

TOP OF THE TORRENS

art gallery newsletter

| January / February 2023 |



Dates at a glance:

Current Exhibition:

'Captured'

Allanson / Wallace & Friends
showing until 19th March 2023

Next Exhibition:

'A Trio of Treats'

Rosene Kotz, Samantha Kotz
& Penny Verco
showing 26th March to 7th May

Next General Meeting:

10 am Tuesday 14th March 2023
at the Gallery

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

Attention-Rosie Trenerry
or emailed to:
tott@tottgallery.com.au

Please type TOTT NEWSLETTER
in the subject field.

Hi folks, and welcome to the first edition of TOTT News for 2023!



It was great to be at the opening of our new TOTT exhibition 'Captured' on Sunday 5th February and to be part of the interaction between the members and our friends, sharing conversation with drinks and nibbles.

The opening or launch of a new exhibition is a fantastic way to meet and get to know your fellow members, some you may only know by name, I encourage you to come along to one of our exhibition launches - maybe our next one on Sunday 26th March - 'A Trio of Treats' - put it in the calendar!

The wonderful 'Captured' exhibition showcases the work of two of our TOTT artists Jill Allanson and John Wallace, together with works by Adrian Beacham, Barry Liddicoat, David Hough and myself.

I encourage you to make some time to come and view this wonderful exhibition of work by our talented artists .

We hope that 2023 at the TOTT is an exciting year for everyone and look forward to welcoming you to our exhibition space and Gift Shop in the near future.

I hope to see you there soon

John Ragless - TOTT Chairperson

'CAPTURED'

Photographer John Wallace and Artist Jill Allanson are the latest TOTT Members to join forces to hold a collaborative exhibition of their works.

To further enhance and add depth to their exhibition the duo also welcomed woodworkers David Hough, Barry Liddicoat and John Ragless as well as metal sculptor Adrian Beacham to join them in the presentation of 'Captured'.....



Porcelain Art or China Painting was **Jill Allanson's** first real artistic pursuit and as a consequence of her husband's Army postings she has painted and taught in most Australian states. Jill's passion for this field saw her become President of the NSW International Porcelain Art Teachers' Association in the 1980's.

It was during this period that she also commenced painting in oils before discovering watercolours after moving to the Barossa Valley in 1989. Her focus is now acrylics following the realisation that 'they dried fast, making them just the thing' as she 'didn't want to waste anymore time'.

Jills subjects of special interest include the landscapes of the mid north and country South Australia as well as gardens and flowers.

As a local photographer also living in the Barossa Valley **John Wallace** concentrates on photographing mainly Australian landscapes but he has also captured images as far afield as England, Italy, New Zealand and Singapore.

He says "I have always had a passion for photography. Over the years I've wanted to record the world around me always seeming to have a camera to hand."

Whilst having progressed from black and white roll film to 35mm colour and transparency he is now enjoying what he describes as 'the wonderful digital environment'.

Since 2005 John has provided images to leading international Photographic Stock Libraries and his work has been published within 'Footprints' a coffee table book showcasing South Australia's splendour.

A large varied selection of his images can be found at www.johnwallacephotography.com



* Photography by John Wallace, top & middle left

* Paintings by Jill Allanson middle right & bottom

..... 'CAPTURED'

.....**Barry Liddicoat**'s interest in timber was first sparked during wood working lessons in primary school, ultimately leading him to pursue a career in carpentry. It was many years later however, during a trip to Tasmania and Victoria and seeing some of the work of local highly skilled timber craftspeople, that a serious interest in woodturning was sparked.

His exhibition pieces range from large, functional decorator items including a wall mirror, clock and 'lazy susan' - to open, lidded and footed bowls in a beautiful array of decorative timbers.

.....**John Ragless** describes himself as a woodturner with a preference for working with Australian woods.

His exhibition pieces include dishes and platters which in his words "feature the colours of Australia with the natural colours and characteristics of the wood being highlighted with epoxy resin and dyes to emulate the rich burnt colours of Australia that we all know".

.....Diverse, sometimes contrasting timbers and intricately carved, beautifully lined drawers are just some of the characteristics to be found in **David Hough**'s fascinating collection of jewellery boxes.

Invited to be a part of 'Captured' by TOTT Chairperson John Ragless, David is an award winning woodturner and member of the Northern Turners group of woodturners based at Tea Tree Gully.

