

TOP OF THE TORRENS

art gallery newsletter

| January / February 2024 |



Dates at a glance:

Current Exhibition:
'Black, White &
A Touch of Colour'
now showing until 17th March

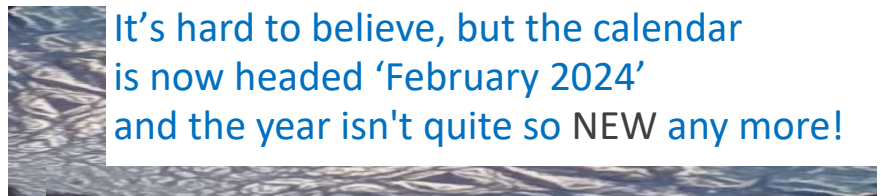
Next Exhibition:
'Art in the Making'
Artisans Exhibition
24th March to 5th May

Next General Meeting:
10 am Tuesday 19th March
at the Gallery

*Material for consideration 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.*



It's hard to believe, but the calendar is now headed 'February 2024' and the year isn't quite so NEW any more!

Hi everyone & welcome to a new year of TOTT News.

As usual, we have a great schedule of exhibitions in store for you, the first of which, "**Black, White and a Touch of Colour**", is now on display for your viewing pleasure.

There are many opportunities for all of our Member Artists to exhibit in the TOTT exhibition space during the year and we look forward to seeing the fresh fruits of your creative labours both there and in the gift shop soon.

Our Artisans exhibition "Art in the Making" is now fully subscribed and will be the next cab off the rank.

The 2024 exhibition schedule is set out in full later in this bulletin and you can collect a printed copy of it next time you visit the TOTT.

Member Artists should all be proud of the valuable part they play within the TOTT community as we continue to receive regular, favourable reports praising the diverse, high quality range of work on display in both our gift shop and exhibition space.

Please ensure that your work is regularly replenished in order to maintain this visitor experience and our reputation.

Onto a little less exciting, however equally as important matter; please remember to pitch in to do your share of the domestic tasks required to make sure our spaces are always kept fresh, clean and tidy - unfortunately it is a never-ending job and our shared responsibility.

We aim to publish our newsletter during the week following a new exhibition opening and I would welcome any articles you think may interest others in our community including details of any upcoming exhibitions that you are involved in that you would like to promote.

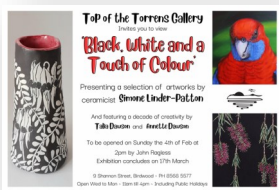
I look forward to hearing from you soon & in the meantime, I leave you with some words attributed to Albert Einstein...

**"Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen
and thinking what no one else has thought"**

Rosie Trenerry
- Editor, TOTT News

TOTT Chairperson John Ragless didn't hesitate when asked if he would perform the Official Opening of "Black, White and a Touch of Colour", the first exhibition on our 2024 exhibition calendar.

John re-countered to those gathered, the dilemma that faced Talia and Annette when they were presented with a last minute opportunity to join Simone in this exhibition - *How to produce enough pieces in just a few months, to fill the Gallery wall Space?*



The decision to present a combined retrospective display was quickly made. The exhibition would include a selection of artworks that had been created over the past decade.

As prolific artists who both work from the same art space, the availability of enough artworks for the exhibition was not an issue. The problem was, which pieces to include in the exhibition and where were they all stashed?

Most artists are familiar with the abundance of hiding places that exist for storage of excess creations. Talia and Annette's search began under the beds, then progressed to the collection in the wardrobe and finally ended with the folders behind the lounge. A few of the pieces also came from the display on the walls!

Some of these artworks are new to the Gallery, versions of others have been seen before. Some are reproductions of past favourites. Others are prize winners.

For Talia it has been a desired opportunity to display a wide-ranging selection of her lino-prints all together in one exhibition.

The past few months have been a flurry of creative activity - designing and carving new pieces, printing and painting, then framing works for display.

John concluded his address by saying that he believes that it was during this time, that they came to the conclusion that their next joint event should be called **'Ten Thousand Hours'!**



from left:
Talia Dawson,
Simone Linder-Paton
& Annette Dawson

Simone Linder-Paton Drawing inspiration from the textural qualities of Australian flora, my designs feature delicate floral and foliage imagery meticulously etched into the clay surface.

