



### From the President –

While COVID is still very much in our consciousness, GEAS members have welcomed the start of 2023 with renewed enthusiasm and vigour. En Plein Air at Kamesburgh Gardens convened by Amanda Wyness was the first 2023 GEAS activity, providing an opportunity for members to catch-up and enjoy each other's company over coffee and cake subsidised by GEAS at a local cafe. This also proved to be a very effective method of promoting the society with three participants who attended the event joining the Society.

Opportunities continue to open for members to display and sell their artworks. Following the annual Art in the Park and the initiative of Angeline Bartholomeusz and Andrew Inglis, a new venue for pop-up exhibitions was found at the Spotlight Centre on the corner of Dandenong and Koornang Roads.

A number of GEAS artists secured stalls at the Caulfield Racecourse Sunday Market with the view to sell their art works. It was a successful day, with Andrew Inglis doing an on the spot portrait. We hope that the market may prove to be a good venue for our artists.

The AGM saw members voting for important changes to several GEAS activities and how it will function:

- Studio Art will now offer both day and evening sessions alternating fortnightly, with Margaret Bellamy convening day time sessions and Mary Lewin convening evening sessions. This will give members with day time commitments the opportunity to participate in Studio Art activities.
- Art & About will now be convened by Andrew Inglis who will organise a roster of co-coordinators for specific events.
- Annual Exhibition Adjudicated Awards will be awarded on one criterion – "**Artworks which are most evocative of the Exhibition's theme**". The Adjudicator will be a person who is completely independent of GEAS. The Awards will be reviewed annually. The Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc will continue to sponsor the People's Choice Awards.
- Succession Planning. It is important that GEAS plans for succession in statutory roles and there will now be a more formal approach to handling this aspect of governance. Andrew Inglis was elected President for 2023-24.

GEAS now has its own zoom account and all meetings are held on-line. Members are reminded that they are welcome to attend Committee Meetings. The Committee is considering how else it might use zoom to meet the needs of members. It is also

anticipated that it will soon have its own YouTube channel to open more opportunities for members and keep a visual record of GEAS Activities and events.

Remember no matter what form of visual art is your passion, as Paul Cezanne said, "**We live in a rainbow of chaos**". So, go out and create rainbows of chaos, in whatever medium you desire.

### Art in the Park – the exhibition

Art in the Park is a big favourite with the members, and also with other artists who join us in these events. Following a successful Art in the Park last November, an exhibition of the works is on show at the Spotlight Centre. Big thanks are due to Andrew Inglis and Angeline Bartholomeuz for securing the venue and organising the installation of the exhibition.



The exhibition attracted many visitors, many who never heard about our Society and have expressed interest in our activities.

We look forward to future similar events at the Spotlight Centre.

### Activity Reports

The year started with a successful En Plein Air outing on 15 January at the Kamesburgh Gardens in Brighton. It was followed by Life Drawing and Studio Art. For the first time the Committee met in January to address urgent exhibition organisation issues.

### New Members

Three artists have joined the Society since the last newsletter. We welcome Trish Mirabile, Elizabeth Goldberg and Mimi Aspinall and wish them a long and creative association with the Society.

## “Colour” Exhibition



Lara Moisi, *Old Flower Vase*, acrylic on canvas, 110 x 70 cm

### COLOUR

Glen Eira Artists' Society  
Members Exhibition

17 March – 30 April 2023



The exhibition is only a couple of weeks away. To ensure the continued growth of the Society, at the last AGM it was decided to introduce adjudicated Awards. These will consist of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes and two encouragement awards. We are also exploring sponsorship options and hope that by the time the exhibition opens we would have secured a sponsor.

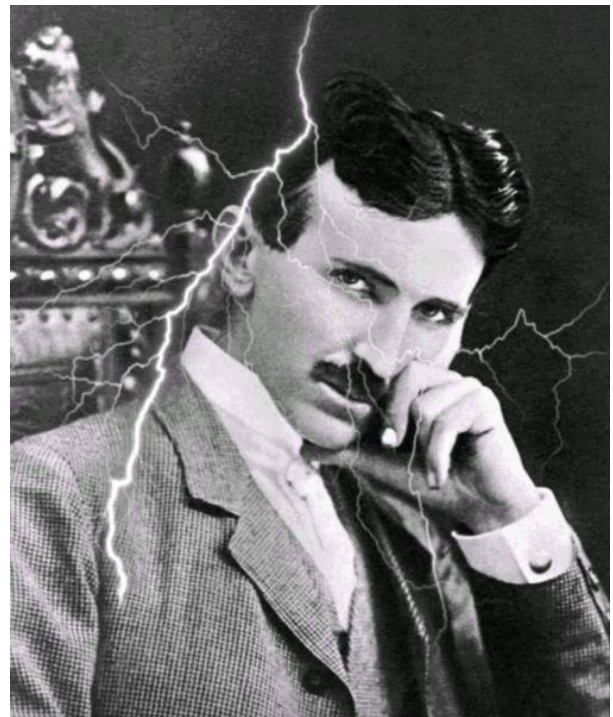
## Nikola Tesla – A Scientist, Engineer and Inventor

Nikola Tesla was a man ahead of his time. He was born and raised in the Austrian Empire where he studied engineering and physics but without receiving a degree, but was able to gain practical experience in the early 1880s working in telephony. In 1884 he emigrated to the United States and worked for a short time at the Edison Machine Works before he struck out on his own with the help of partners to finance and market his ideas. Tesla set up laboratories and companies in New York to develop a range of electrical and mechanical devices. His Alternating

Current (AC) induction motor and related polyphase AC patents earned him a considerable amount of money. But he never really cared for money. What he mostly wanted was to provide free electricity to the world.

