



GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2023

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

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From the President – Andrew Inglis

This newsletter finds us in a troubled world, for example Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Gaza wars affecting some members quite directly. The recently failed Voice referendum also calls us to reflect on what we are as a social community and what are our core values going into the future.

There are many changes afoot and exciting activities to look forward to in 2024. We have a temporary display at the Bendigo Bank Murrumbeena Hub and the opportunity for member exhibition displays by rotation. We are also hoping to arrange for member exhibition displays in accessible shop fronts using display easels on loan from the Koornang Traders Association.

The Committee has been very busy considering changes to the annual exhibition, a review of our activities, preparing for the AGM along with activity reports and planning popup exhibitions. I wish to hugely thank Heather Welsh who is standing down as president after many years in this and other committee roles. She will continue to assist with governance using her extensive legal and Council skills, and with the Exhibition Committee. Another change is that Mary Lewin is also stepping aside as Secretary. Both have undertaken these roles during the very difficult period of Covid lockdowns providing leadership and advice to the Committee. Mary, in particular, has been the Committee “ever-ready” still doing the newsletter, maintaining membership, and only recently stepped down as Financial Officer. How she does it is a perennial mystery.

On behalf of the Glen Eira Artists Society, I wish to heartily thank all the hardworking current 2023 Committee members:

Heather Welsh – President

Andrew Inglis – Vice-President (and President Elect)

Mary Lewin – Secretary

Jyl Bell – Treasurer

Angeline Bartholmeusz – Grants and Acquittal Officer and Gofer

General members – Kylie Castan, Dorith Candy and Bernadette Polak

Convenors – Rob Gudan (Life Drawing), Margaret Bellamy, (Studio Art)

Special thanks to:

Amanada Wyness for En Plein Air

Mary Lewin Portaiture Convenor, Membership Officer and Social Secretary

Exhibition Convenor Andrew Inglis (assisted by Angeline Bartholmeusz, Mary Lewin and Heather Welsh).

Peter Roccella, assisted by Melissa Parkinson for Website management and social media content.

We thank the Rotary Club of Caulfield team for their ongoing tireless support of GEAS in its annual exhibition, and also for their People’s Choice awards. We especially note their significant continuing support in the organisation of Cityscape/Art in the Park, as well as their ongoing Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Community Market.

Finally, we acknowledge the contributions of our mentor Michelle Zuccolo; the adjudicator Lucy Maddox; Pam Andrews as facilitator/mentor at Cityscape; the support from the Glen Eira City Arts and Administration staff; Scouts Victoria for using the Scout Hall, and our many friends, community sponsors, traders and shop keepers.

As always, we ask for members to join the Committee (or planned subcommittees). This gives important creative input to our forward planning, alongside active discussion at the AGM and personal calls, conversations and ideas from individual members.

Most importantly, we urge you to continue your creative efforts and to prepare works for our GEAS annual members exhibition in 2024. This will include possible new workshops, planned new social activities, contributions to newsletter and website (especially editing your online gallery of works).

Exhibition 2024

The first mentoring session was held on 11 November at the Scout Hall with Robert Lee Davis who first talked about the importance of composition. Eleven artists participated, including grandchildren of two participating members who are also artists. The artworks presented were varied in topics, styles, size and materials. A second session is planned for next year, closer to the exhibition date.

Activity Reports

Activity levels during the early Spring remained low, mostly due to inclement weather that kept people ensconced in their homes.

Recently, Amanda Wyness resigned her role as En Plein Air’s convenor due to health reasons. In the interim, Mary Lewin agreed to convene this activity until a new convenor is identified.

