

Yarra News

Summer 2022 Vol. 33 No. 1

From the Chair

Welcome back to ADFAS Yarra for 2022 and a stimulating programme of lectures by our all-star Australian cast. We have over 25 new members in ADFAS Yarra this year and I am sure that all members will extend a warm welcome to them. Given the challenges we have faced due to the pandemic in the last two years we had anticipated more resignations for 2022. However, I am delighted to report that we have nearly maintained our numbers and anticipate moving from strength to strength as we get back to something close to our normal programme of lectures and morning and afternoon teas complete with chicken sandwiches, regulations permitting. So, thank you all for supporting ADFAS Yarra through these difficult times.

A big thank you too to those of you who were able to support our Young Arts programme with your membership renewal. Donations to this programme were at an all time high this year. The programme, under the guidance of committee member, Suzanne Katz, will keep you informed as to how these funds will be expended during the year. As you may be aware, any profit from excursions, special interest afternoons and guest fees also go into this programme to encourage our young and emerging artists in a wide range of artistic endeavours.

A couple of reminders for 2022. We do need everyone who attends any lecture or event to be double vaccinated or have a medical exemption. Please be sure to bring a mask with you in case they are needed. The first lecture of the year is available for members only however, for all other lectures, special interest afternoons and excursions guests are most welcome. Guests cannot attend the first lecture, but they are able to attend up to three other lectures at a cost of \$25 per lecture. If you would like to bring a guest please let Joanna Ingram know in advance to check availability. by texting or phoning her on 0438 370 461.

In addition to our lecture programme two excursions are planned to gardens around Melbourne, the first to autumn gardens in the Dandenong's in April and the second to spring gardens around Mt Macedon in October. Two special interest afternoons are also planned, one on three historic cities and the other on antique silver.

All special interest afternoons and excursions are booked through Trybooking. Bookings open for the 23rd March special interest afternoon by Kenneth Park on Friday 18th of February. Bookings for the 28th April excursion to the gardens of the Dandenongs open on Friday 11th of March. The excursions are always great fun and a good way to meet other members so I encourage new ADFAS members particularly to join us on these if you can but be sure to book early as places are limited.

Please be sure to wear your name badge to all lectures this year as these are your ticket of entry. If you have any queries about your membership, please contact Berres Thom, 0421 160 918.

We have three new committee members this year who I know will bring fresh ideas to the committee. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the energetic ADFAS Yarra committee in 2022 and to meeting members at our programmed lectures and events.

Carol Johnston,
ADFAS Yarra Chair.

Young & Emerging Arts Grants 2021

Each year ADFAS Yarra provides grants to young and emerging artists. These grants are made possible by your support of Special Interest events and excursions and by the generous donations from members to the Young & Emerging Arts Program. Thanks to the generosity of its members ADFAS Yarra has made grants totalling \$10,500 to 8 different organisations in 2021.

ANAM (Australian National Academy of Music)



Suzanne Katz and Amanda Pang

ANAM received a total grant this year of \$2000. Of this \$1000 was provided for the Outstanding Program in a Recital prize where the student devised the program and explained the rationale for their choices. In December ADFAS Yarra Treasurer Jane Anthony and Young and Emerging Artists Coordinator Suzanne Katz attended the 'ANAM celebrates 2021' performance and prize presentations at Abbotsford Convent where Suzanne presented the ADFAS Yarra prize to Amanda Pang, a third-year graduate pianist from Queensland.

Also, due to a flood in the South Melbourne Town Hall where ANAM stores instruments, and the fact that students were in Covid lockdown, a further \$1000 was granted, to help with transport costs, so stranded pianos and instruments could be safely stored in students' homes, while providing students the opportunity to practice during lockdowns.



Amanda Pang giving recital

Cann River Community Centre

The ADFAS Yarra Committee wanted to support people, especially teenagers, caught up in the trauma of the 2019-20 bush fires. Finding that some other areas were well provisioned by public support, it was decided to give a grant of \$1000 to the Cann River Community Centre for resources to activate the 'Rhythm-to-Recovery' training which had already been undertaken in Cann River and Lakes Entrance. Although the trainers had finished their courses there were few instruments on which the teenagers could play. The grant paid for drums, tone bells, percussion instruments, games and lesson plans for 'drumming circles' to engage the local teens. Leaders affirm that approximately 60% of teenagers in the surrounding district have come to join in, with usually 10-12 in each group. It is hoped to continue this experience for P12 classes at the local High School in 2022.



