



From the President – Andrew Inglis

Spring is around the corner and a change of seasons comes again. Change has been in the news a lot: interest rates, people downsizing, and new members joining us. It is that time for reviewing and tweaking things: the spring cleanout and a need to see things afresh. Covid finally seems to be behind us, but we remain cautious.

Our Past president Heather Welsh is taking a well-earned rest and standing down after many years on almost every committee role. Her perspicacity, strategic, shrewd leadership and energy has seen us safely through Covid and in dealing with some tricky lease issues with the Birch Street Scout Hall. She will still remain on general committee and will doubtless be called upon for advice for some time to come.



As new President and Exhibition Convenor, I will ask forbearance as I “learn the ropes” and am appreciative of the opportunities given me. For those who do not know me well, I have served on the GEAS Committee since 2020, having joined in 2019. I have belonged to Brighton Art Society in the past. In my extended family are a number of artists including a ceramicist and a member of the realist artists guild.

I am a registered architect of 45 years’ experience and have drawn and painted since my early teens including formal studies at university during architectural studies and partial completion (3 out of 4 years Part-time) of a Painting and Sculpture Diploma in RMITU in the late 1970’s. I also hold post graduate qualifications in project management and a Graduate Diploma of Education in Art Craft Double Method (Graphic Communication).

My teaching has included 14 years TAFE teaching (Holmesglen and Wodonga Institutes) at Advanced Certificate Level 5 (Adv Dip. of Building Design [Architectural]), developing unique seminars and course materials. I have authored original published research papers (some international) as well as acting as a secondary teacher. I have prepared or assisted in numerous student exhibitions, public presentations and open days. This included workshops on manual perspective and drawing/rendering techniques. In my architectural

career I undertook over 120 paid rendering commissions, seen as far afield as the Ford Boardroom in Detroit, and VCAT tribunal.

I am married with three daughters and a grand-daughter, almost 11 who seems also to be picking up the pencil and brush. Another strong interest of mine is Community Energy and Sustainable Resilience. Hence, I am a voluntary board member of the Energy Innovation Co-operative, based in Wonthaggi. The Co-op, in consultation with local community groups auspices and project, manages Community energy projects across Gippsland including retrofitting homes and community facilities, installing PV panels, storage batteries, EV charging points and much more. This has included powering and supporting Bushfire resilience centres at Benn River, Buchan, Mallacoota, Westport communities and elsewhere.

This background, I believe, will assist GEAS in its future endeavours and be useful to members. Despite all the formalisms I am entirely approachable and welcome contact from members with issues or concerns to raise either face to face, by letter, email or phone.

More sanguinely, our recent Annual Members Exhibition was well received and brought news of change for the 2024 exhibition. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for an article by Angeline Bartholomeusz who has been diligently pursuing the case with Glen Eira City Council Arts administration staff on behalf of GEAS. The 2024 exhibition will be held in July 1st -28th 2024

Other details will be provided, in early 2024 nearer registration day and be covered in future GEAS newsletters Watch this Frame!!

Exhibition 2024

Some exciting changes are afoot related to the GEAS 2024 annual exhibition.

WE HAVE THE ENTIRE GALLERY FOR 2024!

Significant changes to the conduct of the exhibition include the members decision to adopt the title “The Glen Eira Artists’ Society 2024 Exhibition” with no specific theme. This decision was ratified by the Committee.

This will allow you to submit your best works. Potentially, this will include multiple works or larger works.

The exhibition will run from 1 July to 28 July and will include two Floor Talks, one by Diane Soumilas (the Glen Eira City Council Gallery manager) and another

by the adjudicator. We are also planning to hold painting demonstrations.

To assist artists with their preparation we plan to have two mentoring sessions, one in late October and one around April/May.

We would like members to assist us by joining the Exhibition Sub-Committee. Your support will be greatly appreciated. To join this Sub Committee please contact Andrew (geasmember@gmail.com) or Angeline (angeline.artist01@gmail.com) .

