



Spring, 2024



Newsletter

Lectures 2024-2025



Margaret Lipscombe

As we draw near to the end of our ArtsNational year, I hope you'll agree that we have delivered another outstanding series of fine arts lectures. These talks have been on diverse and fascinating topics, and our lecturers have all been both experts in their field and fabulous communicators.

We have 102 members this year, while our 2023 membership was 108. We need to stay above 100 to be viable, so we hope you will continue to support us by re-joining for 2025 and share with friends and neighbours the benefits of membership and the value of hearing nine high-quality lectures from outstanding speakers. You are our best promoters, but of course, we continue to advertise our lectures on our Facebook page and request their inclusion in the Along the Highway column in the Gazette. We also have a paid

advertisement there in January, and early in the year, we hope to have a new ArtsNational banner ready for display at Katoomba.

In May, we completed a submission to the Blue Mountains City Council under the Community Assistance Program. Our society was one of 76 applicants. I'm delighted to inform you that the council has granted us \$500 for the "provision of quality educational lectures to our community."

Due to your generous support of our monthly raffles, we have been able to offer grants to Katoomba Public and Leura Public schools for their excellent creative arts programs (see the article on page 2 for more detail).

Finally, your committee has decided to maintain the current subscription rate for next year. So, in 2025, our membership fee will have remained unchanged for three years. However, we do have increased costs: our affiliation fees paid to the national body will rise significantly, and hall hire has increased, as have other overheads. At the same time, we are very aware of the rising costs that affect us all and do not wish to place any added burden on our members.

The wonderful Susannah Fullerton will return in February to begin our 2025 lectures series. The rest of our exciting programme is in our brochure, which will be available at our November lecture.

Margaret Lipscombe
Chair

27 September, 2024

Rosalind Whyte

History of the Royal Academy of Arts, London

The Royal Academy of Arts celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2018. This lecture will cover the characters involved in the Academy, leaving no scandal or outrage unexposed, tracing the history of one of Britain's most important cultural bodies.

1 November, 2024

Paul Chapman

Toulouse Lautrec: The Painter of Montmartre

The talk will look at the life and work of the post-impressionist Toulouse-Lautrec, a colourful and theatrical painter whose work reflected the world in which he lived. Nightclubs, café concerts, cabarets and brothels—he painted them all.

7 February, 2025

Susannah Fullerton

William Morris: Writer, Designer, Socialist and Artist

Few people have packed as much into life as Morris did. Famous in his lifetime as a poet, today he is remembered more for his exquisite designs. This lecture will showcase a man of charm and unpredictability, a man whose legacy is alive and well in our world today.

AGM and Christmas Party
6 December, 2024

Raffle prizemoney put to good use

On Friday, 2 August, some members of the committee of Blue Mountains ArtsNational attended a special NAIDOC week assembly at Katoomba Primary School (school motto 'Knowledge Promotes Success').

The school was showcasing a dance performed by a group of indigenous students who belong to the school's Koori Club (and other students who wanted to join in).

The dance was taught to the students by Jo Clancy, a dance teacher from Wagana Dancers. Wagana performs contemporary and traditional Aboriginal dances inspired by the landscape and creation stories of the Blue Mountains and Central NSW West country in Australia.

The school had invited ArtsNational committee members to the performance to say thank you for the money donated to the school to assist with the programme.

The dance was called 'Guma' (the indigenous name of the King Parrot and the school's totem). The school plans to expand the Guma dance programme in the future to include all children who wish to participate.

The school also unveiled a beautiful indigenous-themed artwork that students collaborated on that commemorates the school's garden.

Aunty Carol Cooper, a local Darug and Gundangarra elder widely known and respected in the Blue Mountains, attended the assembly too.

She told those present that Katoomba Public School had been her own primary school and she was delighted with what the school was doing to promote Indigenous awareness and cultural understanding amongst the wider community through the dance programme.

After the assembly, committee members met briefly with the new Principal, Ms Roberts, who expressed her gratitude to ArtsNational for the funding.

Ms Roberts explained that budget cuts had meant that funding for things like the dance project would not have been possible without ArtsNational assistance.

All monies raised from the sale of ArtsNational raffle tickets are quarantined and directed specifically to young arts projects such as the Guma dance programme. It was very heartwarming and touching to see the money used so well.



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