



WELLINGTON ART CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2011

The Wellington Art Club, Established in 1892. 27 Chelsea Street, Miramar, Wellington 6022. tel: (04) 388.7733

Greetings everyone



*Olympia with the Special Santa at the
Midwinter Solstice*

Our Winter Solstice was celebrated well with a good attendance from our members. The contributions towards the spread was wonderful, and very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who went to so much trouble to create the yummy nibbleys. It was fun to have the Secret Santa gifts and special thanks to my neighbour and favourite fisherman Rob Marshall, who came with his Santa suit and ever-popular paua fritters.

We missed Phil and Jenny Dickson (due to Jenny's concert) but enjoyed displaying Phil's painting of Karori's yesteryear, 1914 (complete with his trademark "the tram"). The book, *Karori and its people* features Phil's painting on the cover. This has been sold to Wilson's Funeral Service in Karori, whose original store features in the painting. It was special to have it along with the book.

Dale Sweeney also has two paragraphs in the book. We welcome Dale back to the Art Club after a 20 year gap due to family commitments. Dale has completed a writing course and this has resulted in her volunteering to edit our newsletter. In the past we were fortunate to have Phil Dickson and Anita Thompson as our editors, and we thank them for their time and entertaining items.

It was a pleasure to have Shirley Sutton and Dana Jackson come to the club in June to tell us about their "Lost and Found" adventures during their latest trip to Europe and China, and to show some of their artwork. Together with a friend, they travelled the byways in their campervan, meeting up with some interesting locals, living and sampling the results of their lifestyle on the land. Sadly, after supermarket shopping in Sicily, they returned to the car park to find their campervan had been stolen with all their belongings and months of artwork and materials. But the friendship and hospitality shown to them by the local Italians was "amazing" said Shirley, "above and beyond expectations".

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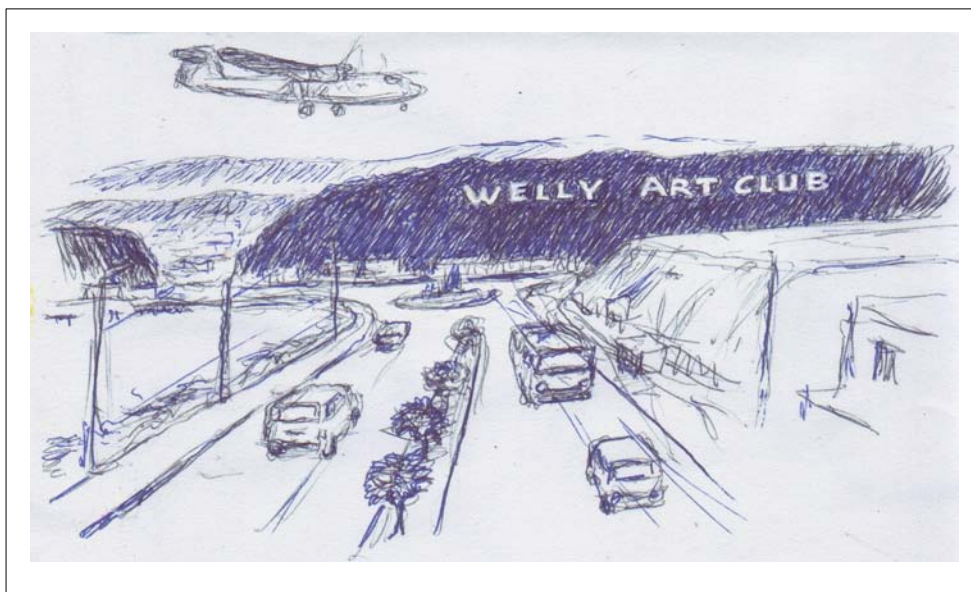
It was good to see a larger than normal crowd for the Solstice, as attendance has been very disappointing over the last year or so; so much, in fact, that we have decided not to invite any more speakers after August but maybe have "High Tea" gatherings every three or four months instead.

