



# GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER – Spring 2022

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

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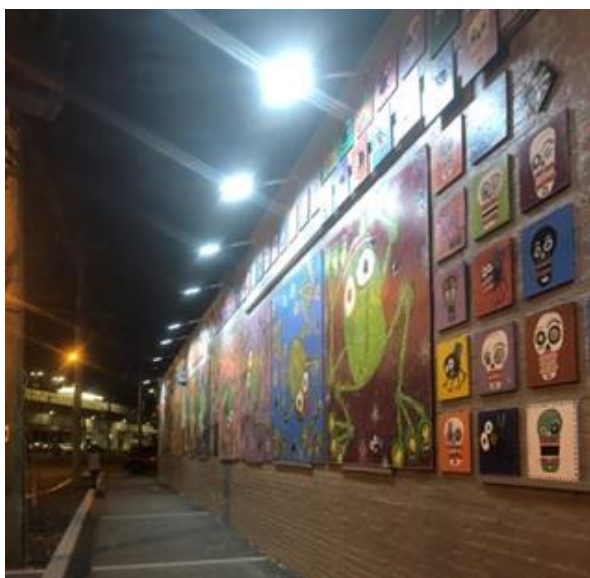
### From the President – Heather Welsh

A bitterly cold Winter and COVID precautions have meant that many of us have been living in comparative isolation which has led to a flowering of creativity. Members have produced some exquisite cards for the Moongala project, some of them are reproduced at the end of this Newsletter.

It is gratifying to see that all GEAS activities have resumed including the first Professional Development workshop during Studio Art exclusively for members. An all-day weekend Professional Development Day will be held on Saturday, 22 October which will be open to non-members at a slightly higher price. Full details will be provided in the near future.

As more members expressed the desire to be involved in selecting exhibition themes, the Committee adopted an inclusive approach and circulated a list of six proposed themes, inviting all the members to indicate their preferences. The one with the highest number of votes will be adopted as the 2023 exhibition theme.

The Committee also accepted the proposal that it is time for GEAS to include adjudicated awards for the exhibition and will now turn its collective mind as to how this is to be done and the sourcing of the prizes. To ensure that this does not become a divisive issue, the proposed format will be put to the vote at the AGM for members to decide how they want adjudicated awards to be handled. Rotary Club of Caulfield will still handle the Peoples' Choice Awards.



Merv Riter – Murrumbena Mural

Members will recall that GEAS supported the Anthony Breslin Murrumbena Mural with a sponsorship of \$1,000. The mural is now finished,

including solar powered lighting with some money to spare. This left over money will be used by the Rotary Club of Caulfield to repair some faulty lights.

### Member Profile – Margaret Bellamy

In 1958 Margaret and her husband Cliff came to Sydney where she taught in a secondary school and he did further study. In 1961 his work brought them to Melbourne and soon an academic career at Monash while Margaret looked after their growing family.



Margaret Bellamy – “Hard Edged Optical Illusions”

As a child Margaret had always drawn and had been encouraged by her architect father. They often went to Auckland Art Gallery and she had her favourite paintings. She had always planned to go to Art school. Instead, she gained a B.A. in English and History and stopped drawing.

During those domestic years she resumed drawing, especially on camping holidays and visiting the growing number of galleries and soon the new NGV. She educated herself by reading widely and taking short courses, mostly art related. The creative urge was satisfied in typical ways of the day: sewing, knitting, gardening and cooking.

The family of six lived in London for three months followed by a year in Los Angeles in 1969, going via NZ to see family, and fitting in an amazing amount on four brief stopovers. California and beyond provided excellent camping in State and National Parks with spectacular landscapes. Once home they moved house and Margaret returned to teaching, taking leave of absence in 1976 for another year in Los

Angeles and at last, formal art training in Life Drawing and Painting at Saddleback Community College.

Teaching resumed and brushes put down except for a two-week painting trip to Kakadu with Keith Looby as tutor.

1985 brought long service leave spent mostly in Europe, and diary keeping became part of travelling thereafter. 1994 saw the end of 22 years at Korowa. The next year brought two weddings (planned) and a stint in hospital (unplanned). Once recovered, Margaret started classes at the Melbourne School of Art in Elsternwick with Patrick Moss and Adrian Crevatin, But, in 1997 her husband died after a long illness. Three weeks later she became a grandmother.



Now painting and travelling widely became part of rebuilding her life. She has been to more than 40 countries finding that sketching while moving sharpened skills and had advantages over photos. Her visual diaries multiplied as they recorded details and moments, and the essence of a culture in a few seconds. In 1999 she had a solo Exhibition at Inverloch where nearly half the paintings sold. A rush of grandchildren curtailed things for several years until she took portraiture classes with Lee Makelak and others in abstraction. Since then, she has been part of group Exhibition at Meenyan, the odd church fete, the Lyceum Club and all GEAS exhibitions.

Margaret joined the Glen Eira Artists Society after Patrick Moss introduced her to Lilian Weinberg, one of the Society's founders, who was looking to expand the then new art group. She has immersed herself in many of the Society's activities, as a member of the Exhibition sub-committee, Convenor of Studio Art and the organisation of Professional Development events. A versatile artist her works reveal a wide range of influences and subject matter.

A tower of strength, Margaret remains positive in times of adversity. With seven grandchildren, and

many interests, there is always some time to paint and try something new.

**The adult version of  
"head, shoulders,  
knees and toes" is  
"wallet, glasses,  
keys and phone."**

## From Around the World

Did you know that South Korea is actually one of the best countries in the world to explore by bicycle, and almost no one knows, not even cyclists? Whether you are looking for a short route near Seoul or an end-to-end route, South Korea has them both.

