

TOP OF THE TORRENS

art gallery newsletter

| October 2023 |



Welcome to new Members:

*Simone Linder-Patton
& Ellen Wilden*

Dates at a glance:

Current Exhibition:

'A Splash of Colour'

*Off The Couch Art Studio
showing until 3rd December 2023*

Next Exhibition:

'An Eclectic Mix'

*Summer Members' Exhibition
8th December to 28th January 2024*

Next General Meeting:

10 am Tuesday 21st November 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.*

Top of the Torrens Gallery & Gift Shop
9 Shannon Street Birdwood SA



This edition of TOTT News deviates slightly from our usual routine of publishing during the week following the official opening of a new exhibition.

This time 'round, we are delighted to be able to invite you to join us on Sunday 29th October to celebrate the opening of 'A Splash of Colour'

Top of the Torrens Gallery, Birdwood
Welcomes you to
'A SPLASH OF COLOUR'
An exhibition of mixed media by the artists of
'OFF THE COUCH ART STUDIO', MODBURY
To be opened on
Sunday 29th October at 2pm by **TALIA DAWSON**
Featuring a demonstration by **JOE DENNIS** and
music by **'THE BROOKS BROTHERS BAND'**
Concludes on the 3rd December
9 Shannon Street, Birdwood ~ PH 8568 5577
Open Wed to Mon ~ 11am till 4pm ~ Including Public Holidays

As the name suggests, this exhibition provides a vibrant display of creativity encompassing a variety of art forms and subject matter.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a most enjoyable afternoon - to mingle and chat with the diverse group of artists whilst viewing their works; watch multi-talented artist Joe Dennis as she creates; plus enjoy live music by The Brooks Brothers Band and light refreshments from 2pm .

..... And, whilst you are putting notes in your diary,
don't forget our Christmas drinks in conjunction with the opening
of 'An Eclectic Mix' 2pm on December 10th...



See you there!

Member update... 'An Eclectic Mix'

Our summer Members' Exhibition is rapidly approaching and we look forward to seeing your creativity on display at the Gallery soon. If you wish to participate and have not yet 'enrolled', please place your name on the exhibitors listing in the gallery as soon as possible and no later than November 10th.

For the past few years this exhibition has been free for members, however at the AGM in September a proposal was put forward to charge members the usual \$20 exhibition fee and donate these funds to the Cancer Council. This was supported by all present.

Sadly several members of the gallery (or members of their family) have been touched by cancer over the past few years and this is one tangible way that we can show our support. A collection tin will also be placed in the gallery. We hope that all members will support this worthy cause.

Annette Dawson Exhibition Co-ordinator

The whys of it all



John Ragless
TOTT Chairperson

Following on from a couple of recent discussions I have had with a number of my craft and art friends as to why we belong to an art gallery – it got me thinking...

- why does one join a gallery?
- and, why do we volunteer our time helping with all the tasks required for the running of a cooperative not-for-profit organisation such as Top of the Torrens?

Firstly, the primary reason we join a gallery is to show our creative work to the public and, hopefully sell some work. Belonging to a small regional gallery gets you experience of showing in public.

You get to meet other artists who you can ask for help or feedback. You can observe what works and what doesn't. Who is professional and effective and who isn't. You might get lucky and make a sale, contact, or a new friend.

When you are unknown any recognition and exposure is a good thing!

Secondly, as a volunteer in a co-op art gallery you get to hone your creative skills, gain confidence in yourself, and experience the rewarding feeling of giving back to your gallery.

A co-op gallery works on community membership principles, not profit alone, it helps you learn about costs and logistics.

Working in a co-op art gallery necessarily involves each member artist devoting a fixed number of hours working in the gallery. Each co-op has its shared responsibilities, work hours, and commissions.

The shared managerial skills are the beauty of a co-op art gallery. The co-op members discuss and agree upon every aspect of the group from gathering office supplies, making work schedules, art display space allocation, marketing, even house-keeping. There is no top-down approach in a co-op art gallery, but hands-on sharing with more interaction and co-operation.

