



President's Report for year ending 30 November 2018

The voluntary activities of our Art Society during the past twelve months were as follows:

Our previous AGM was held as announced, on Monday, 11th December 2017 in the Sports Office on the Mezzanine level (Club Marconi). Cam Finch-Hatton was Returning Officer.

Management Committee elected was ; President John Janis Supe Vice President Lorraine Maggs
Secretary / Treasurer Joe Briffa Public Relations / Property + Gallery Manager Steve McLaren
Education Officer Julio Elbio Pena Committee Members Ron and Leane Stitzinger.

The AGM was followed by our End of Year Function, which included artistic "presentations", and our usual Trivia Quiz. The Quiz was again composed, orchestrated, and conducted by our Trivia Master Steve McLaren. In another very closely-run contest, Linda Brescia won the rare honour of having her name inscribed on our "Good-Ship Arts-Alive Travelling Trophy".

Beginning Monday 7th February 2018 we held 10 Monthly Meetings (second Monday each Month). All of these were open and minuted management-committee meetings.

Other Management Committee Activities :

* Joe Briffa, as our representative, regularly attends monthly meetings of the Club Marconi Sports & Cultural Associations, which are chaired by Mr Mario Soligo, Club Marconi Vice President and Sports President and also meetings with the Marconi Board of Directors and Club management. Joe also regularly prepares and submits our "Art Association" articles in the "Marconi Wire" magazine.

* Joe with Steve McLaren on Sunday 29th April were our yearly Maintenance Team, cleaning, repairing and repainting our 15 large screens and 3 Bi-fold screens (rebuilding one large screen).

*We loaned our 15 large screens to the Cecil Hills High School for an Exhibition of their student's Artworks, and Joe Briffa represented us at their Opening, Wednesday 5th September.

* The majority of our Committee attended Peter Markwick's funeral and wake on Friday 21st September, and JJ Supe spoke at the wake .

* JJ Supe with Ron and Leane Stitzinger represented us, 15th October, at a Council Chambers meeting to receive the Fairfield Mayor's \$500 Youth Prize donation.

* The majority of our Committee attended the Club Marconi Sports & Culture Dinner on Saturday 20th October. Shirley Peters our Champion (CM Presidents Acquisitive Prize winner) was an apology.

*Joe with Steve McLaren, and Leane and Ron Stitzinger, spent the whole Friday 30th November restoring and refurbishing the Club Marconi Christmas Nativity Crib (under stairs past the escalators).

*Joe Briffa continued to manage our website www.fairfieldcityart.org , and Steve McLaren managed our Facebook page "Fairfield Art Society – est 1961".

* Every Monday night, during school terms, Linda Brescia has organised warm friendly Art Classes in our Club Marconi. These classes are for adults and children to expand their artistic abilities.

This year Joe and JJ again produced 3 "Arts Alive" Newsletters. Covering Dec 2017 to Dec 2018, these were issue numbers 74 to 76 inclusive. Besides three Folding & Stuffing meetings with Ron and Leane Stitzinger, Joe & JJ as Co-Editors, have Editorial meetings in preparing the newsletter for publishing. Joe also personally printed these editions (as he/we likewise do with our MP and FAP Exhibition Application Forms, and Catalogues for Openings).

And now, to what we are really about –

This year we successfully organised SIX Major Exhibitions. Chronologically they were ;

* "Colleen Shaliapin Retrospective Exhibition" – This memorial exhibition was largely organised by Lorraine Maggs with Martin Shaliapin. Opened on Friday 16th February by Greg Frawley, also speaking were Lorraine and Joe Briffa. This excellent and extensive exhibition continued till 13th May.

- 2018 FCAS Member's Prize Exhibition (the 51st "Annual Exhibition"), in Mezzanine areas of Club Marconi, was officially opened Friday 25th May by Mr Vince Foti, President Club Marconi, who also presented prizes and awards . Exhibition open to the public from 20th May – 3rd June.. Exhibition judges were Mr Kurt Schranzer, Associate Lecturer,UNSW Art & Design, University of NSW, and Dr Stuart Bailey, Lecturer Contemporary Art, College of Arts, University of Sydney.