Through the technique of sgraffito, I carve delicate lines and patterns revealing the raw clay beneath and imbuing each piece with a tactile depth.

Using a limited colour palette invites contemplation, prompting the observer to delve into the subtleties of shape and pattern, allowing the inherent elegance of form and texture to take centre stage.

It is a visual meditation on the co-existence of simplicity and complexity. The juxtaposition of light and dark, positive and negative space, creates a visual rhythm that speaks to the interconnectedness of all living things.

Through my work, I hope to invite viewers to slow down, to pause, and to rediscover the profound beauty that surrounds us, even in the simplest forms.

Talia Dawson My fascination with flowers and the joy they bring seems to be an endless source for my art practice.

Recently I have been particularly inspired by native flora, studying the botanical constructs of individual plants before challenging myself to replicate what I see in a diverse way –using relief printmaking techniques and watercolour.

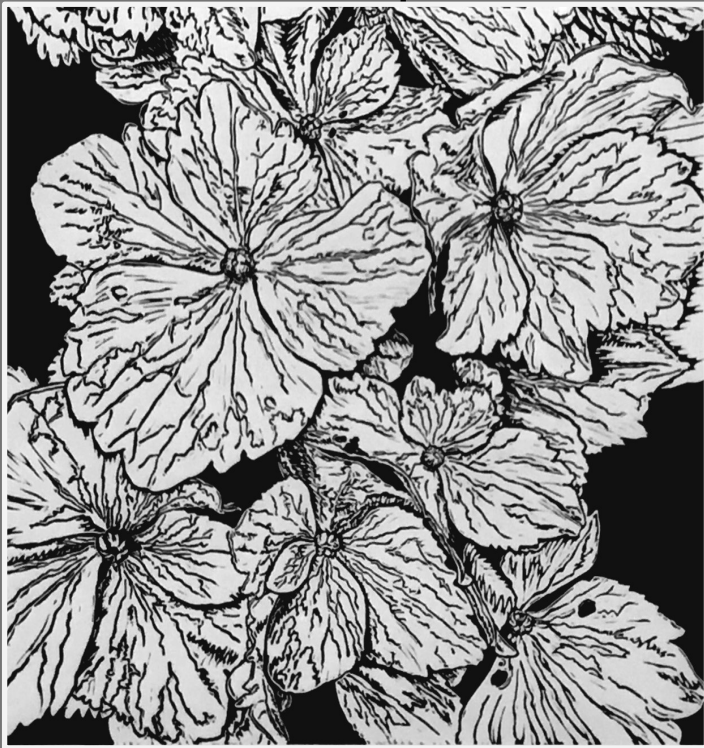
Through my work I aim to share my love of native blooms with others, placing a spotlight on the often-overlooked native flora that is endemic to Australia.

Annette Dawson I have always been creative and as a child growing up in Tea Tree Gully dreamed of being an artist. I was inspired to use acrylic paints as a 15 year old by a wonderful art teacher when studying art at Banksia Park High School.

Now 45 years later my artistic journey continues. My pathway over the years, has lead me to explore other mediums including silk painting and pastels. In 2018 my daughter Talia introduced me to the joys of printmaking and this medium now fits well with my travelling lifestyle.

I have always loved telling stories through my creativity . Each of my artworks represents threads of a memory that I have experienced. These threads are a part of the interwoven tapestry that reflects my life.

Applying medium to a canvas is just part of the process. It is having experienced the moment that brings an artwork to life.



'Black, White and a Touch of Colour'



*Clockwise from top left,
Artworks by :*

Talia Dawson, Simone Linder-Paton , Annette Dawson, Simone Linder-Paton, Talia Dawson, Annette Dawson

Time to embrace new-age forms of advertising

Greetings all, and Happy New Year to everyone.

You may have noticed over the past few months our facebook page has been adding a few more posts about the gallery and exhibits.

This is all done to help drive people to our gallery and hopefully spend some money on our artworks.

