

ADFAS NEWCASTLE NEWSLETTER

30 Years
Edition
2018



**Barry Maitland's Newcastle
Lecture - November 2018**

Celebrating 30 Years

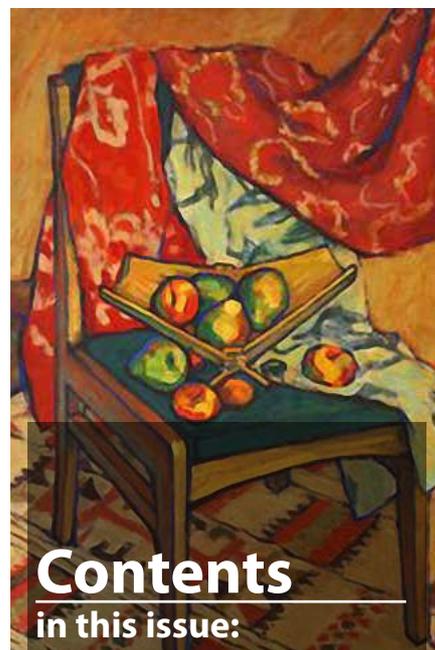
After 250 Lectures.....

Since its beginning in 1988 Newcastle ADFAS has presented a varied and consistently wide ranging programme of lectures and activities, encompassing all aspects of the visual, decorative and performing arts. ADFAS endeavours to find the "right" venue in which the presenter feels at home and our members find a convivial and relaxed atmosphere in which they can enjoy the presentation, "catch up" with friends and discover some shared interests.

Now, as a "mature" Society and as we enjoy celebrating those 30 years, it might be a good time for reflection. The ADFAS story is one of considered growth, as times and circumstances change, but always with an eye to the future and above all a generous spirit of participation. You might think that little has changed – or that too much has changed – but ADFAS remains loyal to its original purpose of providing members and their guests with opportunities to explore their own interests, to discover new directions, to do so in company with like-minded friends, and to contribute to the community in a variety of ways.

Looking ahead, there is much to feel pleased about, but also some challenges. In a world of constant busy-ness, constant media and a constant flood of information, it's a rare delight to sit for an hour to listen to an expert talk – in person - about something outside our ordinary range of interests.

Our lecturers, both those on tour from overseas and those we select as Australian



Contents in this issue:

- 1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- 2 A GATHERING
- 3 CHURCH RECORDINGS
- 4 THIRTY YEARS ON
- 5 THE ADFAS NEWCASTLE LOGO
- 6 SCHOOL OF ARTS
- 7 THE SILK ROAD
- 8 YOUNG ARTS GRANTS

ADFAS NEWCASTLE INFO

A GROUP ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF NADFAS

ADFAS NEWCASTLE INCORPORATED
PO Box 531 Newcastle NSW 2300
ABN: 42 374 836 979

Email: newcastle@adfas.org.au

ADFAS NEWCASTLE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN - Lindy Henderson
VICE-CHAIRMAN - Judy Wotton
SECRETARY - Katherine Heinrich
TREASURER - Richard Jennings
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Cathy Tate

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Penny Britz
John Hendriks
Sandra Lloyd
Anne Morris
Rae Richards
Robyn Traill

lecturers, are presenting lectures of ever-increasing quality and sophistication. The expert knowledge, experience and visual presentations that they bring continues to impress, while they also seem aware of the need to keep us all awake and engaged! The chance to compare notes with friends old and new over a glass of wine and the traditional ADFAS sandwich might be an added bonus, but it's also vital to our ongoing success.

The challenge is to keep doing this better, so that we make sure all our members, and future members, can share this special experience.

Lectures are the keystone, but the arch is tall and wide. Members feed their enthusiasm for the arts into everything they do, and, as a Society and as individual members, ADFAS can extend its role as part of its community, to further knowledge and involvement in arts-related activities. The generosity of members in supporting Young Arts Small Grants, the commitment of a few members to Church recording and to looking into the history and function of the many Schools of Arts in our area are just the start.