Joining a co-op art gallery can be a powerful experience for any artist. But you must be a team player, and a generous one at that, in order to reap the rewards. There is no doubt that arts organisations such as ours would not be able to exist without the support they receive from our members and the community.

I believe there is a real sense of community within our Top of the Torrens Gallery which has resulted in our successful development and operation over many years.



**An exhibition showcasing the creative talents
of artists from Modbury-based
'Off The Couch' Art Group, including:**

Robyn Aitchison

Doug Brooks

Robert Brooks

Margaret Chalk

Annette Dawson

Joe Dennis

Sarah Ellis Steinborner

Simon Ellis Steinborner

Ines Goegan

Carolyn McCartney

Jan Monks

Violet Moylan

Kay Patchett

Kay Paterson

Alana Preece

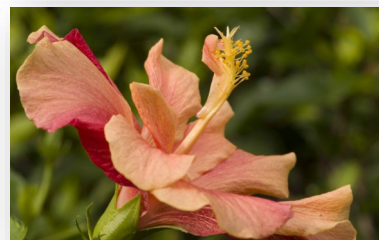
Roberto Rivera

Max Stanyer

Catherine Watkins

On show in the TOTT exhibition space 11am 'til 4pm Wednesday to Monday until 3rd December.

Image pictured above by Carolyn McCartney



'A SPLASH OF COLOUR'



Artists clockwise from top left:
Annette Dawson, Kay Patterson, Joe Dennis, Sarah Ellis-Steinborner, Catherine Watkins, Alana Preece (centre)

Artist of the month - October

Rae Winter

My only formal art training was in secondary school. I then spent some time in my post-university years attending community art classes run by the Ruth Tuck School of Art in Burnside, which sowed the seed for my love of watercolours.

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist and spent a long career working across disability services, community health and in later years in management, ministerial advisory roles and project work.

On retiring in 2021, I turned my attention back to art, working through a number of online art classes. Those who have strongly influenced my style include Natalie Martin & Sarah Stokes.

Natalie Martin is a fabulous, inspiring artist and graphic designer based on the surf coast in Victoria and her subject matter is primarily Australian fauna.

Sarah Stokes is a UK professional artist who specializes in wildlife and animal paintings. Her courses on the use of charcoal, painting wildflower meadows and, in particular, the course on expressive animals were hugely informative, challenging and offered a unique style of animal painting.



Recently I have completed several commissions of friends' much loved dogs and cats - winning a few prizes in local country shows!

I am constantly learning and have recently worked on painting old stone cottages.

I am willing to take on animal commissions - an example of a Samoyed painting is in the gallery.

Check out these exciting local opportunities to expand your creative horizons...

..... Could be the perfect Christmas gift!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make pottery on the wheel?



From her newly renovated studio 'Built 1921' on Blocks Road at Birdwood, Simone Linder-Patton offers a 2 hour 'Come and Try Wheel Throwing' session as an introduction to making pottery on the wheel.

This session suits people who would like to try wheel throwing but are not ready to commit to a longer set of lessons. Sessions can be run at a convenient time or on a Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm.

Just \$85 per person includes clay, material, glazes & firing.

Weekly lessons are also offered in 8 week blocks along with hand building and decorative workshops throughout the year.

The workshops are project focused and are priced according to the complexity of outcomes.

For more information visit:

<https://www.studiobuilt1921.com>

Mob: 0434 050 436

Email: simonelp19@Hotmail.com

Have you ever wanted to learn the art of leadlighting but don't know how to start?

Well why not sign up for one of our leadlight classes for beginners.

No previous experience is required and all materials and tools are provided.

Classes are run throughout the year and are held in our purpose built glass studio at Birdwood.



In December we will also be running our popular stained glass Christmas Decoration workshop!