You can help by sharing our facebook posts to your friends and local groups and invite them to follow us on facebook.

The more people who are aware of our gallery, the better it will be for us as artists. It is amazing the number of local people who until recently didn't even know we had a gallery in Birdwood.

We are also looking for facebook and google reviews as a way to increase our positions in the broader community.

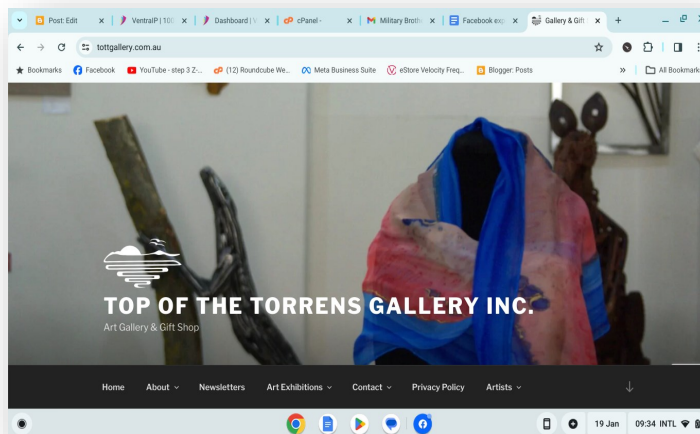
As an artist in the gallery you have a vested interest in its success.



The other area of interest in the internet is our website www.tottgallery.com.au.

We have an area there where each of our artists can have a page telling everyone about their art and how it came to be. To make it easier for you, we have created an online interview where all you need to do is answer a few questions on a form and submit it, and we will format and create the page for you.

You can then email up to 10 images to admin@tottgallery.com.au and they will be added to your profile. Just look for the artist's link on our web page and you can see some examples of pages already created as well as the interview form.




For those of you who are into the hashtags, a few we have already started are: #adelaidehillsart #tottgallery #topofthetorrensgallery #regionalart #birdwoodart

If you have any queries feel free to email admin@tottgallery.com.au

Looking forward to making 2024 bigger and better than ever.

- Adrian Beacham

P.S..... old-school methods still work also - 
So, next time you are at the TOTT, pick up some of our coloured flyers to distribute to cafés, libraries, galleries, gift shops etc near you.



2024 at a glance

As evidenced on Sunday at the opening of 'Black, White & a Touch of Colour' [our first exhibition on the 2024 calendar], the happy sound of chatter amongst the viewers of a new art exhibition is priceless !

As you can see below, TOTT Exhibition co-ordinator Annette Dawson has a great lineup of exhibitions scheduled for the coming year and we would love to see and hear you at as many of the openings as you can fit into your schedule. **Pop the dates into your calendar now so you don't miss out.**

TOP OF THE TORRENS GALLERY BIRDWOOD

'BLACK, WHITE & A TOUCH OF COLOUR'
Simone Linder-Patton, Talia Dawson, Annette Dawson
February 4 - 17 March

'ART IN THE MAKING'
Artisan Exhibition
24 March - 5 May

'SILVER THREADS & GOLDEN NEEDLES'
Textile & Jewellery Exhibition
12 May - 30 June

'OUR STORIES'
SALA - South Australian Living Artists' Exhibition
7 July - 25 August

'THE ART OF WOOD'
Woodworking Exhibition
1 September - 13 October

'WHATEVER NEXT'
Beacham/Painter Exhibition
20 October - 1 December

'IN THE HEAT OF SUMMER'
Summer Members' Exhibition
8 December - 26 January 2025

2024 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

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.

Just a reminder that our **Top of the Torrens Gallery** textile and jewellery display titled **'Silver Threads & Golden Needles'** will be staged this year from the **12th of May** to the **30th of June** 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 textile and jewellery items, please keep this exhibition in mind.

SALA

And while August may seem far off at this stage, we are already asking for expressions of interest from Members who may wish to participate in our **SALA** event – **'Our Stories'**.

Early Bird registration for SALA needs to be organised in advance.

Please keep an eye out for both lists on the desk at the Gallery, or phone the Gallery attendant to add your name to them, if you wish to be included in these exhibition opportunities at the TOTT Gallery.

