

# TOP OF THE TORRENS

## art gallery newsletter

| September 2022 |



### Welcome to new Member:

Samantha Kotz

### Dates at a glance:

#### **Current Exhibition:**

##### **Spring Rebirth**

Burrarah Art Group  
showing until 16<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Next Exhibition:**

##### **'What a mix'**

Joe Dennis Solo Exhibition from  
21st October

#### **General Meeting:**

10 am Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September  
at the Gallery

*Material for future newsletters  
can be left at the gallery  
marked:*

#### **Attention - Rosie Trenerry**

*or emailed to:*

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

*Please type TOTT NEWSLETTER  
in the subject field.*

**Remember to *spread the word!***

Hopefully you were able to take advantage of the artistic feast that we are treated to every August in our wonderful state via the SALA festival.

We are delighted to have once again welcomed an appreciative parade of art lovers who chose to include the TOTT into their own SALA trail by visiting our exhibition 'The Art of Life', including over 50 people on the final day. We hope that they share their discoveries with others and that they will also take the opportunity to visit us soon.

It always makes me smile when I overhear a conversation where someone is enthusiastically sharing information on a fabulous new artist, venue or exhibition that their friend 'just must go and see'.

Although free, word of mouth is undeniably a very valuable form of advertising that should never be underestimated.

As TOTT Members and Friends, it is our shared responsibility and in all of our interests, to take every possible opportunity to promote our ever changing Exhibition space and Gift Shop to friends, family, casual acquaintances and complete strangers.

In addition to spreading 'the verbal word', remember our colour promotional cards are available for you to distribute in cafes, bakeries, libraries and other venues so they can attract the eye of potential art-lovers and tourists looking for somewhere to visit.

We regularly receive spontaneous praise regarding the high standard and diverse talents of our Member Artists along with compliments on the extensive range of unique, high quality, value for money items that we have on offer for sale.

To all of our Member Artists, I urge you to always be justifiably proud of your work along with that of your fellow TOTT Members and visiting Artists.

*Rosie Trenerry - Editor TOTT News*

# Adelaide Hills Council Community Development Grant

I am pleased to let all our members and friends know that we have been successful in our application for an assistance grant through the Adelaide Hills Council's 2022-23 Community Development Grants program.

This will allow Top of the Torrens to commission some 3D 'Streetscape Sculpture' for the garden bed at the front of the gallery. The art work will be created by a local artist and will be in the form of recycled metal to represent a form agreed to by the Gallery and the History Trust of SA. The proposal is to create native animals, maybe a Kangaroo and/or Emu, from disused farm implements, steel rod, and some new metal.

The approximate height of the art piece will be 1.5 metres and as the items will be on public display every effort will be made to remove sharp edges and make the art pieces safe for display. The project will also include revegetating the adjacent garden area with suitable native plants.

I believe the finished project will not only become an attraction for the Gallery but also for Birdwood and the wider community. It will enhance the streetscape of Birdwood, specifically the Gallery frontage, providing a focal point and hopefully attracting extra visitors!

It is intended that the project will be completed in the first half of 2023.

The Committee are extremely grateful for the ongoing support provided by the Adelaide Hills Council.

*John Ragless*



## 2022 / 23 Committee

The TOTT AGM was held at the Gallery on Tuesday 13st September and saw the election of our new management committee for 2022-23.

So here we are:

I will be continuing in my role as Chairperson; **Ann Beacham** will be taking on the role of Secretary; **Christine Murphy** is our new Treasurer with **Rosie Trenerry** as Assistant Treasurer; **Annette Dawson** will retain her Exhibition Coordinator position and **Adrian Beacham** will continue in his Maintenance role as well as taking the new position of webpage come IT guru. Other elected committee members are **Jenny Anderson, Rosene Kotz, Rose Rees, and Rosemary Rowe.**

My thanks are extended to all of the above for their support to the running of TOTT for the next 12 months. Other appointments to various roles which are key to the efficient operating of TOTT will be made at our next meeting and will be reported in due course.

