



Glen Eira Artists' Society

ABN-72436357743, Reg No-A0053616G

AUTUMN 2026 Newsletter

THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN

All those glorious reds, gold, yellows, brown and green are much admired by artists. But what causes these colour changes? Why is it that in some years the reds seem to be so much richer?

Sugars, specifically those trapped in leaves during autumn, are the primary driver behind the production of vivid red, purple, and crimson pigments (anthocyanins). As leaves prepare to fall, a cellular barrier restricts sugar transport, concentrating sugars that react with sunlight to produce these pigments. High sugar

concentrations result in brighter red colours, whereas lower amounts yield yellow/brown tones.

More detailed information on the development of leaf colour can be found at a webinar '**Autumn Leaves: Conditions that Affect Leaf Colour**', hosted by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The really interesting information starts at 6 mins into the video-

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr50Zp2VT5k



A great place to visit for autumn en plein air artwork is at Alfred Nicholas Memorial Gardens in Sherbrooke in the Dandenong Ranges. Great opportunity to visit the many other attractions of the Hills.
www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/alfred-nicholas-memorial-garden

IMPACT OF A CHANGE TO THE GEAS RULES

The changes to the GEAS Rules approved at the GEAS AGM have been approved by the Registrar. The most important change is that membership of GEAS is no longer governed by municipal geographical boundaries.

It no longer matters where you live, nor do you have to establish a nexus with the City of Glen

Eira. This means that members who may have once lived, worked or studied in Glen Eira but have changed their personal circumstances may still be members of GEAS.

So artists who have no connection with Glen Eira and who have their studios in rural and regional areas are very welcome to join GEAS.

WELCOME MADELEINE TRUDEL TO THE GEAS COMMITTEE / YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Madeleine has been appointed to the Committee where she brings a youthful vigour and fresh outlook.

Madeleine handles the new GEAS YouTube Channel which you can access by:

1. Open YouTube and search "Glen Eira Artists Society" (capitalisation and punctuation not essential).
2. First result should be the 'StreetScape' Art Exhibition short video. Click on it to open.
3. Above the caption, you can click on the channel's name @GlenEiraArtistsSocietyInc to take you to the channel.

Please subscribe, as this helps to promote the Channel.

Content is needed for the new Channel

Videos of live action creation of artwork is needed. Madeleine advises that in creating videos - for formatting, generally an mp4 file

works. Content creators can use editing software like Adobe Premiere Pro or free software like DaVinci, CapCut, or Avid Media Composer.

Dreamstime has a Guide to avoiding common mistakes when creating videos. It is worth reading before pressing 'record'!

https://www.dreamstime.com/blog/7-video-editing-mistakes-beginners-make-and-how-to-avoid-themx29-77247?utm_medium=email

Before you do make a video specifically for uploading to the GEAS YouTube Channel, please send Madeleine an outline of what you plan to do and she can provide further guidance. Once your video is ready for uploading send it to Madeleine for final editing before she uploads it for you.

You can contact Madeleine by email to glenartvideos@gmail.com

SHARE YOUR ART

This is a social evening where artists chat about everyone's art. Learn from others, have an enjoyable evening discussing art and how others approach it. GEAS has been fortunate to be able to hold these sessions at Art Lark Gallery, especially as the sessions have been held during Sara Longwood's Exhibitions. Being surrounded by Sara's artworks made for a creative ambience.



February-SYA Session at Art Lark Gallery (Photo Jyl Bell)

PORTAITURE

Portraiture sessions are held, free, at members' homes once a month either in evenings (6.00pm) every few months or during the day on a Wednesday from about 10.30am to 1.00pm. Attendance is usually 5-10 artists.

We are looking for volunteers to host a Portraiture session during the day for the following dates:

*April 15th

*June 17th

*October 21st

Please contact the Convenor Emily Levin by text message (M) 0408 223 346, if you would like to host a Portraiture session.



February Portraiture Session (Photo Jyl Bell)

STILL LIFE

Artists are welcome to do a Still Life during Portraiture sessions, as GEAS does not have a dedicated group to organise separate sessions.



Still Life -Kylie Castan

EN PLEIN AIR

This monthly outdoor event is a great opportunity for artists to enjoy painting in the company of fellow artists and then chat afterwards over refreshments at a local eatery. The sessions are held on the last Sunday of the month, usually from 10am to 1pm.