Our last Sunday event will be that of Martin Jenkins, who, on August 7th, will come and speak to us of his website *Akilla* and the dangers of falling asleep while driving. This is different from our usual art topics, but will be interestingly informative to us all.

Our committee will continue to hold our monthly meetings as usual. Our clubrooms have been measured for spotlighting and new hanging rails. Curtains will be replaced, and our storage rearranged so that the back area will be brightened and included in our gallery. We have also had a heat pump specialist come to advise us on our heating. In September we plan to meet one weekend to paint the clubroom walls. Any volunteers would be very welcome to join in.

On a happy note – our Rita Angus exhibition will be held over three days in November; Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th. Opening night will be Thursday 11th November. More to come in our next newsletter.

As always – looking forward to daylight saving, wishing winter was over!



John Steven 's vision for the Miramar Cutting. Nice one Steve!

Installation of Heat Pumps at the Art Club

The Committee is contemplating spending about \$10,000
putting two heat pumps in the clubrooms.

The committee is mindful that this would be a significant amount of money to spend and you are invited to make comment on this, preferably in writing to any committee member, or to treasurer@wellingtonart.co.nz

It is also intended that we look at applying for further funds for this.

This matter will be further discussed at the September committee meeting.

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Installation of spotlighting

The committee has approved the installation of spotlights in the clubrooms to highlight works of art on the walls. The cost is being met mainly by profit made on the art trail and several other successful events.

Well done art club members.

Workshops attended by Sue Johnson

Phil Dickson

On Saturday July 2nd eleven members braved the frosty morning weather to do some landscape drawing. Standing at the Siren's Rocks, between Island Bay and Ohiro Bay and opposite the Bach Cafe looking towards Barrett's Reef, we shivered our way through the morning but were buoyed by the great guidance of tutor, Phil Dickson.

After drawing for just over an hour we came back to the clubrooms and, after warming up with hot drinks, started to turn our drawings into paintings, using oil or acrylic paints.

Using our paints to draw with, we made light paint marks where we wanted to place our pictures onto canvas before starting with the dark colours, proceeding to paint the rocks in the foreground. Phil demonstrated step by step how to paint the rocks, hills and sky before lastly adding highlights. It was a great workshop. Thanks Phil

Morag Stokes

It was great going to Morag Stokes' workshop at her studio/house in Khandallah on July 16th where we tried out 'Golden' acrylic products, including paints, gels and pastes. We also used fluid paints that can be used in backgrounds and a paste that crackles up when dried, to name just a few. 'Golden's' "open" acrylic stays wet longer and can be wiped back, played around with and does not dry out on the palette as quickly as does other acrylics.

Morag trained as a certified instructor on Golden Artist Educator Programme and I found it great to be taught by her and to be able to try out Golden products before buying them. She cooked a lovely lunch and I enjoyed meeting and talking with the other artists on the course.

Morag showed us her profile books and you can view her work on her website and find out more about her workshops by visiting www.stokes.net.nz

Coming events



Martin Jenkins – August 7th

On Sunday August 7th at 2pm at the clubrooms, Martin Jenkins wishes to talk about *Akilla*, a Drowsy Driving Handbook to do with falling asleep while driving. The book: *In the blink of an eye* will be on sale at the cost to members of \$11.00. For more information on this book visit Martin's website: Akilla.