The winner of the annual \$2000 Club Marconi Presidents Acquisitive-Prize was Shirley Peters with her "Your Beauty Broken Down". Many thanks and much applause to Club Marconi President and Board of Directors for sponsoring this ongoing feature to our yearly exhibition program. Bravo! First Prize winners were Helga Kelly (Trad), Emad Dahir (Cont), and Brian Stratton (WonP). We also had a very large Youth section with 10 Prizes for the adjudged best Youth artworks.

* 2018 Member's Prize Showcase Of Winners Exhibition. All 13 award-winning artworks from our just closed Member's Prize Exhibition, were showcased together, in our new Gallery Space on the Mezzanine level in front of the Colloseo and Bocce areas. from 3rd June till 29th July. Notably Ron Stitzinger organised and hung this exhibition on his own.

* "Club Marconi Art Collection Exhibition". This excellent exhibition of all the Club Marconi Presidents Acquisitive Prize Winning artworks was organised and assembled by Joe Briffa, and was on view for all Club patrons from the beginning of August till Sunday 21st October.

* 2018 Fairfield Art Prize (our "26th Annual FAP Exhibition"), was Opened in the Elletra Room in front of a very large audience, by Club Marconi Board of Directors Mr Angelo Ruisi on Fri 26th October who also assisted with Prize and Award presentation. Exhibition was open to public 21st October till 4th November.

The exhibition judge was Ms Robyn Backen, Senior Lecturer Visual Art, University of Sydney School of Literature, Art and Media. Category First Prize winners were Fay Joseph (Trad), Shebel Madanat (Cont) and JJ Supe (WonP). We also had a very large Youth section with 10 Prizes for the adjudged best Youth artworks.

* 2018 Fairfield Art Prize Showcase Of Winners Exhibition. All 18 award-winning artworks from our recently closed Fairfield Art Prize Exhibition, are showcased together, in our new Gallery Space from the 4th November till late January 2019

Congratulations and endless thanks, to all our Art Society members, and particularly our Committee Members, for their voluntary and tireless efforts, and their numerous wonderfully artistic achievements as listed above, over the past year, and as in many previous years.

Our next scheduled Monthly Meeting is for here, 8 pm Monday 11th February 2019. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and help us decide and plan our artistic activities for the coming year.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone cool Seasons Greetings, and trust that we will all enjoy an Artistic, Bountiful and Creative 2019.
John Janis Supe, President FCAS. Vita Brevis, Ars Longa

Management Committee, re-elected at the AGM held on 10th Dec 2018, is:

President: **John Janis Supe** - 9644 6426 (AH)
jjsupe@hotmail.com

Vice President: **Ron Stitzinger**

Secretary/Treas: **Joe Briffa** - Tel: 0430 478 570
joe_briffa@hotmail.com

Public Relations: **Leane Stitzinger**

Liaison & Gallery Manager: **Steve McLaren**
Tel: - 0419 123 450

Committee Members: **Julio Elbio Pena** - 0409 993 561
Lorraine Maggs
Svetlana Panov

The Committee wishes to welcome our new committee member Svetlana Panov, congratulate Ron Stitzinger on being elected Vice-President and Life-member, and give a huge thank-you to Lorraine Maggs for her years of service as Vice-President of the Association.

The Committee meets every second Monday of the month except January & public holiday Mondays. All members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in all our activities.

Our website;

fairfieldcityart.org

and from our facebook page

Fairfield Art Society- Est 1961

F.C.A.S. 2019 PROGRAMME

(in progress)

for Several Species of Small Hairy Animals all Gathering Together at 8.00 on the Mezzanine Level each Second Monday of Each Month :

