



## MEMBERS LOCKED OUT!

The studio has undergone some changes, with the most visible one being the installation of a new lock on the front door. The old lock was starting to malfunction, causing issues for members trying to lock it at times. The committee reached out to the Rural City of Wangaratta (RCOW) to request permission to replace the lock and to inquire about obtaining a quote. In response, the RCOW informed us that they have ordered a new barrel for the studio and will be in touch to hand over the keys.

### CONTACT

[www.wangartists.org.au](http://www.wangartists.org.au)

President: David Mortimer:  
0476 868 501

Secretary: John Baker:  
0418574510  
E: [secretary@wangartists.org.au](mailto:secretary@wangartists.org.au)

Treasurer: Marina Foad:  
0403 970 173

P.O. Box 52  
Wangaratta, VIC. 3676

### SESSION TIMES

#### Open Monday to Friday!

If closed for any reason please call one of the contacts listed above.  
New hours to be advised.

### W.A.S INC.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **1 June - 10am - 12pm**

Life Drawing Group coordinated by Wendy Stephens 0402 288 207 - Bookings essential!

#### **Tues, 4 June 2024: 5:30pm**

Next Committee Meeting

**23 June 2024** - Life Drawing with Annette Lawson 1pm - 4pm and 5pm - 7pm (please book through the Secretary)

*There is no must in art  
because art is free.  
Wassily Kandinsky*

The lock has been upgraded to a security lock with numbered keys that cannot be duplicated by any locksmith. Keys must be ordered through the council, and they will only accept key applications from the President and the Secretary. We are also required to maintain a strict key registry, and the RCOW has requested a copy. These conditions were imposed by the RCOW, not WAS Inc.

If you wish to have a key, please complete the key nomination form at the studio and submit it to a committee member. A key agreement must also be filled out, and a \$20 key deposit must be paid before a key is issued.

An emergency key holder is a person who will not be given a key but can keep a key in case the assigned member is away or unwell. The key should not be given to any member without the completion of the required paperwork or the committee's permission.

Please remember that the committee members are artists just like you and have the right to enjoy the studio without fear of intimidation or arguments. Harassing a committee member while they are attending to WAS Inc. business or painting at the studio is not acceptable, as the decisions are made collectively by the whole committee.

The committee has made an effort to ensure fair key allocation. If you have any complaints, they can be directed to the President, through the Secretary or directly. He will respond to your call or email as soon as possible. The President is the Key Custodian. If you have been allocated a key please contact him to arrange collection.

The following members have been issued keys: Michael Dodd, Helen Gibson, Marina Foad, John Baker, Robyn White, Margo Zautsen, Russell Hunt, and Annette Lawson. Additional keys have been ordered for Clare Burke and Thea Day.

#### **Moving forward:**

The committee has been in touch with the Recreation Section at RCOW, which is responsible for local governance of all not-for-profits in the Wangaratta Shire. They have been helpful in guiding our Art Society. With the implementation of suggested ideas and activities in the coming months, our membership is expected to grow significantly, as we have already seen an additional seven members join us with changes we have implemented so far.

Recreation at RCOW have strongly suggested some structure around opening and closing hours. We currently are advertising that we are open Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm. Please notify committee of your hours if different.

There's been a breakdown of communication between the committee and some members who are responsible for opening the studio. As such, it would be appreciated if you are going away that committee is informed so we can announce closure of those days or have your days covered by other members in your **1** absence.

## ART EVENTS

### Art Gallery on Ovens

**23 May - 3rd June** - Sian Lim & Joan Mullarvey

See Art Gallery on Ovens for more details.

**6 - 17 June** - Open Exhibition 30 x 30 cm sq

### Wangaratta Art Gallery

**1 Mar - 29 May 2024 (Foyer Gallery)**

Hints of the Valley - Joan Mullarvey

**20 April - 9 June (Gallery 2)** - Shadow Murmurs Julie Monro-Allison

**27 April - 23 June 2024** - Petite Miniatures Textiles 2024

### Bright Art Gallery & Cultural Centre:

**29 June - 14 July:** Winter Exhibition

### Benalla Art Gallery

**Online Exhibition - The Benalla Art Gallery Collection**

**02/06/2023-2024 (Ledger Gallery)**

The Bennett Bequest

**3 May - 23 June 2024** Janet Leith: Melancholia

**17 May - 28 July 2024** - Claire Beausein: Smells Like Rain and Ruth Johnstone and Lesley Duxbury: Embrace the Eucalypt

**5 Jul - 18 Aug 2024** - Mimi Leung: Growing Up With You

### Yarrowonga Mulwala Artists Association inc.

Gallery is open 10-4pm Wed - Sun and most public holidays

### Housekeeping:

Reminder for people to clean up after yourself including spilt paint when you've finished painting for the day, to please turn off the heating or air conditioning if used, turn off the lights and make sure both doors are locked.

Please be aware that the Studio is currently being treated for white ants. Two bait stations have been placed inside. This will be a six month process.