Unfortunately the February session at North Point by the Bay was rained out. The local eatery was so packed with visitors that there was no space for artists to do any of their work. But they did have coffee and chatted about all things art as they gazed out at the pouring rain over the Bay.

The next session will be Sunday 29th March at North Point again, in the spirit of optimism that the weather will be more favourable, as it is such a good location. February was such a contrast to the January session at Labassa in the blazing hot sun.

GEAS En Plein Air artists are not confined to Glen Eira. One member recently enjoyed sketching at Horseshoe Bend Farm Reserve over in Keilor East. Keep your A-5 visual diaries with you wherever you go and grab opportunities whenever they arise.



Labassa En Plein Air (Photo - Gillian Schofield)



Photos - Adrian Maiolla



And this is the vista being sketched

LIFE DRAWING

GEAS no longer runs these sessions but Life Drawing sessions are being held at Art Lark Gallery fortnightly on Wednesday evenings. Find Art Lark Gallery's website at www.artlarkgallery.com.au and follow the links.

BUNNINGS -FAMILY EASTER EVENT

The GEAS Art Outreach was so successful in 2025 that Bunnings have invited GEAS to participate again this year. Details:

Date: Thursday 26th March

Time: 5-7pm

Location: Bunnings Moorabbin (corner of Fairchild Street & Warrigal Road)

Demonstrators: Need two artists to do demonstrations of working in different mediums

Artworks for Display: 4-6 artworks needed for display.

Art Outreach Volunteers: 5-6 volunteers needed to assist the general public with creating artworks.

Children love getting into the paints!

Bunnings provides all art materials, tables and chairs.

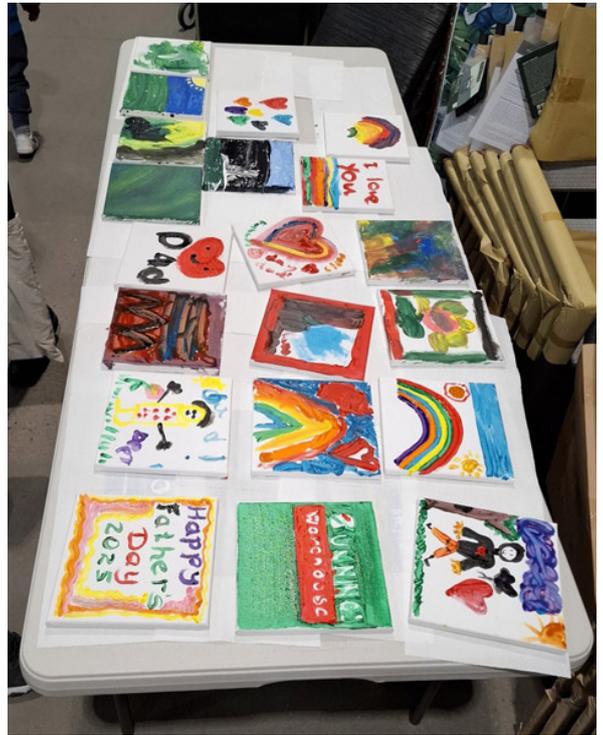
Refreshments: Bunnings provides free food and drinks

Benefit to GEAS and Members: It is a live action promo for GEAS and participating artists. Don't forget to bring your business cards.

Bunnings also provides a Gift Voucher to GEAS, which was used last year to buy art materials and plants used as prizes for the GEAS End of Year Trivia quiz.

Contact: Please contact Jyl Bell, the GEAS Event Coordinator on (M) 0411 545 501 to organise your participation.

Plus there is always time for creative conversations between members!



JENNY ZHE CHANG 'TOGETHER IN HARMONY'

GEAS Member Jenny Zhe Chang's 'Together in Harmony' March Exhibition in Gallery 2 at Glen Eira City Council celebrated Lunar New Year through the dialogue of tradition and contemporary art. Inspired by Matisse's vibrant cut-outs and Chinese paper cutting, the work intertwines auspicious motifs with native Australian flora.



ADELLE FRITTITTA - Sisters Celebrate Family, Art and Storytelling

GEAS member Adelle Frittitta (author) and her sister, Claudia (illustrator) are the creative duo behind the picture book *My Nonno Loves*, a gentle celebration of grandparents, memory, and the quiet ways love is shown. Rooted in everyday moments, the book has resonated with children and adults alike for its warmth, honesty, and expressive illustrations.

Their second picture book, *My Nonna Loves*, was released on February 24th, continuing the series with a focus on care, connection, and the rhythms of family life. Created through

close collaboration, the books reflect a shared creative process that blends storytelling, illustration, and lived experience.

