



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Freda Surgenor, a past member of Oatley 101. On behalf of the Society, I offer our condolences to her husband and daughter. Shirley Hagarty, longtime friend and art colleague of Freda, has put together a few words about Freda below.

There are still two important events to look forward to before putting aside our paints and brushes for the year. The first is the Society's AGM which will be held 21st of November at the Scout Hall. This is a great opportunity to hear about the highlights of the last year, while catching up with friends and colleagues over some light refreshments and nibbles. Don't forget this is also the time of the year we seek nominations for Committee Members and Office Bearers. The Society is a registered charity and as such, it is a requirement of the governing body for charities, the ACNC, to have a strong Committee with office bearers – President, Secretary and Treasurer and a Committee with members from different backgrounds. For personal reasons I will not be seeking re-election as President. I have enjoyed my time in the role and I would like to thank the Committee and all our members for their support over the last 2 years. The Society is performing well and if you would like to contribute to its running, why not nominate for a position on the Committee.

The second important event is the December Exhibition. Memories of the successful September Exhibition are still very fresh and the Committee are keen to make the December Exhibition just as successful. It is proposed to undertake an Instagram campaign including the use of featured artwork. This will raise awareness and increase foot traffic as we did previously. The Committee has also agreed to allow cards in the December Exhibition, which has not been done before. Please note that these will be sold at full price, not half price. The Entry Form with terms and Conditions are being prepared and you will soon be advised when they are available.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jane Wray who has once again been accepted into the prestigious International Association of Pastel Societies. This is Jane's third acceptance.

— Peter Cook, President

VALE FREDA SURGENOR

It is with great sadness that we advise our Oatley 101 members of the passing of Freda Surgenor.

Freda joined our Society in 1998 and spent most of her time serving on our Committee in the role of Treasurer.

Born in Harrow, England, Freda was a master of draughtsmanship and vibrant realism.

A former London graphic designer and dedicated convenor of the Oatley 101 Life Drawing group, she always captured light and life in fine detail across subjects ranging from landscapes to miniatures.

Freda started the Oatley 101 Life Drawing Group and was Co-ordinator of that group for over 20 years. Her enthusiasm for the Group never waned until health issues became a major part of her life and she was forced to step away from the things she loved the most – her art – and the friends she had made in the art world.

Our thoughts are with her husband Dave,
and her daughter Louise at this extremely sad time.

What's On

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
12 Nov 2026	En Plein Air	9.30 am start. Scylla Bay Old Boat Jetty, Como. Contact Robyn Reid for details.
21 Nov 2026	Annual General Meeting	11 am start. AGM and election of Committee members and Office Bearers. Light refreshments and nibbles will be served. All members welcome.
5–6 Dec 2026	December Exhibition	10.00am–5.00pm, 101 Woronora Parade, Oatley West. Gold coin donation.

Artist Spotlight – Michael Dunn



Michael was born in Alexandria, Sydney, living for the first 10 years of his life next door to Metters Foundry. He woke up each morning to the pollution from the foundry's smokestacks. Attending Alexandria and Erskinville primary schools, Mike spent his spare time drawing what young boys draw: boats, aero planes, trains and battle scenes. When he was 11, Michael's family moved to Oatley, where he attended Oatley West Public School and later, Jannali High School.

At Oatley West, Michael did his first ever painting. He liked his headmaster so much, he painted the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and presented it to him. As Jannali High School was a new school, they had a new art teacher who taught his students the skills needed for painting. He gave Michael extra help when he saw how well he could draw. Michael decorated the title pages of his exercise books, using coloured pencils. His teachers loved his drawings so much they got him to decorate the front of their roll call books.

After he finished high school, Michael worked as a stoker and fireman for a bakehouse in St Leonards. Then he drove buses for the Dept of Supply and then the Public Transport Commission for 25 years. Then for Gardners Spare Parts for 13 years. In all this time, he didn't stop drawing and had started to paint landscapes in oils.

Michael has always liked the Australian artists Tom Roberts, and Frederick McCubbin's paintings. He had noticed Oatley 101 Society of Artists and was impressed with the high standard of paintings he saw in their exhibitions. During this time he met ex-President Richard Green who, when Michael showed him samples of his paintings, encouraged him to join the Society. Michael has been a member of the Society for 5 years since he retired and has shown his work in all their exhibitions and has been selected twice as a finalist at the Ardency Art Exhibition in 2017 and 2018. Michael also received a Volunteers Award on the 29th October, for his contributions to the Society.

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

En Plein Air Painting/Sketching Adventure Report

Thursday 8th October 2026 – Oatley Village.

A Fabulous turn out for this local event. Thanks to the nineteen enthusiastic folk (too many to name), who all produced very nice works in all mediums and styles. Weather was sunny with a cool breeze and rolling clouds to bring out our jackets. Lunch was enjoyed at the Oatley Hotel - very noice.



Oatley 101 En Plein Air Adventure to Scylla Bay Old Boat Jetty Como

Thursday 12 November 2026 9:30am

Come and join us on our next En Plein Air Adventure to Scylla Bay Old Boat Jetty at Como. This is the original Jetty, now ageing and soon to be demolished since a new boat ramp installed. Plus some near & distant boat sheds, boats etc. There are facilities in the Pleasure Grounds and three good cafes to choose from for lunch. For further sketching and good Thai food, Thai Rim Nam is very accessible.



