

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



Lloyd Rees

The Lane Cove Municipality has long been recognized as a home to artists, and **Lloyd Rees** is one who made his home in Northwood and left his legacy across the whole Municipality.

Lloyd Frederick Rees was born in 1895 in Brisbane and educated in drawing and painting at Brisbane's Central Technical College. He was appointed a junior artist at the Queensland Printing Office, where he was introduced to lithographic printing and developed his pen technique that attracted commissions to draw old buildings. In 1917 Lloyd moved to Sydney and concentrated on detailed pencil landscapes of Sydney and its surrounds which led to his membership of the Society of Artists. In 1926 Lloyd married Dulcie Metcalf, but she died in childbirth the following year. He married Marjory Pollard in 1931 and after the birth of their son, Alan, in 1934 the family moved to a home which Rees had designed in Cliff Road Northwood. Rees initially used a room within his Northwood house as his studio, but later a studio was carved into the rock of the basement area of the house.

Rees joined the 'Northwood Group' of artists who painted at various locations from Balls Head to North Ryde and met to sketch at John and Marie Santry's home in Northwood. Lloyd also painted in oils and his landscapes underwent a transition from detailed depiction to more simplified. They became almost abstract and illuminated by a translucent light. He also experimented with other media; ink, carbon pencil and wash drawings in the 1960s, etchings in the 1970s and returned to lithographs in the 1980s.

Rees won many art prizes during his career including the Wynne Prize, twice. Rees also taught at the University of Sydney and received British & Australian honours. In 1988, the Australian Bicentennial Authority named him as one of the *Two hundred people who made Australia great*.

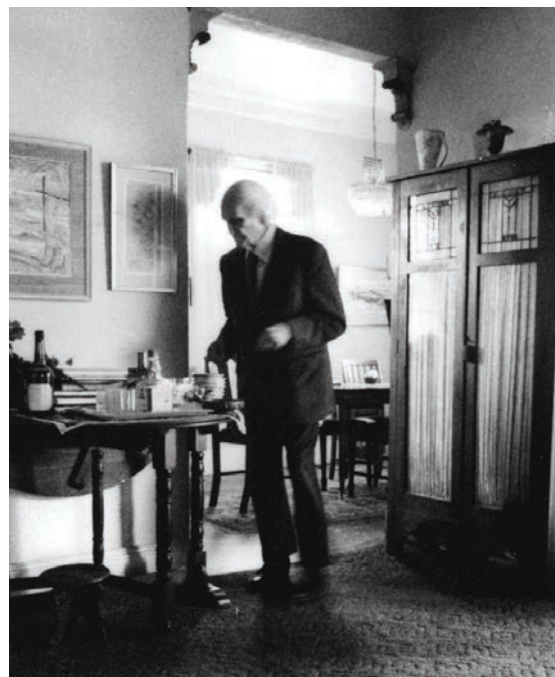
Rees left his mark on the Lane Cove community in a number of ways. In 1962 he was invited to be one of the four artists on the Lane Cove Art Panel. When the Lane Cove Art Society was formed in 1965 at the suggestion of the Panel, Rees became its Foundation President, a position he retained until 1988. In 1980 he wrote to Lane Cove Council proposing that a visual focal point be built in the plaza. Landscape architect, Harry Howard, was commissioned to make recommendations and submitted drawings for a bandstand in consultation with Rees. In 1981 Rees donated \$5,000 towards the project. It was reported that Rees felt 'the bandstand will be a central meeting place for the people of Lane Cove'. In January 1983 Lane Cove Council resolved that the bandstand be named **The Lloyd Rees Bandstand**. It was opened by Rees in April 1983.

In 1987 Lloyd and Marjory Rees moved to live with their son in Hobart. Marjory Rees died in April 1988 and Lloyd Rees died 2 December 1988.



Lloyd Rees enjoys a coffee in front of the Lloyd Rees bandstand, March 1983.

Lloyd Rees contributed in many ways to many groups in the district. His contribution to the Municipality is also remembered through **Lloyd Rees Park, Northwood** and **Lloyd Rees Drive, Lane Cove West**. There is also the Lane Cove Art Society's **Lloyd Rees Annual Award** and Centrehouse's bi-annual **Lloyd Rees Memorial Youth Art Award**.



Lloyd Rees in his Northwood home, circa 1980.

