



GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2021

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

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From the President – Mary Lewin

As we reach the end of 2021, we find ourselves still living in the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic. And although we have regained our freedoms to move around and resumed most of our activities, we fully grasp the meaning of 'Living with COVID' and the need to remain vigilant, especially as the Omicron variant has reached our shores.

And if COVID was not enough to contend with, on September 22 we were hit by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake that caused significant damage in the metropolitan area of Melbourne and regional Victoria. Fortunately, no lives were lost.

With the reopening of galleries, we are now focused on the GEAS 2022 exhibition "Light: Mood, Moment, Motif" and hope that many of you will participate and are busy creating new works. Further information about this event will be circulated in the near future.

In this issue our column 'Message from Abroad' is from Scottsdale, Arizona; a clear example of how we are extending our connections internationally.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25 November and was well attended as many members were able to join via Zoom. The results are included in the "Governance and Administration" section below. We will circulate the 2022 Art Calendar as soon as the activities program is confirmed.

As we approach the end of the year, we extend Season's Greetings to all our members and their families.



Member Profile – Yvette Wroby

Yvette is one of the founding members of the Glen Eira Artists Society, and has served the Society in many statutory roles: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer, Exhibition Convenor as well as convenor of En Plein Air.

She is a versatile artist, cartoonist and a writer with a Curriculum Vitae that attests to many achievements. Her art career speaks volumes of someone who is immersed in writing, painting and drawing. Ever



interested in her art education, she took cartooning courses with the Council of Adult Education; Art and Design at Holmesglen; classes in Life Drawing, and Figurative with Keming Shen and John Lawry. She even took lessons with Monique Foulliard in Aix-en-Provence, when she travelled to France.

Yvette's foray into art begun in 1974 when she illustrated the university campus newsletter. This burgeoned over the years as she secured many paid cartoon jobs from a variety of organisations and publications, including a book titled "Couples with Financial Differences: Can a Saver and a Spender Live in Harmony". She also contributed regularly to the Footy Almanac, served as Executive Editor of the Women's Footy Almanac, and illustrated multiple publications. She is a prolific artist and was awarded a number of first prizes and special mentions for works published in *Comic Edge*.

Yvette participated in many GEAS and other exhibitions including a yearlong exhibition at Kinch Café, a venue which she eventually managed to secure for use by other GEAS members on a roster basis. Her first solo exhibition "Wonderful Obsessions" was held in 2013 and is a tribute to her passion – the St. Kilda Football Club which she has staunchly followed since childhood.

To say that Yvette is a supporter of the Saints is a colossal understatement. Following the St. Kilda footy club has been a lifelong passion. She was born and raised in St Kilda and attended games at Moorabbin. Her book *Siren's Call* was published in 2017 and is the result of a season of following the Saints to every game – home and away. The book is much more than a memoir about footy: it is also an insight into the

demands of her family and attending to the needs of her mother (Elfie Rosenberg) through cancer treatment. Yvette loves to talk and write about the Club, and you can recognize her through her red, white and black Saints coloured reading glasses forever on her face.

Yvette has two daughters and a son, plus some added 'drafted' kids who have given her four grandchildren and who are her favorite current art/life inspirations.

Siren's Call can be purchased from Yvette through her website www.cartoonswork.com.au.

Member Profile – Sara Longwood

Originally from Eugene, Oregon USA, Sara's interest in Australia was kindled in childhood when she read *Cooper's Creek*, a book about Burke and Wills' exploration into the centre of Australia. An adventurous child, she dreamt about visiting Australia and when, in her final year of her BS in Education at the University of Oregon, she saw a Victorian government recruitment poster asking for primary teachers willing to work in Australia, she leapt at the chance. The terms of the contract were quite attractive: a minimum stay of 18 months and a tax free salary for two years. Needless to say, Sara signed the contract.



So, in 1971 Sara began teaching, far from family and friends. During her orientation, Sara met two other American teachers and they became fast friends, living together and exploring Melbourne for the next few years. Sara was assigned a school in Eltham, a school where the staff were deeply against the Vietnam war and the recruitment of US teachers. Despite having protested fervently against the war, Sara found the negative attitude trying, and after a year, transferred to a school in Ascot Vale where she remained for many years, loving the multicultural atmosphere she found there. During her time there, where most of the recently arrived children spoke English as a second or even third language, Sara became more interested in exploring children's thoughts and development without being limited by the pressure of academic achievement, and decided to explore the art curriculum, undertaking a primary art course.

