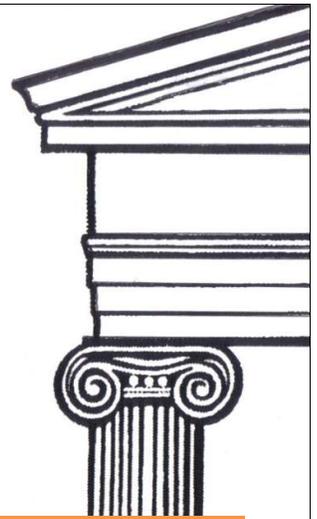


# adfas

## Geelong Inc



Newsletter 39 ♦ April 2018

Member of the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society  
ABN 86 017 404 297 Group Member of NADFAS



## From the Chair

With Margaret Montgomery

I would like to welcome back our returning members and extend a warm welcome to new members for Geelong's 26<sup>th</sup> ADFAS year.

Commencing my third year as Chair, I am looking forward to another series of wonderful lectures, which has already commenced with Antony Penrose's outstanding account of the life of Lee Miller. Antony's lecture was enhanced by his own experiences and love for his most extraordinary mother.

We would like to thank Naida and Barney Hutton, new members who hosted Antony's visit. Hosting one of our lecturers is a fascinating and worthwhile experience and we encourage members to do so.

It never ceases to amaze, that ADFAS is so little known in the community. We would like to

encourage all members to tell your friends about our excellent lecture series and social gatherings. Additional programmes are available if you would like to hand them on.

Our current membership is 235. Sadly, we have lost several of our long term members and we extend our condolences to their families.

I would like to thank our industrious committee, who have already put many hours in getting the current year up and running. This year we are delighted to welcome Louise player and ex-Chair Kate McEachern back onto the committee, and Claire Hewitt, who has always been an unofficial committee member.

We would encourage members to nominate for the committee. New members bring fresh ideas and ensure the continuation of ADFAS in



*ADFAS member Pam Wilson with Antony Penrose who presented our first lecture on the extraordinary life of Lee Miller*

Geelong for years to come, and ensure ongoing support for Arts in the Geelong region. Lectures will continue to be held at the Geelong West Town hall which, with easy

accessibility and free parking, has proven to be a popular venue. However, due to improvements to the supper room, we will be in an alternative hall for April and May. You will be directed to the appropriate venue on arrival.

No doubt many of you have often wondered how ADFAS Australia and its 37 societies are organized. Moving lecturers around the country, arranging venues, lectures, hosts, accommodation, travel, insurance etc is a massive feat. In this news letter we have included an account of the national ADFAS body which runs this huge machine.

I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you as we enjoy a wonderfully stimulating calendar of events together.

✎ Margaret Montgomery

## Queenscliffe Literary Festival Inc.

Former bookshop owner Marylou Gilbert and book editor Alice Barker co-founded the Queenscliffe Literary Festival in 2015. They wanted to establish a forum for the local community to enjoy and enhance its association with the arts.



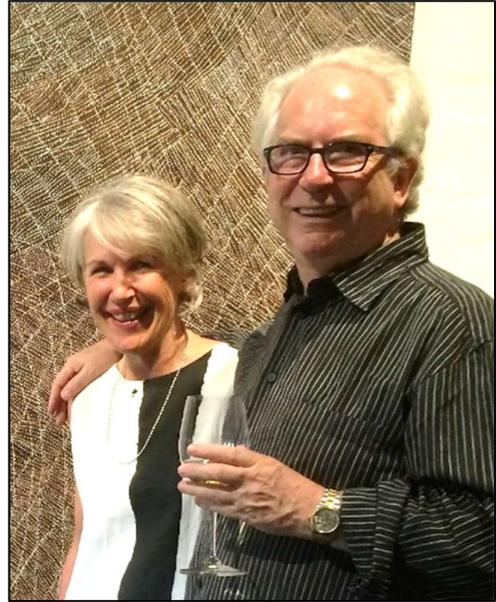
While the main focus is on books and writing, with presentations by several top-selling authors which in the past have included the Man Booker Prize winner Peter Carey, and Miles-Franklin Award winner, Sofie Laguna. Geraldine Doogue, Robert Drewe, Don Watson and Jennifer Byrne have featured among the keynote speakers.

