

TOP OF THE TORRENS

art gallery newsletter

| July / August 2022 |



Dates at a glance:

Current Exhibition:

The Art of Life

SALA exhibition

featuring TOTT Members

– now showing until 28th August

Next Exhibition:

Spring Rebirth

Burragah Art Group

– from 2nd September

Annual General Meeting:

10 am Tuesday 15th September
at the Gallery

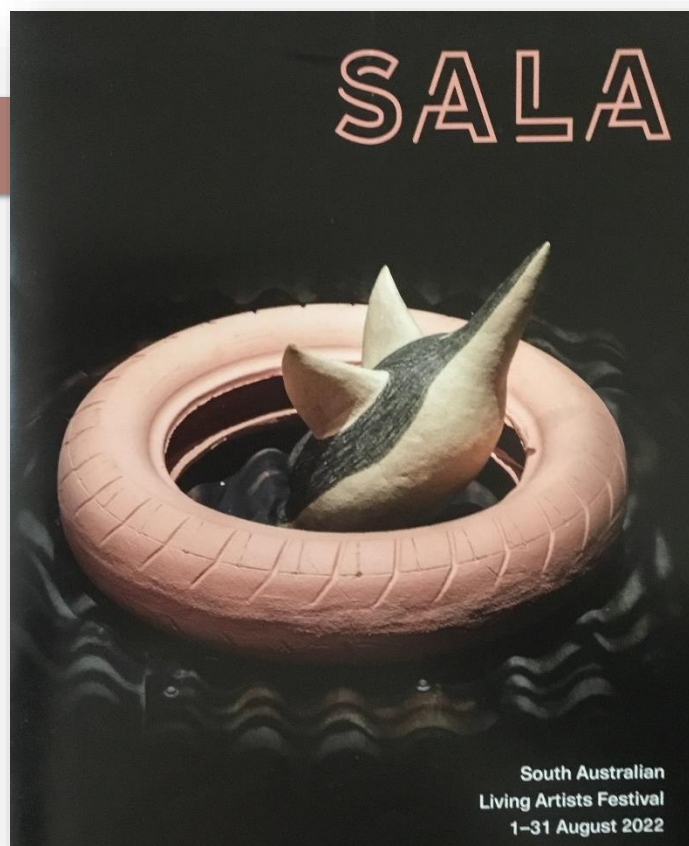
Material for future newsletters
can be left at the gallery
marked:

Attention-Rosie Trenerry

or emailed to:

topoftorrens@gmail.com

Please type TOTT NEWSLETTER
in the subject field.



It's that time of year again.....

For 25 years now, August in SA has been the time to over-indulge in all things ART.

This year SALA, the South Australian Living Artists Festival, will be celebrating its Silver Anniversary in 646 venues throughout the state.

The TOTT Gallery is official venue # 474 and our exhibition entitled *The Art of Life* is now open for your enjoyment.

Make sure you call in soon to see the latest creative works by our talented Gallery Members and also take the opportunity to collect your official program to help you plan your artistic August feast. You can also explore the program online via the free SALA App available on the APP store and Google Play.

Our 2022 SALA exhibition was officially opened on 10th July by Paul Rees, Head of Museums, Marketing & Major Events for the History Trust of South Australia. In reflecting on the title of the exhibition he shared these thoughts with those assembled. . .

“The Art of Life.

Now there's an intriguing title for an exhibition.

It's nothing but bold. It's nothing but strident. It promises some insight. And after having a mooch about earlier today the creations that encompass paintings in all media, pottery and woodwork, fabric and textiles, glassware, metal sculpture, art cards/prints and much more, certainly do what is promised on the packet – they definitely are a connection to people who are living life through art.

I was reminded over the weekend of a play I once saw called Art. It was written by a French playwright, Yasmine Reza. It poses many questions and queries. One of the three people in the play has bought a painting. It is a white canvas. He has paid an extraordinary sum for the piece. To him, it is a bargain – possibly an investment.

To one of his best friends, he is a mug. It is rubbish. It is blank canvas. He's been ripped off.