She then moved to Sandown Park Primary School where she remained for a year after which she moved to Toorak Central School where she taught art from Prep to Year 8 students. This marked the beginning of her involvement in the creative arts. At the Toorak Central School, art was seen as a valuable and integral part of each child's education. During her time there, her students produced theme-based annual installation art projects in the National Gallery. Sadly, this opportunity is no longer available for primary students.

After many years, Sara undertook a three year Steiner Education course and began a different direction. Then, after four more years, undertook a Grad Dip in Adolescent Health and Welfare course where as a final project, she led a student group that created wooden totem poles expressing each child's own individual emotional symbols.

Eventually, after 40 years of teaching, Sara retired and intended to bury herself in her garden. However, after some time, she looked for something else and Gillian Schofield offered her a few make-up painting lessons with John Lawry. He was not overly impressed with her paper, acrylics and brushes that she brought to class, offering her oils and a canvas instead. After she overcame her fear of 'real' painting, Sara discovered a passion that she had never known and has been painting ever since.

Gillian then invited Sara to a GEAS Portraiture session at her house, where she met other GEAS members. She then began the weekly Studio Arts classes and during the term, Yvette Wroby asked if she would take minutes at the Committee meetings. This became the Secretary's role, then Vice President's role and finally the President's role, while curating and planning the GEAS exhibition at the Breslin Gallery. Sara spent years attending Life Drawing sessions, Portraiture, Studio Art plus her continued independent lessons with John Lawry and Life Drawing sessions with Yvonne Audette. Pre-COVID, Sara painted most days while attending various Life Drawing groups.

Sara is a hugely talented and versatile artist with a keen eye for composition and colour. She is prolific and participated in all GEAS and *Paint in the Park/Cityscape* exhibitions, and also curated the "GEAS Members Exhibition" at the Breslin Gallery. Her first solo exhibition "Aperture" was finally held during April 2021 at Red Gallery in North Fitzroy, after being postponed for over 12 months due to Covid-19.

Personally, Sara was married for nearly 20 years and has three children. Although she has returned to the US many times for visits to family and friends, Australia is definitely home. Sara is also an avid gardener and has re-designed her garden many times. Her front garden is her refuge and she can often be found sitting in her front veranda with her nose buried in a book, a cuppa beside her and her cat at her feet.

Quotes and definitions

Quote: "No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child." — Abraham Lincoln

Definition of Toothache: The pain that drives you to extraction.

Activity Reports

All activities were suspended due to the severity of the lockdown. But with recent easing of the measures, Life Drawing and Water Colour classes resumed a few weeks ago. We look forward to the resumption of the full activities program in February next year.

Covid-19 Cats exhibition



Originally to be held at the Glen Eira City Council Gallery Annexe, the show was displayed at the Bendigo Murrumbeena Community Bank. With the reopening of galleries, the show was moved to the Gallery Annexe and was open to the public during 11-28 November. An adjunct to the show was Louise Chen's video which is posted on YouTube <https://youtu.be/S-zMcRnJBag>.

A Message from Abroad

Barney Davey lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. He is an artist whose mission to "inspire artists to live their dreams and learn art business skills" has led him to develop an 'Art Marketing Toolkit Project'. Whilst he is not a GEAS member, the thoughts he shared with his art group on being an older artist are poignant. The following is one of his Facebook posts which will resonate with many of our artists.



Creativity and talent are ageless. You see it everywhere. There is much to celebrate about being young. And many of our brightest lights got their start and made their mark as youngsters. Bob Dylan and Albert Einstein did their best work before they were 25. But both went on to prove that they still had much to give in later years. Dylan is touring in his 80s. As nutrition, science, and technology improve, people are aging better than previous generations. I read a recent quote from the president of the AARP. He said, "Aging is a privilege". Think about it. It's so true. Most of us can expect to live longer than our parents if we retain some modicum of health that is both a privilege and a blessing.

Older artists have much to give and to do. Some bring decades of experience to a group like this. And others are reaching out to learn how to tap into their creativity for the first time. Or maybe they seek to reconnect with long-dormant skill sets and interests. It doesn't matter because it's all good. It's all relevant, and all are welcome.