.....The soft mellow timber tones and tactile nature of the three featured woodworkers exhibition pieces are thrown into stark contrast alongside **Adrian Beacham**'s dramatic steel garden sculptures.

Adrian's understanding of engineering & mechanical matters is apparent within many of his designs including his spinning cube of horse-shoes. Another exhibition piece, a quirky Cockerel christened "Chook", demonstrates his fondness for creating unique characters via the repurposing of old tools and machinery parts.



* Plates and platters featuring coloured resins and dyes by John Ragless

* Open and lidded bowls by Barry Liddicoat

* Jewellery boxes by David Hough

* Steel garden sculptures by Adrian Beacham



Introducing Rosene Kotz our new gallery & gift shop Roster Co-ordinator

'Firstly I would like to thank Rose Rees who has managed the roster for the past 10 years, she has with assistance from Greg done so well.

Thank you also to all our volunteers and members re the rostering of days at the gallery. It is going to be a learning period for all of us and I hope that we can achieve a smooth transition together.

It has been suggested that we all do one day (5) hours a month and this should see us have the gallery open for the 6 days a week. At times you may not be rostered on in one month but it will even out over time.

Thanks for changing days within the group and being flexible, and for all of your messages of support. I am looking forward to talking and meeting you all over the next few months.'

Rosene Kotz - TOTT Roster Co-ordinator

TOTT has another exciting line-up of exhibitions for you!

Regardless as to whether you are an artist or one of our valued gallery friends, please take the time to check out the exhibition schedule for 2023 to see what is on offer for you to participate in as an exhibitor or view as a lover of beautiful original artwork.

The next opportunity for member artists to exhibit at TOTT is just a few months away, so we hope to see more of your beautiful creations in the Gallery soon!

TOP OF THE TORRENS GALLERY BIRDWOOD

9 Shannon Street, Birdwood
PH 8568 5577
Open Wednesday until Monday
11am to 4pm
Including Public Holidays
www.tottgallery.com.au

For more information about exhibitions and the gift shop, phone the gallery, view our website or follow us on Facebook.

2023 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

- 'CAPTURED'
Jill Allanson, John Wallace and Friends
5 February - 19 March
- 'A TRIO OF TREATS'
Rosene Kotz, Samantha Kotz and Penny Verco
26 March - 7 May
- 'ARTISANS IN AUTUMN'
Maker's Exhibition
14 May - 2 July
- 'A CREATIVE JOURNEY'
SALA - South Australian Living Artist's Exhibition
9 July - 27 August
- 'GAWLER ART GROUP'
3 September - 15 October
- 'OFF THE COUCH ART GROUP'
22 October - 3 December
- 'AN ECLECTIC MIX'
Summer Member's Exhibition
10 December - 28 January 2024

Your own copy of the schedule is now available for you to pick up from the desk at the Gallery. Our **annual TOTT textile, jewellery and creations from the shed exhibition** entitled **'Artisans in Autumn'** will be staged this year from the **14th of May to the 2nd of July** and we are now asking for expressions of interest from both members and non-members to join us for this exhibition. So, if you are a **'maker'** of beautiful/unique items, please keep this display in mind and add your name to the list at the gallery.

Also, while SALA in August is still a long way from our thoughts, we are now asking members to add their names to the list for **'A Creative Journey'**. (Remember the registration process for SALA needs to be completed early in the year.) Please look for the plastic clipboards in the tray on the left hand side of the Gallery desk.

Very kindly, Rae Winter has agreed to assist me this year with some of the tasks associated with the coordination of exhibitions at Top of the Torrens, so no doubt you will soon be receiving emails from her with more information regarding these exhibitions. Meanwhile, enjoy being creative.

See you at the Gallery in 2023! **Annette Dawson - Exhibition Co-ordinator**

P.S. If any artist-members would like to stage their own exhibition in 2024, or would be interested in teaming up with others to create a display, we do have some exhibition times available.

Artist of the month - January

Charles Mace

I was born in London in 1933 and although I had the ability to draw there were no art lessons as such during the war years so I never started to paint until 1957.

I started off with oils progressing to acrylics, pastels, watercolours and finally gouache which I have taken up only in the last few years.