As artists, the sisters are passionate about community, creative practice, and making art that feels personal and accessible. Their work highlights how small, familiar moments can be transformed into meaningful stories through illustration and design.

You can learn more about Adelle at

www.adellefrittitta.com

and Claudia at www.iamclaudia.com

FILM REVIEW-RENTAL FAMILY 2025 - MADELEINE TRUDEL



If you're looking for a film that hits the sweet spot of warmth and humour, *Rental Family* delivers. An American actor (Fraser) living alone in Tokyo takes a chance on an unconventional gig: hiring himself out as a fake family member or friend to a variety of clients. Fraser ends up going by many names. In the swarming, dense city of Tokyo, he easily evades his clients after their allotted time. The clients show love in lying: Fraser shows love in the honesty he finds within the lies.

While the relationships start as fake, Fraser's character is too sincere to remain professional. The ensuing stories leave you with an ache of longing and a reason to appreciate the connections we maintain in our own lives. Brief moments of underplayed humour brighten heavy moments with gentle absurdity.

The ensemble is good, but Fraser's performance is what takes this film to greatness. If you have seen *The Whale* (2022), you already know Brendan Fraser's incredible ability to live in the emotions of his characters, to the point you can see his face appear to tear itself in multiple directions.

The plot, while not unpredictable, still resolves in a fresh enough way that it remains enjoyable to the end.

Rental Family is a slow-medium paced film oozing with sincerity in a world where it is easier to be fake. Watch it with the family or by yourself, and enjoy a good little cry.

Nobody is replaceable, least of all Brendan Fraser. 9/10

MARIA GALANIS - Speaker at the GEAS 2025 Annual General Meeting.

GEAS was fortunate to have Maria speak at the AGM and Gillian Schofield wrote the following article about Maria's presentation.

Guest Speaker: Maria Galanis

GEAS AGM Nov 18, 2025

With an interest in Art and Fashion, Maria Galanis found she could not compete, as a mature age student, with the younger Fashion Design students. She has lived a full life, and after a near death experience, she completed short courses and CAE painting and drawing courses amongst other

medium. Maria worked with Marco Luccio where his training had been her mainstay for Art education until this point, enabling her to complete a folio for entry into a three year Bachelor degree in Fine Arts at Monash, 2017-2024. As a result of CoVid, the three years became 8 years. There was a lot of remove grid pressure to complete the degree in 2024.

In 2023, Maria did her final print making elective, where the prior training under Marco Luccio came to the fore: the process of conception to printing was “elegant”; keep all areas clean, not mixing [...] and working with conviction.

At Monash, abstract artist and educator John Nixon, who is represented in all major galleries, had a big influence on Maria; not his work but the way he worked. Maria outlined the practices she learned:

1. Start with a thing e.g. a newspaper image, drawn
2. Second iteration → 30 versions
3. Produce different styles/media. Keep changing the image as you go so that eventually there is no resemblance to the original. Don't overthink it. Basically you are doodling.
4. Step back and edit.
5. Never throw anything away. It all becomes inspiration for further work: collage, other works, drawn over, painted over, keep working them.
6. Use of white gesso over black sandpaper, photographed
7. Lino cuts → print
8. Use of a board instead of a blanket when printing for a clean cut image
9. Use of Indian handmade papers
10. Experimentation with black and white over a grey printed background using a flat bed rolling press
11. Floating a circular image in a square frame
12. Calligraphic forms

Maria learned to draw anything and everything. Not sit around and wait for inspiration. She had access to drawing deadly bacteria: used collage, photographs, enlargements.

Drawing Activities at Monash gave her access to both the anatomy department cadavers and the animals in the zoology department.

During COVID lockdown, Maria focused on self portraits and still life, learning how to use oil paints, before starting on project work. She had to put a lot of time into this.

In the first three years at Monash, Maria did all the core practice components: Art History, Printmaking, all the electives in all the disciplines. She mixed with people from design, architecture faculties, meeting new people all the time. She took up the opportunity for a semester at the Monash Prato Campus in Italy.

In 2024, her official third year, it was a full-on year with a graduate exhibition at the end of the year and all this knowledge to “boost” her.