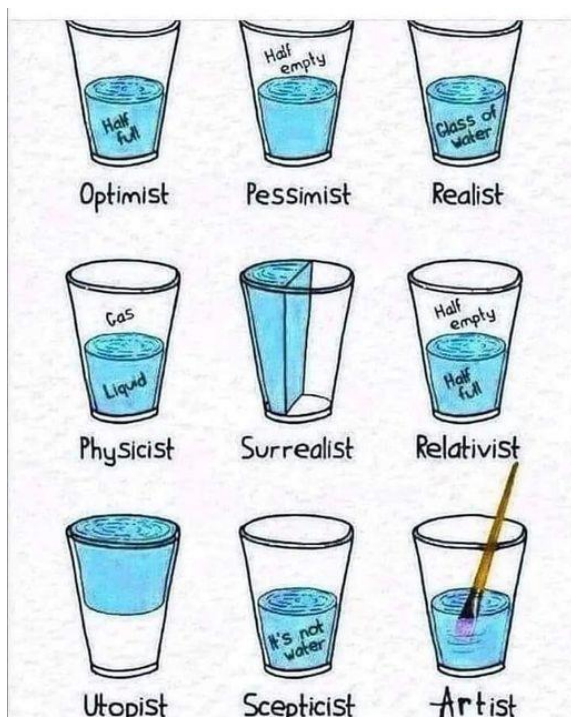
Member Profile – Heather Welsh

Heather Welsh is a Co-Founder of GEAS. She developed an early interest in Art in Grade 6 selling her drawings for liquorice blocks, raspberry jellies and hard boiled candy 'umbrellas'. In her later student years, she came to know a number of artists, visiting their studios and learning from them. As Vice President of RSPCA (Vic) and President of its Auxiliary she was instrumental in the establishment of the Society's Annual Wildlife Art Exhibition.

As a Community Advocate over several years, she was involved in community organisations and activities, including that of a City of Caulfield Councillor.

She began modelling for artist friends, becoming a member of the Life Models' Society which led to modelling for schools, tertiary institutions and Art Societies. She listened to students and artists when they talked about art based careers and what was needed to help them to become professional artists.

In her presidential year at the Rotary Club of Caulfield she persuaded fellow members that establishment of an art society to try and meet some of these needs would be a worthwhile Club Arts and Vocational project. Sima Kesselschmidt, an artist, followed Heather as President of the Club which made it easier for the Club to continue working on the GEAS project. This led to the longstanding strong working relationship between the Club and GEAS, with Heather handling much of the GEAS administration in its early years as part of the Club's contribution to GEAS. She also curated several art exhibitions on behalf of the Rotary Club of Caulfield while helping GEAS with its early exhibitions. Heather has been a GEAS Committee member since its establishment and has held the positions of Administrator, Secretary and President.



Clarice Beckett

Clarice Beckett – (1887–1935)

Clarice Beckett is one of the most important Australian modernist painters of the 1920s and early 1930s, and her work is acclaimed and loved for its distinctive evocation of atmosphere and mood. Beckett's work was lost to time and neglect from her death in 1935 to its rediscovery around 1970 and reintroduction to audiences, and its rightful repositioning in Australian art history.



Born and raised in Casterton, Victoria, she displayed artistic talents at a very young age. After moving with her family to Melbourne in 1914, she began a three-year study at the National Gallery School under Australian impressionist painter Frederick McCubbin. Her works which consisted of repeated subjects like cars, telegraph poles, empty winding roads, and shimmering reflections that bordered on pure abstraction, were radical subjects for her time.

However, nature and her immediate environment were her inspirations, and she returned again and again to familiar locations to capture them at different times and conditions. Between 1923 and 1933 she had numerous solo exhibitions that sometimes included up to 80 paintings in each, in which she grouped her paintings by subject or theme.

Beckett articulated her artistic aims in the catalogue accompanying the 6th Annual Exhibition of the Twenty Melbourne Painters in 1924: "To give a sincere and truthful representation of a portion of the beauty of Nature, and to show the charm of light and shade, which I try to give forth in correct tones so as to give as nearly as possible an exact illusion of reality".



Beckett never left Victoria and rarely travelled outside Melbourne. Much of her adult life was spent caring for her ailing parents in their home in Beaumaris. She did however paint prolifically, often *en plein air* in and around the Beaumaris bayside, and mostly at daybreak or towards evening, when she was exempted from domestic duties.

In what has been called "one of the great disasters of Australian art history", well over a thousand of her works were destroyed in the decades after her death, mostly works from her final years that were said by friends to be more abstracted and spiritual. More works were lost in a bush fire, and in 1970 as many as two thousand works were found abandoned in an open-sided shed in country Victoria, of which two thirds were destroyed by the elements. Those that did survive were exhibited in Melbourne the following year, precipitating a resurgence of interest in Beckett. Catalogues, biographies and major exhibitions followed, and today she is represented in Australia's national and state galleries.

Einstein and Epstein

Albert Einstein, the well known physicist, and Jacob Epstein, a prominent sculptor, formed an unlikely yet fascinating friendship during a turbulent time in history. In 1933 the dark clouds of the Nazi regime were spreading across Germany. Einstein, a German physicist, found himself in danger due to his Jewish heritage and his vocal criticism of the Nazi rise to power. With the rise of antisemitism, Albert Einstein sought refuge and safety in England, far away from the oppressive environment in Germany. He lived in a country retreat near Cromer, hoping to continue his scientific pursuits in a more hospitable environment away from the clutches of the Nazis.