While we enjoy the success of the last 30 years, it seems to me that there's a good deal to be done to make sure ADFAS becomes an increasingly relevant part of its community.

Lindy Henderson, Chairman

A Gathering of Past Chairmen

To kick-start Newcastle's 30th birthday celebrations, the current Committee welcomed former Chairmen to lunch on 21 November 2017. Every Chairman has been an outstanding woman, and each has brought her unique qualities and personal touch to the role. We were lucky to be able to share an afternoon of reminiscence and laughter with our eight special guests.

Each guest brought a story from her time as Chairman, and needless to say, we were entertained with some Tales tall and true about successful study days, excellent lectures delivered by impressive individuals, unforeseen transport problems, the occasional pitfalls of entertaining visiting lecturers, and the hunt for just the right venue. Everyone remembered the good times with pleasure and a sense of satisfaction, and laughed about the near-catastrophes.

All our Chairmen remain active in our Society, attend lectures and events, and are committed to ADFAS. It's a great way to begin the next 30 years.



Chairmen 1988 to 2018

*Jane Smith, Kath Chapman, Heather Berry, Pam McDonald, Gwen Hamilton
Gai Le Marchant, Neroli Jordan, Pamela Peschar, Lindy Henderson*

Your 2018 Programme



19th March - Mr Christopher Bradley (NAFAS)

Abyssinia - 3000 Years of Ethiopian Art and History

16th April - Mr Ron Ramsey (AUSTRALIA)

Constantin Brancusi and the Garden of Jewels

28th May - Ms Anne Sebba (NAFAS)

William Bankes, the Exiled Collector and the man behind the creation of an English Country House

18th June - Mr Matthew Laing (AUSTRALIA)

Columbus Indiana

30th July - Dr Alexey Makhrov (NAFAS)

Russian Orientalism in the 19th Century

27th August - Ms Linda Smith (NAFAS)

Kicking and Screaming; A brief History of Post-war British Art

24th September - Mr John Ericson (NAFAS)

In Insignia: The Artwork and Stories behind Peculiar Pub Names

29th October - Mr Martin Ellis (NAFAS) English Silver of the 20th & 21st Century

19th November - Prof Barry Maitland (Newcastle)

The Secret Lives of Architects - Scandals and Crimes

On behalf of the committee we pass on the very sad news that our former Chairman, Pamela Peschar, who also served as National Chairman of AADFAS, has died. She was always a great supporter of ADFAS and a friend and mentor to many of us. Pamela will be greatly missed by a wide range of people and organisations in the Newcastle community.

Church Recording

Our recording of St John's is finally complete

Designed by Edmund Blacket and constructed between 1857 and 1860, St John's Anglican Church in Cooks Hill is Newcastle's oldest standing church.

It took the persistence of a small but dedicated group of ADFAS members to make a thorough record of all that is, and is in, St John's church, Cooks Hill. Hours were spent meticulously measuring and describing the interior of the church, its precious treasures along with the more mundane items used for worship and fellowship over its long history. Their research extended to the stories of the men and women who provided the stained glass windows, furnishings, memorial plaques and other items. The completed recording has been printed in a handsome volume: ADFAS Newcastle retains a copy, and others have been deposited in the Australian National Library, the Parish of St John's and the Diocese of Newcastle.

ADFAS thanks the Rev. Murray Woolnough and the people of St Johns for their cooperation.

Many thanks to Paul Johnson and the Church Recording Group.



The Church Recording Group admires their handiwork. L to R: Church Recorders: Kath Chapman, Gwen Hamilton, Pamela Peschar, Paul Johnson, Jane Smith, Judy Wotton.



30 Years On

The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society grew from the inspiration and leadership of Patricia Robertson, who, in 1985, adapted the idea of the British National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts to provide a program of stimulating arts-related lectures presented in convivial settings. The idea took off so rapidly that by the end of 1988 there were seven individual Societies, of which Newcastle was one. The Association of ADFAS was formed in 1989 and remains a Group Associate of The Arts Society (aka NADFAS), enjoying the many benefits of this close relationship while at the same time having a distinctive Australian style, with each of the 37 Societies responding to local needs and priorities.