I ask all our members to support your new committee. I know a lot of our members already help out at the Gallery but, if you think you have something more to offer or if you think something could be done to greater effect, please speak to one of the committee members and share your thoughts. I know for instance that Annette Dawson would like someone to help with exhibitions - so, why not be involved!

Regards,

*John Ragless* Chairperson - Top of the Torrens Gallery



<https://www.tottgallery.com.au>

At a general meeting in the beginning of 2022, the idea of a TOTT web site was raised. After some further discussions it was decided to proceed with the creation of a web site.

The site has been created, and is now live.

This will improve our web presence and work alongside our Facebook page and Google presence, which is also being updated.

We also now have a few email addresses using the new domain. The domain name is <https://www.tottgallery.com.au> and since going live has already fielded several email enquiries and page hits on Google.

The site will be updated regularly with links to our newsletters and information from the gallery on exhibitions and other gallery news.

In time we hope to have artists' pages where you can have your artist profile available on the website as well as links to your own web pages etc.

If you would like your artist profile listed on the web site please send it by email to: [admin@tottgallery.com.au](mailto:admin@tottgallery.com.au) along with a photograph of yourself and some of your work.

*Adrian Beacham* Committee Member - Top of the Torrens Gallery

*Thank You!!!*

**On behalf of the Committee and all Members, our sincere thanks are extended to Adrian Beacham for his ongoing hard work in developing this valuable and exciting project.**



Top of The Torrens Gallery is once again delighted to welcome Members of the Burragah Art Group back to our exhibition space.

The Burragah Art Group meets weekly at the Burragah Recreation Centre on Kelly Road Modbury North, providing a place to paint with others who have a shared interest in art. Its aim is to improve and develop members' artistic skills and learn from each other whilst enjoying each-other's company around this shared interest.

Perfectly timed for the change of season, their exhibition 'Spring Rebirth' presents a display of the latest creative works by:

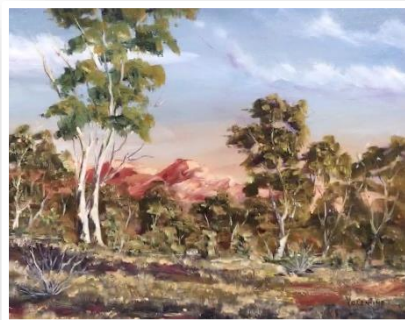
Robyn Aitchinson  
 Wendy Byrne  
 Eleanor Frame  
 Peggy Hayden

Barrie Maguire  
 Margaret McKenzie  
 Nancy Nieuwenhoven  
 Jutta Prus

Cheryl Shammall  
 Judith Strikis  
 Margaret Tuckey  
 Mick Valentine

A peek at some of the pleasures in store for you when you visit 'Spring Rebirth' can be found on the following pages...

# SPRING REBIRTH



Artists clockwise from top left:  
Wendy Byrne, Margaret McKenzie, Mick Valentine, Jutta Prus, Peggy Hayden, Barrie Maguire,

# SPRING REBIRTH



Artists clockwise from top left:  
Robyn Aitchison, Margaret Tuckey, Judith Strikis, Nancy Nieuwenhoven, Cheryl Shammall, Eleanor Frame



**It is with great sadness that we note the passing  
of two of our original volunteers.**

**Alex Hodges** was one of our most reliable volunteers and one of our best customers. Living close to Birdwood, she often filled in, at late notice, when another volunteer was unable to attend and, invariably, she would go home with a treasure tucked under her arm.

She was a very passionate person and put her whole heart into the things she believed.

She is sadly missed by her partner Ray, who is the owner of our local pizza shop. Vale Alex.

