



# GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER – Spring 2021

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

ABN 72-436-357-743

Registration No. A0053616G

P.O. Box 3267, Murrumbidgee 3163

[geasartists@gmail.com](mailto:geasartists@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/GlenEiraArtistsSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GlenEiraArtistsSociety)

### From the President – Mary Lewin

It seems that we are destined to live with Covid for a while yet. We are in lockdown mode again due to the Delta variant, exported from NSW by some reckless individuals. Borders were closed, masks are the rigour again, queues for testing and vaccinations are growing, and most social interactions, including the GEAS activities, have been curtailed. It will take some time until we regain our 'freedoms'.

On a positive note, our new website was activated in early June and is popular with the members, especially the personal Gallery webpage. We hope that more members will use this facility to promote their art.

Zoom has certainly become an integral part of our lives, with many people using it in a variety of creative ways.

#### Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."  
"Elizabeth, are you there?"  
"We can't hear you."  
"Can you hear us?"

To keep the newsletter vibrant and interesting, we are experimenting with new columns. In this issue we included "Did You Know That..." which lists some anecdotes about famous artists. Another suggestion to feature individual artists resulted with a "Featuring the Work of..." column. This bulletin features Tamar Dolev. We are open to more ideas.

### Annual Exhibition 2022

Our next annual exhibition is titled **Light – Mood, Moment, Motif**. Thank you to all those who responded to our call for images for promotional purposes. These have been provided to the Glen Eira Council Gallery curator. The work selected by her will feature on all the promotional material. Whilst exact dates are yet to be confirmed, it is safe to assume that it will be held around March-April.

### Member Profile – Elizabet Coyle

Liz's love of animals is abundantly clear from her works. Her effective use of colour coupled with strong influences from classical and aboriginal art combine to create a truly unique style. Her cats in particular are wonderfully whimsical.



Liz was born in Brazil and grew up on a farm that had a sawmill and ran cattle as well. At some point the farm was converted to a coffee plantation. She was 14 at the time and remembers helping her parents in planting the coffee seedlings – a backbreaking undertaking. Once the trees matured, she took part in the harvesting, roasting and grinding of the beans – all done manually – and eventually drinking her own brewed coffee.

Growing up on a remote farm she attended a small local school that accommodated all ages in one classroom, where only basic subjects were taught. Art was not one of them. But with no access to toys, Liz had to use her creative mind and make her own toys from local resources as well as drawing with her pack of 6 colouring pencils.

Liz qualified as a dentist and practiced from her own dental surgery. Art started to feature in her life through friends who were deeply immersed in the art world. Spurred by them she enrolled in an art course at the Universidad Federal do Espirito Santo.



*Kaleidoscope Friends*

She married Martin, an Englishman who could not adjust to the Brazilian way of life. As Liz found living in the UK hard, the compromise was migrating to Australia in 1989. Their daughter Daniela is a 'true blue' Aussie. As is the experience of many migrants, she could not practice dentistry as her qualifications did not meet the Australian requirements. However, she was able to work as a Dental Hygienist, and did so from 1990 to 2016 when she ceased her dental career due to some health issues.

Her inspiration to start painting and drawing came from a display of children drawings at an Osteopath clinic. From there she went to the nearest '2 Dollar' shop and bought cheap art materials, thus launching her career as an artist. She started with small canvases, experimenting and gradually developing her unique style. Liz is also adept at sculpture, something she discovered when in Thailand and was impressed by papier mâché artworks. Once her talent was noticed by the arts teachers at Wesley College in St Kilda, Liz became a demonstrator as well as an artist in residence in 2017/2018.

Liz is a prolific artist and participated in many exhibitions, including The Convent Gallery in Daylesford, the former 247 gallery in Glen Huntly, Wearable Art Exhibition in Frankston, as well as GEAS and Cityscape exhibitions. As a flow on from the GEAS "Water" exhibition, she was commissioned to do a work titled "Coexistence" that depicts harmonious living between Israelis and Palestinians.

Animals and pets feature greatly in her life and currently she has two cats, a 20 year old male tabby called Maximus, and an 8 years old female cat called Lola who was found in Laverton as an abandoned kitten.

## Covid-19 Cats exhibition – Heather Welsh

Strange things have come out of the COVID 19 Lockdown. One of the things which I noticed was that many people whom I would not have thought of as "cat people" found their cats tremendous companions and very comforting during difficulties.



Qing Zhang – Jedi Cat Slashing Covid

Others who do not actually have a cat themselves started forwarding more cat videos and also semi adopted the cats of neighbours.