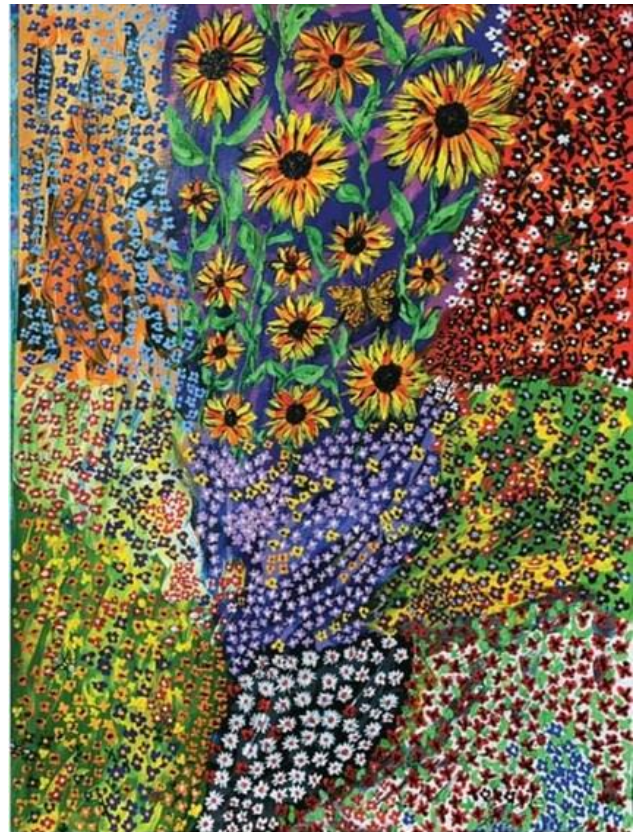
This group is about celebrating being an older artist, whatever that means to you. I don't have a big overarching goal or plan for starting the group. It's here to offer insights, support, and encouragement to all who join. We'll do pretty much as we've always done, and we'll figure it out as we go along.

I would love to see lots of UGC (User Generated Content). If you have articles that you find worth sharing, please do it. If you have had big or little wins, let us know.

If you have questions we can help with answers, please ask. If you can step up and answer a question or give help to someone, don't lurk; jump in and participate. If we do these things, we can create a vibrant group of like-minded artists who give as much as they get and enjoy the process.

Members' News

John Selan has entered *Flower Power 2* in the Queenscliff Art Prize. We hope that many will go there now that the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. The exhibition will run from mid-November for about three months, after which it will travel to wineries around Victoria.



ENTRANT: JOHN SELAN
THE QUEENSLIFF ART PRIZE 2022
SUBMISSION: FLOWER POWER 2
ACRYLIC ON PAPER: 420MM X 600MM

Mary Lewin was invited to submit works to the prestigious Luxembourg Prize 2021. Three works were submitted. Results are expected in late December.

After five years as convener of En Plein Air (on-site painting and drawing) Rachel Mackay has withdrawn

from this role to attend to personal commitments. Her contribution and innovative ideas ensured the popularity of this activity. Thank you, Rachel. We wish you success in all your endeavours.

VALE

Elizabet (Lizzie) Wolf (24.9.1928 – 9.7.2021)

We are saddened to report the passing of Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wolf.

Born in Vienna, Lizzie arrived to Australia in 1938 aged ten with her parents and her twin sister (Sue Copolov), and lived in Sydney for a while before moving to Melbourne.

A very talented child with artistic inclinations she ultimately studied art at RMIT – painting, drawing, sculpture and textile design. On the strength of the works she produced during her course, she was snapped up by Myers to design and set up their display windows, and has worked there for many years.

Following in the footsteps of her sister, Lizzie joined GEAS in November 2009 (the year the Society was created) and was an active participant in Studio Art.

She is survived and sadly missed by Sue and by her nieces and nephews, and is fondly remembered by her fellow artists at Studio Art.

At the galleries

Bayside Gallery: Michelle Zuccolo's solo exhibition 'The Encounter' has opened on 5 November and will run until 16 January 2022. The works largely focus on portraits and still life subject.



Nick, the Mediterranean Mathematician

Governance and administration

Annual General Meeting

More members attended this year's AGM which was conducted for the second year running via Zoom. As well as reporting on our activities and financial health of the Society, the following new management Committee was elected:

Statutory positions

President: Heather Welsh
Vice-President: Misha Nathani
Secretary: Mary Lewin
Treasurer: Claud Bennie

Other Committee members

Merv Ritter
Andrew Inglis
Angeline Bartholomeusz

At the end of the AGM formalities, Nita Jawary talked about Frank Hurley, an Australian photographer who participated in expeditions to Antarctica and both world wars; and Pierre Bonnard, a French artist and founding member of the post-impressionist group. This led to a lively discussion by the participants about art as a conduit of cultural, environmental and existential situations.

