



2016/2017 CARRICK HILL: 'THE YEAR IN REVIEW'

Carrick Hill enjoyed a wonderful and busy year. There were unique events, amazing exhibitions and more visitors to the site than ever before. So, what have we been doing at Carrick Hill?

Art and Fun

Carrick Hill's year started with our most ambitious exhibition yet to celebrate 30 years of being open to the public. *Stanley Spencer: a twentieth century British Master* included thirty paintings and drawings borrowed from national and international lenders and told the story of Stanley Spencer's muses and the subjects that made this painter one of the greatest forces in British painting. The exhibition opened to the public on 3rd August running to 4th December 2016. Carrick Hill's commissioned publication, *Stanley Spencer, a twentieth century British Master*, was also launched for the exhibition and continues to be distributed nationally. In addition, a Stanley Spencer educational resource for upper Primary and Secondary School students was made available on Carrick Hill's website to be used in conjunction with viewing the exhibition. The exhibition was the focus for a number of events such as:-

- a sell-out Stanley Spencer Art Study Day with 68 attendees. Presented by Lisa Slade, Deputy Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia and national and international Spencer scholars
- Recital & Readings using Carrick Hill's Bechstein grand piano to play music by Spencer's favourite composers Mozart, Bach and Beethoven was enjoyed by 91 people
- sell-out Tea and Talks with Tim Wonnacott (best known as the presenter of TV series Bargain Hunt) attracted 50 attendees
- Children's Spencer Art & Play Day was enjoyed by 38 children
- Introduction Stanley Spencer, a function for the Friends of Carrick Hill brought 38 people into the exhibition

The second exhibition for the year brought much fun and many four-legged friends to Carrick Hill. *SPOT the DOG: Canine Companions in Art* let off the leash man and woman's best friend in paintings, sculptures and decorative arts. This fun exhibition ran from 8 March - 30 June 2017 and proved very popular for our visitors.

A public program of events ran during the exhibition including:

- 'Dogs in Australian Art' a talk by Steven Miller, author of the exhibition's accompanying book with 23 attendees
- 'Pups in the Park' in partnership with Guide Dogs SA, a family and dog friendly event that was a great day with 217 attendees
- 'Walk the Dog' children's trail, a children's activity to find the dog breeds located throughout the garden was very popular with 378 families
- Three talks for South Australia's History Festival collectively attended by 71 people: 'The Dingo Took my Thylacine', 'Bob the Railway Dog' and 'A History of Dog Portraiture'

This exhibition provided a great opportunity to work with Guide Dogs SA and help raise money and awareness for the charity.

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Home Show

In between exhibitions the guest bedrooms are returned to their original state. This time allows visitors to see more of how the Haywards lived during their time at Carrick Hill.

Touring Exhibitions

Carrick Hill was honoured to tour two exhibitions to the Riddoch Gallery in Mount Gambier. Between June 2016 and September 2016, our exhibitions, *Endless Pleasure: the art of gardens and gardening* and *Art & Travel: Bring me back a souvenir*, were on display for a new audience in the South East. The Riddoch Gallery has more exhibition space available than Carrick Hill and were able to expand the Endless Pleasure exhibition. More of the tools from the Australian Museum of Gardening were displayed and they were able to hold more children's activities.

In addition to the fantastic exhibitions a number of great events were held during the year:

"What's it worth?" Discovery Day

Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow Celebrity Tim Wonnacott along with Theodore Bruce spent a day in Carrick Hill's marquee valuing up to 3 items per person from the public for a small fee. We were overwhelmed by the response with over 1000 visitors attending the event. The finishing time for the event was extended by a number of hours to accommodate the number of people that brought items for valuing.

Pop-up Opera

State Opera SA partnered with Carrick Hill and welcomed 61 guests to a special evening of art, food and fabulous music. Young and emerging artists from the State Opera's James & Diana Ramsay Foundation Opera Program were joined by soprano Joanna McWaters in a roaming opera that began on the terrace, travelled through Carrick Hill House and finished in the marquee.

Visitation

Everyone involved with Carrick Hill is passionate about sharing the property with the people of South Australia and beyond. Carrick Hill is a treasure that deserves to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. Every year locals, as well as tourists from interstate and overseas, visit the site. The past year delivered record breaking attendances for Carrick Hill. We had 75,933 visitors to the grounds, a 6% increase on the previous year, and 9,776 were welcomed into the house.

In addition to welcoming visitors to the site each year Carrick Hill also hosts wedding ceremonies, receptions, functions and funerals. During the past year 79 couples tied the knot at Carrick Hill and 43 couples stayed on for their reception. Carrick Hill is a popular site for weddings and functions due to our beautiful gardens and the delicious food provided by onsite caterer, the food business.

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We couldn't do it without you

Carrick Hill would be unable to function as well as we do without the help from our volunteers. The Carrick Hill Trust and staff would like to thank all of our volunteers for the amazing job they do. We have over 100 volunteers that contributed over 2,700 hours during the year. 2016/17 was a record breaking year for visitor numbers and events and the guides, garden volunteers, flower volunteers, gift shop volunteers and furniture polishers ensured the property looked its best and visitors enjoyed a positive experience. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and hope we can welcome more to the team in the upcoming year.

Carrick Hill is also fortunate to have passionate board members on the Carrick Hill Trust that provide governance and use their collective experience to guide Carrick Hill into the future. Along with the Board, Carrick Hill receives amazing support from the Friends of Carrick Hill and the Carrick Hill Development Foundation. The two groups raise funds that allow Carrick Hill to hold exhibitions, maintain the grounds and much more. We would like to recognise the invaluable work done by the Carrick Hill Trust Board, Friends of Carrick Hill and the Carrick Hill Development Foundation.

A Big Thank You!

Carrick Hill's success wouldn't be possible without our lenders, donors and supporters. Our exhibitions include many works from lenders from South Australia, interstate and overseas. Donors and supporters also make contributions to our program and help us to deliver excellent exhibitions and events for our visitors.

Carrick Hill is fortunate to have a number of sponsors that support us and our programs. We would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support and look forward to working with them in the future.



Government of South Australia