Mon, 28th Jan, Extra-ordinary Meeting
Mon, 11th Feb, Committee & member Meeting
Tue, 19th Feb, Meeting C. Tate re P Marcwick memorial
Mon, 11th Mar, Committee & member Meeting
Sun, 24th Mar, Carnevale: Kids Art Workshop/Demo
Mon, 8th April, Committee & member Meeting
Fri, 12th April, Opening of Peter Markwick Mem. Exhib.
Mon, 13th May, Committee & member Meeting
Sun, 2nd Jun, 2019 Members Prize Exhibition
Handing-in & Hanging Party
Fri, 7th Jun, 2019 Members Prize Exhib Opening
Sun, 16th June, 2019 Members Prize Take-down
and **Hanging Party** for Members Prize Winners Showcase Exhibition
Mon, 8th July : Committee & member Meeting
Mon, 12th Aug: Committee & member Meeting
Mon, 9th Sep.: Committee & member Meeting
Sun, 13th Oct.: 2019 Fairfield Art Prize Exhibition
Handing-in & Hanging
Fri, 18th Oct.: 2019 Fairfield Art Prize Opening
Sun, 4th Nov: 2019 Fairfield Art Prize Take-down
and **Hanging Party** of FAP Prize Winners Showcase Exhibition.
Mon. 11th Nov.: Committee & member Meeting
Fri, 29th Nov.: Crib maintenance working bee
Mon, 9th Dec.: **AGM plus End-of-year party**

All artists and friends of Art are warmly encouraged to come and participate in all our Meetings, Events, Exhibitions and parties.



Peter Markwick Memorial Exhibition 7 April - 2 June Club Marconi Art Gallery

Official opening Friday 12 April 7.30pm by veteran artist and art teacher Ian Chapman

A commemorative exhibition celebrating the artistic output of longstanding member Peter Markwick. The exhibition is being curated By Lorraine Maggs and Cheryl Tate.

Please note our next activity:

Club Marconi Sports Carnevale on Sunday, 24th March 2019 10.00am - 12.00noon Club Marconi Grounds

Please note our next major exhibition:

"2019 Members Prize" Sun. 2nd June to 16th June, opening Friday, 7th June.

Linda Brescia: Holding up the sky

Artist in Residence 2018

24 November 2018 - 16 February 2019



extreme knitting pieces into endurance processes, balanced by attending social knitting groups, Spin a Yarn at Fairfield City Museum & Gallery and Crafties Social Group in Canley Vale. There she met local women generously sharing their skills, knowledge, experiences and stories. Collectively they found shared connections in making - holding up the sky together - to care, support and to be supported. Women are not just holding up the sky, they are also reaching for the sky: for space where their voices can be heard, their stories told, their experiences valued, not just by each other but also more widely by society.

Brescia's *Holding up the Sky* exhibition interweaves these embodied experiences of textiles, cleaning, caring and labour. Working with hundreds of metres of domestic cleaning cloths, Brescia's soft sculptures, *Resilience Spiral*, 2018, playfully disturb our assumptions about what is usually considered valuable or valueless. This engagement with notions of what should be concealed or revealed is synonymous with her extensive use of stockings and pantyhose as masks of appearance and disappearance. The photographs for *Fundamental requirement of Play, Selfie Series*, 2018 were initially taken for and shared through Instagram; a social media platform variously self-curated into individual intimate online spaces of feminist activism and artist networking for some, for others it can become and addictive, anxiety-triggering domain filled by debilitating minefields of unrealistic body expectations. These selfie images present the artist's face masked and partially obscured by stitched and cut stockings. Yet there is an assertive agency, claiming space in the act of taking a selfie, declaring 'I am here; and 'I am visible' to the world; or at least to whoever ends up seeing the image through the veiled obscurity of Instagram algorithms, preferences and advertising. This social media world, where the boundaries of public and private are blurred, is also a forum for Brescia's performances wearing a naked female body painted onto stocking fabric and worn on the outside. Shown rather than hidden and performed in public settings and gallery events to confront and disturb social norms, these engagements challenge the audience to consider their own responses.