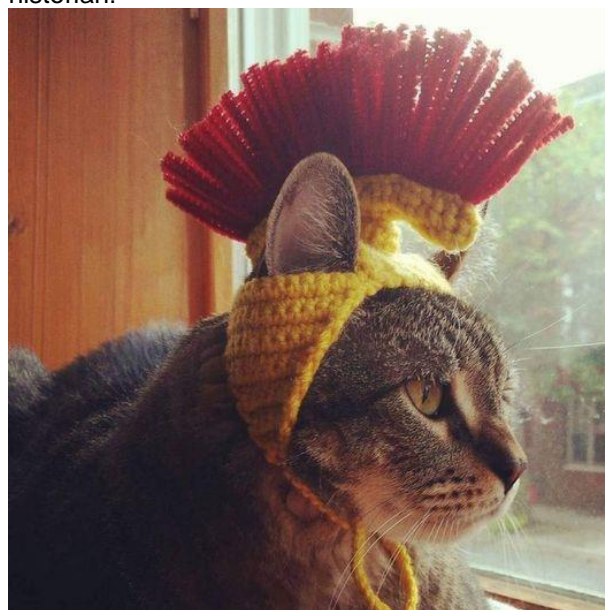
Artists took solace in their moggies and also as artistic inspiration. One artist did a cat creation almost every day. Another a watercolour of a Kung Fu cat leaping through the air, Bruce Lee style, with a Kung Fu sword, slicing the Covid virus in half. Where did this lead me?

Well, the Director of the Glen Eira City Council Gallery has advised that – "Your mini exhibition COVID Cats to be presented by the Rotary Club of Caulfield has been approved. Your exhibition will take place in the Gallery annexe during 23 September - 17 October 2021."

This is going to be so much fun. The Club has called for the submission of images. Like previous RCC exhibitions, the images will be received on-line and all Club members will vote on which will be accepted. As the Gallery Annex is small, we will have to be selective.

I applied for a grant to cover costs, including for a videographer to interview folk about the impact of cats on their lives during lockdown which will be played on a continuous loop for the exhibition.

But I love this fellow from a bored Roman history historian!



## Did You Know that...

- Gustave Klimt used cat urine as fixative.
- There may have been a conspiracy to murder Mark Rothko.
- Salvador Dali drove a car filled with cauliflower.
- Andy Warhol kept ancient Egyptian mummified feet in his studio.
- Manet's *Déjeuner sur L'herbe* was declared obscene and rejected by the Paris Salon, and the woman depicted in the painting was actually an artist in her own right.
- Edvard Munch's *The Scream* was originally titled *The Shriek of Nature*.
- Vassily Kandinsky believed in the mystical properties of geometric shapes and the emotional power of colours.

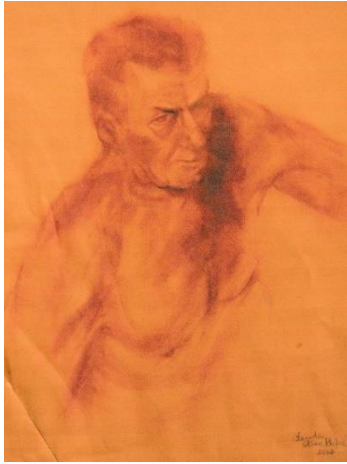
Share with us any other curiosities and oddities you know from the art world.



## Activities Report

Activities were curtailed severely due to the recent lockdowns. Only few sessions of Life Drawing, Studio Art and Watercolour were held. Similarly, there was only one On-Site Painting outing in July, and one Portraiture session at the home of Amanda Wyness. We look forward to increased activity with no further interruptions.

## Member Profile – Claud Bennie



Claud Bennie is current President of the Rotary Club of Caulfield, and former GEAS President. He is very coy about his artistic achievements even though he won a number of international photography awards. His landscape and seascape photos attest to a keen eye and a sense of place. Claud joined GEAS in 2017 and became its President in 2018.

Born in Benoni, a former gold mining town east of Johannesburg, South Africa, as a child and a young adult he experienced the draconian Apartheid regime. As a high school student, he developed a strong dislike of Afrikaans Nationalism, a dislike that grew stronger when he was studying teaching. He attended political meetings of one of the Opposition parties and was a vocal critic of the regime, activities that led to the police investigating him and tapping his phone. As this was a time when people were 'disappearing', never to be seen again, he was acutely aware of the need to be circumspect about his political connections.

Unhappy with the Apartheid education system, he left teaching and obtained further qualifications becoming an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute in London. From a humble start as an insurance clerk, he was fast-tracked to an executive position to become the company's youngest international Claims Superintendent.

I think I would be remiss if I did not include this vignette. Claud was the organizer of an insurance conference in Johannesburg when he was approached by an elderly man and they conversed together. That man was Nelson Mandela who by then was a free man, and that conversation became the key discussion topic of the delegates for the duration of the conference.

Claud was keenly involved in a variety of sports and won awards - a Certificate from the Amateur Weightlifting Association in 1983, and a number of the Argus Cycle Tours 105km awards over a few years before coming to Australia in 1997.

Like many people in South Africa, Claud and his wife Elizabeth migrated to Australia in 1997, both for political reasons and Elizabeth's desire to reconnect with her Australian heritage. And like many South Africans they

lived in Perth until they moved to Melbourne in 2000. New beginnings in Australia led him to a new career path. Being an active sportsman, he decided to study *Remedial Massage* and also obtained a *Certificate in Personal Training and Fitness* that focused on Exercise in Chronic Health conditions. Sadly, Elizabeth passed away a few years ago.

