

It's an early Spring here in Cambrian Valley, potentially dangerous to plants (and expectations) as experience has taught we can have major snow events even through to October. Our last summer was a glorious one, once the New Year wind disappeared, and winter has been comparatively mild, with the exception being a fabulous snowfall in late June. Over half a metre fell here at the house, and my studio was happily inaccessible due to a massive wind-blown drift.

Family News

Most exciting on the family front is grand-fatherhood: the arrival of Sophia Rose Sturrock on 24th April, a beautiful little soul born to my daughter Melissa and husband Dale in Melbourne. She is a very welcome addition to our wider family, and a delight to us all.

Photography and Film

While painting remains my focus my photographic interest continues and it's fascinating to watch its growth internationally as a fine art in its own right in all its many forms!. Photographs were shown with Jonathan Gooderham in Auckland's Artis Gallery earlier this year, and an expanded show of 52 photographs were exhibited at Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery in Alexandra, Central Otago, until late August. That show is now on view at the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown until the end of October.

Filming continues to be another preoccupation and I hope to return to my on-going documentary projects soon.



"Harrier." 2013. Oil on linen. 555mm x 555mm.



"Dusk on the Upper Taieri." 2013. 760 x 1020mm.



"Waipiata Angel." 2013. Oil on linen. 840mm x 1110mm.

Recent Works

I've continued to work steadily, and happily, in the studio while Fi has been managing all the rest of life and home with her habitual charm and competence. I feel privileged to continue to enjoy strong support, both here and overseas, particularly given next year will mark 40 years of life as a full-time artist. Recent new paintings have found welcoming homes in Canterbury, Southland, Wellington, Melbourne and London. In November, it was thrilling to see Night House II (painted in 1995) sell for a record price at auction in Wellington.

Partnerships

I am very pleased to have recently formed an association with Lexus, New Zealand. One of my engagements involved speaking to Lexus clients in Christchurch in July. Eight paintings provided context for my talk, a mini-exhibition really, and pleasing for me to see a couple of paintings from very long ago when I was a comparatively young man. Few occupations have the opportunity to meet the inescapable evidence of their former selves in quite such a confrontational manner. Interestingly, when I do encounter a painting from, say 35 years ago as on this occasion, I can remember a great deal of what was going on in my life at the time it was painted: the works become extraordinary Time Capsules for me. So much of the self is invested in every work, some of it unconsciously, I guess it's inevitable – but always a surprise. Who WAS that man back then?



"Melissa at Tunnel Beach."
2012. Oil on linen. 920mm x 1220mm.

Magazine and Book Contributions

Following the magnificent snowfall in June, I was invited to help 26 other Southern types to 'snow-rake' stranded merino sheep on the flanks of Mount St Bathans, just a few kms from home. This was a full, tiring day in snow often waist deep, four men to a party (with dogs) tramping narrow paths to help the stranded and starving sheep reach lower land and some hope of survival. Fortunately it

was a calm day, and the helicopter which flew all day delivering teams to various ridges, made for magnificent photographic opportunities – some of which will feature in a 6-page spread in the Sept/Oct issue of *NZ Life & Leisure*.

I also recently contributed to *Grumpy Old Men* (Paul Little Publishing), a book featuring contributions by 47 kiwi men – a perfect opportunity for me to sound off about just one of many things close to my heart! I'm not wholly comfortable with either 'grumpy' or 'old' but sales will benefit The Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Fi and I wish you all a memorable and enjoyable summer. Keep an eye on the website for recent works and further news.

If you are interested in joining the client list, or wish to see newly completed paintings, please contact us at grahame@grahamesydney.com

Many thanks for your interest and encouragement. Best wishes

GCS



"Sunset at the Shearer's Quarters."
Durst Lambda photograph on Archival paper.