In the past few decades South Korea has built a massive cycling infrastructure, including a network of cross-country bike paths. You read that right – 'bike only' paths that span the length of the country. These routes are a mix of well-maintained paths through parks and along rivers, quiet country trails, and small roads; and the vast majority of the paths, barring mountain passes and remote areas, are car-free.

The most incredible one is the over 30km path that runs down the middle of a six-lane highway that connects the cities of Daejeon and Sejong. Along the whole stretch of the lane, cyclists are nicely protected from the weather by solar panels that also generate clean electricity all day long.

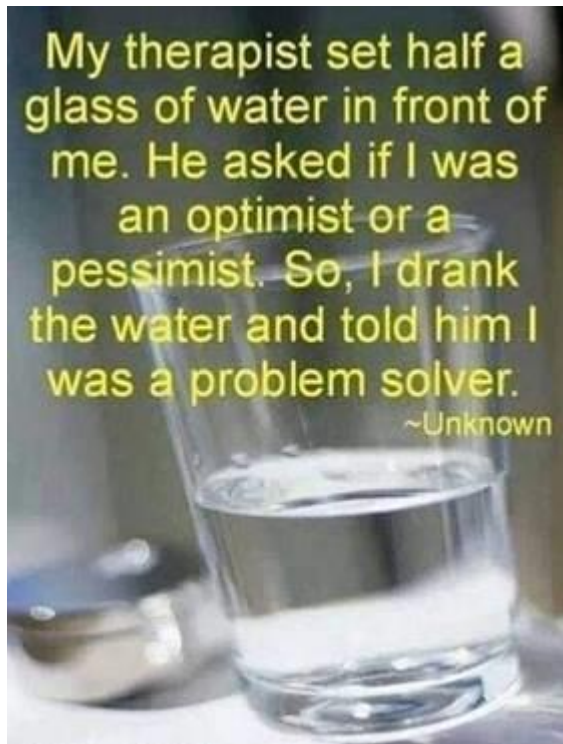


With cyclists' safety in mind, the designers included a number of underground crossings that allow cyclists to reach the lane safely, without having to cross the busy highway.

Although **seven in 10 Koreans own a bicycle**, cycling popularity is limited to leisure and sport purposes only. The public is yet to take up cycling as a means of transport with similar enthusiasm.

## Members News

Congratulations to Liz Coyle on the birth of Roxi Celeste Lewis – her granddaughter. May Roxi bring her parents and Liz lots of joy. It would be fair to say that Roxi will be getting a lot of attention and cuddles from her dotting Grandma.



## Activity Reports

Most activities are running as scheduled. But due to the colder than usual Winter, participation levels are a little down.

A mid-week Professional Development session was held on 19 July. It was led by Martin Bruckard, an experienced and versatile artist who has mentored Studio Art members in the past. The event was well attended and those in attendance benefited from independent commentary on either completed or still in progress works. The feedback from the participating members was laudatory.

The next Professional Development session is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 22 October 2022, and will be open to members and non-members alike. This event will be structured around the theme of the GEAS 2023 Annual Exhibition. Full details of both the class and the exhibition theme will be circulated in due course.

En Plein Air and the Portraiture continue to be popular sessions, with members enjoying the frequency, informal settings and the ability to combine creativity and social interaction.

## Moongala 1000 Kindness Connections Postcards Project

More GEAS artists have participated in this worthwhile project. Moongala House provides a welcoming, safe and friendly environment for women and their families.

If you wish to paint some cards, please contact the Moongala Women's Community House (Tel: 9570 3468) or Mary (0418 377 965).

## New Members

We welcome our new members Jyl Bell and Monika Madden and wish them a long and creative association with the Society.

## At the Galleries

**NGV – *The Picasso Century***, 10 June to 9 October 2022. Exclusively developed for the NGV by the Centre Pompidou and the Musée National Picasso-Paris, the exhibition chronicles the extraordinary career of Pablo Picasso alongside many of his contemporaries. Free on-line guided tours are available for Seniors.



## Governance and Administration

### Website

Our website is a work in progress, continuously being updated. For information about the online gallery and how to post your work on the website, please contact Mary M: 418 377 965, Email: [geasartists@gmail.com](mailto:geasartists@gmail.com).

## Quotes, Definitions and more

### Quotes

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” – *Nelson Mandela*

### Definitions

*Insanity* – “Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result” (falsely attributed to Albert Einstein) as opposed to the clinical definition: “a severely disordered state of the mind usually occurring as a specific disorder” (Merriam-Webster).

### More Collective animal nouns

We already know that.... a ‘pack’ is the plural noun for dogs, and that whales and dolphins form pods. But did you know that as, well as forming a swarm, the plural for bees is a ‘drift’ and also a ‘bive’; and that rhinoceroses form a ‘crash’?

## Reminder

Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings and participate in the deliberations. Please contact us [geasartists@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:geasartists@gmail.com)

## Acknowledgements and attributions

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

**CHECK THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MORE MOONGALA CARDS**



Proudly supported by the  
Glen Eira City Council



Featuring 'Moongala 1000 Kindness Connections Postcards'



Emily Levin



Emily Levin



Hillary Ash



Hillary Ash



Hillary Ash



Margaret Bellamy



Margaret Bellamy



Margaret Bellamy



Lee Hirsh



Emily Levin



Hillary Ash



Kylie Castan



Margaret Bellamy



Kylie Castan



Lee Hirsh



Kylie Castan



Lee Hirsh