His interests are extensive and include volunteering (Rotary Club of Caulfield, Bentleigh Bayside Community Health), and has traveled extensively to the UK, Europe, India, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia.



*Claud receiving an award from Bentleigh Bayside Community Health*

## Other exhibitions – Local Talent

Curated by Rachel Mackay, *Local Talent* is a celebration of the skills of GEAS and other artists. Due to the Covid sanctions the exhibition was not held at the Glen Eira Gallery Annexe as originally planned. Instead, the show was shared via email and Facebook.



*Misha Nathani, Savannah 2017 (detail)*

## Art in the Park

Subject to the ongoing Covid situation 'Art in the Park' (formerly Cityscape) will be held in Caulfield Park, on Sunday, 21 November 2021. The site offers a variety of subject matter to paint and draw – sporting facilities, a lake, trees, playground, monuments, people at rest and play, as well as the adjacent street vista of buildings

and shops. Formal notification will be sent to the members in due course.

## Members' News

**Tamar Dolev** was one of three artists who participated in the Winter Artists Residence program run by the Yarra Sculpture Gallery  
<http://www.yarrasculpturegallery.com.au/upcoming.html>

**Angeline Bartholomeusz's** work titled "Beyond" was selected as a finalist in the inaugural National Capital Art prize - Landscape. Use the following link to cast your vote in the People's Choice awards  
<https://nationalcapitalartprize.com.au/peopleschoiceaward/vote>

We wish **Margaret Bellamy** speedy recovery as she is recovering following injuries from a recent fall.

## New members

We welcome **Margaret Holloway** and **Rob Gudan** as our new members and wish them a long and happy association with the Society. Rob has also taken over from Richard McClelland as the Life Drawing Convenor.

## Governance and administration

### Website

At last, our new website is up and running and looking a treat. The response from the members has been fantastic, and many are now eager to display their own artworks in a personal Gallery page – a case of 'seeing is believing'. We also received positive feedback from external organisations.

Like all websites, this is a work in progress and the site will continue to be improved and updated on a regular basis. [www.gleneiraartistsociety.org](http://www.gleneiraartistsociety.org)

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

Please send these to [geasartists@gmail.com](mailto:geasartists@gmail.com)

## At the galleries

**Monash University (Sir Louis Matheson Library):**  
**The Perfect Migrant:**  
<https://www.monash.edu/library/the-perfect-migrant>

**Glen Eira City Council:** [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/arts-and-culture](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/arts-and-culture)

## Postscript

With the AGM fast approaching, we encourage members to become involved in the official management of our Society, and nominate for Committee positions.

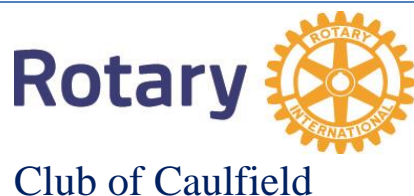
We also remind members that they are welcome to attend Committee meetings, especially now as they are held via Zoom. Let us know so that we can send you the Zoom invitation.

## Facebook

Visit our Facebook page for regular GEAS updates.

 [www.facebook.com/GlenEiraArtistsSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GlenEiraArtistsSociety)

## VIEW MEMBERS' ARTWORKS IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES



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## Members' Artworks



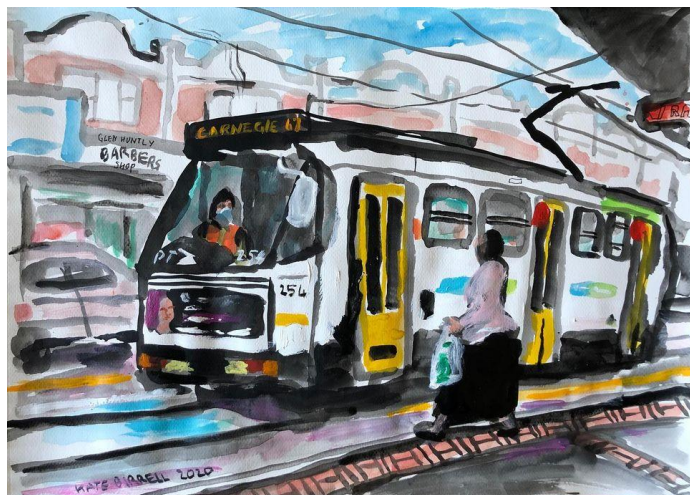
Nita Jawary – *Autumn*



Tamar Dolev – *Connection*



Kylie Castan – *Harmony in Orange*



Kate Birrell – *Melbourne Tram, Carnegie Line*



Carmel O'Connor – *Sunflowers 2020*



Nita Jawary – *Hope*



Elizabeth Coyle – *Refugee Woman*



## Featuring the Art of Tamar Dolev



Strange Land



Conversations



Self-Portrait



Clear Directions



Mr Moustache



New Horizon



Zig Zag



Hard at Work

For more images and information about her work, please check our website [www.gleneiraartistsociety.org](http://www.gleneiraartistsociety.org)