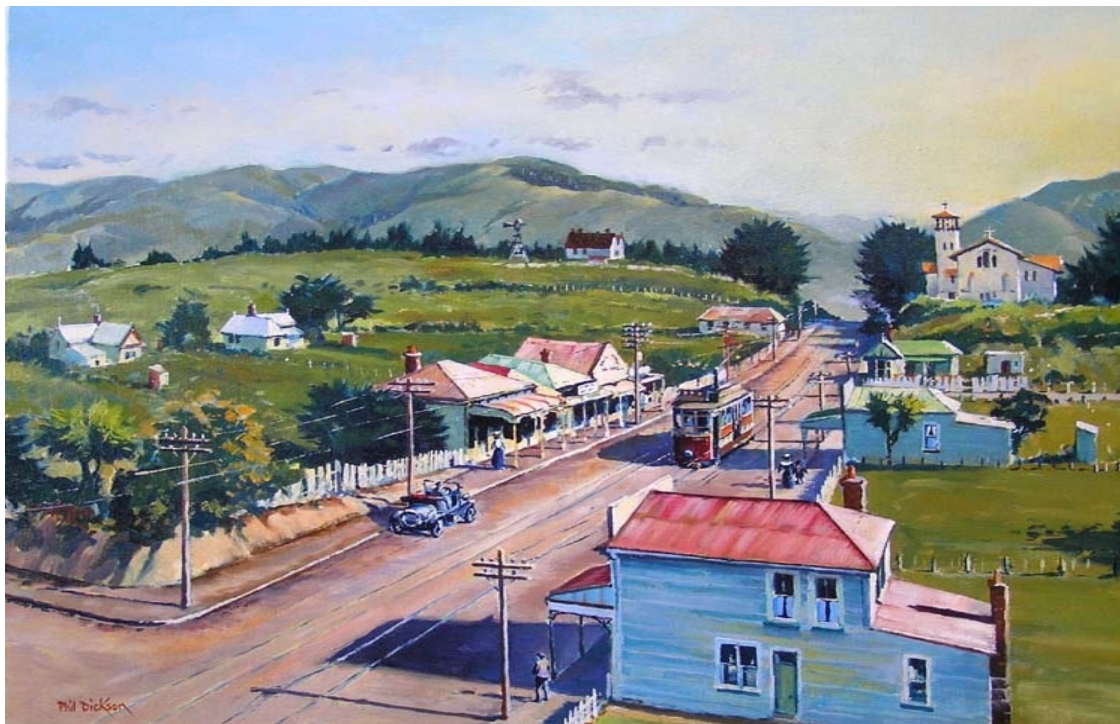
Helen Wilson – September 3rd

We all know and admire Helen's work and we are lucky that she will be taking an acrylic and oil workshop at the Club Rooms on Saturday, September 3rd from 9am – 4pm. The attendance list on the noticeboard is filling up fast. If more than 15 people sign on, we hope Helen will run a second workshop. Cost: \$35.00

Basics on Wednesdays with Steve

Our first gathering of members for the new group was held on Wednesday 22nd June. Our intention is to practice drawing - the basic preparatory drawing – as many artists do before starting a major artistic project. We are looking at the simple basic rules concerning perspective, composition, comparative sizes and proportions, light and shade and reflections.

We hope more members will be interested and will join us at 2pm each Wednesday. These simple basic rules would be of benefit to beginning artists, provide more confidence and enjoyment before going on to more advanced artwork. Price \$4.00. To join, ring Steve on 934.7633.



Historic Impression featured on New Book

Phil Dickson's painting of Karori Road as it was nearly 100 years ago features on the cover of an all new hard-bound book which has been published recently. Featuring the suburb of Karori, the book is the product of the Karori Historical Society and has been some eight years in the making.

Karori and its people is jointly published by the society and Steele Roberts Publishers.

Many people contributed to the book which is lavishly furnished with lots of old photographs, covering the suburb's history. Rather than further use of old black and white photographs on the book's cover, art work was commissioned. Phil was approached by the publishers to produce an artist's impression of Karori Road as it was in the early years of the 20th Century.

“The brief I was presented with was quite a challenge”, Phil said. “There were certain icons they wanted featured in the painting, and you couldn't see them all from any one place, quite apart from having to put the clock back on Marsden Village.”



To capture the village in the foreground, with the historic St Mary's Anglican Church on the rise behind, as well as feature Wrights Hill on the skyline out west required Phil to take an imaginary elevated position. Phil referred to lots of old photographs of the village and church as they are today, then had to estimate which

houses and shops might have been in existence at the time. He chose to place his Karori scene into the early years of trams so he could feature one coming through the village. The book was launched in mid June 2011 and everyone is very pleased with the total effort.



Phil Dickson with his painting for the cover of 'Karori and its people'.

Karori and its people published by Karori Historical Society and Steele Roberts retails for \$49.95