Pantyhose are traditionally metaphorical and actual masks, veiling imperfections, cleaning-up one's appearance and constraining the female limbs into socially acceptable forms. In *Control Brief*, 2018 Brescia has pulled and sewn pantyhose into masking layers over a painted portrait, gagging the face within; the binding fabric silences her voice. Although the social expectation of women being quiet and keeping their limbs concealed by pantyhose has somewhat faded over recent generations, the expectation of women masking their faces with make-up, Botox and plastic surgery, has not. The social norm pushing women to present their bodies and behaviour as smoother, cleaner and more conformingly attractive - from facial expressions, body language, clothing and makeup - is as persistent as ever. Brescia further engages with this persistent expectation to reupholster one's body and one's home in *Worth Series*, 2018, with careful figurative posing and stitched fabrics. In contrast the photographed naked body in *Respite Series* 2018, invites voyeuristic glimpses of the reality of a woman's tired, scarred, naked, sensuous body, wrapped in a cocoon or shroud of knitted cleaning cloths. There is a felt raw tactility the bare skin meeting the synthetic mesh of the chain-mail woven cloths, which is both protective and suffocating.

Brescia's work disturbs and challenges how we label and confront ingrained assumptions of women's roles, their place in society and how women's experiences are valued. Her play of masks, slippages between visibility and invisibility, engages a strong feminist voice with both current and long unresolved concerns in society about binary gender roles across the personal, familial, community and political spectrums. These works are personal and universal, embodied material experiences of the exhaustion and resilience of *Holding up the Sky*.

The Naked Image - Liverpool Art Society Life Drawing Group 2 March to 28 April 2019 | Marsden Gallery | Casula Powerhouse Art Centre

The *Naked Image* features a selection of sketches and finished works from members of the Liverpool Art Society Life Drawing Group, giving visitors the chance to peek behind the scenes and see the process, experiments and raw talent of local artists.

Drawing the nude from life has long been considered a fundamental discipline for many artists. Through this practice, artists can learn to sharpen observational skills, essential to capturing proportion, balance, movement and expression.

The Liverpool Art Society Life Drawing Group has been operating for over 20 years with the support of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and currently meets on Tuesdays and Sundays at the centre. The participants are diverse in age, cultural background and approaches to drawing. The works selected for this exhibition illustrate the format of the class, from quick one and five minute sketches, longer-form sketches and works further developed at home.

Free Life Drawing Class - Sunday March 17, 10.30am to 1.30pm. Book reception@casulapowerhouse.com or see the front desk for more information about joining the class or the LAS Life Drawing Group

"Holding up the sky"

"Holding up the sky" was the title of an exhibition by **Linda Brescia** which displayed the body of works resulting from her artist residency at the Fairfield Museum and Gallery. It was opened on Sat 24 Nov 2018 by **Dr Kath Fries**. Following is Dr Fries' speech given at the official opening (as titled and subtitled)

The Masks We Wear

"Sometimes we juggle masks, sometimes they just fall off,"

Cleaning is a guise, a mask that veils the imperfections of human living, hiding the detritus of everyday family life. Cleaning is always labour, predominantly women's labour, even today, especially in the home. Cleaning is usually care-work, but care-work is never just cleaning.

Linda Brescia's practice engages with dynamics of visibility/invisibility, masking, care and self-assertion.

In October 2016, Brescia began caring for her sister who had a terminal illness. It was during this time that Brescia began coil weaving at her kitchen table with a roll of domestic cleaning cloths. The repetitive weaving process became therapeutic, lessening the emotional turmoil and tug-of-war between sadness, stress, love and frustration. Brescia felt the heavy responsibility being stuck at home 'holding up the sky' maintaining the mask of keeping her home a relatively normal and stable base for the rest of her family - whilst also confronting the illness, and the death, of her dearly beloved sister. Managing, somehow to stay grounded through the ancient haptic female creativities of weaving and knitting.

Grief sometimes forces our socially-adjusted masks to slip publically, to be openly emotional, then even the most stoic may reach out to others for support. "Sometimes we juggle masks, sometimes they just fall off" Through her grief, Brescia extended her

Art Classes and workshops

Where: Marconi Bocce Area, located up the escalator just after our Mezzanine Gallery at the back of the club

Linda Brescia (Mob: 0407 700 434):

- ◆ Every Monday Night (except school hols & public hols) 7.00 pm – 8.30pm
- ◆ \$15 per night incl. all materials Just turn up during school terms !