We can be proud to have seen several of our members take on responsibilities as part of the Association's National Executive, with two (Neroli Jordan and Pamela Peschar) having served as National Chairman. Gwen Hamilton has recently completed a three-year term as National Secretary, and Jane Smith is currently a member of the Executive.

In Newcastle, Neroli Jordan and a close-knit group of interested and committed women worked to establish the Newcastle branch of ADFAS and in March 1988 held its first lecture. Anna Clark spoke on the topic of 18th century English silver. The meetings in that year were held at Newcastle City Hall. From

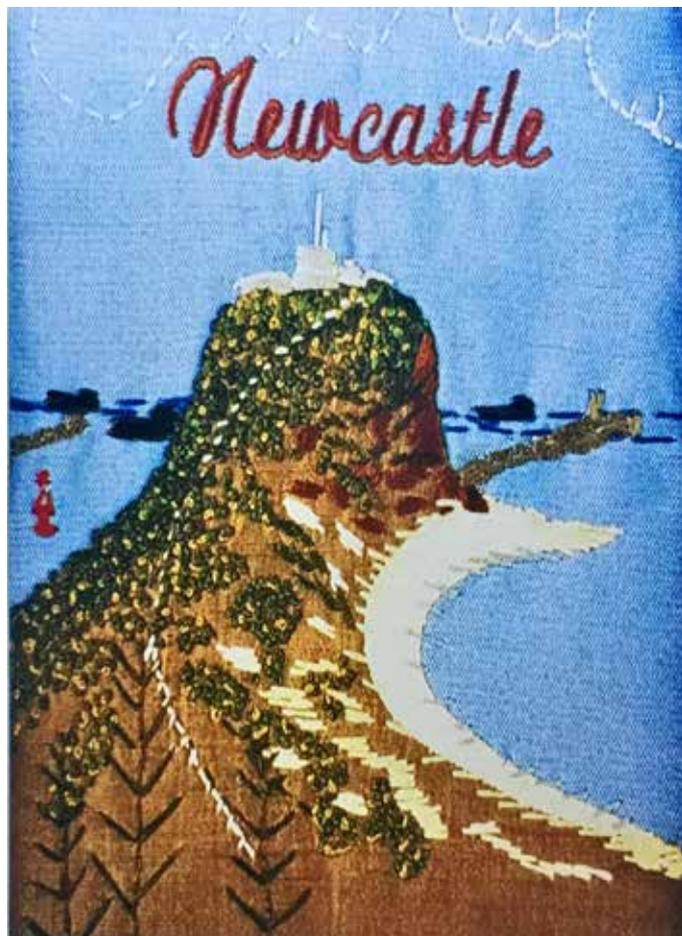
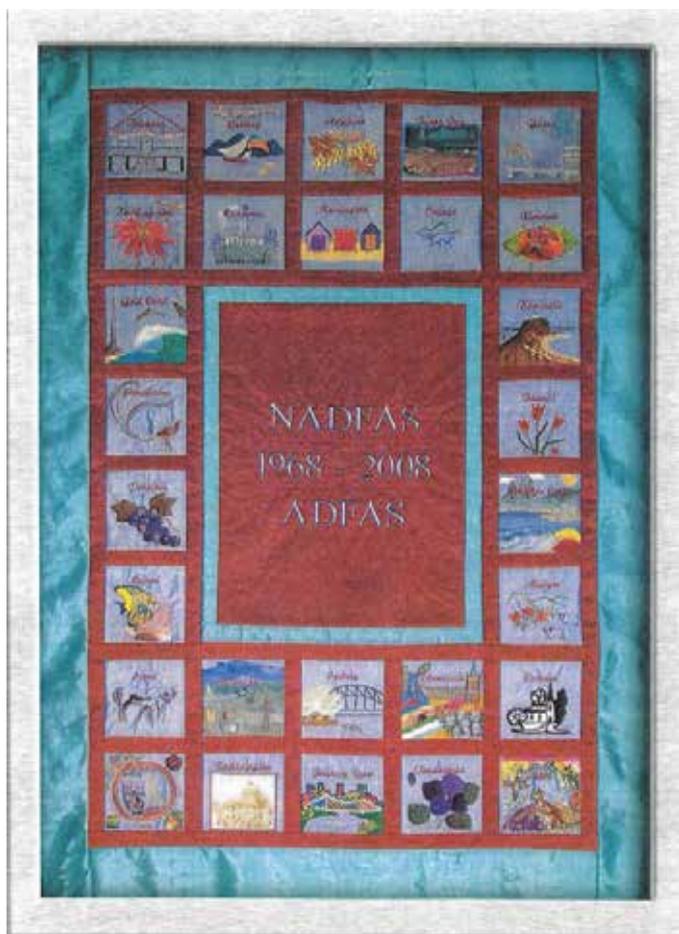
1989 lectures took place at Newcastle Regional Museum until relocating in 2001 to the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. Since 2011 ADFAS has been comfortably accommodated at Hunter School of the Performing Arts.

