

OATLEY 101 SOCIETY OF ARTISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

Issue 302

May 2026

Normally I like to throw in some examples of artwork that I have come across during my travels, that I hope you might find interesting. Unfortunately, at my very first Pickle Ball game, I tore my hamstring muscle and have just undergone surgical repair. This is probably the first hamstring injury in the history of Pickle Ball! As such, I don't have anything from the wider world of art, but I do have a couple of examples of Pen and Wash that I've been working on while waiting to go under the knife. The first is of Regents Canal, London. This



challenged me to capture the perspective of the buildings as well as the reflections on the water. The second is a river scene in Copenhagen which provided a mix of quirky old



buildings in a busy waterside setting. Both were fun projects and it looks like I'll have plenty of time to practice over the coming weeks!

Congratulations to Jane Wray who was recently awarded Highly Commended in the Landscape Section of the Camden Art Prize.

Its good to see that entries for the June Sale & Exhibition are coming in. The Online Entry Form and Conditions of Entry are available on the Website under the Exhibitions tab and also via the following link [JUNE 2026 HALF PRICE SALE ENTRY FORM - Oatley 101](#) ..

Please assist the Committee by using the on-line entry form wherever possible. **Note that Entries Close Friday 5th of June. Delivery is between 1 pm to 4 pm on Friday 12th of June.**

The Plein Air Painters had a great day out at Cook Park Kyeemagh on the 14th May. Join them on their next day out at the National Art School at Darlinghurst. While there, check out the exhibitions that are currently on at the Art School. Refer to Robyns report for more info.

There is currently one place remaining for Julie Simmonds Reimagining Watercolour Workshop, 31st of May. If you are interested, check out the flyers and Enrolment Forms on the Website.

How much do you know about the Combined Art Societies of Sydney and where Oatley 101 fits in? Shirley has done an excellent overview of CASS, how it came about and its relationship with the individual societies including 101. See Shirley's article further on. Have a wonderful time at all the groups with your fellow artists and happy painting!
Peter Cook.

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En Plein Air Report - Cook Park, Kyeemagh 14th May 2026

Our group were blessed again with perfect weather, so our 10 intrepid folk Carol, Helen, Manu, Mina, Raquel, RobynE, RobynR, Steven, Trish and Xi were able to produce some very nice works. Next month we're off to the National Art School on 11/6/26.



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Oatley101 En Plein Air Painting/Sketching Thursday 11 June 2026 National Art School 156 Forbes St Darlinghurst.

Come and enjoy this lovely setting in the heart of Darlinghurst. Plenty of interesting old buildings and shady areas to draw or paint. While your there, take the opportunity to see some of the exhibitions that are currently on at the Art School.

National Art School

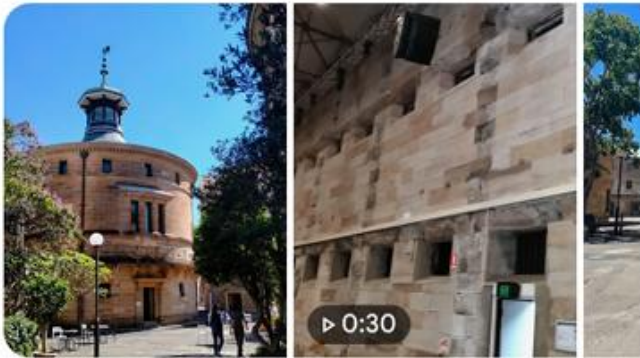
Art school in Darlinghurst, New South Wales

Overview

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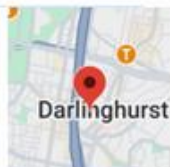
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156 Forbes St,
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COMBINED ART SOCIETIES OF SYDNEYwww.combinedartsocieties.com

Shirley Hagarty

What is the Combined Art Societies of Sydney and what does it do for the members of the Oatley 101 Society of Artists? A question that came to me via an email recently.