Stay tuned for more information on our exhibition. Angeline Bartholomeusz, Exhibition Committee Member

Member Profile – Melissa Parkinson

Melissa is a relatively new member, but her contribution to date has been remarkable. She is a hands-on person and is involved in many facets in the running of GEAS. Those who attended the exhibition afterparty will remember her as the cheerful person with the infectious smile who interviewed Lucy Maddox, the exhibition adjudicator.



To say that Melissa is talented is a huge understatement. Her CV attests to thorough qualifications including a Master of Media (RMIT University) and other creative and performing arts, as well as an extraordinary career and work experience. It opens with the statement *“I am a content producer and media generalist with specialized skills including communications and news writing, design layout, and video production”*. Notable examples include being one of the founding members as songwriter and singer of the original band ‘Finding Alice’, as well as a Bollywood study tour. She has also written songs on piano and guitar, and has now started playing the drums.

Recently she started acting and singing in COG, a community faith-based musical theatre. If I had to sum up Melissa in a few words, they would be ‘talent, experience, versatility’.

For years, she thought she was one of just a few in her family who was musically inclined. She was hugely surprised when she discovered that the gift of creativity and dancing runs in the family, and that her ancestors were musical and performed in gigs around Calcutta.

Melissa moved to the Glen Eira City area in 2017. One day, when walking along Neerim Road, she came across the HUB window where she saw a GEAS display promoting one of its exhibitions. As a new arrival to the Glen Eira, she sensed that it had a creative vibe and was keen to find out more about

GEAS. Impressed by what she read of our website, she joined the Society and soon after entered two works in the “Light” exhibition: *“Genesis Part 1: And Then There Was Light”* (her first ever painting to be exhibited), and *“Genesis Part 2: At the Speed of light”*.



“Find Me”

Melissa is married to Dean who has an impressive educational and performing arts resume of his own. They met at the Caulfield Music Centre and, having similar music ideas and values, romance blossomed very quickly.

Melissa loves to dance. So much so that she took a Bollywood study tour as well as dance lessons with the dance choreographer who arranged a dance sequence in ‘Slum Dog Millionaire’ – yes, that famous Indian movie. During that tour she met and interviewed Prem Chopra, a world-renowned actor who portrayed villain characters, and with the Bollywood/Hollywood actor Anupam Kher.

When I asked Melissa to describe herself, she said “This is the quintessential Melissa: signing up for everything, getting asked to get involved and absolutely loving it”.

Activities Report

Portraiture and En Plein Air continue to be popular activities with the members, as they enable the merging of creativity and social interaction. As free activities, they also act as magnets for potential members.

Regrettably, due to health issues, Amanda Wyness will not be able to continue in her role as Convenor of En Plein Air. We look forward to expressions of interest from some of the members to take over from Amanda.

With Summer not far away, we look forward to resuming the Art and About activity.

Studio Art continues to function but albeit with a reduced level of participation. We expect that the warmer weather will see the numbers rising, especially by members who joined the Association recently. The cold weather kept members away from Life Drawing sessions as well.

Members' News

Kylie Castan's "Floral Vision" solo exhibition was held in August at the Victorian Artists Society.

**KYLIE
CASTAN** 2-30
AUG
2023



OPENING EVENT SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST FROM 12:30PM

FLORAL VISION
AT THE VICTORIAN ARTISTS SOCIETY
430 Albert Street East Melbourne 3002
In the Mackley Members' Room

Lee Hirsh's work featured in the Winter Exhibition of the Malvern Artists Society.

Malvern Artists' Society
Winter Exhibition
18 - 27 August
Featuring C.E.G. Beveridge Prize
Opening 7.30pm Fri 18
Then 10 - 3 Tue - Fri, 11 - 4 Sat & Sun
1287-99 High Street Malvern
9822 7813 malvart@optusnet.com.au
www.malvernartists.org.au

Did you know

Women – Creators of beer

Beer is thought to have been invented by the Sumerians, who lived in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) around 8,000 BC. Unearthed ancient tablets clearly show that the original brewers were women. The Sumerians even had a goddess of beer 'Ninkasi' and beer was considered the drink of the gods.