Alongside the lectures, which remain our central activity, overnight trips to the Southern Highlands, Canberra, Sydney, and study sessions at Anambah House, Tamburlaine winery, Newcastle Art Gallery and elsewhere, along with study days and half-days (Special Interest Mornings) have provided a range of experiences for members, who have made the most of these opportunities to discover and share new interests in convivial and relaxed settings.

Our unique 'Newcastle Lecture', now in its thirteenth year, acknowledges our diverse community of artists, academics and innovators. Each lecturer is a resident or notable contributor to the Newcastle community.

ADFAS is part of a wider community of people who care about the arts and want to see our cultural heritage valued and preserved, as well as to extend our links with the wider arts community. Our members' commitment to supporting Young Arts, Church Recording and School of Arts Recording demonstrate this.

Wall Hanging and Card



In 2008, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (UK), the Association of ADFAS created a wallhanging, asking each society to make a five inch square depicting something about their Society. The squares were mounted and presented to NADFAS (now The Arts Society), and the work now hangs in its London headquarters. The overall design of the wallhanging reflects the blue skies, red earth and turquoise ocean of Australia.

Anne Pell designed Newcastle's contribution, which was then embroidered by Gai Le Marchant. As part of our twenty-year celebrations, an illustration of the square was made into a notecard.

The ADFAS Logo

The ADFAS column served well for many years. It was an elegant image, recalling our debt to classical art and architecture. Successive Chairmen, Editors and Secretaries struggled with applying it to word processing formats and while the column was replaced over the years with other logos, it has not been forgotten.

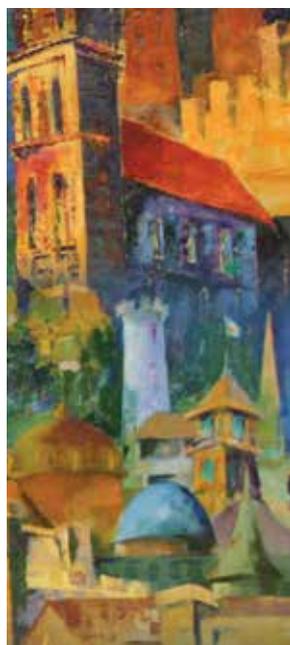
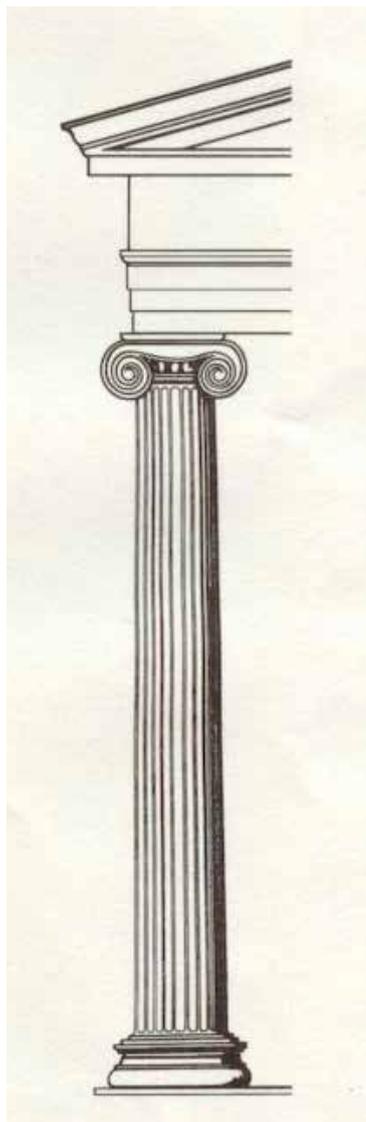
To mark ADFAS Newcastle's 20th anniversary in 2008, our member Jane Burke made, with machine embroidery and applique, a banner to hang on the lectern at each lecture. The design was based on that of the Association banner. Chairman