During the 1890s, Tesla pursued his ideas for wireless lighting and worldwide wireless electric power distribution in his high-voltage, high-frequency power experiments in New York and Colorado Springs. Tesla tried to put these ideas to practical use in his unfinished *Wardenclyffe Tower* project – an intercontinental wireless communication and power transmitter – but ran out of funding before he could complete it.

In 1901 he envisioned the smart phone and wireless internet. In the race to develop the transatlantic radio, Tesla described to his funder and business partner, J.P. Morgan, a new means of instant communication that involved gathering stock quotes and telegram messages, funnelling them to his laboratory, where he would encode them and assign them each a new frequency which would be broadcast to a device that would fit in one's hand. Tesla had a brilliant mind but was not good in reducing his ideas to practice.



Tesla was well known as an inventor and for his showmanship at public lectures. He particularly liked to demonstrate his achievements to celebrities and wealthy patrons at his laboratory. In the 1910s and 1920s he experimented with a series of inventions with varying degrees of success. Having spent most of his money, Tesla lived in a series of New York hotels, leaving behind unpaid bills. He died in New York in January 1943.

Following his death, Tesla's work fell into relative obscurity until 1960 when the *General Conference on Weights and Measure* named the SI unit of magnetic flux density “*The Tesla*” in his honour. Since the 1990s there has been a resurgence and popular interest in Tesla.

A famous Tesla quote: "Speaking for myself, I have already had more than my full measure of this exquisite enjoyment, so much that for many years my life was little short of continuous rapture. I am credited with being one of the hardest workers, and perhaps I am if thought is the equivalent of labour, for I have devoted to it almost all of my waking hours. But if work is interpreted to be a definite performance in a specified time according to a rigid rule, then I may be the worst of idlers. Every effort under compulsion demands a sacrifice of life-energy. I never paid such a price. On the contrary, I have thrived on my thoughts.

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/my-inventions-nikola-tesla/book/9781612034119.html>.

Editor's note: **SI** is an international abbreviation of "International System of Units".

## Did you know

**Drongo** – What is the true story behind a popular slang insult that describe a person as 'hopeless' or an 'idiot'?

In the early 1920s there was an Australian racehorse called *Drongo*. It seems likely that he was named after the *Spangled Drongo*, a bird with black plumage and iridescent blue and purple highlights that is the only Drongo to be found in Australia.



He wasn't an absolute no-hoper of a racehorse: he ran second in a VRC Derby and St Leger, third in the AJC St Leger, and fifth in the 1924 Sydney Cup. Often he came very close to winning major races, but in 37 starts he never won a race. In 1924 a writer in the Melbourne *Argus* commented: "Drongo is sure to be a very hard horse to beat. He is improving with every run".

But, alas, he never did win. Shortly after the horse's retirement racegoers started to apply the term to other horses that were having similarly unlucky careers. Down the track, the term acquired a negative connotation and was also applied to people who were not really unlucky, but rather 'no-hopers', 'hopeless cases', and later on 'fools'.

In the 1940s it was also applied to recruits in the Royal Australian Air Force, and later became part of general Australian slang.

## Quotes and Definitions

### Quote

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma which is living with the results of other people's thinking. *Steve Jobs*

### Definition

Opportunity: A slotted spoon can't hold much soup but it can catch the potato.

## Governance and Administration

### 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 are encouraged to contact Mary: 0418 377 965, or [geasartists@gmail.com](mailto:geasartists@gmail.com).

## At the Galleries

**Glen Eira City Council Gallery** – International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Exhibition, 9 February to 12 March.

**Heide Gallery** – Current exhibitions include Murray Walker's *Walk of Life*, and two exhibitions by sculptor's Barbara Hepworth: *W-HOLE*, and *In Equilibrium*.

**NGV Gallery** – Several current exhibitions that will be of interest. Check this link for detailed information about them <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/current>.

## Members' News

"The Wave", 18 February to 1 April – an exhibition that celebrates enduring friendship that began in childhood between Rebecca Johnson and Amanda Bartholomew. It is at Airie Gallery in Upwey, and is a great opportunity to combine art and a visit to the Dandenongs.

## Acknowledgements and attributions

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Proudly supported by the  
Glen Eira City Council



# Featuring Kate Birrel's works – Upgrading the Glenhuntly Station