**Don Reid** was the husband of the very talented artist, Donna Reid, who displayed her many magnificent paintings and collages at the TOTT. Other creations included unique sculptures, made from the wooden patterns from the foundry at the gold mine at Gwalia in Western Australia, where she and Don, who was a geologist with Western Mining, lived when their children were growing up.

Invariably, Don would come with Donna to the gallery when she was rostered on duty. He was a passionate bird lover and would spend some of his time driving around the Birdwood district counting and recording his sightings. Don also undertook the role as our Public Officer for several years.

Sadly, Don and Donna lost their home and all their magnificent treasures in the Cherry Garden fire and have been living in a retirement village in Stirling.

Our hearts go out to Donna as she faces life without her precious Don.

*Leonie Holmes - Gallery Founder*

## Artist of the month September

### **Leon Holmes – Painter & Sculptor**

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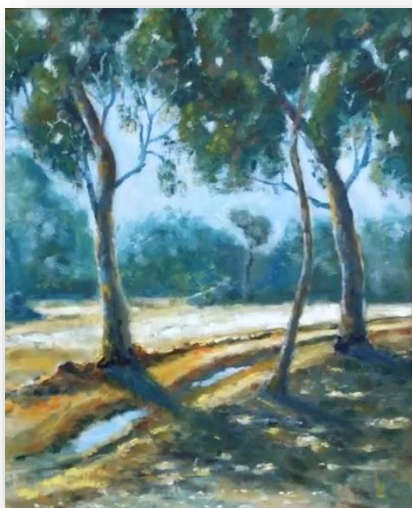
I have drawn and painted for most of my life and am largely self-taught.

In 1960, after graduating in Pharmacy I attended art classes for three months with Ruth Tuck. She was an inspiration.

Some years later I spent several months tutored in life drawing by Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski. That led to an interest in sculpture helped by an introduction to sculptor John Dowie. Sculpture has progressed slowly whenever time has allowed and the media has included stone, fired clay, wire and beaten and brazed copper.

About 26 years ago, my wife Leonie together with several others got the bright idea to start the Top of the Torrens Gallery. So my involvement and enjoyment with the gallery started and has continued.

Several years ago I attended a weekend workshop at the Riverton Gallery tutored by Churchill Scholarship recipient Melissa Judge. She explored with us the same techniques that August Rodin used in modelling the human form.



More recently I spent several enjoyable years with the “Nunkarrie” art group at Mount Pleasant which was tutored by Kit Neeve, she inspired all of us.

Painting has always included pastels, water colours, acrylics and more recently oils. Subjects have mainly been landscapes and trying to apply the Impressionist style. Occasionally I am inspired into Abstract subjects as a break from realistic landscapes.

I feel blessed that at 87 years I can be actively painting and sculpting.





## To ALL of our TOTT Member Artists & Artisans!

With the **Summer Exhibition** fast approaching, please keep up your creativity.

**'Celebrating Diversity'** opens at Top of the Torrens on the **9<sup>th</sup> of December** and we would love to see some of your work in the exhibition.

If you wish to participate in this display, please add your name to the list on the gallery desk soon, or phone the gallery during open hours and ask the Gallery attendant to do this for you.

*Annette Dawson - Exhibition Convenor*



## Hearty Congratulations go out to Ann Beacham

Ann was the winner of the first Viewers' Choice Award to be held at the TOTT since *'you know what'* came into our lives a couple of years ago!

It's good to see things slowly returning to some kind of normal.