The three paintings that I have chosen for my profile depict our journey to Australia in 1965 and my love of steam trains - having been a fireman on the railway in 1948 before National Service.

The watercolour painting of the "Fairsea" shows us leaving Southampton for a new life in Australia. I don't usually paint in watercolour but this seemed an ideal subject to try and I am pleased with the way it turned out.

The large pastel painting [of swans] is taken from a photograph that I took at Elder Park on the banks of the Torrens on the day that our eldest son received his teaching degree. It is one of the largest pastels that I have done and is entitled "Shore Patrol". I usually paint on A4 size wet and dry carborundum paper using pastel pencils that allow for fine detail.

The painting of the steam locomotive echoes my love of steam trains and is painted in gouache which is great for this type of subject.

I am mainly self taught, so on retirement in 1990 I joined the Salisbury Art Society and gained much valuable knowledge from like minded souls who pointed me in the right direction.



Artist of the month - February

Liz Mattock



The Paintings:

Both paintings were taken from photographs I took of Royal Penguins in the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands enroute to the Antarctic.

The first one below is in oils, the lower one in watercolours.

I mostly work in watercolour these days, but love drawing as well.



The coat on display was a challenge and a labour of love. It nearly did not happen.

I started with thinking about colours and laid out fibre and yarn on the kitchen table to see how they went together. I had some references from the internet as well.

Then off to the shop to buy a pattern and lining material. I had to dye some fibre but most came from my stash. I spun what needed spinning. My spinning could never be described as fine and even so there was plenty of texture. Some fibre (mainly silk) was left unspun to have even more texture.

The fibres included sari silk thrums, Merino, Gotland, tussah silk, Romney, silk cocoons, alpaca, bamboo, Aran, silk noils, Cashmere, Blue Faced Leicester and Finn. Oh, and some random wool which had been dyed with onion skins.

I laid out the pattern pieces and worked out how much cloth would be required. The paper pieces were cut out and laid out sideways so the stripes would go up and down, now horizontally.

I warped up and started the best bit: the weaving.

I was very happy with the cloth as it grew and I eventually took it off the loom. I put some iron on facing on the back to prevent the cloth from fraying while being sewn.

DISASTER... it was 50cm short in the length. Oh no! What to do? Heart Sinking.

There was no way I could start it all again, nor make another piece. In the end I had to cut up some pattern pieces smaller and turn a few back horizontally - it just fitted.

Then to cut it all out. Very nerve wracking.

Each piece of cloth had zigzag sewing around the edge to further prevent any fraying. You can't be too careful. The separate parts were then sewn together and lining cut out.

Oh no, again - It was too small!

Back to another shop and second lining bought and made; bigger and with smaller darts. The new lining was of a heavier material, a different colour, and worked well. Yippee etc... It even fitted!

Even better, the coat did too.

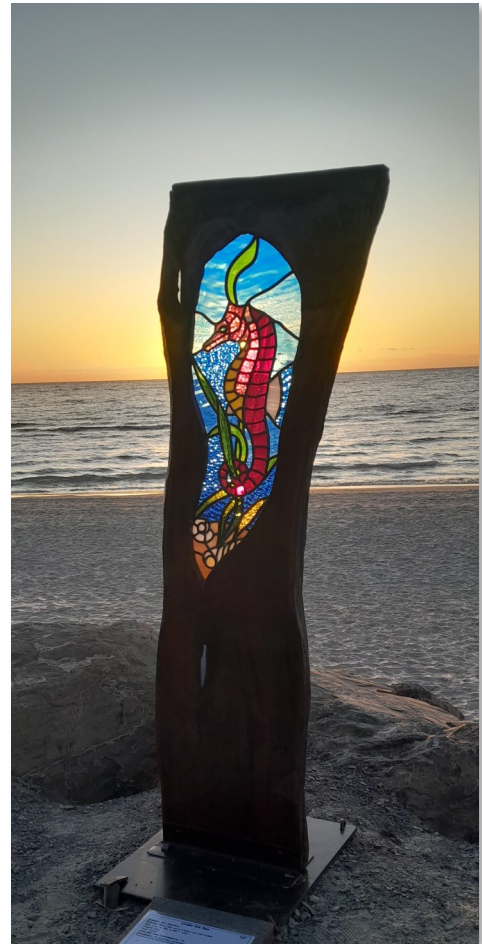
The buttons are Dorset Buttons (*look them up*) which I made with leftover yarn. It looked good.

