



GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2020

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

ABN 72-436-357-743

Registration No. A0053616G

P.O. Box 3267, Murrumbidgee 3163

geasartists@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraArtistsSociety

From the President – Mary Lewin

It would be safe to say that for most of us 2020 was an unrivalled year in memory. The COVID-19 impact was palpable and affected every aspect of people's daily lives. At the same time, it was also a year of personal growth during which we have had to adapt to quite stringent lockdown measures and learnt 'new tricks'.

For GEAS, this was a year in which the annual exhibition was cancelled twice, our activities program was suspended, and we had to find ways to keep our creativity alive. We did so by maintaining a moderate level of activity through the highly successful *Art in Isolation*, as well as *Portraiture@Home* that enabled artists to work from the comfort of their homes.

On a more positive note, this was the year when the Newsletter was reinstated. It enjoys a broad readership ranging from various art societies, galleries around the country and art publications, and is proving to be a good communication tool with the members. The feedback to date has been very positive, and members' future input by way of suggestions would assist in improving it.

As we are emerging from the pandemic, we look forward to the full resumption of our activities in 2021. It would be safe to assume that it will necessitate some adjusting in line with the 'new normal'.

What I want... What I can...



Anonymous – *The year of make belief*

With the year drawing to its end, we extend Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to all the members and our followers. May you celebrate and enjoy the festivities with long missed family and friends.

Member Profile – Alex Hetrel

Alex Hetrel is a founding member of GEAS. However, her involvement began earlier when she was a member of a small group of artists (Lilian Weinberg, Inaugural President of GEAS; Elizabeth Wolf; Sue Copolov; Esther Lewis; and Elfie Rosenberg to name a few) who met weekly to paint together.

Art and creativity played a central role in her life, starting from childhood at school which led her to taking an RMIT course. She was prolific and her work captured the attention of one of her uncles. Enthralled with the drawings and paintings, he showed her work to a freelance artist he knew.



On the strength of that portfolio, Alex was immediately engaged as a commercial artist to create promotional advertisements for theatre and other entertainment venues.

Alex married Basil in 1961 and had two daughters and a son. Both travelled extensively during their married life to Europe, visiting the tiny Greek island of Kastellorizo many times as Basil's grandparents came from there. As art formed an integral part of her life, her work naturally was influenced by the new sceneries and experiences of travel.

Her work is versatile and includes landscapes, life drawing, portraiture, and abstractions. She also explored other art forms and craft: embroidered 80 blankets for babies, knitted beaded scarves and made necklaces from shells that she collected. All along she never actively sought to sell her works. "I don't need the acclaim. I give my works away" she said. To date, she exhibited only at the GEAS annual shows.

She is also an active participant in a number of informal and untutored art gatherings that include a strong social component. The only time when she takes a break from art is when she goes "up North", spending most of her time swimming and reading.

Alex loves cooking and gardening and considers them as extensions of her creativity. Her beautiful and lush garden is a testament to this. She is a doting grandmother to five granddaughters.

Activity Reports

On-Site Painting: Since the last newsletter no outings were held. Instead, these were replaced by the popular online *Art in Isolation* presentations, which the Glen Eira Council offered to display the works on their Facebook page.

Portraiture: Based on the success of *Art in Isolation*, GEAS introduced *portraiture @Home*. Artists worked from home and relied on family members as models and/or photographs for inspiration.

Studio Art: To ensure the future continuation of this activity and with a bid to attract new participants, the Committee made the following key changes.

- Session length has been reduced to four hours (from 12 noon to 4pm), and
- Session cost is now \$16.

Community Connections: The GEAS *Local Talent* exhibition – initially to be held at the Glen Eira Council Gallery Annexe from 23 July to 9 August 2020 – was postponed to a date to be fixed next year.

Sadly, a Covid-19 casualty was the closure of the Kinch Café – a tough decision for the owner and a loss of exhibition opportunities for GEAS members.