### Activities:

1. The committee has been considering, as we have a few new members seeking beginners classes, of holding classes not structured formally but along the lines of questions and answers. Beginners would be classed as completely new to art or new to a medium. Bookings would be essential to cater for the persons interested medium. Attendees will bring along their own art supplies. We are looking for a member to facilitate these sessions, which would be held on a Thursday and closed to non-beginners unless you're volunteering to assist. More information to follow after the next committee meeting.

2. Annette Lawson has agreed to facilitate a Life Drawing Class on Sunday 23rd of June. This event is suitable for beginners. Boards, easels and newsprint are available for use. Participants are free to use their own favoured medium. Bookings essential with the studio closed to non-participants. The cost per participant will be \$40 and \$45 for non-members to cover the cost of the model. The session is split to take full advantage of different lighting scenarios.

3. Wendy Stephens has volunteered to organise a regular life drawing session. This would not include instruction. The cost of the model will be covered by members at \$15 per person or \$20 for non-members. Bookings are essential for this activity with the studio closed to non-participants. This activity will begin on Saturday 1st June from 10am to 12 pm. This activity will be held monthly at this stage..

Please note that both of these activities may involve nudity. The human form is a complex object which allows artists to learn essential techniques. Observing and interpreting the human body trains an artists to see almost every form found in nature.

**A note on non-members:** Non members can come and try our studio for a maximum of three times at \$5 per session. After the three visits and they love the studio, they can apply to become members with the \$5 fee they paid for each 'come and try' visit taken off the membership fee. Visitors must use the sign in book. This is especially important for insurance purposes. This includes WAS inc. activities, excluding workshops.

**A note on closing the studio:** A note on closing the studio: Before you start complaining to committee members with "You can't do that! That's discrimination against ordinary members! The studio is to be open for any member to paint on any day!" It is not discrimination to close the studio to members when we choose to run an activity such as a workshop or exhibition. Closing the studio to people not attending the planned activity has always been done at workshops. It is only fair to the facilitator of the group activity to ask for bookings and close the studio to non-attendees. The studio could be open as much as seven days a week if we had activities or groups of members that wanted to paint on those days.

If a new activity is planned on the day you paint and is closed to members not participating, there are other days available. There are lots of members painting on different multiple days. We are a community group and firmly believe it's good to try different days and interact with other people to make new friends.

**The square floodlights** have been moved to the outer section of the bullring facing down towards the workspace. This has created an even flow of light through the building. Marina has finally received her much longed for light over the kitchen sink. The switch for this light is left of the sink on the wall.

**We have speakers!** The speakers can be connected via bluetooth on your phone. They are also connected to the DVD so CDs can be played. Instructions are being drafted and placed on the desk next to the speakers.

**Subletting:** It has been confirmed with RCOW that we are allowed to hire our studio to artists that wish to hold a private class at the studio. There is no rule against sub-letting our studio other than it must be an art or craft activity as stated in our lease agreement with RCOW, under 3.1 and 13.

The 'subletting' topic has been discussed at length with Recreation and Governance at RCOW. It appears to be very controversial to members. If you feel the need to complain please direct it to the President and not a committee member.

The following activity is to be a considered fundraising as there was a donation paid to WAS inc. for the use of the Studio.

Sandy Hatherall runs her own art instruction business "Sandy Hatherall Art" and is the first person to hire the studio. Her first class was held on Saturday 18th May in watercolour. Even though Sandy is a member of WAS inc. this is her private business and not affiliated with WAS inc. At this stage the committee has approved this private activity for this date only.

We wish her all the best with her venture.

Frida Kahlo on the European Surrealists: "They are so damn 'intellectual' and rotten that I can't stand them anymore... I'd rather sit on the floor in the market of Toluca and sell tortillas, than have anything to do with those 'artistic' bitches of Paris."

### **FAKE FACEBOOK PAGE**

Update on the FAKE Facebook pages. The title has now changed to 'Wangaratta Artists' with a statement as follows, 'An independent Community Page to showcase artworks of all genres in Northeast Victoria and beyond. Created 9th April 2023 has no affiliation with other Societies in the area.' This statement isn't true with the people responsible for this page being members of our art Society. The secretary has asked one of the people involved to delete the page but the response was that he doesn't have any Facebook pages. The problem with that statement is we have screen shots of before and after the change that proves it is still a members' page..

It's incredibly frustrating trying to build our society up when this rubbish is going on. It's very confusing to new members and the general public. We consider it a breach of our name with trademark and copyright implications that goes back to 1962.

You may be asking yourself why would members be doing this? That would be a question for them!

This is the link to OUR page which has a green and black logo picture and a painting of Annette Lawson's as the cover photograph.

**<https://www.facebook.com/wangartists>**

### **Workshop update:**

1. **Fiona Bilbough:** She would teach oils, still life using the tonal technique and minimal palette. We are looking into grants for this workshop..