It was during this period of exile that Jacob Epstein, a distinguished sculptor known for his innovative and sometimes controversial works, was introduced to Einstein. Born in the United States but residing in England, Epstein had gained prominence for his striking and expressive sculptures that pushed artistic boundaries.

The meeting between these two intellectual giants in their respective fields was a unique convergence of science and art. Einstein, with his unruly hair and iconic appearance, became a symbol of genius worldwide. Epstein, on the other hand, was renowned for capturing the essence and personality of his subjects in his sculptural creations.



The friendship between Einstein and Epstein flourished in their secluded retreat. Inspired by Einstein's groundbreaking contributions to the field of physics, Epstein was eager to immortalize the physicist's likeness in one of his masterpieces.

The result of their collaboration was Epstein's bust of Albert Einstein, a work of art that not only captured the physical features, but also seemed to reflect his profound intellect and wisdom.

Members' News

Our member Elizabeth Coyle has a solo exhibition running from 26 November to 23 December, at the Fantastic Framing and Art Gallery, 407 Hampton Street, Hampton.

Make sure not to miss it.

Did You Know

The she-wolf has this habit of wrap ping herself around the neck of her wolf because the neck is the most vulnerable part of the animal. By doing so, she shows him her unconditional love. The wolves are the most loyal and loving animals: they have one partner throughout their life. The wolf is known to display astonishing levels of tenderness and affection towards his she-wolf.



Governance and Administration

Annual General Meeting – results

The AGM was held on 23 November where a new Committee was elected:

President: Andrew Inglis
Vice-President: Melissa Parkinson
Secretary: Mary Lewin (for one term only)
Treasurer: Jyl Bell

Ordinary Committee:

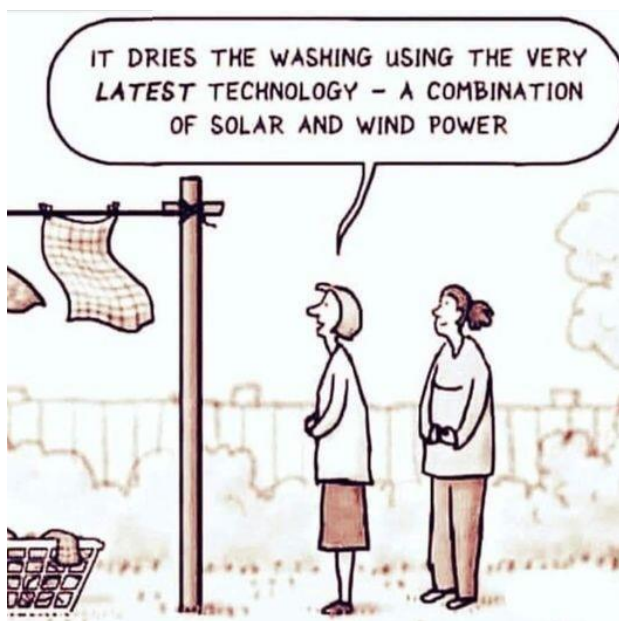
Angeline Barthlomeusz: Grants Officer

At the end of the official proceedings the participants enjoyed a video of Ancita Beale demonstrating how to paint landscapes using acrylic paints.

Website

Our website is a work in progress, continuously being updated. More artists have added their artwork on the Website gallery. For more information about the online gallery and how to take advantage of this opportunity, members contact Mary: 0418 377 965 or geasartists@gmail.com.

Pearls of Wisdom



We need your contributions by way of stories, artworks, as well as suggestions for new columns and improvements. Please send these to geasartists@gmail.com

REMINDER: Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings and participate in the deliberations. Please contact us geasartists@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Acknowledgements and attributions

We acknowledge the important role and support to date of the Rotary Club Caulfield.

CHECK THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL ART TRIBUTE TO HEATHER WELSH

 <p>Rotary Club of Caulfield</p>	<p>Proudly supported by the Glen Eira City Council</p>	<p>Murrumbeena Community Bank® Branch  Bendigo Bank</p>	 <p>Melbourne ARTISTS' Supplies</p>
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Featuring Heather's artworks in past exhibitions



Butt Out of My Pond, "Water" exhibition 2021



Green Fairy Enlightenment, "Light" Exhibition 2022



Flash of Life, "Light" Exhibition 2022



Miasma of Money: Colours of Betrayal, "Colour" Exhibition 2023



Greenwashing Your Easter Eggs, "Colour" Exhibition 2023

At the Galleries

Make sure not to miss "Connection" at The Lume Melbourne. Immerse yourself in a spectacular visual and audio display that will transport you through First Nation Art and Music.