Archaeological evidence further suggests that cereal crops were used for both baking bread and brewing beer. Indeed, barley may have been specifically grown for fermentation, and it is likely that Sumerians drank beer daily, probably as it was safer than water.

In Europe, the Celtic 'Dea Latis' goddess of beer was worshipped in Roman Britain. Dea Latis was named after the Proto-Celtic word 'lati' (liquor) which brewers still use when referring to the water used to brew beer.



Egyptian hieroglyphics showing women pouring beer

Although for the past 150 years Western societies have viewed brewing as a male-dominated field, historically it was an activity engaged in by women. Ethnographic and archaeological studies have shown that brewing was an extension of grain harvesting and baking traditions that were predominantly women's roles throughout the world. From earliest evidence of brewing until its commercialisation during the industrial revolution, women were the primary brewers in all societies. In many cultures, the deities, goddesses and protectors of brewers were female entities who were also associated with fertility.

From the middle of the 18th century, many women were barred from participating in alcohol production and were relegated to roles as barmaids, pub operators, bottlers or secretaries in breweries. In less industrialised areas, they continued to produce homebrews and traditional alcoholic beverages. In western countries women re-entered beer brewing around the 1960s and 1970s, working as chemists for brewing establishments, with some even venturing out as craft brewers.

Famous Insults

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play *"Bring a friend, if you have one"*."

Winston Churchill's reply: "Cannot possibly attend first night, I will attend the second...If there is one".

- "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork" – Mae West
- "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." – Paul Keating

Governance and Administration

Website

Our website is a work in progress, continuously being updated. 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.

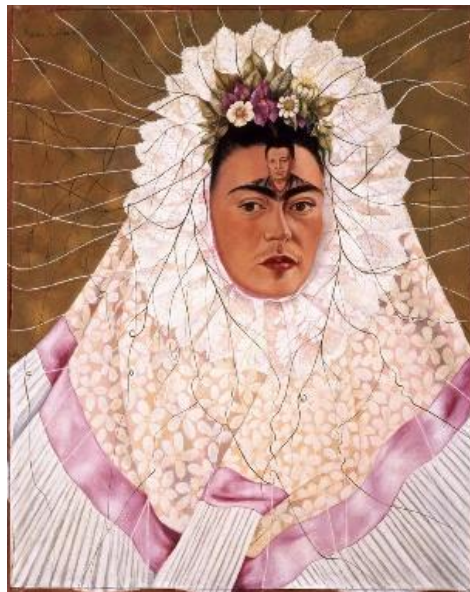
Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings and participate in the deliberations. Please contact us geasartists@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

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

At the Galleries

Frida and Diego: Love and Revolution – Gallery of South Australia, 22 June to 17 September 2023

<https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au>.



The exhibition features art works from Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera (two of the most influential artists of the 20th Century) within a wider Mexican movement, including works from other Mexican artists

Goddess, Power, Glamour, Rebellion – Moments from over 120 years of moving image history. The exhibition honours the artists who challenged the then current gender narratives.

ACMI, Federation Square, open until 1 October 2023.

Acknowledgements and attributions

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

CHECK NEXT PAGES FOR A SELECTION OF MEMBERS' WORKS





Streetscape – Trish Mirabile (En Plein Air June 2023)



“Girl in Pearl Earring” – Dorith Candy’s version



“Pedestrians” – Susan Fajnkind



“Blue Car” – Amanda Wyness (En Plein Air, June 2023)



“Men at Work” – Mary Lewin (En Plein Air, June 2023)



