



GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2022

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

ABN 72-436-357-743

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From the President – Heather Welsh

As we commence 2022 with some form of COVID variant impacting our lives, it is worth reflecting on what changes have been wrought and are likely to endure for GEAS and its members.



Back in early 2020 just as the busyness of life was well and truly interrupted by pandemic-forced disruptions and changes, we as artists, adapted. Once it was realised that living in comparative isolation was in many ways the usual life of an artist, but that technology could make a huge difference as to where that isolation could be, adding choice to the location. Access to the internet and mobile phone coverage were strong determinants and many artists simply moved to family farms, forest or coastal holiday homes and made them permanent studio abodes, from which, as yet, some have not returned.

GEAS Committee used to meet monthly at the Murrumbidgee Community Bank Meeting Hub, where all too often we would sit and wait for someone to arrive after a text message to say that the person had been caught in the traffic or was having trouble finding parking. February, 2020 was a turning point from which the Committee has not looked back. Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Caulfield sponsorship, all Committee meetings were held via zoom. Now no one is ever late! GEAS is taking its own Zoom subscription in 2022 and has appointed Merv Ritter as its first volunteer Zoom Master.

Accessing Zoom has opened up many potential opportunities for GEAS and its members.

Nowhere were these opportunities more apparent than at the 2021 AGM where Nita Jawary delivered her illustrated address of *Art In Isolation* using screenshots for attendees to see the artworks of the two artists, Frank Hurley (1885-1962) and Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) whom she used as examples of artists working in isolation. The potential to have guest speakers, member demonstrations of artworks, Gallery Floor Talks and online exhibitions will be further explored by the Committee.

Past President Rachel Mackay led the way in 2020 with online opportunities through her exhibition of works done in isolation by members of the On-Site Painting and Drawing (En Plein Air) group. Pandemic restrictions permitting, the En Plein Air group has continued to

meet, enjoying the conviviality of working together and discussing work with fellow artists. It is a popular GEAS social event.

En Plein Air was the first GEAS activity in 2022 on January 9th organised by Amanda Wyness, the new convenor. Photos on GEAS Facebook page. Life Drawing under Convenor Rob Gudan, was also off to a welcome 2022 start, followed by Studio Art and the Portraiture Group in February.

It is anticipated that the 2022 'Light' Exhibition will proceed as planned with information forthcoming from the Convenor.

GEAS has a strong history of community art involvement from the Rotary Caulfield Club's Honey Festival (2014), Anthony Breslin Community Garden Outdoor Gallery (2016), Art of Dance Exhibition (2017), Aussie Rules Passion and Pain Exhibition (2018), COVID Cats Exhibition (2021) and in late 2021 when members answered the call from Moongala Community House to decorate postcards to be sent to people in need of a little kindness.



Image from the "Honey Festival"

Social opportunities for members to catch up were at the After Parties for both the 2021 Exhibition and the 2021 COVID Cats Exhibition, where the Rotary Club of Caulfield People's Choice Awards were presented. Looking forward to seeing members and what they have created at the 2022 Exhibition.

A reminder also to members, that you are entitled to have up to twenty of your works included in the GEAS new website Gallery. Please contact Mary Lewin at geasartists@gmail.com to find out how you can have your works included and make 2022 a great creative year.

Member Profile – Regina Atzil

Regina, her husband and a baby daughter immigrated to Australia from Uzbekistan (former USSR) as refugees in 1979. Like most migrants she had some difficulties adjusting to the new country, especially since English was not amongst the languages she spoke.



She holds a Bachelor's degree of Music and Education, obtained from the Tashkent State Conservatorium of Music. Whilst waiting for her qualifications to be recognized by the Australian education authorities, Regina did not waste any time and enrolled to study nursing at Queen Victoria Medical Centre. Half way through the nursing course her overseas teaching qualifications and work experience were recognised and she was able to continue teaching music in Australia. As well as being the Choir Master and Music Director at "Temple Beit Israel" for twelve years, she taught music at Coburg High School, Caulfield Central, Mount Scopus college and Distance Education Center. She has more than 30 years of teaching experience.

Regina is a co-founder of the Glen Eira Artists Society. She was a member of the first GEAS Committee, held the Treasurer position for the first five years, designed the Society's logo and initiated and convened the first exhibition.

Supported by Heather Welsh, Regina had a key role in establishing the GEAS Annual Exhibition. Her goal was to convince the Gallery curator of the importance of an exhibition in mapping the future of GEAS, and to give the 'new kid on the block' a chance. The first exhibition – *Glen Eira: Life As We Know It* – was held in 2014 and marked the five years anniversary of the founding of GEAS.