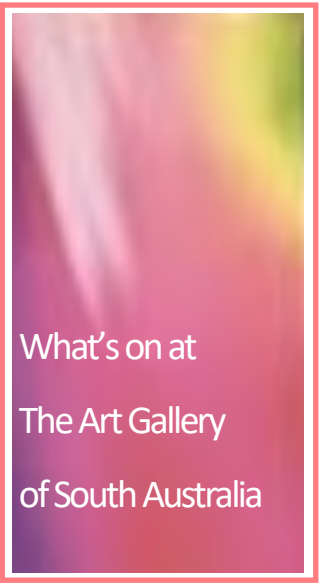


Gift vouchers are available and would make an ideal Christmas present - these can be redeemed for classes throughout the year.

For further information

visit our website tongandchic.com.au

or email sales@tongandchic.com.au



Tarnanthi 2023 - 20 Oct 2023 to 21 Jan 2024

AGSA's annual exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across the continent, *Tarnanthi*, was launched on Thursday 19 October at 6pm.

Tarnanthi means to come forth or appear – like the sun and the first emergence of light - and what a wonderful emergence this exhibition is!

A major feature is the first survey exhibition of acclaimed portraitist **Vincent Namatjira**, whose works offer a wry, satirical Aboriginal perspective on the politics of history, power and leadership. Vincent lives in the APY Lands and is the great-grandson of Albert Namatjira. He too is very talented – although the style is quite different! He was winner of the Ramsay Art Prize in 2019 with his sculpture "Close contact" and an Archibald winner in 2020 in with his painting of footballers Adam Goodes and Nicky Winmar entitled "Stand strong for who you are".

Namatjira's dynamic community of Indulkana is also the source of Tiger Yaltangki's painted adaptations of classic AC/DC rock posters, and Iwantja Arts' 40th anniversary retrospective.

Other desert homelands have inspired Bugai Whyoulter's breathtaking depictions of seasonal changes around Wantili, Spinifex artists' phosphorescent renderings of the power of Wanampi, the Water Serpent, and Warlayirti artists' epic project to reconnect with Wilkinkarra salt lake.

Utopia's former stockmen muster the memory of cattle drives across Country, and the pastoral past informs Kunmanara (Ngilan) Dodd's shelter-like sculpture made from fencing wire and wool.

Denise Brady's paintings are stunning and are accompanied by an audio recording she made to explain their connection to her story. Elizabeth Close's sculptural pieces are created from reclaimed car bodies. From the Pilbara, Nyangulya Katie Nalgood pays tribute to the birds that evoke Country, and Juluwarlu Art Group's video work and carved objects emphasise the power of performance to connect to Country and culture.

From Arnhem Land, Wally Wilfred's vivid contemporary paintings reflect on traditional cycles of life and death, Djakanu Yunupinju depicts ancestral links to seasonal weather patterns, Injalak weavers celebrate nature's colours in their dyed woven baskets, and Ray Mudjandi unmask his latest Aboriginal superhero, *Black Speed*.

From Central Australia, Tangentyere and Yarrenyty Arltere artists represent their place through soft sculptures and ceramics. Paintings and soft sculptures also animate Sally M. Mulda's and Marlene Rubuntja's video story of their overlapping lives, (a joy for younger visitors) while Judith Inkamala and Janet Fieldhouse tell their personal stories in ceramics.

Tarnanthi is presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia with Principal Partner BHP and support from the Government of South Australia

Adapted from: <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-2023/tarnanthi-at-agsa/>

Ann Davenport



Regardless of which way you look at it, the TOTT gift shop offers a fabulous range of gift ideas all year 'round.

Member Artists are reminded to replenish your stock regularly so that visitors can always find a fresh new selection of your original, locally handcrafted affordable creations in store.



www.tottgallery.com.au

TOTT Member artists are encouraged to complete and submit the Artist Interview Form now available on our website.

After receipt of your completed interview, our Web/IT Manager will work with you to help create your online profile.

If you need some inspiration to get you started, take a moment to have a look at some of the Artist Profiles currently available.