*Left: Marylou Gilbert, Sandy Mackinnon (author of *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*) and Cr Susan Salter, Mayor of Queenscliffe, at the programme launch for the 2018 Queenscliffe Literary Festival.*

In addition to inspirational speakers, the Queenscliffe Literary Festival provides intellectual conversations, writers workshops and a special 'Children's Day' where authors and illustrators present age-appropriate sessions of live drawing, storytelling, workshopping ideas, role plays and the children writing stories themselves.

Now in its fourth year, the Festival has expanded to include performance poetry, music and theatre and cooking masterclass. There are presentation from gallery curators, and lectures on local historical events.

This year, under the theme of 'Exploration', the Festival will use plays and film, as a means to discuss identity, and assimilation. Journalists/reporters Hugh Riminton and Michael Brissenden will give presentations, and historian Clare Wright will give a lecture entitled *Shooting the Past* about an historic scooter race. The Festival will also host a 'Death over Dinner' for 25 guests.



*Queenscliffe Literary Festival President Marylou Gilbert with Booker Prize winning author (1988 and 2001)*

*Peter Carey*

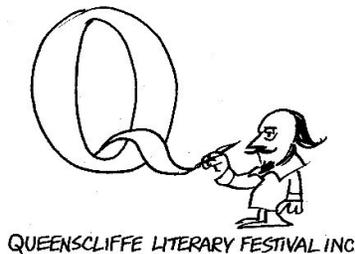
President Marylou Gilbert and Vice-President Alice Barker's expanded programme has realised their dream of promoting community health and wellbeing by cultural engagement has been realised. It enables the older residents to access events within their own community, without having to travel.

For an inspirational experience, we suggest you join those many visitors from all over Victoria and interstate at the Queenscliffe Literary Festival.

 Marion Pescud

## **The Queenscliffe Literary Festival**

**runs every weekend in May**



**Tickets will be on sale  
from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March via  
[www.queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au/tickets](http://www.queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au/tickets)**

# ADFAS Conference, Sydney

No doubt, many members have often wondered about the machinations which deliver the ADFAS lecture series to us.

ADFAS was developed from the British NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society, now called 'The Arts Society'). The founder of NADFAS, Patricia Fay OBE, tired of presentations directed at the housewife, took it upon herself to organise a more challenging series of lectures.

Experienced British lecturers, currently apply to do the Australian 'tour'. First time presenters must deliver a two-minute talk at NADFAS House in London before a large gathering of members. Experienced lectures are required to present for one minute. These highly experienced lecturers with extraordinary knowledge and abilities say that it is extremely stressful, but the rewards are worthwhile. We are told that when hearing that they have a spot on the Australian circuit, they just about leap through the phone with excitement. While all costs within Australia are covered, international lecturers are required to pay their own airfares. The buzz is getting to see Australia and to lecture to an informed and appreciative group of people.



*Margaret Montgomery and Louise Player*

ADFAS now has 37 societies and 6500 members, across three different circuits; Geelong being part of the Flinders circuit. Our lecturers first present in Adelaide, then fly to Melbourne, train to Geelong, then back to ADFAS Melbourne, Central Victoria (Kyneton), Canberra, Molongolo Plains, Riverina, Murray River, Ku-ring-gai and Camden. This system works amazingly well thanks to thousands of volunteers and only one paid co-coordinator.

Twice a year, the national executive committee and the chairs of each society, accompanied by an observer who hopefully may take on the chair's role, meet in Sydney. The first evening, over an informal meal the chairs and observers meet and catch up to exchange information and advice.