The Newcastle square depicts Nobby's Head, first charted by Captain Cook, a well known symbol of Newcastle. It marks the entrance to Newcastle Harbour, the mouth of the Hunter River, an important landmark for shipping and a place of great significance to the Awabakal and Worimi people.

This card has been reprinted to celebrate 30 years of ADFAS in Newcastle, thanks to the generosity of Gai Le Marchant. They are available for sale (3 for \$5) at the membership desk before every lecture, or contact Lindy Henderson.

Kath Chapman boasted that this would make Newcastle "the envy of other societies". Last year, Jane Burke renovated it, so we are confident that our banner will be put to good use for many years to come.

The Association has provided various logos and images for societies to use in promoting ADFAS. In Newcastle, some were used while the column remained our most enduring emblem. In 2016, longstanding member and committee member Rae Richards, offered the use of one of her paintings, Hilltown, for our new-look brochure and programme guide. It also appears on the membership cards, pull-up banner and letterhead. Two other works by Rae have featured on the 2017 and 2018 programme guides.



South Australia with ADFAS Travel

Last November I joined an ADFAS small group tour for an eight day exploration of South Australia's Art History and Landscape. Our Leader was Christopher Menz who capably introduced us (a group of 22) to many wonderful experiences on this inaugural regional tour. His knowledge was informative and his passion infectious and enjoyable.

We were provided with a set of Tour notes and a daily schedule booklet both of which were informative and useful. We visited the quaint village of Hahndorf in the Adelaide hills where we enjoyed a visit to Nora & Hans Heysen's studios and their home at the Cedars. We then spent four days exploring the spectacular landscapes, wildlife and produce of Kangaroo Island. A wine tasting in McLaren Vale proved popular! As did our lunch at D'Arenberg Winery. Fermoy House and the adjacent museum of David Roche were jaw-dropping, displaying 3000 works of decorative

and fine art, antiques, painting and sculpture collected over a sixty year period. The Art Gallery of South Australia had a comprehensive collection of Australian & Aboriginal works. It was a very enjoyable week with people who shared similar interests.

Lis Jackson



The Lighthouse on Kangaroo Island

The School of Arts Recording



Wickham School of Arts

Seven members met recently to update their work on the fascinating local Schools of Arts. At present the group is concentrating on Wickham, Tighes Hill, Merewether, Waratah, Stroud, Gresford and Newcastle. If any ADFAS Newcastle members have memories of, or concerns about, any of these buildings, we would be very pleased to talk to you. The future of Wickham School of Arts is uncertain.

Many members may have seen the Atrium development in Tudor Street, Hamilton where an old Menckens building has been restored beautifully and incorporated into an apartment block. This is an example of what can be done with one of these historical buildings. We would also welcome any interested people into our group.

