MOSMAN ART SOCIETY

Newsletter Issue 197
August 2026

Fostering the development, practice, and love of art throughout the community

Vale Gerald Christmas

"Beach Frolics" by Gerald Christmas

Gerald Christmas was one of the pillars of Mosman Art Society, a former Vice-President and President for ten years until 2015. He was, in the words of fellow long-time committee member and office bearer Bryan Besly, 'a loyal friend to many, a gentleman and a scholar.'

Until recently Gerald was a faithful supporter, along with his wife Rosemary, of every Society event, every show. A familiar and welcome face at coffee mornings, excursions and exhibition openings.

It was no surprise then that so many Society members – and a legion of friends and family – packed the Grand Hall of Mosman Art Gallery on 22 June for a memorial to celebrate his life.

Gerald was involved with the Society from its inception in 1995, offering indispensable legal advice when Rosemary and fellow mature art students at the local evening college decided that what Mosman needed – in the tradition of the famous artists' camps at Sirius Cove and Balmoral – was its own art society.

As if one artist in the family wasn't enough, when Gerald retired from his law practice at 60 he took up art with a vengeance. With Rosemary's encouragement, he attended art courses and together they went on painting holidays around the countryside.

But some rebel spirit had been unleashed, and Gerald's artwork rapidly evolved from traditional landscapes to deliberately naïve figuration; an explosion of colour and energy and originality.

It's a tricky style to pull off, but his Balmorality series is legendary. The beach springs to effervescent life. The rotunda, the pavilion, the island; swim-suited people, curvy girls and hunky men, doing what people do, running about, lying in the sun, ogling each other in dazzling, riotous action. There is humour and wit, and especially, being Gerald, a fond but keen eye for our all too human antics and foibles.

He will be missed.

Anne Woodham

Vale John Eldershaw

We were saddened to receive news recently that life member, John Eldershaw, has passed away. The family have held a private cremation.

John was a member of the Society soon after its inception, joining in October 1995 until the present day. He was our second ever honourable secretary and was presented with a life membership in 1995.

Lindie Treleaven

Gerald Christmas and John Eldershaw were both Life Members of Mosman Art Society.

Studio Spotlight: MARSHALL PHILLIPS

Mosman Art Society welcomes artists and art lovers of all types, across all mediums, and all levels of experience. With that in mind, many of us have different ways of working and interesting creative spaces that often go unseen. With that in mind, we'd like to thank Marsh for giving us a peek behind the scenes for our new Studio Spotlight!

Marshall Phillips' studio, complete with self-portrait of the artist himself!

Marshall Phillips is an enthusiastic amateur artist, who describes his work as eclectic, dealing with interesting and humorous situations. He enjoys making work that attracts attention, and his influences include L. S. Lowry for figures, Australian Impressionists for landscapes, and his fellow Mosman Art Society members. Many of his works are hung in his home and studio, and he is always up for a chat about them over a cup of coffee!

"Brollydog" by Marshall Phillips

For more of Marshall's work, visit his MAS gallery page: mosmanartsociety.org.au/phillipsmarshall.html

To be featured in a future Studio Spotlight or any other segment, please send your photos and information to the editor – details on the last page.

Member Activities

Coffee and Conversation meetups continue at Frenchy's on the second Tuesday of every month, and each one is a little different. In June, we even had a special fluffy guest! While he was probably more interested in the food being carried around him by the waiters, the human members enjoyed a plein air show and tell, conversation about the Archibald, and some fantastic weather to top it off!

Triton the Finnish Lapphund attended the June meetup! Photo: Mariko Gray @destroyermariko

The next dates for these gatherings are 8 September, 13 October, and 10 November. No need to book, just come along and look out for the table with the little potted plant! Arty talk, feedback on your works in progress, or even just making friends, whatever you want to chat about, it's very open group! Frenchy's Café is located at 3 Read Place in the Headland Park Artist Precinct, with each gathering running from 10am until around 12pm.

MAS members view the winning Archibald work alongside a work by Caroline Zilinsky (daughter of long-term member Marlen), with AGNSW guide Patricia.

Also in June, MAS members enjoyed a private tour of the Archibald, Wynne, and Sulman Prizes 2026. Led by AGNSW's very knowledgeable guide, Patricia, it was described by participants as a fantastic experience. The tour was followed by morning tea in the Lounge.