Maria read out her treatise on “What is Art” and how she has dealt with Art over the years. Art is an ongoing story, about what it means to be human. From a hand mark on a cave wall to gallery wall art and digital art work today. It involves perception, emotion, something shared, shared forms... on a cave wall, it is an act of survival, the desire to make meaning. Art is a mirror of what people revered and feared. How we saw the world... conceptual art emotions... nature a silent collaborator.

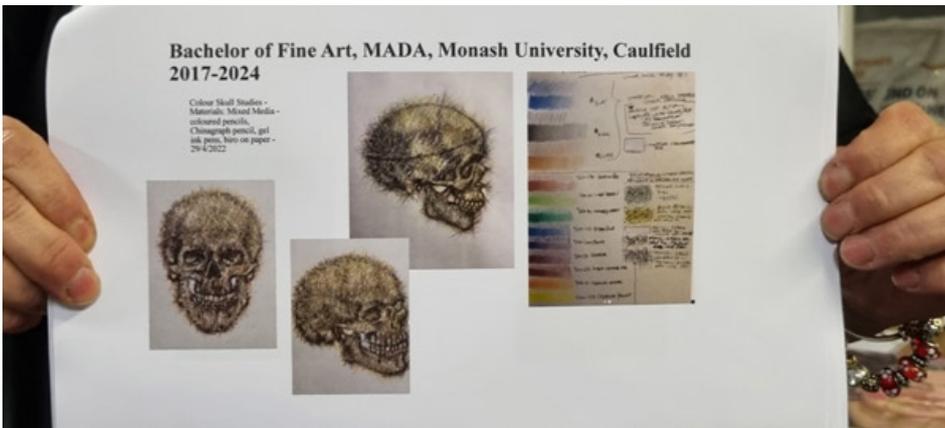
Question: Is nature [the] Art that sits at the heart of human creativity. Is Art a way of conversing with the natural world.

Answer: Art reflects on existence; holds our memories; questions our dreams and doubts → hope
Art is humanity thinking out loud.

It took Maria 8 years to complete her degree. It pushed her to think about things.

The work she produced for her Graduate Exhibition evolved out of earlier studies. In semester one anatomy drawing from observation of cadavers in the anatomy department. She drew a skull. How different the access to bodies today, from the grave robbing days of Leonardo Da Vinci to make his anatomical studies. At Monash, the cadavers, assigned to medical students, were all on a bed with massive suction to draw out the formaldehyde odours so the students were not exposed. The first week her cadaver had a head. The second week it didn't. That was a shock. The incisions were open, the flesh was flexible. Gowned and masked, she could touch. She sketched every day anything and everything. The art students had to do this as their project, but each had their own focus.

Maria made a study of the skull with two sides in profile. Using printmaking she made 17 layers of transparencies, with a photocopy underneath as a guide. With Posca textas and no time to stop and think, she used different colours to highlight different aspects on each transparency. No one sheet was recognisable, but once compiled as a whole, the compilation read as a skull. She used a lot of different media during the skull hand drawing process.





DANDENONG OPEN RANGES OPEN STUDIOS

Well worth visiting! In the early days of GEAS, car pooling was organised and a few carloads of GEAS Artists would enjoy group visits to the Dandenong Ranges Open Studios. We were welcomed warmly, with soup and other refreshments at different studios.

On one visit to a Hills Studio, a really tired GEAS member sat in a super comfy chair next to a roaring log fire where the member promptly fell asleep. On waking the member discovered that the Studio's Artist had turned the sleeping member into an Installation piece which was being sketched by several other visiting artists. The member was amused and noted the benefit of always having a visual diary with you.

When:- 21-22 and 28-29 March

Hours:- 10am to 5pm

Where:- Throughout the Dandenong Ranges

Ticket Pricing:- All Exhibition Tickets FREE

Accessibility (Burrinja Cultural centre):- Wheelchair access. Guide dogs and support animals are welcome. For accessibility information on the individual studios please refer to the Artist Studio webpages.

Please note:- Artist workshops and demonstrations may have a fee and booking will be essential. More information regarding the workshops will be available shortly. All events are at the address

of the studio, please refer to the artist pages for their addresses. There may be some variations from the printed guide, all information online is correct.

www.burrinja.org.au/whats-on/dandenong-ranges-open-studios-2026

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

GEAS is looking for Newsletter art related content, especially for the Winter edition-

- *Short stories
- *Exhibition, book and film reviews
- *Travel including Galleries which you have visited
- *Your recent art achievements.

Please send to glenart2@gmail.com

Editorial sub-committee: Peter Roccella, Madeleine Trudel, Heather Welsh.