OATLEY 101 LAUNCHES THE FIRST GRAND ART DAY TO GREAT SUCCESS

Grand Art Day is a new initiative by the Oatley 101 Society of Artists. The day brings grandparents and parents together with the children in their care to share the joy of painting.

The idea came about as many members of the art society were putting their art aside during the school holidays while they cared for children. The day was inspired by an event the co-ordinator of the day, Ann McIntyre, saw in a village in Finland where grandparents taught traditional crafts to young people. This resulted in a strong intergenerational connection through the fun of learning and creating together.

On 6th October, during the school holidays children and parents and grandparents shared in creating art together. On the strength on the children's comments, this may be the first but will definitely not be the last Oatley 101 Grand Art Day.

Some quotes from our young artists.

- "I knew you could use paint but I didn't know you could paint with candles. This is heaps fun."
- "Thanks for a fun day. Nana is really good at this. I'd like to come again."
- "I'd like to be an artist. I'm very creative I think it comes from grandma. It has been good to come and do art with her."
- "It's good to know, Yai Yai has such nice friends at art."

And from the grandparents ...

- "Thank you for today. As soon as we got home, my granddaughter texted her Mum at work to let her how much fun we had. She then asked me to help hang her artwork in her room straight away".
- "It was an amazing day. It was such fun for both the adults and the kids. Everyone should think about bringing their grandchildren to Grand Art Day."



COMBINED ART SOCIETIES OF SYDNEY – REPORT

.www.combinedartsocieties.com

NEWS FLASH! The 35th Annual Art of Sydney Awards Exhibition is scheduled for the 21st to 31st January 2027! It will be held at the 'Garden Gallery' in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney – 10am to 4pm daily.

This year the Art of Sydney celebrates its connection with the Garden Gallery through a special **\$1,500 "Spirit of Botanic Gardens' Prize"**. This Award will be presented to the artwork that best reflects one or more of the values of the Botanic Gardens or celebrates a particular aspect of these remarkable gardens.

The Online Entry Forms are now available for all CASS Members, that is, all financial members of the Oatley 101 Society of Artists.

The Terms and Conditions are available at the CASS Website as well as the Online Entry Form. Please make sure you read, and understand the details required for this Exhibition.

"All artists will be responsible for delivery of their own paintings to – The Garden Gallery, Mrs. Macquaries Road, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, on Tuesday 19th January 2027 between 10am to 2.30pm."

BUT! If our members want to get together and deliver all our 101 paintings in a bulk delivery it will need someone with a large vehicle, plus all paintings will need to be wrapped. If we want to do a bulk delivery we will have to let the CASS Committee know ASAP so we can find out just how the bulk delivery will work.

There will be a Selection taking place when the paintings are delivered to the Gallery. It is hoped that the quality of the artworks will be of a high standard and therefore will all be selected. Any paintings that are not selected will have to be returned to the artist via the method they were delivered.

The CASS is pleased to welcome a new Sponsor to the Art of Sydney – "The Sydney Art Store (or TSAS)", who has offered the CASS \$1,000.00 worth of art products to be shared as the CASS Committee chooses. They are going to offer a 20% discount to CASS Members who purchase in store or online, with a code that will be provided shortly. Maybe you should pay them a visit!

Jean Murray has donated a beautiful painting for the raffle titled – "THE RED CAMELIA."

Jean's painting for this Exhibition in the Botanical Gardens is very appealing, and very appropriate! And once again the money made from the raffle will be donated to CareFlight as the CASS has been doing for many years.

HELPERS WILL BE NEEDED!

The Gallery will not provide Staff and the CASS will have to provide members to look after any purchases at the Sales Desk where the CASS Square Reader will be used for any paintings that are purchased. Do you know how to use a Square Reader? It will be the method by which our sales will take place.



Or perhaps you have the skills when it comes to being the Treasurer? I do know that the CASS is still looking for a permanent Treasurer for its Committee to take care of the money that came to the Society after they sold CASS Cottage at Kandos. If you think you could have the skills to take on this job let me know and I will point you in the right direction.

***Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Delegates to the CASS,
Shirley Hagarty and Diana Garth***

Join the Society

oatley101.com • oatley101sec@gmail.com • @oatley101artists

Committee Contacts

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
President	Peter Cook	0408 619 701	peter.cook58@icloud.com
Vice President	Shirley Hagarty	9533 4037	shirleyhagarty042@gmail.com
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Committee	Ann McIntyre		
Committee	Robyn Reid		
Committee	Sue Lowe		
Committee	Lyn McDonald		
Committee	Michael Dunn		

Activity Co-ordinators

ROLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Monday Night Life Drawing	Christine Miller	0434 195 098	christinetheresemiller@gmail.com
Wednesday Social Painters	Shirley Hagarty	0418 480 533	shirleyhagarty042@gmail.com
Thursday Portrait Group	Marlene Weaver	0409 357 527	marleneweaver960@icloud.com
En Plein Air Painters	Robyn Reid	0409 449 973	milo73@bigpond.com

Thank You to Our Supporters

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