Our Oatley 101 Society is part of the membership that makes up the Combined Art Societies of Sydney, together with other Art Societies - Bankstown, Castle Hill, Central Coast, Drummoyne, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Macquarie Towns, Mosman, Northern Beaches, Oatley 101, Randwick and St. George. CASS now has 13 members, but in reality there are many, many, many more artists involved!

The Combined Art Societies of Sydney (CASS) was formed in 1989 after members from several District Art Societies felt a need to have closer contact with their counterparts in other art societies throughout Sydney. Many 'unofficial meetings' were held – mostly over a coffee, or in the car park after meetings, but all the artists were of the of the same mind, that our Sydney Art Societies had very little contact, if any, with one another and they could benefit by changing the situation.

On Monday 7th August 1989 an 'official' meeting was held and most of the Societies that had been contacted, attended the meeting. At the end of the evening the majority voted to form the Combined Art Societies of Sydney (CASS). The Inaugural member Societies were – Bankstown, Castle Hill, Drummoyne, Macquarie Towns, Parramatta, Ryde, St. George and Sutherland. *(Oatley 101 did not exist at that time.)*

Delegates from each of the Societies met every few months, discussing many problems and ideas that they had within their Societies. But it was at a meeting held in July 1990 that Parramatta Delegate, Allan Sullivan, suggested that the CASS should hold a Combined Art Exhibition, showing off its members' work. The big question, where will we hold it? But Allan already had the answer – it would be held at the Sydney Opera House! We all laughed at first trying to imagine what that would be like! But after discussion with the Opera House Functions Manager the CASS was on its way to holding the very first 'Art of Sydney' Exhibition in the Reception Hall at the Sydney Opera House! The first Exhibition took place in January 1991, and today CASS is now preparing for its 35th Art of Sydney Exhibition – in 2027, hopefully at the Garden Gallery in the Botanical Gardens – (keep your fingers crossed!)

The CASS was never set up to organise everyday events for its members, that is the job for our individual art societies, but it did see that the Societies could do bigger and better things if they worked together. The Art of Sydney was the first major event and was held at the Sydney Opera House for 9 years before the Olympic Games came to town, it was then that our Art of Sydney Exhibition had to find another venue, which it did - the Australian National Maritime Museum.

The CASS continued to find fundraising difficult to get the money to hold the Exhibition, and that was when St. George Art Society member Diana Garth came up with a great idea – not only for the CASS members, but for all artists – ART IN ACTION! A huge weekend of art workshops, with tutors from all over the Country. 1993 saw the first Art in Action take place at the Merroo Conference Centre at Kurrajong and over 300 people attended! This event made the money that the CASS needed to pay for their Exhibition. The event continued annually until 2022 when interest in these events waned. And of course, Covid did not help the situation.

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Also, in 2002 the CASS ventured into the property market when it purchased a holiday cottage in the town of Kandos. It was for general rental, but more importantly the priority was for CASS members to use for their painting trips to one of the best areas known for artists – the Capertee Valley. The cottage was used by many members, sometimes being used as a venue for workshops!

Without the income from Art in Action, and not quite enough income from CASS Cottage a decision was made recently to sell the Cottage. It was a decision that was not made lightly, but it was sold and will give the CASS a sizable sum of money to invest, to support the future of the 'Art of Sydney' Awards Exhibition.

PS: Recently, at a Delegates meeting, the President confirmed that the CASS will provide \$500.00 sponsorship for a CASS Award at each 'member society' Annual Art Show – to be known as the CASS Award!

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Shirley Hagarty
Diana Garth

Oatley 101 CASS Delegates,
Shirley Hagarty and Diana Garth

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Monday night Life Drawing

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Wednesday Social Painters

Shirley Hagarty 0418 480 533
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Thursday Portrait Group

Marlene Weaver 0499 357 527
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En Plein Air Painters

Robyn Reid 0409 449 973



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Robert Oatley Wines and our friends: Elim Cafe, Oatley, Echos Clothing Oatley, O'Connors Pharmacy Oatley, Eckersleys Art & Craft Taren Point, Diana's Pharmacy Peakhurst Heights, Visual Arts Arncliffe. Cafe on Pindari, Peakhurst Heights.