Drumming Circle

Craft Victoria

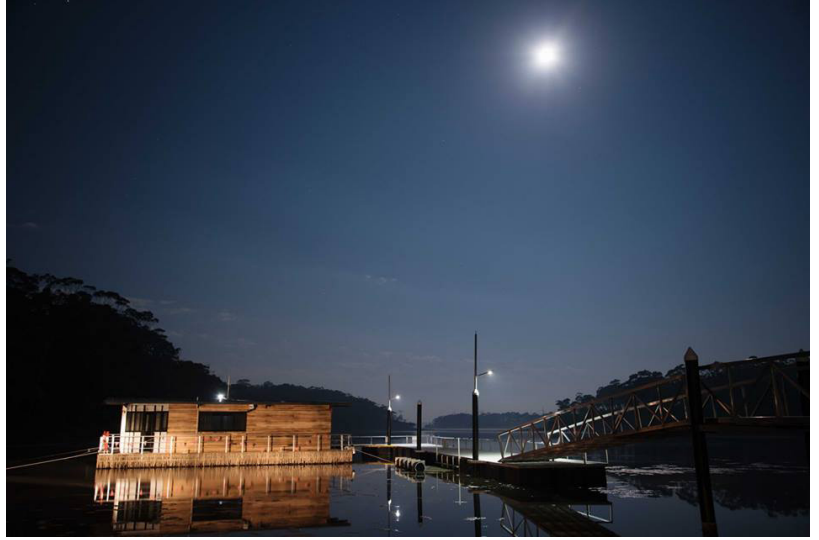
CRAFT Victoria received a grant of \$1000 for the ADFAS Yarra Victorian Craft Emerging Artist Award which, due to Covid restrictions, has been postponed to 2022 when a full exhibition of the 62 finalists will hopefully be possible.

FLOAT Inc.

FLOAT Inc. is a floating art/residential studio on Lake Tyers in Gippsland. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists have used the vessel for art and nature experiences since a local boat builder, in partnership with the Wurinbeena Studio Gallery, built it several years ago. The ADFAS Yarra grant of \$1000 will support artist Anli Vuong, as Artist-in-Residence on the vessel, while she is compiling an illustrated journal as part of the Eco-Wanderers project. This project is also partly funded by the East Gippsland Shire Council. The journal will become a showcase of the work FLOAT is doing with local school children and artists.



Anli Vuong, Artist-in-Residence



Floating residential studio

MCM (Melbourne Conservatorium of Music) Concerto-Aria Competition

The MCM were supported with a grant of \$2000 which was shared between two winners, Nathan Sinclair on guitar, playing *Concierto de Aranjuez* for Guitar & Orchestra by Rodrigo and Brian Luo playing the Third Piano Concerto by Rachmaninov which may be remembered as the piece which caused David Helfgott OAM, to suffer a breakdown in the movie *Shine!* The prize guarantees the recipients a solo performance with the MCM Symphony Orchestra. The Chair of ADFAS Yarra, Carol Johnston presented the prizes on Zoom.



Brian Luo



Nathan Sinclair

The following email was received from Nathan:

This is just a quick note to extend my sincere thanks for supporting the MCM Concerto-Aria competition for 2021, of which I was joint prizewinner. I have just received the prize money this week and I will put it towards buying some new microphones for my studio set-up. Your financial support of such a high-quality competition was extremely important to me personally, as it came during the difficult time of being in another lockdown. Participation in the competition, and ultimately winning it gave me a real artistic focus during that time, and for this motivation please accept my heartfelt gratitude in receiving your generous donation.
Kind regards Nathan Sinclair.

Patricia Robertson Fund

The Patricia Robertson Fund, named in honour of a long serving chair of ADFAS, was officially launched in 2014. Through the fund, ADFAS supports members of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM). Each year ADFAS Yarra donates to this fund which trains young Conservators working or training in a variety of conservation areas including Museums and Archive Departments. In 2021 ADFAS Yarra provided a grant of \$1000.