The next day consists of workshops that cover every aspect of organization, and other Society reports. Display tables feature the work of the Young Arts Committees; Church Recordings; and Society brochures and programmes. This is usually followed by an outing. This time we visited the very lovely Queen's Club for farewells to the current executive committee and welcoming in of the new.

As you can see, there is a massive amount of man hours, energy and enthusiasm which goes into bringing you nine wonderful lectures per year as well as special interest days and excursions, and contributing to the arts and to the young arts programme.

The ADFAS story is one of considered growth and generosity of spirit. With enthusiasm we will continue to providing members with opportunities to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of the decorative and fine arts, and encourage the preservation of our national artistic heritage.

 Margaret Montgomery

# ADFAS Geelong 2018 Committee

The ADFAS Committee works in a voluntary capacity to organise the annual lecture series, special events and excursions for our members. From lecture selection to venue bookings and catering; financial management, arts grants, and the myriad of other tasks associated with running the Society, our team combine their talents and enthusiasm to provide you with the best experience possible.

Committee members are readily available to offer advice or assistance, and welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have to make ADFAS Geelong even better.



**Marg Montgomery**  
*ADFAS Geelong Chair*



**Sally Birrell**  
*Vice-Chair*  
*Membership Secretary*



**Gianna Varasdi**  
*Treasurer*  
*Lecturer Liaison Officer*



**Cathy Stewart**  
*Secretary*



**Carmel Apted**



**Jenny Bowker**



**Claire Hewitt**



**Kate McEachern**



**Marion Pescud**



**Louise Player**



[adfas.org.au](http://adfas.org.au)

**unlock  
the arts >**

## Australian Decorative and Fine Art Society

new members always welcome

- ◆ art appreciation
- ◆ social arts events
- ◆ cultural tours

For membership enquiries, please call:  
Sally Birrell, on 5250 3264 or 0427 342 213

# 'South Coast'

Susan Sutton Art Exhibition



*Susan Sutton*

The exceptional work of acclaimed local artist Susan Sutton, will be exhibited at the QDOS Gallery, Lorne, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Inspired by the Victorian Surf Coast that she knows and loves, Susan has created an intimate yet comprehensive collection of the vistas and cultural fabric of life in and around Lorne.

She says, "I have a continuing enthusiasm for many visual aspects of Lorne, always finding fresh inspiration in the town's coastal environs and never tiring of painting familiar subjects through the challenge of new approaches".



*Erskine River, Lorne*

This major collection follows the successful solo exhibition of 'Water and Light' two years ago. It features the beauty of the beach and the serenity of the adjoining Otway bushland juxtaposed with the social culture of the area. Susan weaves a narrative into her paintings, from the organic sway of nature to figures relaxing, competing, and working within the environment. Every aspect of her work is thoroughly researched so the viewer gains a true essence of life on this part of Victoria's coast.

Adding experimental textures and atmospheric light to her work, Susan presents an outstanding array of paintings exploring human activity within the unique landscape; of the ocean beneath big moody skies, and the bush beneath canopies of lush leaves. Into these diverse works, she has also included some aspects of local history.

I encourage everyone to make the trip down the Great Ocean Road to view the 'South Coast' exhibition, and to see Susan's wonderful interpretation of our region.

The Exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.



*Boat Crew at Lorne*

 Marion Pescud



*The Challenge*

## The 'South Coast' art of Susan Sutton

1 to 22 April ♦ QDOS Arts ♦ Allenvale Road, Lorne

### In the Sea with Andrew Baines

What fun! On Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> an eclectic group of people including local mayors, councilors and a local member of Parliament met on the beach at Lorne. An interested and bemused crowd quickly gathered. It is not every day that you see a group of people, formally clad in suits, gather at the beach.



*Andrew Baines*

Their interest quickly turned to amazement as the group, holding tea cups and umbrellas, turned and marched into the water. It was of course, a shoot by the surrealist photographer, Andrew Baines. While he took many photos we laughed, chatted and became exceedingly damp. Standing in the sea, pretending to be at a tea party certainly is an ice breaker when meeting new people.

