



Newsletter
of
Artists of the Valley
&
Gorman's Art Gallery

Casterton, Victoria

October's Spring Fling for Artists

October is set to be not only a celebration of spring, but an exciting and busy time for artists. There are two opportunities to strut your stuff, including a day of working in the gorgeous spring weather (we hope) and an exhibition at Gorman's Art Gallery of small works. With too few get-togethers for members, there will be a soiree on the last Saturday of the month to celebrate.

En Plein Air Day
In conjunction with the 2018
Music Arts Gardens In Casterton

Sunday 28th October

Food
Tea & Coffee
Available

Guidance
&
Mentoring
Dagny Strand

10:00 a.m.
Munro's Garden
128 Ponderosa Road
Strathdownie
(No Cost to Artists)

Contact: Collin 03 5581 2559

Making M.A.G.I.C.

It's the year of the bi-annual Music Arts & Gardens In Casterton, and local artists are invited to be involved. Rather than have art in the gardens, visitors will be able to see and interact with *artists*, as they create work inspired by their surroundings, in a garden.

After the success of last year's *en plein air* day at Warrock Homestead, folk are keen to repeat the fun. This year's event will be held at Munro's garden at Strathdownie, situated next door to Wilkin Forrest. Well known and award-winning Penola artist Dagny Strand has kindly agreed to be our art guide and mentor. She will spend an hour with us at the beginning of the day to discuss various aspects of capturing our surroundings, or parts thereof, and offer some tips. Later, Dagny will be happy to help artists address any issues encountered while working directly from nature.

There is no fee involved for artists, the cost for the mentorship covered by Gorman's Art Gallery. Food will be available on-site for the planned lunch break at 1:00 p.m. as well as tea and coffee.

There will also be a gazebo set up, either for shade or shelter, depending on the whims of the weather.

For any enquiries or questions about the event, please contact **Collin Tenney, on (03) 5581.**

(Continued on page 3)

Contents

October Spring Fling	1
Editor's Ink	2
Artist of the Month	4
Gorman's Art Gallery News	5
Honouring Clarice in Style	6
True Blue & Opportunities	8

"You're mad, bonkers, completely off your head. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are."

—Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Editor's Ink ~ Jenn White

It's only a month, but it seems an age since we gathered for this year's Clarice Beckett Art Award and show. It was a great honour and thrill to be this year's recipient of the award. Thank you to all who expressed their congratulations. Being pleased for others' successes and achievements does not necessarily mean we like the chosen work, and that's okay. Art is *supposed* to be subjective. Otherwise, every artist on the planet would be producing identical work to please every art connoisseur, who have the same pictures on their walls.

Belonging to a group of creative folk means being part of a whole. That doesn't mean we look at the world, art, or each other in the same way. We might appreciate another artist's skills and talent, even his or her style, but it's rare to go into raptures over every piece. Like all 'tribes', our group is made up of individuals—something to celebrate.

My own small, personal tribe diminished by one this week. Neurotic Nellie, the nervier of my two chooks succumbed to old age. Carrying her lifeless form down the yard, I was struck, not for the first time, how immensely heavy dead creatures become, compared to when alive. She was literally a 'dead weight'. It's a term I was reminded of when talking to Glad, later, a term I'd never given serious thought to. A past 'wildlifer', I'd been struck by the phenomenon many times, with even the smallest of creatures. The 'lightness of being' having departed, a heavy lump of leftovers remain. I'm glad I'll be unaware of the weight gain when my own lightness leaves. Perhaps a coach from Weight Watchers will greet me on 'the other side', wearing shorts, thongs, sunscreen and a sunshade against the heat, clipboard and welcome pack in hand.

I'm all for recycling, transforming old into new. Nellie now nourishes a fledgling new life—a young tree. She will be reincarnated into a different species, one day providing shade, if the hares stay away for a while.

The upcoming *Small Works Challenge* gives me pause. How much justice can I do to a work done by a Master? Do I dare? Can I bring new life into something by copying work done by someone long dead? What lit his passion? Can I tap into my own, without causing distressing grave-spinning for the poor departed artist? That, more than the size is the challenge.



New life from an old egg (*The Concert in the Egg*, Hieronymus Bosch)

Gorman's Real Estate Agency

70 Henty Street
Casterton, Victoria
Ph/Fax (03) 5581 1381
Mobile: 0418 375 487

Casterton Farm Supplies

1 Henty Street
Casterton, Victoria
5581 1344

Robyn Rhodes' Music School

Casterton, Victoria
5581 1105

Lucy's Artist Cottage

Bed & Breakfast
134 Henty Street
Casterton
0459 662 226



Coleraine & District Community
Bendigo Bank

NEW MEMBERS

to
Gorman's Art Gallery
are

ALWAYS WELCOME!