The other friend in the play tries her very best to bridge the ever growing gulf between these two friends as they argue about what art is. In the end, the painting is not the thing that causes the conflict – it becomes clear that the painting is a device they are using to share their past disappointments with each other, how they haven't met each-others' expectations and old grievances are aired and debated.

But the centre-piece of the play is art. And it does promise to ask the questions:

What is art for? What does art do? What is the point of art? What is art?

I want to flip that old chestnut of a question round a bit.

What is art is interesting enough, but what happens if we ask 'why is art?'

When we ask why is art, we get different answers. And many of them are answered here today.

Why have these works been created?

Do they need to have a purpose or is that act of creation the purpose? I think it is.

Living a creative life. Bringing something new into the world, even if you are repurposing, re-using or changing the form and shape of materials, is in itself worthy and it does not require much more of a reason than that.

Henri Matisse said 'Creativity takes courage.'

Edward Hopper said 'If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint.'

But I think my favorite is: Alberto Giacometti

'The object of art is not to reproduce reality, but to create a reality of the same intensity.'

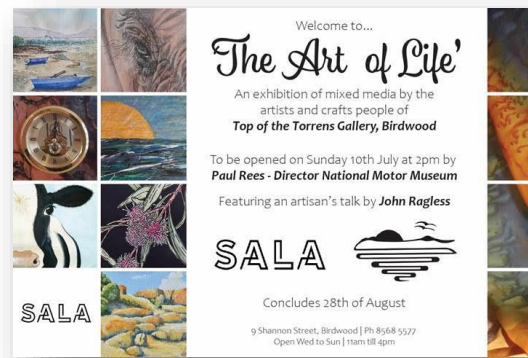
You have all brought something to the table for this South Australian Living Artists Festival exhibition. You have created something that was not here before you thought about it and before you applied your craft and art to making it anew. You have either enjoyed doing this or you have been pained by it. Perhaps both?

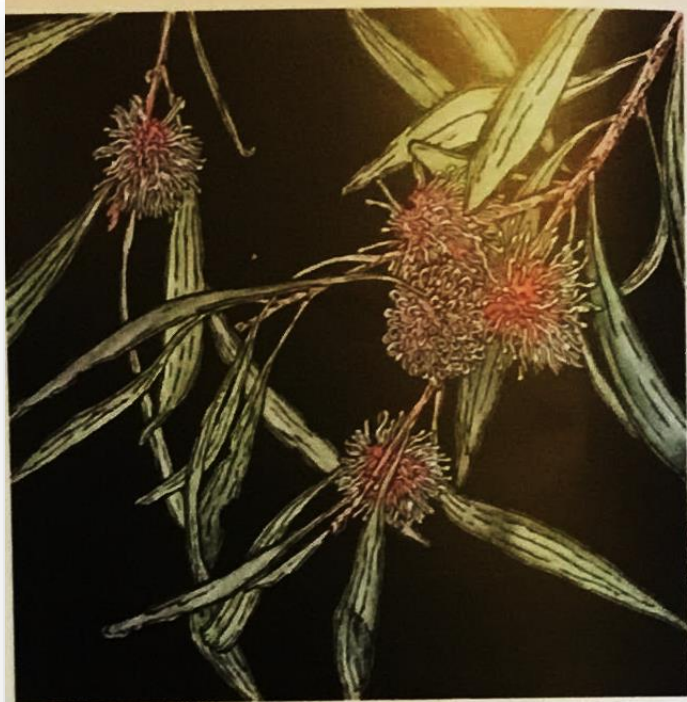
No matter, I want to thank you for doing what you have done. For being an artist. For having a vision. For applying your selves to bringing something into the world that did not exist in shape and form prior. In the end, I ask again... Why is Art? Why? Because you did it, that's why. It doesn't need any more explanation than that. It's the art of life.

I want to wish all the exhibiting artists well. I hope that all who come through the exhibition enjoy and value the effort made by you all.

On behalf of the History Trust and museum team, I thank you for not only this exhibition but for the ongoing relationship between the History Trust and the Gallery. You are certainly delightful tenants.

We appreciate that the Top of the Torrens enterprise adds value to the visitor experience for all those who come to Birdwood as part of their journey through the Adelaide Hills.”