We then moved on to the opening of Andrew's exhibition of paintings at the beautiful QDOS gallery. Sadly, Andrew had never heard of ADFAS, however he was extremely interested, particularly when I described our latest wonderful lecture on the surrealist photographer, Lee Miller.

The entire day just confirmed the value of leaving your comfort zone, even for just a little while.



✂ Margaret Montgomery

*Suited models ready to be immortalised in an Andrew Baines Surrealist work, Lorne.*

# Natural Harry

Harriet Birrell, the creator of *Natural Harry*, grew up as a ‘free-range’ kid on a farm. Her childhood was blessed with a healthy diet, lots of outdoor exercise and a happy life balance, however after completing a fashion and design degree at university, she realised the busy tertiary years had taken a toll on her physical wellbeing.



Harriet Birrell

Always interested in nutrition, Harriet was keen to recapture the energy and good health of her childhood, and thus began the adventure in plant-based concepts which would evolve into the *Natural Harry* brand. She began by switching to a vegetarian diet, then fully embraced a plant-based diet, researching and experimenting along the way to make herself not merely nutritious meals, but to create the most amazing tastes, colours and textures she could.



*Natural Harry pop-up caravan*

The enthusiasm of friends and family to her incredible smoothies and raw desserts seeded the idea of offering her specialties to a wider community. For Harriet, merely selling her food was not enough. She wanted to provide authenticity, sustainability and a unique experience to her customers. Her background in design added another element to the concept, and her partner Fraser West, supplied his skills and support to the venture.

Together Harriet and Fraser opened a ‘pop-up’ caravan in Barwon Heads, serving delicious food made from all-organic ingredients. Fraser built the vintage-style caravan from scratch, and they placed it on a leafy space in Hitchcock Avenue where customers could consume their plant-based delights while lounging on bean bags beneath shady umbrellas. The business was an immediate success.

After three seasons of hard work Harriet needed to make a decision: expand or diversify. Her mantra of ‘authentic sustainability’ provided the answer. If she opened more caravans she would be unable to guarantee the quality of the product; to ensure that totally organic ingredients would always be used and that corners would not be cut to increase profits. As a Certified Holistic Health Coach, the quality of all the *Natural Harry* produce was paramount, so she and Fraser let the caravan go.

Never daunted and ever creative, Harriet decided to share her nutritious, and by now famous food, by writing a recipe book. Not a mere cook book, but a thoroughly researched and tested volume of the preparations so loved by patrons of the *Natural Harry* caravan. Harriet designed the layout and Nicole Ramsay provided the beautiful photographic images for over 70 recipes.

Harriet’s latest book is entitled *Whole*, and again features the brilliant photography of Nicole Ramsay. The recipes are pared back from those offered in *Natural Harry*. They are less complex with fewer ingredients, yet maintain the same delicious taste.