Regina is a multi-talented individual. At school she excelled in Mathematics, Literature and creative writing, she also performed in school plays and took part in Math competitions. When asked to identify a particular time or event that ignited her creativity, Regina recalled fondly her kindergarten teachers who, upon noticing her observational skills and her interests in colours and drawing, gave her a sketch pad and a set of coloured pencils – "a most treasured gift" by her own admission.

Regina was passionate about art from early childhood but only began painting in 2009. Working mainly with oil paints, her creations are varied and range from portraits, landscape, still life and cityscapes. She is inspired by the works of both old masters and contemporary artists.

She exhibited in the "Passion for Paint" group exhibition of John Lawry's students in August 2011; Rotary's annual "Paint in the Park" exhibitions (2010-2014), Breslin Gallery 2015, all GEAS annual exhibitions since 2014, and in "Art of Dance" at the Council's Gallery


Annex in 2017. Regina won 2nd place of the People's choice award in the "*Glen Eira – Life As We Know It*" exhibition (June-July 2014).

Having only started painting at a later stage in her life, Regina firmly believes that it is never too late to follow your dreams and to transform them into reality.


GEAS annual exhibition 2022

Light: Moment, Mood, Motif

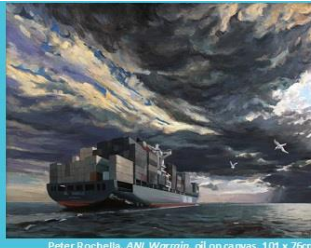
Light is a tool for the artist and a subject itself and can be whatever the artist chooses – sustained or fleeting, luminous, beautiful or malevolent, conveying intentions about a subject. Light is an enriching visual language.



Glen Eira Artists' Society
Annual exhibition
LIGHT: Moment, Mood, Motif
7 April – 1 May 2022



Glen Eira Artists' Society – Members Exhibition
LIGHT: Moment, Mood, Motif
EXHIBITION DATES:
Thurs 7 April – Sun 1 May
GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL GALLERY
Cnr Hawthorn & Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield
Gallery hours:
Mon-Sat 1-5pm, Sunday 10am-5pm, closed all public holidays
Free entry
Light – Tool for the artist and a subject itself. It can be whatever an artist chooses: sustained or fleeting, luminous, beautiful or malevolent, conveying intentions about a subject. Light can sculpt form, apprise great age, fragility or lightness of heart and mind. Light is an enriching visual language.
@glenairartistsociety www.glenairartistsociety.org
Enquiries: Andrew Inglis – 0419 890 772



OFFICIAL OPENING and FLOOR TALK
To be confirmed subject to Victorian Government Covid guidelines and public health directives. Further advice will be provided closer to the event.
Sponsored by
Rotary Club of Caulfield
Proudly supported by Glen Eira City Council

Art Law – Heather Welsh

During 2021 the plight of several artists came to public attention through The Age newspaper in its Saturday, December 11, 2021 edition when it detailed dealings between a private art dealer and gallerist and artists, which dealings are now of concern and the subject of legal interest.



The Age investigation brought to the fore how little protection vulnerable artists have in dealings with an unregulated art market in which financial relationships seem to rely, primarily, on trust. When that trust breaks down, then a nightmare scenario can unfold.

It must be remembered that no qualifications are required to open an Art Gallery, buy and sell artworks in

any currency and where the credentials of the dealer might never be questioned.

It is strongly recommended that artists acquaint themselves with the Arts Law Centre of Australia and how it can assist them before they enter into any arrangements and if anything goes awry. The Arts Law Centre can assist if members become individual subscribers.

Moongala 1000 Kindness Connections Postcards Project

Members of Glen Eira Artists' Society have previously been responsive to calls for participation in past Community Art Projects. It was no surprise then when several invited GEAS members contributed to the Moongala Community House 1000 Kindness Connections Postcards Project during 2021.



Kylie Castan

Moongala Women's Community House, established in 1980, is at 824 Centre Road, Bentleigh East. It provides a welcoming, safe, friendly environment for women and their families in the local community. Moongala aims to provide mutual support and affirmation within a secure environment for its membership and families, encouraging women to pursue their goals within Moongala and the wider community.

The concept of the *Connections Postcards* project was to have 1000 A-5 postcards decorated on one side, to be cheerful and colourful. These would then have messages of kindness written on the reverse side of the card. The decorated cards would be copied for display and the originals sent to those in the community in need of some connection to bring joy and a bit of brightness to the day of the recipients.