See above for a reminder of the exhibition commencement and conclusion dates

The grass isn't always greener

Angas our 2.1 m long perentie (Australia's largest goanna) has made many friends amongst locals and visitors to the gallery since his arrival mid last year.

To make him feel quite at home, the garden bed in front of the gift shop window was revamped to include native plants and grasses. As part of their normal growth cycle, some grasses dry off from time to time before re-generating.

Unfortunately, someone recently pulled out several clumps of grass, including the root stock and threw them to the back of the bed. The person may have thought they were helping with the gardening however this action means that the grass cannot re-generate.

To keep the bed tidy, dried grasses will be trimmed from time to time by designated maintenance members.



As Members are aware, the wall space within the gift shop is limited and we are therefore restricted as to the size of wall-art that we can display.

There are however two areas where we can accommodate larger pieces; namely the area behind the counter (*above the cupboard*) and in the gift shop window.

If you have larger pieces of wall-art within your portfolio, you are invited to join the roster for being featured in these spaces. There will be an 'expressions of interest list' for you to add your name to at the gallery from this Sunday .

We also have two last minute spots available for the **MARCH & APRIL Artist of the Month.**

If you would like to be featured in either of these two spots please contact Sam Kotz via email asap : samanthakotz.art@icloud.com

Artist of the month - January

Jenny Anderson

We were sitting alongside
The Snowy River,
not far from where it flows
into the sea.

We watched this beautiful lizard
swim across the fast flowing river,
climb up the bank
and then onto the tree
right next to us.

He stayed with us until we packed up
to move on.

I took a photo and thanked him
for his company.

The lovely day had turned into
a very memorable one.



Jenny



Artist of the month - February

Rosene Kotz

Rosene is a self-taught artist working in a range of mediums.

Her practice as an artist began through a desire to recreate what she was seeing in everyday life and as a creative outlet to express herself.

As a painter, she works with oils, acrylics and mixed media. She is also a photographer, delighting in capturing images of South Australia.



The creation of jewellery and sculptural pieces is a new passion and she enjoys the challenge of working with resin, clay and native quandong stone in her artworks. Her latest experiment has involved making hanging houses from terracotta clay.

She finds experimenting with new materials inspires her creative process.



Rosene has been a member and volunteer at Top of the Torrens Gallery at Birdwood for several years. She enjoys interacting with visitors and talking about the gallery, the artists and the artworks. She also volunteers monthly at the Kapunda Community Gallery



05 February 2024

O-1148710
Top of the Torrens Gallery and Gift Shop
PO Box 268
BIRDWOOD SA 5234

To everyone at Top of Torrens Gallery and Gift Shop,

I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000.00 to support us as we work towards reducing the rate and impact of cancer for all South Australians.

Your donation enables us to continue investing in ground-breaking cancer research, reduce cancer risk through prevention and early detection programs, and provide support services for people affected by cancer. You are helping us to reduce the rate and impact of cancer and save lives.

Tackling cancer takes all of us. Thanks to the enduring support of people like you, we believe that we will create a community where cancer is no longer feared, but seen as a preventable, treatable, and manageable disease.

On behalf of the many South Australians who will benefit from your donation, I want to thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mireille Donnarumma", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mireille Donnarumma
Philanthropy Manager

This letter serves as an Official Receipt.

Donor: Top of the Torrens Gallery and Gift Shop

Dated: 18 January 2024

Cancer Council SA is the business name of the Anti-Cancer Foundation of South Australia.

Donations of \$2 or more to the Anti-Cancer Foundation are tax-deductible.



Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Summer Members' Exhibition.

With your kind support, combined with donations from the Gallery, and Friends of the Gallery we are pleased to have been able to make a \$1,000 donation to the Cancer Council of SA in support of their valuable work.

This initiative was moved and accepted at our 2023 AGM. It has met with wide support from the TOTT Community, many of whom have unfortunately had their lives impacted by cancer in some way .