The Silk Road ...Christopher Bradley

Anne Morris recalls a memorable Special Interest Morning

Christopher Bradley's first slide showed a wall hanging depicting the Empress Theodora wearing silk. This silk we now know is processed from silk worms that have feasted on white mulberries. We then learned that The Silk Road was not named as such originally and that it has been in existence for 1500 years but was overtaken over by parallel sea trade. In 1877 it gained the name Silk Road from Ferdinand von Richthofen (the uncle of the Red Baron). Among many other

valuable snippets, we learned that 40 is an important number in Islam, hence Ali Baba and the 40 thieves, 40 days and 40 nights and also 40 winks!

From the time of the Persians, Persepolis, Darius, Xerxes et al, the value of silk maintained its value as currency until other means of exchange were widely adopted. Classical Art brought in by the Greeks went as far as Afghanistan.

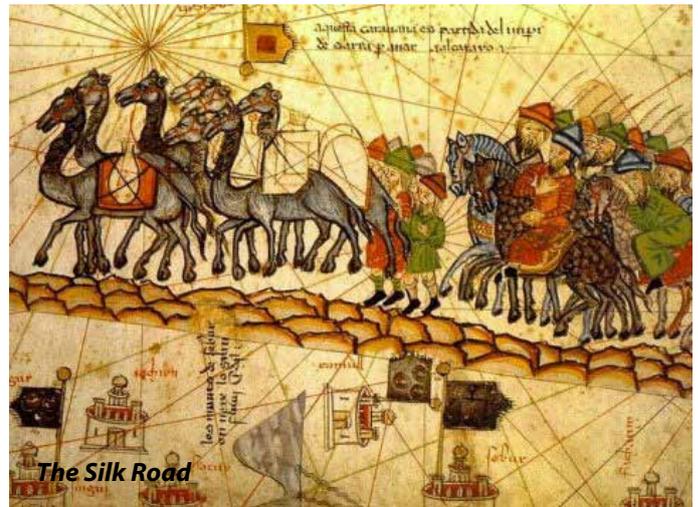
China obtained horses and other precious goods in exchange for silk, ceramics, tea and jade. The Chinese, Parthians and Romans were to become the main dealers in silk. The word "caravan" comes from Roman times. The word does not include the camels at all but the people who travel together and caravanserai is the overnight accommodation for these people. Xi'an the old capital of China in 8th century CE was

the largest city in the world (2 million). The 8th to the 10th Centuries were the golden age of the Silk Road.

Two thirds of the Silk Road is in China, and Chris Bradley pointed out that merchants and their camels didn't traverse the whole route, but that goods were exchanged from trader to trader along the way. The silk road was not a simple affair or a single route, as the many stopping places reveal. It became the world's first superhighway not only for trade but also knowledge (weaving, astronomy, astrology, religion, art etc). The pagoda of Xi'an housed Buddhist scriptures. The exchange of ideas and fashions accompanied the exchange of goods: the classical influence is obvious everywhere, for instance in the clothing and hair of the statues and Bodhisattvas Bactria in western China.

Chris Bradley insisted that people should not fear going to Iran and spoke of the wonderful museums there, established by the Shah of Iran. He recommended going to the central Bank which is only opened to tourists for 2 hours each week to see the Crown Jewels.

Altogether we enjoyed an informative morning that challenged our pre-conceived ideas and kept us well and truly entertained.



ADFAS Newcastle 2018 Young Arts Scholarships

ADFAS Newcastle has undertaken to support Young Arts by funding promising young artists. Money raised by ADFAS Newcastle by direct donation or by raffles is used to support the artists' development.

The Young Arts Committee is currently considering applications for its 2018 Young Arts Scholarships.

An early recipient was 16 year old, Year 10 Hunter School of the Performing Arts student Declan Dowling.

Declan has an impressive acting portfolio of work and recently was acknowledged for his 2017 performance as Carl Hanratty

in *Catch Me if You Can*.