Svetlana Panov (Mob: 0415 137 300):

- ◆ Every Tuesday, 4.00pm - 5.30pm (except school hols & public hols)
- ◆ \$15 per session incl. all materials Just turn up during school terms !

Casula Powerhouse Art Centre :

- Life workshops: Every Tuesday night 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Short pose
- Life workshops: Every third Sunday of each month 10.30am to 1.30pm - Long pose
- Ceramics classes are held every Saturday morning

Private classes:

Formal private children's classes run by Julian Fedele in Abbotsbury. Two nights per week - Tuesday & Wednesday - one night visual art, one night performing arts (drama). Also Saturday mornings. Catering for ages 5-17, six to eight students per class. For full details contact Julian direct on mob 0481 825 293, 0418 295 425 (Daniela) email wowfac-tor1@bigbond.com

2019 F.C.A.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION January to December 2019

Name

Address

P/Code

Tel: (A.H.)

Email address:

Please return to PO Box 303, Chester Hill, NSW 2162, with your yearly membership fee, of

(Tick one) Pensioner/Student: \$15 * Card No.:
 Adult: \$20 ,
 Youth \$5,
 Organisation \$30.

Cheques & money orders payable to Fairfield City Art Society or direct transfer to bsb: 062 217 account no: 1034 0711

I agree to abide by the rules of the Fairfield City Art Society

Signature

Fairfield City Museum and Gallery

Cnr The Horsley Dr & Oxford St
 Smithfield Tel: (02) 9609 3993
 Gallery Hours: Tues – Sat 10 – 4



Stomping Ground

1 March – 29 June 2019
 Fairfield City Museum & Gallery



Stomping Ground features artists **Rosell Flatley, Justine Youssef** and **Linda Brescia**, showcasing a collection of works that define their experiences as women from different cultural backgrounds (Filipino, Lebanese and Italian-Egyptian respectively) who live in or come from Western Sydney.

JJ's Penultimate Words:

ART IS THE OBJECTIFICATION OF FEELING, AND THE SUBJECTIFICATION OF NATURE. — **Susanne LANGER.**

ART IS THE IMPOSING OF A PATTERN ON EXPERIENCE, AND OUR AESTHETIC ENJOYMENT IS RECOGNITION OF THE PATTERN — **Alfred North WHITEHEAD.**

THE AIM OF SCIENCE IS NOT TO OPEN THE DOOR TO INFINITE WISDOM, BUT TO SET A LIMIT TO INFINITE ERROR. — **Bertolt BRECHT.**

WHAT IS ROBBING A BANK COMPARED TO FOUNDING A BANK? — **Bertolt BRECHT.**

THE WORLD WAS CIVILISED ONE PRISON AT A TIME. — **Unknown.**

MAN'S CAPACITY FOR JUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE, BUT MAN'S INCLINATION TO INJUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY NECESSARY. — **Reinhold NIEBUHR.**

HEAL THE MAN AND THE FAMILY WINS. HEAL THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY WINS. — **Eddie BURGE.**

TRUMP IS A WALL NUT. — **Internet.**

WHOEVER FIGHTS MONSTERS SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT IN THE PROCESS HE DOES NOT BECOME A MONSTER, AND IF YOU GAZE LONG ENOUGH INTO AN ABYSS THE ABYSS WILL GAZE BACK AT YOU. — **Friedrich NIETZSCHE.**

WE TEND TO MEET ANY NEW SITUATION BY REORGANISING ; AND A WONDERFUL METHOD IT IS FOR CREATING THE ILLUSION OF PROGRESS WHILE PRODUCING CONFUSION, INEFFICIENCY AND DEMORALISATION. — **Anonymous.**

THE MOST PERSISTENT SOUND WHICH REVERBERATES THROUGH MAN'S HISTORY IS THE BEATING OF WAR DRUMS. — **Arthur KOESTLER.**

IN WAR TRUTH IS THE FIRST CASUALTY. — **AESCHYLUS**

Please read the fine print.....This newsletter is composted & edited by Joe Briffa & JJ Supe The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily the views of either one , or any of us , and we take no responsibility for anything .