Website

Since the last newsletter more members have added their artwork on the Website gallery. Members wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact Mary Lewin geasartists@gmail.com.

End of year function

On Sunday, 28 November, GEAS and the Rotary Club of Caulfield hosted a celebration to mark the successful Covid Cats exhibition and the return to normality.

New members

We welcome our new members Lee Hirsh and Lara Moisi, and wish them a long and productive association with the Society.

Reminder:

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

VIEW MEMBERS' ARTWORKS IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES



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Members' Artworks



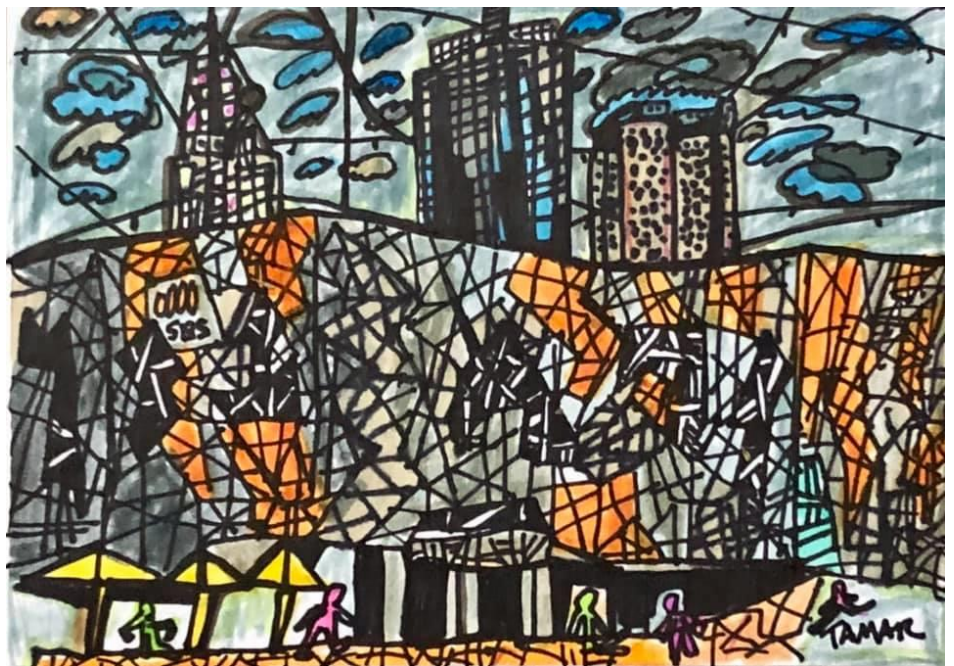
Sara Friedman – *Seagulls at Play*



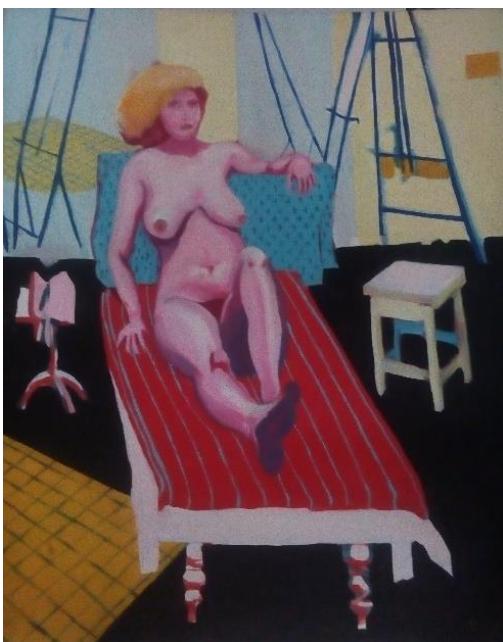
Michaela Hill – *Too Much Water Under the Bridge*



Tamar Dolev – *Self-Portrait*



Tamar Dolev – *Federation Square*



Andrew Inglis – *Ode to Matisse*



Sara Longwood – *Silver Birches*

Featuring the Art of Christine Lewis

Christine has used a variety of media and techniques, including water colours, felt pen, oil pastels and acrylic paint. Some of the techniques employed are stencilling and printing. This recent period of lockdown has been a time of reflection for her and also very experimental. Her artwork has become less figurative and much more intuitive, as well as very playful at times. She recently learned of *Neurographic Art Therapy* and found her experiments with that to be calming and meditative.