Workers at Glen Huntly station – Kate Birrell



"Portrait of niece" – Mimi Aspinall



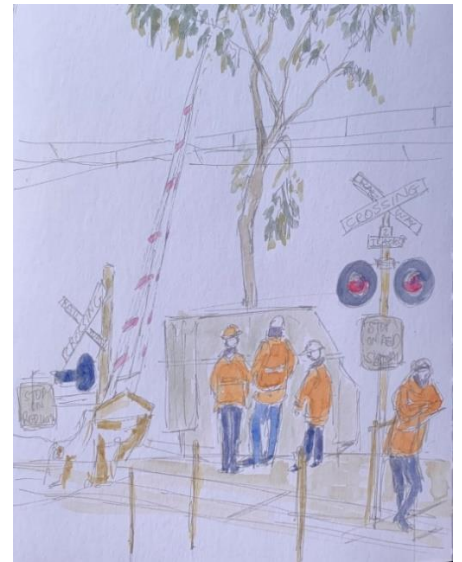
Margaret Holloway (En Plein Air, June 2023)



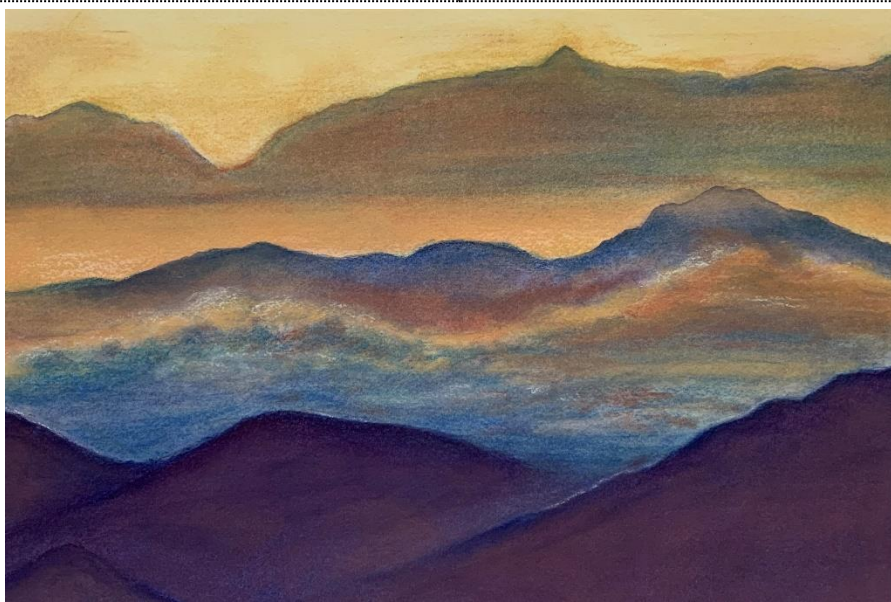
"My Blooms" – Elain Rafferty



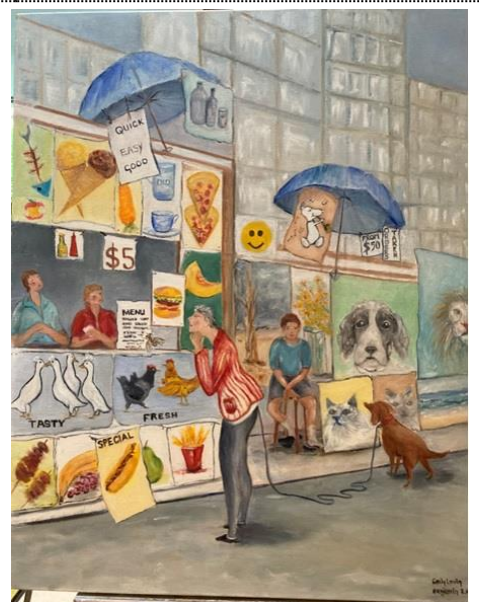
"Im-Press-ionism," – Andrew Inglis



Trish Mirabile (En Plein Air, June 2023)



"Sunset in Japan" – Amanda Wyness



"Temptation" – Emily Levin