

TRIBUTE TO DIXIE LAMBERT

18 July 1929 – 4 Feb 2019. Written by Wendy Allen.

Many members of the Half Dozen Group of Artists may not have known Dixie, or they knew him only as a mischievous 'rogue' who attended Friday workshops. But although his contact with members was limited, his service to the Group has touched everyone.

Dixie first joined the Group in its early years, encouraged by fellow-sculptor and friend Len Shillam, one of our six founding members. He left but re-joined in later years. Every week for years he made the long trip from Nth Stradbroke Island by car, water taxi, Cleveland shuttle bus, train to Manly, then by car to Life Classes wherever they were at the time. In 2010, the Group's studio moved from St Mary's, Kangaroo Point, to Holland Park Scout's Hall, to the Old Museum at Bowen Hills, then to Flipside Circus Training Centre at Newmarket, to Montrose at Corinda and finally to Quarry Road at Sherwood. Nearing age 90, it became too physically difficult – spirit willing but body 'all out of puff'.

Through all these years he was quietly loyal, quietly helping others, quietly motivating and quietly proposing ideas that might help the Group move forward with greater participation and interaction with each other. Many individuals were inspired and directed along pathways he felt could help them develop.

Not easily noticed he was at the meetings, the parties (often doing the cooking), at mid-week workshops, at exhibitions of colleagues or his own, giving demonstrations at events and conducting workshops. He invited members to his island Studio providing generous home-prepared meals, accompanying them to the island's beautiful Brown Lake. He lent out or recommended precious books (favourite poet, Pamela Bell). Prolific artist but never pretentious, never seeking fame, he cared not that his framing might be 'not quite perfect' - the artwork was 'the thing and its spirit within'.

Above all, he was a very much-loved family man, a side, members didn't see but it encompassed, quietly, with no demands, his love of the Group which was his 'extended family' to be cared about.



The moment of birth of the Lambert Wall concept.

A LEGACY - the philosophy of the Lambert Wall.

On 2 September 2011 at an AGM, he took the floor (top right-hand corner of photograph) and described his idea for a mosaic of paintings with a common theme contributed to by all members. Later called the Lambert Wall, it materialised that year at our 70th anniversary at the Circle Gallery, West End and has continued as a dominant feature of annual exhibitions.

Dixie once proposed (quietly) that members could give every home in Sherwood, a free original painting to spark their interest in Art and as a goodwill gesture from the Group perhaps using some of the Lambert Wall pictures. He always believed it could be done.

A legacy is something of worth that is left behind and in time can continue to give service into the future.

Dixie's legacy - The Lambert Wall - totally epitomises the man and his quiet gift to the Group.

Along with the Paint Tree, we now have two traditional icons that symbolise a spirit that connects us all. The Wall, also demonstrating the diversity of individuals, encourages us to pull together as a Group on at least one occasion each year. We thank Dixie for this legacy. May it live long! And perhaps one day all the homes of Sherwood might sport an original artwork!



Always seeing the positive side of Life - enjoying it, sharing it and advocating it.



Keeping us happy at St Mary's Studio.



Demonstrating at Montrose.



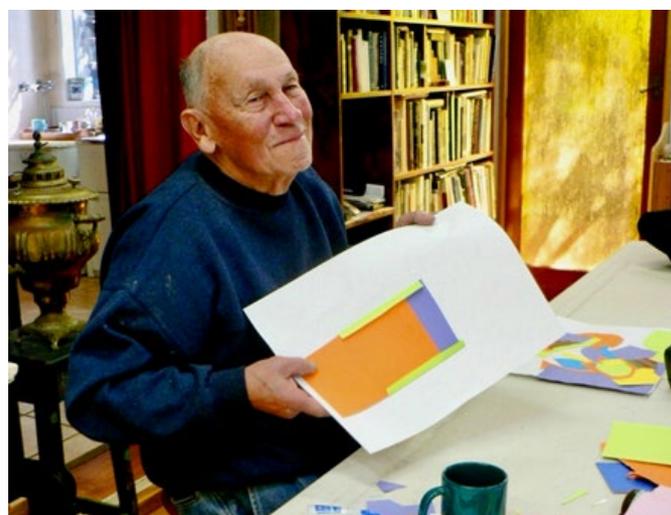
Attending Life Drawing class weekly.



Hosting members to a survey of his Stradbroke Studio.



Discussing art with a colleague at Flipside.



Participating in workshop by colleagues.