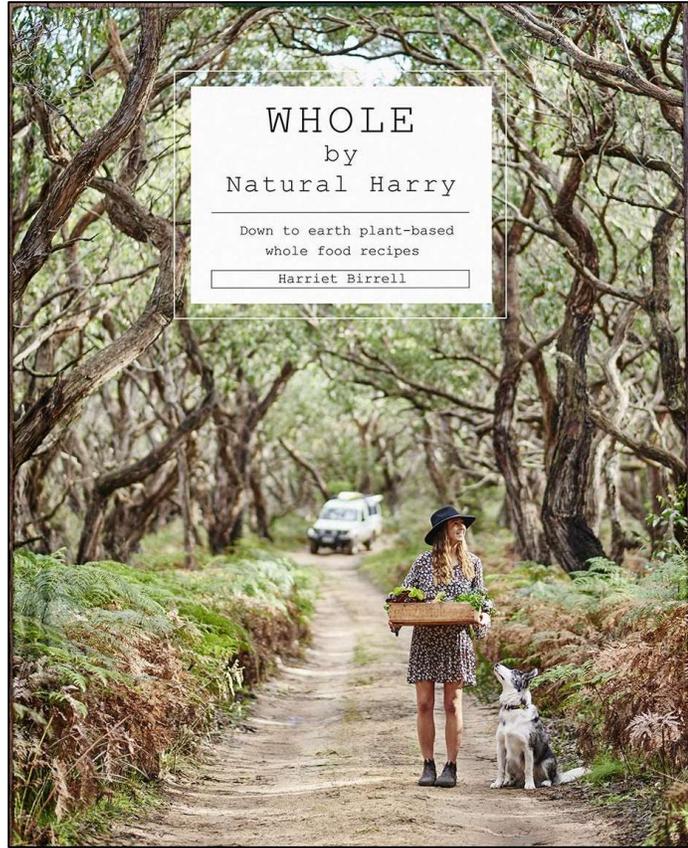
Harriet is moving on again. She is about to open a new concept store called 'Natural Harry' in East Geelong, where the emphasis will again be on organic products to promote natural wellbeing. Expect to find a range of goods from shampoo to cushions; clothes to kitchen utensils.

✂ Marion Pescud

Harriet's book

## *Whole*

will feature as a prize  
in raffles to be held  
at a forthcoming  
ADFAS lecture.



*'Whole' plant-based recipe book by Harriet Birrell*

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travel

## The Queen of Sheba – Myth or Reality?



For tour information call 1800 639 699  
or e-mail: [info@adfastravel.com.au](mailto:info@adfastravel.com.au)

There is no evidence that the Queen of Sheba ever existed, although the pagan-worshipping kingdom of Sheba (Ancient Saba) certainly did. The Queen would have had several regional capitals to control her vast territory, including Axum in Ethiopia's northern highlands.

One thing is for certain – Ethiopia and its famous Queen are fascinating and mysterious subjects.

Chris Bradley, who specialises in the history and art of North Africa and Arabia, will lead the ADFAS Travel tour to Ethiopia in September 2018, visiting many wonderful historic sites and introducing participants to the rich and ancient culture.

# The Archibald Prize in Geelong

Since its inception in 1921, the Art Gallery of New South Wales' Archibald Prize was exhibited at the Geelong Art Gallery for the first time in December last year. Deemed Australia's favourite art competition, it is awarded for the best portrait painting.

The Exhibition was the catalyst for a \$450,000 refurbishment to the Geelong Gallery, funded by private donors and the local council. The gallery spaces were freshened up and foyer and front-of-house administration area completely redefined.

The Archibald Prize challenges our cultural observation of Australian society and the winning entry is always open to controversial debate. The merits of likeness, applied media, style, texture and colour selection are graded beside the viewers personal preferences, and the conclusions most often do not match the official judges' decision. This was certainly the case for me with the 2017 Archibald Prize.



*'Agatha Gotbe-Snape' by Mitch Cairns*



*'Bare Tarragh' by Keith Burt*

Personally, I found the winner, *Agatha Gotbe-Snape*, oil on linen by Mitch Cairns, Picassoesque and rather dull. My favourite was *Bare Tarragh*, oil on canvas by Keith Burt. With her defiantly shaved head, Burt views this portrait of his partner as 'at once glamorous, strong and void of affectation'. I see intelligence set in a most beautiful face, captured with such honesty.

The Archibald exhibition attracted over 58,000 visitors to the Geelong Gallery and each were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite portrait. The winner of the 'People's Choice' was *The inner stillness of Eileen Kramer* by Andrew Lloyd Greensmith, an oil on linen rendition of the 102 year-old dancer.



Above: *'The inner stillness of Eileen Kramer' by Andrew Lloyd Greensmith*

The Packing Room Prize, judged by the packing staff of the Art Gallery of New South Wales' was *Lisa Wilkinson AM*, oil on linen by Peter Smeeth.