Member packs will soon be available.
In the meantime membership forms and details are available from the front counter.

(Continued from page 1)

Small Works Challenge & Exhibition

Proposed by one of our members (thanks, Julie Kent!) to provide an additional opportunity for members to make art is a Small Works Challenge.

Five (5) pictures, no bigger than A4
(210 × 297 millimetres or 8.27 × 11.69 inches)
in your chosen medium/s.

Make one of the five a copy of a Master
eg. Monet, Manet, Gainsborough, Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Vermeer, Reynolds, or for an Aussie take, Roberts, Buvelot, Conder, McCubbin, Streeton etc., etc. Your choice, but probably better if the artist has been dead for some long while.

Special Exhibition

Results of the challenge, efforts at copying the Masters, along with unique small works, will be the focus for a special exhibition. Keep in mind 'displaying your work'. Framing is not essential, but unframed works will be 'pinned' or 'stuck' to walls for display. (Mounted? Backed?)

Works will be for sale (not compulsory)

Deadline: Thursday, 25th October

Delivered (ready to be hung/stuck/pinned) to Gorman's Art Gallery before or by 3 pm.

Adding to the MAGIC

The exhibition will run over the weekend of MA.G.I.C., and it is planned to have the gallery open on the Sunday.



But, wait, there's more to the Spring Fling

A poster for 'Spring Fling' featuring a chaotic scene with figures and the text 'Spring Fling', 'Une Soirée', 'SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER', '7.00 p.m.', 'Gorman's Art Gallery', '80 Henty Street, Casterton', 'BYO Food to share, and your favourite tippie', and 'Be there, or be totally out of the picture!'.

Soiree ~ To celebrate spring, our efforts with the Small Works Challenge, compare notes on the experience, and enjoy a well-earned get-together (all too rare!) come along to the soiree. You might even want to go all out and get frocked-up. Dressed (up) or not, it would be wonderful to see as many members as possible get into the spirit of the Spring Fling...and join in.

(Details in poster above)

A Note on Copyright and Plagiarism

There is nothing wrong with copying a Master's work, even the Masters did it while learning. However, one artist should show respect to another, dead or alive. Being a *small works* challenge it is anticipated the 'copies' will be a different size from the originals, and could never be mistaken for the 'real' thing. Even if the artist has been dead for more than 70 years, it's still politic to acknowledge the original creator in the title and or signature, such as : Salome— *after Titian* by Jenn White or, Salome *A copy* by Jenn White . We do not copy the original signature.

Artist of the Month

The 'mini' exhibitions continue throughout the year. Although the featured artist does not always benefit from sales, it is certainly a worthwhile promotional activity, for both the artist and the Gallery. It's a delight to see bodies of work by individual artists, and inspiring for members as well as visitors to the Gallery.



MAY

Jo Taylor Casterton

ex-pat, now living in Melbourne. An expert in realism, Jo's work is detailed and inspiring, with many works featuring Casterton and the district.



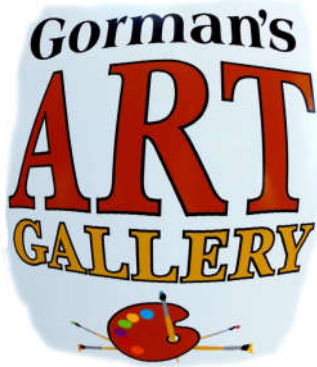
JUNE

Molly Glapin, another Casterton ex-pat now residing in Sunny Queensland. Lots of wonderful whimsy in much of Molly's work.



JULY

Meagan Lonsdale's passion for animals, native and domestic, is evident in every beast, bird and critter she paints.



Open 11.00 am till 3.00 pm
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
80 Henty Street, Casterton

NEWS

IMPORTANT CHANGE to

Commission for Members

It was proposed and passed that a sliding scale be implemented for rates of commission on sold works. This is now active.

For any given month:

Nil volunteering	30%
1 day in the month	15%
2 days in the month	10%
3 days in the month	5%

NOTE: For members keen to reduce their commission to 5% by sitting for 3 days in a month, 1 (one) of those days needs to be on a day other than regular opening days—i.e. On a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Sunday. This way, the gallery will be open more often, a benefit for all.

There was some discussion about competition for available volunteering days, but it was decided it would be a rare occurrence. We all have lives outside the gallery...

CHANGEOVER OF ARTWORK

With the walls being cleared for the Clarice, and then work re-hung afterwards, it was the perfect opportunity to give the display a fresh look. Those members either local or within easy driving distance have exchanged works for fresh pieces.