The top 3 spots in voting during our SALA exhibition were shared by 4 of our artists

1. *'Tree of Life'* by Ann Beacham
2. *'Goanna'* by Adrian Beacham
3. equal votes to *'Wangi Falls'* by Christine Murphy and *'Creek Embankment'* by Joe Dennis

Congratulations to everyone who participated in another very successful TOTT SALA exhibition



**Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize 2023**

**Inspire**

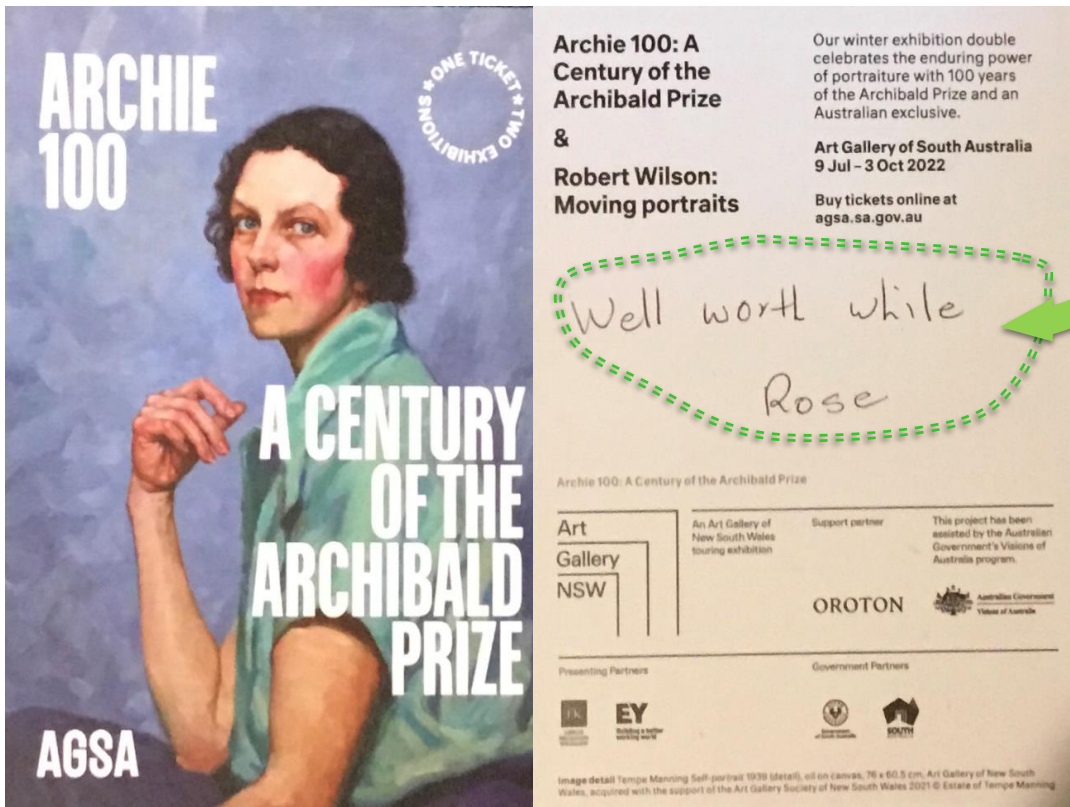
First Prize: \$20,000  
Total Prize Pool: \$50,000

**Entries Open Now**  
Closing 31 January 2023




For more information visit: <https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/art-prize>

## AGSA Exhibition Review.....



**ARCHIE 100**

ONE TICKET TWO EXHIBITIONS

**A CENTURY OF THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE**

**AGSA**

**Archie 100: A Century of the Archibald Prize**

**& Robert Wilson: Moving portraits**

Our winter exhibition double celebrates the enduring power of portraiture with 100 years of the Archibald Prize and an Australian exclusive.

**Art Gallery of South Australia**  
9 Jul – 3 Oct 2022

Buy tickets online at [agsa.sa.gov.au](http://agsa.sa.gov.au)

Well worth while  
Rose

Archie 100: A Century of the Archibald Prize

Art Gallery NSW

An Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition

Support partner

OROTON

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's *Visions of Australia* program.

Presenting Partners

Government Partners

Image detail Tempe Manning Self-portrait 1939 (detail), oil on canvas, 76 x 60.5 cm, Art Gallery of New South Wales, acquired with the support of the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales 2021 © Estate of Tempe Manning