This was a wonderfully open creativity opportunity for artists in isolation during the pandemic. It was their choice as to whether they used paints, pencils, watercolour pencils, fine-liners or created a collage with other materials. Each artist was given five cards to decorate and some undertook to do 10. Participating GEAS members and other local artists enthusiastically rose to the challenge with amazing results, as seen in the accompanying samples of works. Special thanks to

Hillary Ash, Dorith Candy, Kylie Castan, Dafna D'Vier, Helen Edge, Sue Gray, Michaela Hill, Lee Hirsh, Nita Jawary, Mary Lewin, Eleanor Newcombe, Ross Newcombe, Glynis Ramsay, Merv Ritter, Kelly Skilton and Heather Welsh for participating.

If other GEAS members would like to participate please call Moongala Community House on (03) 9570 3468 to arrange collection of blank cards from them. The completed cards can be posted back to Moongala in a provided stamped and addressed envelope. In these times of a now 'shadow lockdown', it is a really uplifting activity for artists.

Activity Reports

Activities continued to be affected by Covid restrictions in the last quarter of 2021. With the removal of sanctions and the reopening of the economy, we resumed our activities and look forward for 2022 to be a year of enhanced creativity.

New Members

We welcome our new member Rod Riquelme and wish him a long and creative association with the Society.

Governance and Administration

Website

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.

At the Galleries

Sistine Chapel exhibition

The golden era of renaissance is now on show at the Emporium Melbourne. Visitors are able to view reproductions of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling frescos up-close as never seen before. Tickets must be booked in advance.



Glen Eira City Council Gallery – Creative Workshops

Michelle Zuccolo will lead a Youth Drawing workshop for secondary school students on Sunday, 13 March from 10am to 12pm. The workshops are free. Full details of the Creative Workshops program can be viewed on www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/arts-and-culture/galleries-and-visual-art/exhibitions-and-prog

Van Gogh at The Loom – The Loom is Australia's first permanent digital gallery that recently opened its doors with a show of Van Gogh's works. This is a truly magnificent event where the walls and floors come alive accompanied by a choreographed soundtrack. The show will run until 30 June 2022. Tickets are discounted for group bookings.



Quotes and Definitions

Quote: “You don’t learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over”. – Sir Richard Branson

Definition of Wrinkles: Something other people have..... similar to my character lines.

Reminder

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, and suggestions for new columns and improvements. Please send these to geasartists@gmail.com

Acknowledgements and attributions

Photo of Heather Welsh taken by Geoff Edwards.

VIEW MOONGALA CARDS IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES



Proudly supported by the
Glen Eira City Council



Featuring 'Moongala 1000 Kindness Connections Postcards'