THANK YOU to Aaron McKinnon, (Casterton Secondary College) for sorting out the database and data entry for this year's Clarice, making the admin side of things easier for members.

ART REACHING ITS DISPLAY-BY-DATE

Could other members, some whose particular artworks have been hanging for quite some time, in some cases a year, please arrange to collect/swap their work, in keeping with a 'fresh look' for visitors to the gallery.

Longstanding works are no longer on display, and have been stored safely in the back room.

The Terms and Conditions of membership specify work to be changed by artists at least every six months. In a lot of instances this has been allowed to become 'flexible'. However, to avoid the gallery becoming stale, it is now being enforced, for all.

NEXT MEETING 2018

General Meetings
Third Thursday every
three months

16th August

4.30 pm at
Gorman's Art Gallery
80 Henty Street,
Casterton

Your input is valued
Please attend if at all possible

REMINDER

Volunteers

There are still the odd days when the Gallery is scheduled to open, but is closed, due to no one volunteering to sit. Please consider dropping in to put your name down on the calendar for a day, or two, that suits you.

Any member who enlists a 'proxy' sitter—Please make sure your proxy notes *your* name against the day on the calendar, the day book, or both, for commission purposes.

THE CLARICE

See a catch-up on Page 6.



The 2018 Clarice Beckett Award

The long weekend in June saw another fantastic opening night, award and exhibition. The atmosphere was welcoming and friendly, the tucker filling, and the art of great calibre, appreciated by those who attended over the weekend.

This year's Clarice Beckett Art Award went to Jenn White for her woodcut titled 'When Sweet Women Died' (Left). No one was more surprised than Jenn (*your editor*) when this year's judge, Ron Penrose named the winning entry. The piece was a labour of love, inspired by a poem about fourteenth century Ireland.

We also saw the Glad Laslett Patron's Award inaugurated, a prize of \$300. (We love you, Glad!) This award went to Hamilton artist Rebecca Hill for her 'Cow No. 4', (Lower Left) full of character and appealing to many, as well as the judge.

People's Choice went to Meagan Lonsdale's 'Fluffy Parliament', a popular (obviously) and truly delightful painting of young owls, seen Below.



This Year's Sponsors

This year's event drew the attention of new sponsors. Lucy and Sanders, part-time residents of Casterton, owner-operators of Lucy's Artist Cottage bed and breakfast, and avid art collectors, not only donated amazing raffle prizes, but also contributed sponsorship dollars. We thank Lucy and Sanders for their most generous support.

We were also fortunate this year to receive sponsorship from the Coleraine and District

Community Bendigo Bank, and Helen Gorman, combined with our stalwarts, Peter Gorman of Gorman's Real Estate, and Robyn Rhodes Music School. We thank everyone for their support.

A grateful thanks also go to Casterton News for promoting the event, and monthly promotion of the gallery and members in the 'Artist of the Month' featured in the local paper.

Without artists entering their art, there would be no Award or show. And without willing workers, it would not happen. To all, thank you!



The 'Clarice' 2018



Thank you to Robyn Rhodes and students of her Music School for the wonderful entertainment.



Working to a True Blue Theme

For anyone who likes Kelpies, or dogs of any breed, and a bit of culture in the mix, Casterton is the place to be on the Queen's Birthday weekend. The annual Casterton Rotary 'True Blue' art show drew a record number of wonderful entries, and local artists did very well in taking out prizes.

It can be a challenge to come up with a 'Kelpie' year after year, but a host of artists met that challenge admirably. There were some exceptional works, this year, in every category, making the exhibition a joy to wander through, and a pain to pick a favourite for the People's Choice.



OPPORTUNITIES

JULY

Coleraine Art & Photography Show

Entries CLOSE 27th July

Fee: \$3 per entry

Exhibition: Opens: 10th Aug,
Show 11th 10-4 & 12th 10-3

Contact: coleraineartphoto-show@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

Hamilton North Rotary Art Show

Judge Herman Pekel

Entries CLOSE Fri 22th September

Delivery 8th & 9th Oct

Exhibition: Opens: 11th Oct;

Show until Sun 14th at 3.00 pm.