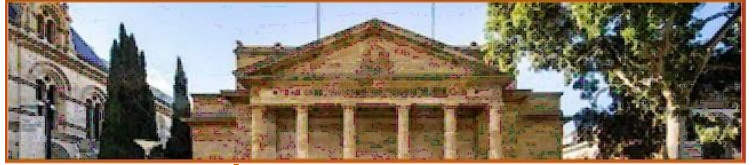
Cancer Council SA
ABN: 31 469 615 538
Cancer Council SA is the business name of the Anti-Cancer Foundation of South Australia.

South Australia
202 Greenhill Road
Eastwood SA 5063
PO Box 929, Unley BC SA 5061

t 08 8291 4111
f 08 8291 4122
e cc@cancersa.org.au

13 11 20
Every minute. Every hour. Every day.
cancersa.org.au

This month's article about what's happening at the **Art Gallery of SA** is adapted from Director, Rhana Devenport's introduction to the free AGSA publication **Exhibition Highlights 2024** which is available from the front desk in the AGSA Vestibule.



Much of the 2024 exhibition program draws imaginatively from AGSA's own collection. It conveys us to different lands and back through time.

Misty Mountain, Shining Moon, on now until 1 April 2024, (free entry) explores artists' representation of the Japanese landscape through the centuries, drawn principally from AGSA's extensive Asian collection. It offers a dialogue between artists and nature, expressed through their works of art from the 16th century to the present day and reveals a deep reverence for nature's splendour and veneration of the natural world as the abode of deities.

The 18th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Inner Sanctum, 1 March - 2 June 2024 (free entry) showcases contemporary art from across the country. Curated by José Da Silva, it presents projects from 24 artists interested in the human condition. The idea of *an inner sanctum* is about the private or sacred spaces we create for ourselves and about *imagination* which allows us to see culture and society differently.

Brent Harris: Surrender & Catch, 6 July - 20 October 2024, (free entry) considers the abstract and the psychological in the practice of one of Australia's foremost contemporary artists and is based on AGSA's significant holdings of his work. Brent Harris uses both figuration and abstraction, humour and the grotesque to examine psychological subject matter and give form to his feelings.

Re-imagining the Renaissance, 20 July 2024 - 13 April 2025, (free entry) reframes our understanding of the dramatic changes in European art from five centuries ago by examining AGSA's holdings of international paintings, sculpture, works on paper and decorative arts.

Radical Textiles 23 Nov 2024 - 30 March 2025 (ticketed exhibition) presents rarely seen and recently acquired works in the AGSA collection, augmented by loans from across the country. It unpicks social and political threads of revolution and innovation, protest and hope, interlaced in international and Australian fashion, textiles and experimental art practice over 150 years. The use of textiles by artists and designers has long been associated with moments of profound social and political change being used to express tension and transformation, resistance and activism and offering a way to mobilise social and political groups and build connections.

South Australian artists will also be featured during August 2024, with the works of **SALA focus artist Julia Robinson** and **Guildhouse Fellowship recipient Tom Phillips**.

AGSA is also sharing its inspiring offerings with the rest of the nation.

- The outstanding 2023 Tarnanthi exhibition **Vincent Namatjira: Australia in Colour** tours to the Canberra after it closes at AGSA in late January.
- **Kungka Kuupu** (from Tarnanthi 2022), is on its two-year national tour until June 2024.

Brent Harris: Surrender & Catch is being presented near Melbourne until March before coming to Adelaide.

And don't forget the regular events that will still offer enjoyment and opportunities to learn and be inspired:

START at the Gallery - held the first Sunday of every month - is a day of free family fun with art activities, tours and live performances.

For details go to <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/event-calendar/start-at-the-gallery-april-2024/>

Tuesday Talks – free and held every Tuesday from 12.30-1.00pm in the Gallery. They are short talks by curators and artists with opportunities for questions. The sessions are recorded, so if you can't attend, you can listen to the podcasts available for download from <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/visit/podcasts/>

First Fridays - a curated program of live music, talks and tours held on the First Friday of every month from 5-9pm. Check the website each month for details. <https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/>

From Ann Davenport,

who is hereby acknowledging the above as an adaption of writing by Rhana Devenport, ONZM, Director, Art Gallery of South Australia in **Exhibition Highlights 2024** (available at the AGSA information desk in the vestibule).