Merv Ritter



Michaela Hill



Sue Gray



Lee Ruth Hirsh



Kylie Castan



Merv Ritter



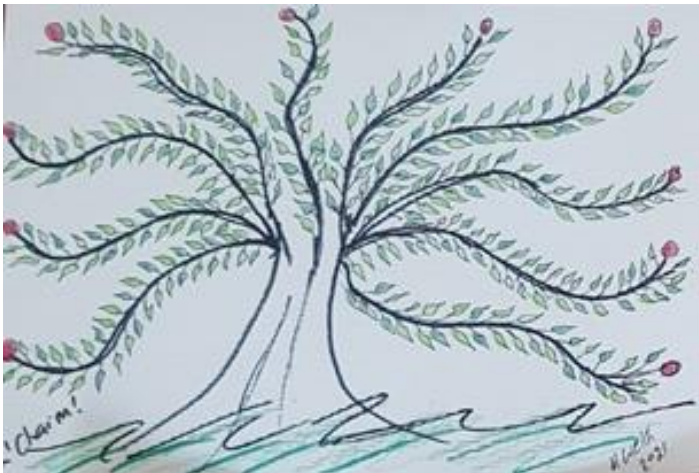
Heather Welsh



Dorith Candy



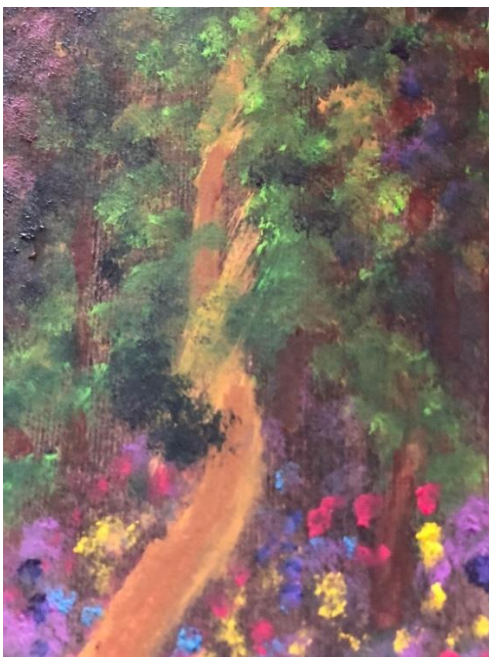
Merv Ritter



Heather Welsh



Lee Hirsh



Merv Ritter



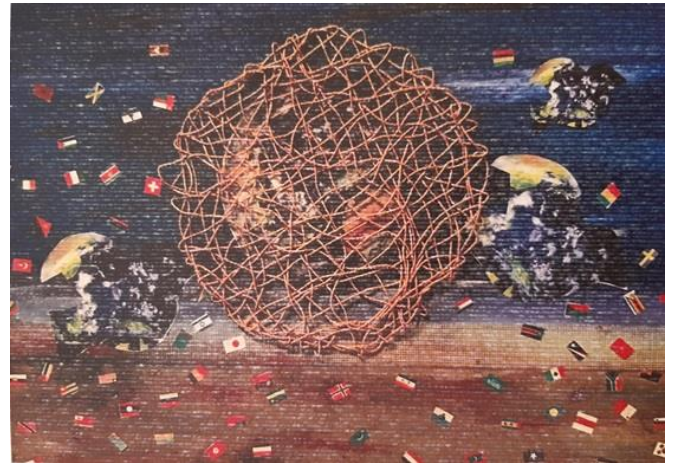
Nita Jawary



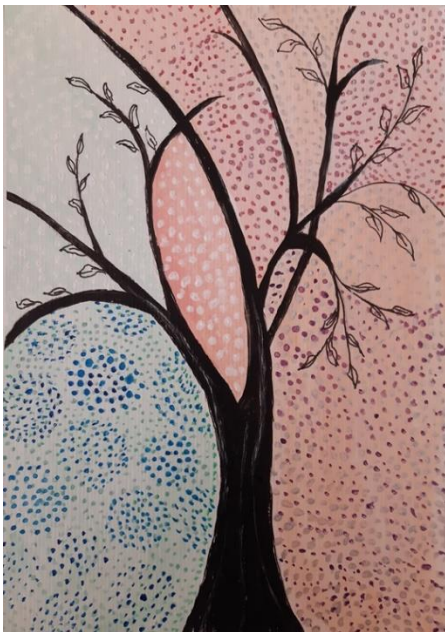
Mary Lewin



Dorith Candy



Lee Hirsh



Mary Lewin



Lee Hirsh



Sue Gray



Lee Hirsh



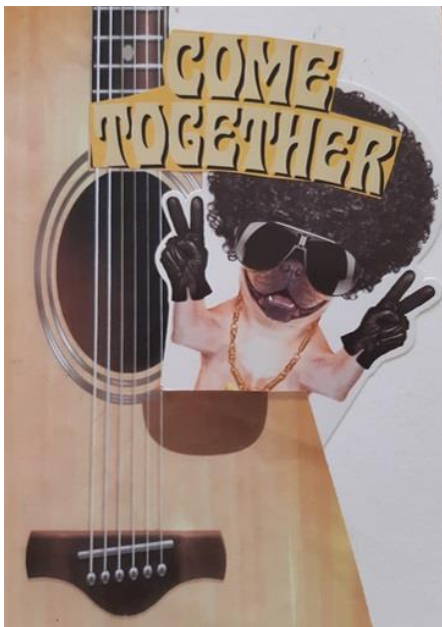
Eleanor Newcombe



Mary Lewin



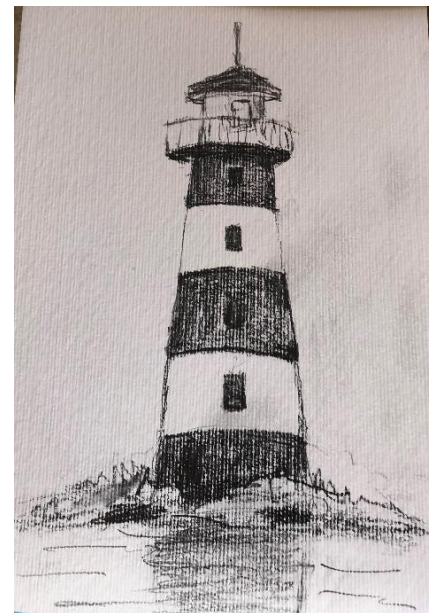
Nita Jawary



Lee Hirsh



Lee Hirsh



Ross Newombe



Kylie Castan



Kylie Castan