Collection Sunday from 3.30-5.30

Entry Form from

<https://rotary-art.weebly.com/>

Portland Rotary Art Show

Entries: Now Open

CLOSE Fri 28th September

**Entry On-line - Gallery 247

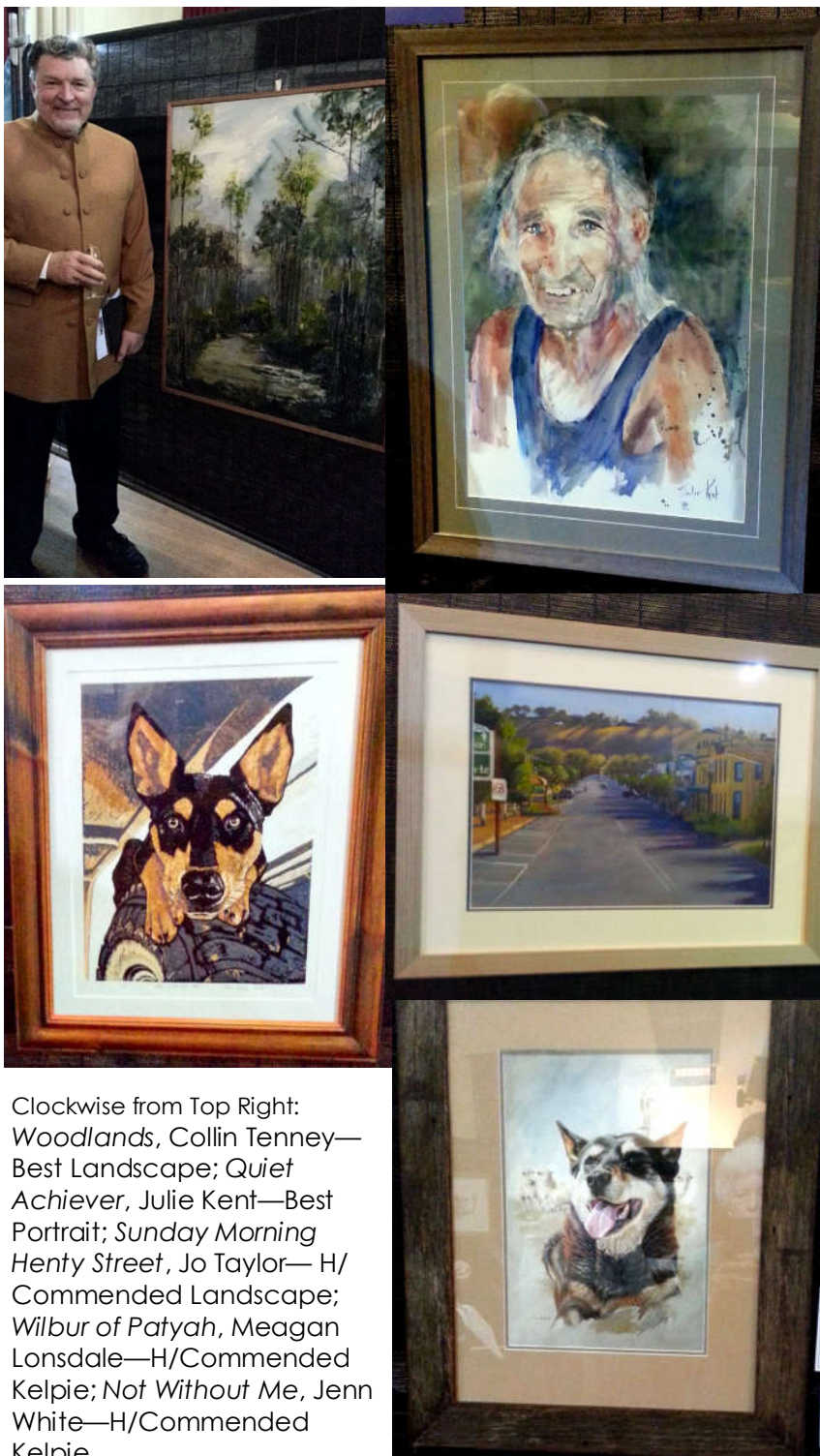
Accepted Artists notified 4th Oct

Exhibition: Opens: 2nd Nov; Show

3rd 10-6 & 4th 10-4

Details at:

<http://portlandartshow.com.au/>



Clockwise from Top Right:
Woodlands, Collin Tenney—
Best Landscape; *Quiet
Achiever*, Julie Kent—Best
Portrait; *Sunday Morning
Henty Street*, Jo Taylor—H/
Commended Landscape;
Wilbur of Patyah, Meagan
Lonsdale—H/Commended
Kelpie; *Not Without Me*, Jenn
White—H/Commended
Kelpie.

Workshop with

Jodi Fewtrell-Gobert

Sunday 5th August 11 am—1 pm

Hollick Estates, Penola

\$45 BYO apron

Materials, wine & nibbles supplied

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

08 8732 2752

Email upstairs@hollick.com