Member Profile – Mark Ewenson

Like many artists, Mark's creativity is expressed through a variety of media. He grew up in a musical home and started as a musician in his early 20s, playing piano, guitar and percussion instruments. His taste in music is varied extending from Jazz, Blues, Rock and Experimental. In his late 20s he decided to study drawing and painting at Prahran Tech whilst continuing with his musical interests playing in bands.



His early exploration of visual art included portraiture and figurative art forms using pencil, pastel, ink and paint. Mark held his first exhibition in 1991. Since then he had sixteen solo exhibitions, and participated in many group shows. His forthcoming exhibition will be held in January 2021 at Gasworks and it will feature in the Art Edit magazine.

Mark is a prolific and versatile artist. Whilst exploring with different art forms, he gradually developed a technique which he labelled "Fabric Layerism". This is a unique art form that borrows from decoupage, but with the various cut-outs of fabric, paper, PVC, leather and photographs being layered on canvasses – not on urns and timber boxes. In his life drawing work he tends to gravitate more to the abstract form rather than the figurative. Recently, he started experimenting with drawing on reflective surfaces, creating very striking works.

He is a father of twin adult boys and a grandfather to a one year old whom he has not been able to visit since the outbreak of Covid-19 as they live in Queensland.

Mark is also a community minded individual who is interested in existential issues that impact on people's lives such as environmental sustainability and social justice.



Mark Ewenson – *Garden Goddess*

Cityscape

This much awaited annual Rotary community event has had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 sanctions that were in place. It is now hoped that it may be held early next year, in conjunction with the opening of the *Breslin 'Big Frog' Murrumbeena Mural*.

Governance and administration

Website

A new website is currently being populated. It is superior to the one still in use, and will project our activities in a more professional way. It includes new features that would benefit the members, notably the online Gallery Store. Members will be entitled to post up to 20 works on their individual gallery page, listing work details and sale prices.

Members' News

Peter Edgeley's work "Two Ships" was one of the finalists in the *2020 Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition*.



Peter Edgeley – *Two Ships*

AGM outcomes

GEAS Rules – At the recent Annual General Meeting Rule 49 was amended to read:

“A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a committee member if the member

- a) is a financial member of the Society; and*
- b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.”*

Election results – The newly elected Committee members are:

Office Holders

President: Mary Lewin
Vice-President: Vacant
Secretary: Heather Welsh
Treasurer: Dora Swietycki

Other Committee members

Claud Bennie (Immediate Past President)
Faye Kirkwood
Merv Ritter
Angeline Barthomomeusz
Andrew Inglis
Misha Nathani

New members

We welcome the following new members and wish them a long and happy association with the Society.

- Dora Swietycki
- Amanda Wyness

At the galleries

NGV: Virtual tours www.ngv.vic.gov.au/channel

Glen Eira City Council: www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/arts-and-culture

AGRA: The AGRA Art Challenge ‘Connections’ has been rescheduled to early 2021. Check this link for more information www.agra.org.au/agra-art-challenge-2020.

Reminder: We take the opportunity to remind members that they are always welcome to attend Committee meetings and participate in the deliberations, although they may not vote on any matter. We look forward to your participation, especially now that Committee meetings are held via Zoom. A list of meeting dates and times will be circulated to the members in the near future.

A big ‘Thank You’ to all those who provided works and information.

We need your contributions by way of stories, artworks, and suggestions for new columns and improvements.

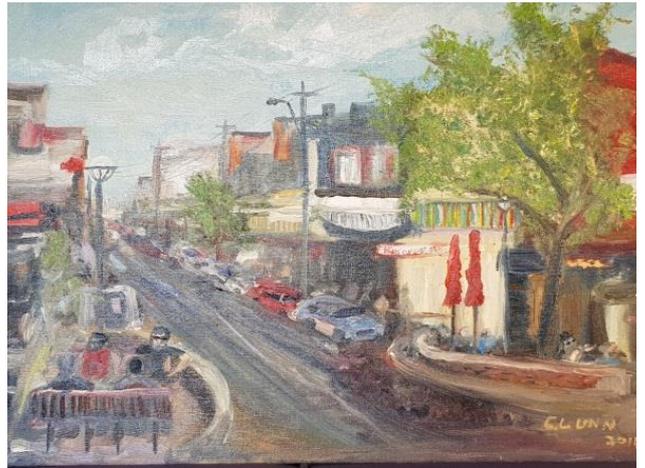
Don’t be shy. Please send these to geasartists@gmail.com.