I love it and I hope you enjoy it too.

Editors Note:

Not surprisingly, after conquering all of those challenges, the coat is not for sale!

Congratulations to TOTT Member Artists on their successful venture 'onto the big stage'



Local Birdwood artists Ann & Adrian Beacham entered some of their artworks into the annual **Brighton Jetty Sculptures** exhibition. This was the first time they had entered, and had 5 pieces on display.

They said "To have our works on display in such a recognised event was a little daunting in the beginning. Having our work exposed to a wider audience was our main aim, and to actually sell 3 out of the 5 pieces entered was a great result.

We were really in amongst some great artists, and just seeing the wide and diverse range of works was quite overwhelming."

This is the 16th year the exhibition has been run and there were 100 artists and around 160 exhibits.

Money raised from the entry fees and commission goes towards the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club.

Images of the artworks can be seen on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TongAndChicCreations> or the Brighton Jetty Sculptures Website <https://www.brightonjettysculptures.com/>

Yet more congratulations are going Adrian's way after he won the
TOTT Summer Exhibition Viewer's Choice Award for his Iguana sculpture !



Remember 'to keep us in the loop'

TOTT News is always on the lookout for information on your creative pursuits....

So, if you are setting off on a new adventure, participating in a joint or solo exhibition somewhere, remember to let us know so that we can share the news in an endeavour to maximise the support that belonging to our network can provide.



What's on at The Art Gallery of SA?

There is much to see in '23!

Besides the general collection – which is ever changing, there are many interesting exhibitions over the next few months.

[Full details <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/>]

Article kindly provided by Ann Davenport

The Nature of Culture – until 16 April 2023

Presenting recent acquisitions from the Gallery's collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, this selection in Gallery 7, consists of paintings, sculpture and woven works showcasing the diversity of materiality and making across regions throughout Australia and reflecting connections to Country.

Bewilderness: Recent acquisitions – until 16 Apr 2023

Showcasing recent acquisitions in painting, photography and sculpture, this exhibition considers landscape as a form of representation deeply embedded in questions of identity and belonging.

Sera Waters: Future Traditions – until 16 Apr 2023

Sera Waters imagines a new future for us all – one where ancient textile traditions can craft hope in the face of climate change. She showcases the work of those who have kept this knowledge alive over generations.

Interwoven Journeys: The Michael Abbott Collection of Asian Art - until 2 Jul 2023

Inviting visitors to experience the breadth of South Asian and South East Asian art, this exhibition includes a focus on Balinese, Sumatran and Javanese textiles, including the oldest known complete Indonesian batik textile, exhibited for the first time.

Andy Warhol and Photography: A social media - 3 Mar - 14 May 2023

Experience an unseen side of celebrated Pop artist Andy Warhol through his career-long obsession with photography. NOTE: This is a ticketed exhibition. (Become a member and receive a free ticket)

Art Experiences for young people

START at the Gallery - an exciting introduction to art for children aged 3-12 and their families

Held on the first Sunday of every month 10.30am–3pm, START is a free family-fun day and includes art activities, tours, live performances and entertainment.

Each monthly event is themed around current exhibitions or the general collection.

Events are free and no bookings are necessary. Parent/carer supervision is required.

Neo - Art, live music, performances, food and more

Neo is a free after-hours event for young people aged 13-17 years. It is held six times a year, and programmed by the [Neo Ambassadors](#), Neo is a parent-free zone where young people can kick back and hang out with friends, jump into creative labs, tune into live music and explore the latest exhibitions at AGSA.

Since its beginning in 2016, Neo has welcomed over 8000 teens to AGSA.

Across its annual program, Neo hosts two large-scale 'Teen Takeover' events which take place across the whole gallery, in addition to focused events which activate the latest temporary exhibition and collection spaces.

Neo is a strictly drug-free and alcohol-free event. Entry to the event is at the discretion of Neo staff. Each event is supervised and supported by our super friendly Neo team, including AGSA Staff, Security and feature artists.

Stay up to date: Follow Neo on [Instagram](#) and [Sign up for the monthly teen enews](#)

Have a question? Talk to Teen Programs Officer, Bernadette Klavins.

email neo@artgallery.sa.gov.au Phone 08 8207 7076