Top of the Torrens Gallery
 9 Shannon St, Birdwood
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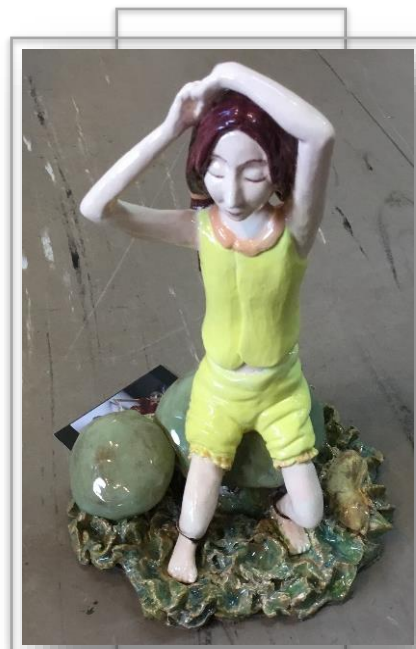
Top of the Torrens Gallery Artists

Jill ALLANSON, Steven ALLISON,
 Jenny ANDERSON, Laurie BARBER,
 Adrian BEACHAM, Ann BEACHAM,
 Marg BENKIS, Jacky COOPER,
 Karina CUTTLE, Ann DAVENPORT,
 Annette DAWSON, Talia DAWSON ^{IMAGE},
 Joe DENNIS, Lynda FANSHAW,
 Sarah FAWCETT, Ann GIBBONS, Leon
 HOLMES, Tricia HOOD, Shirley KLOSE,
 Rosene KOTZ, Viv LIDDICOAT, Barry
 LIDDICOAT, Charles MACE, Christine
 MURPHY, Mike PAINTER, Alana PREECE,
 John RAGLASS, Rosemary ROWE, Alice
 SHORE, Rae WINTER, Hayley WRIGHT

The Art of Life

An exciting and stimulating exhibition of creative works from members, incorporating a broad range of media that will intrigue you, pique your interest and more.

8 Jul-28 Aug
 Wed-Sun 11am-4pm



*top left: program image Talia Dawson,
 top right: Jacky Cooper, centre: Rosene Kotz, lower right: Sarah Fawcett*



A few more of the diverse creative works from 'The Art of Life.'

Clockwise from top left: Charles Mace, Hayley Wright, Joe Dennis, Ann Beacham, Leon Holmes, Mike Painter, Viv Liddicoat, Annette Dawson, Rosemary Rowe. Centre, Rae Winter



Top of the Torrens Gallery 2022 Annual General Meeting

Are you committed to your gallery?

It is now time to consider if you would like to take a more active role in the running of the Gallery.

The 2021/22 Gallery Committee comprises the following members:

Chairperson/president – John Ragless
Secretary – Rosie Trenerry
Treasurer – Annette Rusby
Assistant Treasurer – Christine Murphy
Deputy Treasurer – Shirley Klose
Membership – Jill Allanson
Exhibition coordinator – Annette Dawson
Roster coordinator – Rose Rees
Gallery Shop coordinator Rosemary Rowe
Newsletter – Rosie Trenerry
Maintenance – Adrian Beacham, Ann Beacham

All positions will be declared vacant at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in September. While some current committee members may consider nominating again for a position, some will be retiring for either personal reasons, or to enable other members to have the opportunity of more active participation in the running of the Gallery.

All members are encouraged to consider nominating for a position. As the Gallery is run entirely by volunteers, the effective functioning of the Gallery is dependant upon active participation by members. Being a member of the committee can be a rewarding experience. Experience is not essential, just a willingness to contribute in a positive manner with a group of like-minded individuals.

Lots of support will be provided to new committee members. Committee meetings are held every second month on the second Tuesday at 10.00am.

If you have any questions please contact myself (John Ragless) or the person whose role you are interested in – now is the time to start thinking about it – our AGM will be held on Tuesday 15th **September, 10.00am at the Gallery.**

AGM nomination forms will be sent out via email.

John Ragless

Chairperson



*Life is a
great big canvas
throw all the paint on it
you can!*

Danny Kaye