VIEW MEMBERS’ ARTWORKS IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES

Members' Artworks



John Selan – *Community and Catastrophe*



Chris Lunn – *Carnegie Streetscape*



Gillian Schofield – *Michael and Family at Kardinia Park Stadium, Geelong*



Christine Lewis – *Three is a Crowd*



Emily Levin – *Roots*



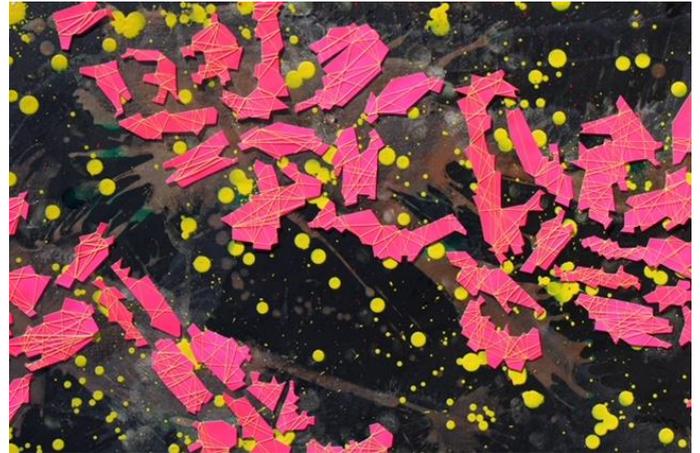
Tamar Dolev – *Bird Silhouette*



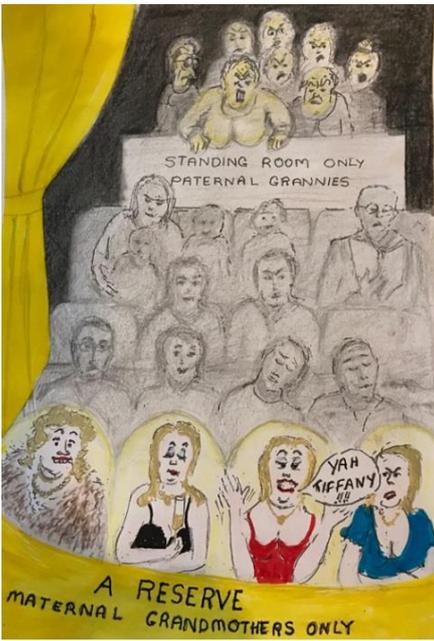
Rosie Pritchett – *Mark working from Home*



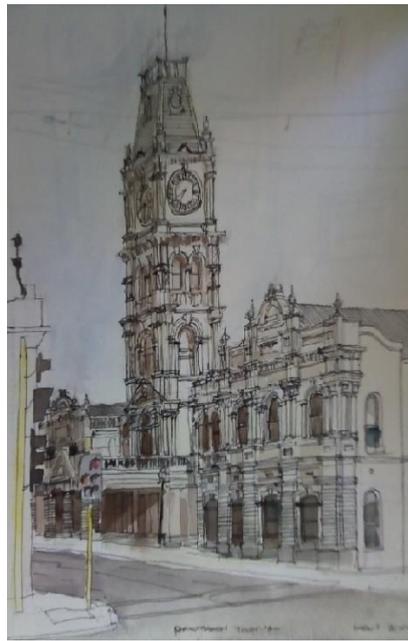
Alex Hetrel – *The Gorge, NZ*



Rebecca Johnson – *Expanding Fragmentation*



Jessica Mullen – *Grandchildren's Concert*



Andrew Inglis – *Hawthorn Town Hall*



Carmel O'Connor – *Sunflowers 2020*



Mark Ewenson – *Emerald Orange*



Nita Jawary – *Flame*