Member News and Exhibitions

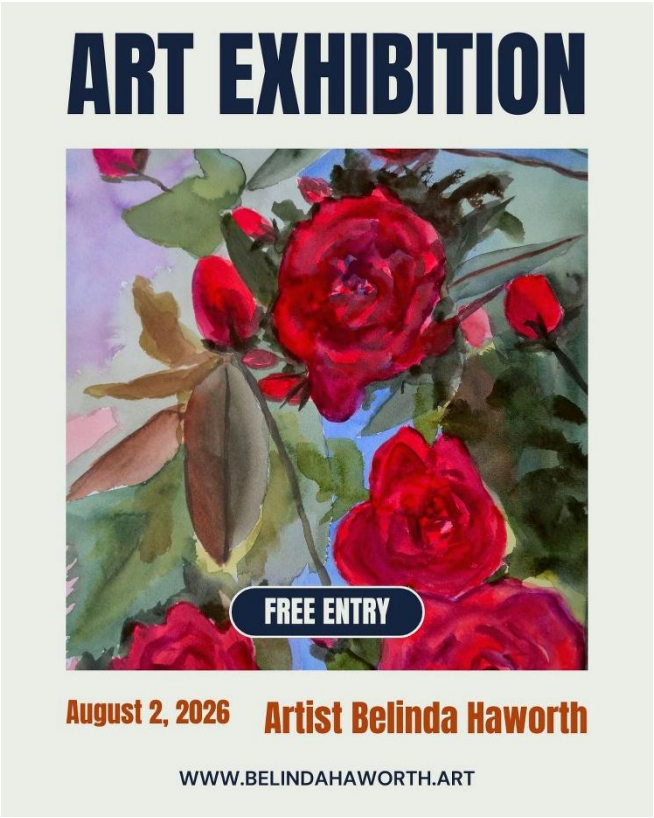
Congratulations to Karen Brock for making it into the Mosman Art Prize 2026 as a finalist with her recent painting of Sirius Cove!

"Morning Light Sirius Cove", Oil on Clayboard, @kazbrockart

Opening night for the Mosman Art Prize is Thursday 20 August, and the exhibition runs until Monday 26 October at Mosman Art Gallery. At the same time, the MAG In Profile space will also be showcasing art from another of our members, Jill Swart.

Instagram: @jill_swart_art

Also currently exhibiting is Belinda Haworth, a regular at our Frenchy's meetups, with her online exhibition "Floral Bliss" which you can view at www.belindahaworth.art/floral-bliss-online-exhibition



Via Instagram:

The Royal Art Society of NSW's group exhibition "Design by Nature" runs from Saturday 8 August until Monday 31 August, and includes members of Mosman Art Society.

Gallery Hours:
Monday–Friday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Closed on Public Holidays
25–27 Walker Street, North Sydney

You can preview some of our member's included works on Instagram:
Robyn Coleman - @robyn_coleman
Erika Beck - @erikabeckfloralart

Congratulations also to Gail McKenzie who recently wrapped up a group show with Project Gallery in Woollahra, titled "Along The Road"

Follow her on Instagram - @gailmckenzieart

Thank you to all members who've updated your social media and website details! If we've missed sharing your highlights on Instagram, please DM us at @mosmanartsocietyinc so we can get onto it!

MAS Calendar

2026

Rachell Carroll's Workshop has been cancelled

20 October - 23 November – MAS Exhibition
Small works exhibition at Mosman Rowers has been confirmed!
Important dates:
Submission deadline: Monday 28th September
See www.mosmanartsociety.org.au for online forms
Receipting day: Monday 19th October 3pm-6pm
Opening night: Tuesday 20th October, 6:30pm
Collection day: Monday 23rd November 3pm-6pm

21 October – Robyn Coleman Demonstration
A demonstration of earth pastels.
10am-12pm, Allan Border Pavillion
Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/DNUVK

10 December – Christmas Party
Save the date! 5pm – 7pm

2027

20 January - 1 February – CASS Exhibition
Combined Art Societies of Sydney – Art of Sydney.
Mosman Art society members will be invited to participate in this exhibition that will be held at the Botanic Gardens Gallery.
There will be individual medium prizes as well as a 'Best in Show' and 'The Spirit of the Botanical Gardens'.
More details and the online form will be emailed soon.

March - April – Exhibition at Bathers Pavillion
Details to come.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Justin Robson
Janine Mathews
Imogen Harper

MAS COMMITTEE

Patron: Paul Delprat
President and Acting Treasurer: Lindie Treleaven
Vice-President: Margaret Crane
Secretary: VACANT
Ordinary Members:
Linda Gold
Rob Wale
Kaaren Koomen
Mariko Gray

The secretary position remains vacant. If you are interested in taking on this position, please contact Lindie Treleaven (treleavl@bigpond.net.au).

Newsletter Editor: Mariko Gray

To submit your art, exhibitions, achievements, and art related stories, please email marikogray@destroyermariko.com

Let us know if you also want your submissions shared on social media! Follow us:
Instagram: @mosmanartsocietyinc
Facebook: facebook.com/MosmanArtSocietyInc