☞ Marion Pescud



Right: *'Lisa Wilkinson AM' by Peter Smeeth*

# The Bald Archy Prize

The Bald Archy Prize, known internationally as only the art competition in the world to be judged by a sulphur-crested cockatoo named Maude, was also heralded as a first for Geelong in 2017.



The eccentric exhibition was held at The National Wool Museum from 14 October to 11 November. Created in 1994 as a spoof of the Archibald Prize, the Bald Archy invites artists to submit portrait paintings of humour; from dark satire to light comedy.



Featuring 45 finalists with works of irreverent larrikinism, the exhibition was a huge hit with viewers who appreciated the wit behind the art. National Wool Museum Director, Padraic Fisher summed it up eloquently. “Self-reflection and social commentary through satire and humour. What could be more Australian?” he asked.

Although the competition this year was dominated by portraits lampooning politician Pauline Hanson, the Bald Archy Prize winner was James Brennan with *Pocket Rocket*, his painting of Cricketer David Warner. In a press statement, judge Maude the cockatoo said, “How refreshing in these days of hate and spite and social media venom, to come across a work that is full of love and positivity”.

✎ Marion Pescud

Left: *'Pocket Rocket'* by James Brennan

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## Hosting Visiting Lecturers

We are always seeking people to host our international lecturers. Our international presenters prefer a friendly home stay where they have the opportunity to meet more people in a cosy environment rather than spending time isolated in a hotel.

Hosting involves collecting the guest from the railway station, providing two nights' accommodation and some meals for which you will be reimbursed financially. You will also need to supply transport to and from the lectures. Occasionally the lecturers are accompanied by their spouse.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact one of our Committee members. You will find the experience rewarding with lively conversation and the opportunity to show off our fair city to an appreciative overseas guest.

# Kylie on Stage

## Kylie Minogue Costume Exhibition

My granddaughters were coming to stay without their parents. So, the usual question arose. How to entertain them during the visit? I thought about taking them to the *Kylie on Stage* exhibition at the Geelong Gallery. I had no idea if the idea would appeal or if they even knew about Kylie Minogue. Luckily, it was met with enthusiasm. Of course they knew about Kylie. They are keen Neighbours fans and watch regularly. They knew Kylie had starred in Neighbours and were even able to tell me which year she left the show (1988).



*Kylie in concert*

They didn't know quite so much about her singing career but they were happy to check out her outfits. Everyone was pleased! The *Kylie on Stage* exhibition shows outfits from her many different concerts. Her stage wardrobe is held at the Arts Centre, Melbourne's Performing ArtsCollection. Designers of her wardrobe include Dolce and Gabbana, John Galliano, Karl Lagerfeld and Jean Paul Gaultier as well as local designers including Peter Morrissey.



*Isabelle and Ellie strike a pose in front of a magnificent Minogue costume*

After we'd checked out all the costumes, we were all able to watch videos (using our own headphones) of rehearsals for Kylie's concerts. They were very entertaining and gave a really good background insight. We all enjoyed every aspect of the exhibition.

The exhibition opened at Arts Centre Melbourne and is now touring regional Victoria. It shows costumes from Kylie's many and diverse concert tours. Tours featured include *Disco In Dreams*, *Enjoy Yourself* and *Kylie Homecoming*. The outfits are arranged chronologically to showcase Kylie's changing stage persona.

I liked the feathered hats and dresses best. The girls had other ideas. Ellie's favourite was her huge-skirted many-coloured dress worn with extra high platform heels. Isabelle had no doubt that her favourite was the leopard skin, flared jump suit complete with hood and accessorised perfectly with bright red boxing gloves. We were all struck with how tiny Kylie is. Afterwards we spent quite a bit of time thinking of how our heights and waistlines compared to Kylie's. Let's just say Kylie is a very petite woman.



✂ Patricia Rizvi