Declan was awarded the 2017 City of Newcastle Drama Award for Excellence in a Male Actor Under 18 Years. Declan's passion for theatre made itself apparent when his grandmother showed him her cassette recording of Michael Crawford in "The Phantom of the Opera". Since then he has jumped at every chance he can to expand his skill set to make theatre for other people as special as it is to him. Declan's flair for the dramatic led him to feature in various shows and theatrical events in the Central Coast and Newcastle areas including [but not limited to], "Ursula" in *The Little Mermaid* (GMS); "Lady Bracknell" in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* (HSPA), "Injun Joe" in *Tom Sawyer* (GMS), "Captain Hook" in *Peter Pan* (GMS), "Igor" in *Young Frankenstein* (GMS) and most recently "Special Agent Carl Hanratty" in *Catch Me If You Can* (HSPA). Recently he had his hand at directing a new production of *ANIMAL FARM* with William Parker, for Hunter School of The Performing Arts' 2018 Season, and is currently in rehearsals for both GMS's "My Fair Lady" as "Zoltan Karparthy" and a two-man touring production of "The Woman In Black" where he is taking up



**Declan Dowling as Carl Hanratty
with HSPA student Liam Faulkner-
Dimond (as Frank Abagnale) in
*Catch Me If You Can***

the role of "Kipps". Declan is a regular performer with *Youth In Performing Arts* (YIPA) and attributes them and *Gosford Musical Society* (GMS) for their efforts and contribution to his success as a young actor.

Declan's Young Arts Scholarship enabled him to travel with the school to New York and Los Angeles where he participated in Drama classes conducted by some of the world's leading performing arts studios.

ADFAS Newcastle in the Community

In 1990, nine ADFAS Societies from around Australia came together at Neroli Jordan's urging, to donate \$6600 towards the replacement of ceramic works damaged in the 1989 earthquake.

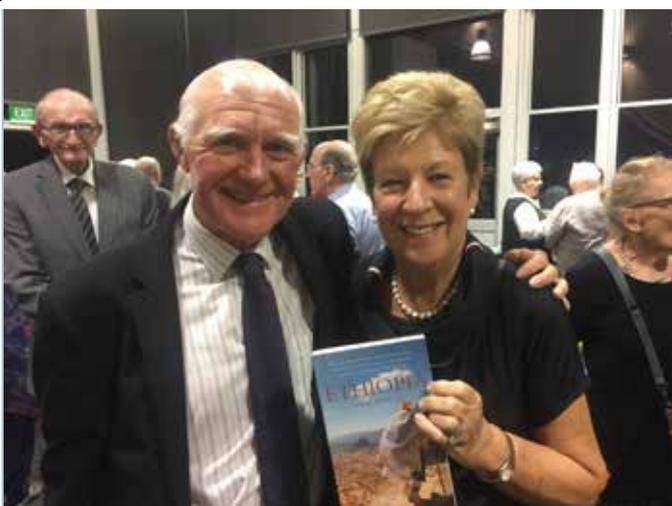
Over the years, Newcastle ADFAS has provided financial support for the restoration of Mary Beeston's wall hanging in Christchurch Cathedral, and donated funds towards the restoration of the window in Tomago Chapel.

Newcastle has continued its involvement with the Newcastle Art Gallery. For seven years (2004 to 2010) a large part of its Young Arts donations was allocated to the Gallery to help fund the children's art programs. More recently, the Gallery has hosted private visits and members have been able to

enjoy some exclusive access to the collection, as well as enjoying morning tea amongst the works on display.

In 2012 ADFAS became a member of the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation with its \$500 'purchase' of a piano key to assist in the Gallery's acquisition of its Stuart and Sons piano, to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

This year, the Gallery is raising funds for the acquisition of Alex Seton's Paper Armada 2015 with its fleet of 400 hand-carved, bianco carrara marble origami boats, a work that is considered a major technical and artistic achievement. To mark our 30th anniversary, ADFAS Newcastle hopes to 'purchase' one of the boats as our contribution to this acquisition.



Young Arts Raffles

The book raffles at each lecture have already given a welcome boost to our Young Arts funds for next year. Thank you, one and all, for your willing participation. Congratulations to the winners so far: Gai Le Marchant with lecturer Chris Bradley and Helen and Geoff Watt with Ron Ramsey.