions about future shows with the comment that it maybe would be much better to not have an Open Section; that is, still have an Open Award but have the Award given to the best entry in the whole Exhibition.

Sue offered the opinion that it can be good for artists if they change and respond to new directions.

Sue suggested that she felt as the Open category had the biggest prize money, then of course artists will put their best work there and not in the appropriate sections. She said a resultant example of this, was that this year there were good watercolours and acrylics which were not in their sections.

She repeated what she said at the opening, that what she was looking for was a combination of an idea, theme or concept, then how it was executed in the practice, and finally what sort of impact/statement it was making.

She covered each section to start with, inviting comment from any artists who were present, and concluding with individual critiques where requested.

She said that she felt the drawings and pastel sections were lacking a little bit in quality of standard. She said people will focus on the big prizes, with the Open section being a bit of everything.

The result of this was that there were two first prizes in the open, one of them being a very good print which would have given more quality to the print section. (She was not running anyone’s work down, but just showing how the respective sections could have benefited if the works in the Open had been in their sections.)

She was very impressed with the sole sculpture, which she felt was definitely deserving of an encouragement award, but said that it would be a bit odd to award it if there were no other 3D works to compare it against. To overcome this shortcoming, maybe we could consider either not having any 3D works, or having a 3D category, which could possibly include sculpture and ceramics.

The splitting of the oil and acrylic works was a little odd these days, when so many artists are working with mixed media. Sue thought it may be good to have workshops in traditional areas, and mentioned the work of Marjory Cook ‘Town Common’ as an example of what she meant ie: this painting is really mixed media and consequently more adventurous, and said it could even possibly stand up in the drawing section.

Watercolour section: it was good to see how a work can relate to the present 2011, and also relate to the big picture. She said all the watercolours were accomplished and, once again said how the section could be enhanced by the new type of watercolour pieces artists are doing nowadays incorporating mixed media.

Print section: Sue said that she was very pleased to see a Print category and commented on individual works:

- was conceptual, contemporary, and shows a grasp of international fashions/trends;
- work showed not only in its subject matter ie: the Chinese influence, but also in the execution, and was a good example of cross-cultural appreciation;
- the woodcut was a blend of traditional and modern approach, good use of the woodcut tool to delineate the scales on the fish as well as the feathers on the birds in different ways. It was an open and lively composition.

Miniatures section: good commercial appeal, liked the whole section overall and the varied subject matters.

Acrylic section: felt the standard was a little below what it could be, but there was some merit. At this point Sue asked if all works entered were hung and was advised that this was the case.

In commenting on Graeme Buckley’s Ibis ‘Dead Bird’, the winning entry in Acrylics, Sue felt that it was a good treatment of a rather repellent subject. (They have recently had an Ibis plague in Rockhampton and there were many dead birds around). She said Graeme’s work had good impact, and was a good monochromatic work, with bravura and simple composition, and the use of brushwork looked deceptively simple.
Oil section: some of the oils were good, and that one in particular had good composition, lively brushstrokes, texture and colour.

Sue commented on how lovely it was to see a younger person’s artwork and thought that it was good to encourage young artists.

Drawing section: was a poor overall standard, and suggested workshops for drawing, and that the artists should do more drawing practice. Experimental work would be good, commenting how it could be good to experiment with textures.

Open section: good to see local environment reference, love of landscapes and flora. Sue also commented by saying to follow your own star, and not be influenced by others.

Barbara Pierce’s co-winning work, ‘Performance’, showed a personal approach, with good composition, and she wondered if the bird was imaginary, or a performance prop for the play. It was an economical work, with delicate drawing and bold application of paint. It was an arresting and intriguing work which made you think.

Laura Castell spoke bit about her woodcut, ‘What’s Inside?’ the other co-winning work in the Open, ie: done from plywood, added colour in a free way by use of Chine Collé, which was used for all the colour. She is very aware of social issues in her country of origin, and she grew up seeing some of these issues, which is reflected in her artwork. She has researched, and her work is reminiscent of previous artists.

Sue spoke about how art should be more than just decoration, and must have an opinion, but is not necessarily a political or social statement. It must have a statement, thought, painting, design, viewpoint and can be formed by photographic vision, positive/negative spaces; they are all ideas about painting and art; thoughtful and thought provoking; both realistic and abstract design. Purely decorative art is limiting.

Folk Art with Jenny Finn

Wednesdays 6 — 8.00 pm
Classroom, 203 Kings Road, Pimlico
Beginners welcome
$20 per lesson
Contact Jenny 4788 7006 or 0413 962 116
Brushes and materials provided initially

Welcome to New Members:
Diane Dare, Wayne Reef
Helen Hartley, Rick Bann

Congratulations to Anne Rinkin, the winner of the TAS Awards Exhibition raffle

Thank you to current Management Committee members, Sylvia Hewitt and Del Luke, who will not be seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

To Sylvia, thank you being part of the Awards Subcommittee, for your advice at meetings, your expertise in catering for the last two Opening Nights of Awards Exhibitions and your sense of humour which has kept us going at times.

To Del, thank you for your involvement in managing the gallery, for the preparation of rosters of volunteers (often a thankless task) and for filling so many times when no one else was available.

You will both be greatly missed.

We need to fill these two vacancies. How about you?
Townsville Art Society Inc.

- Consists of a group of 120 local artists who operate a not-for-profit gallery and classroom as well as organise the annual Townsville Art Awards Exhibition at the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
- Offers a work room to members who wish to hold art classes at low cost or who wish to paint together on a regular basis
- Monthly exhibitions of the works of individual or group members are held at ‘Art on Kings’

Thank you to all our sponsors, without whom the Townsville Art Awards Exhibition could not be held:

- Townsville City Council for sponsoring the Open Award $5,000
- RSL, Townsville for sponsoring the Acrylic Award $1,000
- Willows Shopping Centre for sponsoring the Watercolour Award $1,000, the Highly Commended Acrylic Award $200, Highly Commended Watercolour Award $200 and Highly Commended Miniatures Award $100
- Pacific Plan Printing for sponsoring the Oil Painting Award $1,000
- Sun City Pools for sponsoring the Pastel Award $1,000
- Ray White Helen Munro Townsville for sponsoring the Ink, Pencil, Charcoal Drawing Award $1,000
- Top Frames for sponsoring the Printmaking/Works on Paper Award $800 and the Highly Commended work in that section $200
- Xstrata Copper for sponsoring the Miniatures Award $500, the Highly Commended Pastel Award $200 and the People’s Choice Award $300
- The Port of Townsville Ltd for sponsoring the Sponsors’ Choice Award $1,000
- McDonald’s Townsville for sponsoring the Highly Commended Open Award $500

Jenny and Richard Lane

If undelivered, return to:
PO Box 638, AITKENVALE QLD 4814