RMIT University Master of Fine Arts

RMIT received a grant of \$1000 shared between two students studying a Master of Fine Art Degree. Tasmanian artist Ruby Roberts won the ADFAS Painting & Drawing Award in Semester 1. Mark Edwards was the winner of the Semester 2 Award.



Mark Edwards winning entry (*Evolution*)

University College, University of Melbourne

In 2020 University College received a grant from ADFAS Yarra which was presented as a Dance Scholarship. However, in 2021 the College advised the Committee that some students struggle with the cost of living in a residential college and requested that the scholarship be open to students training or studying Art in any of its forms, to help with living expenses. Therefore, our 2021 grant of \$1500 will apply to the 2022 student intake.

Suzanne Katz, ADFAS Yarra Young and Emerging Artists Coordinator



Ruby Roberts winning entry (*Untitled*)

Send contributions by email to: **Editor:** Jan Bennellick, jangeo@bigpond.net.au
www.adfas.org.au Copyright © ADFAS Yarra Inc. 2022

Forthcoming Lectures

Lecture 1

Thursday 24 February 2022

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

The Rise of Collecting in the Renaissance: Cosimo de' Medici and his sons **Professor Dale Kent**

Dale is an Australian historian who specialises in the Italian Renaissance. After graduating from the University of Melbourne Dale was awarded a PhD at the University of London for her thesis Political alignments in Florence on the eve of Cosimo de' Medici's rise to power, 1427-1434. On her return to Melbourne Dale worked at La Trobe University for 13 years. In 1987 she was appointed Professor of History at the University of California, Riverside, a position she held until her retirement in 2009. As of 2021, Dale is Professor Emeritus of the University of California, Riverside and Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Dale's expertise has been drawn upon by art museums and for television. She was a consultant and participant in Lion London Television's four-hour special on the Medici family which aired on PBS in the United States and public television in Britain and Australia. Dale's memoir *The Most I Could Be: A Renaissance Story* was published by Melbourne University Press in 2021.

In the early fifteenth century, Cosimo de' Medici (1389-1464), a fabulously wealthy banker, was the most powerful citizen of Florence where the remarkable artistic movement known as the Renaissance began. He spent lavishly as the city's most important patron of art and literature. In this lecture Dale, who is a world expert on the Florentine Renaissance, will show how the family's collection of beautiful and valuable objects was associated with Medici artistic, personal and political patronage, and their activities as Europe's wealthiest and most powerful international bankers.

Lecture 2

Thursday 24 March 2022

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

The Victoria & Albert Museum - a treasure house of the decorative arts **Kenneth Park**

Kenneth has served as Curator of Collections at Wesley College, Melbourne for over thirty years where he is responsible for the school's extensive art and archival collections. Kenneth also consults in both the corporate and public sectors in philanthropic fundraising (especially in planned giving) as well as marketing, sponsorship, art, membership / loyalty, and public relations. An avid traveller, tour leader and lecturer, Kenneth works with a range of tourism organisations and travel companies across the globe. He lives by the motto: 'Life is a grand tour so make the most of it'. His tertiary studies include political science, administration, museum studies, industrial relations, fine arts, history, and international relations.

The Victoria and Albert Museum (also known as the V&A) founded in 1852 in London is a celebrated museum of applied arts, decorative arts, and design with a huge permanent collection of over 2.25 million objects. It is named for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The V&A has its origins in the Great Exhibition of 1851 which was presented in the dazzling Crystal Palace. The success of this mammoth undertaking owed a great deal to the passion, drive and commitment of Prince Albert, the prince consort. Henry Cole, the V&A's first director, had worked on the Great Exhibition. The V&A was initially called the Museum of Manufactures. Today it is housed in a fantastic building in South Kensington. It provides an impressive venue for the display of its many treasures. In this lecture Kenneth will look at the story of the V&A and some of highlights from its extraordinary collection.

Lecture 3

Thursday 26 May 2022

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

Nora, Stella and Sybil - the women at war **Gavin Fry**

Gavin Fry is a writer, artist and museum professional with fifty years' experience working in curatorial and management positions in Australian museums, galleries, and educational institutions. He trained as an art teacher in Melbourne in the 1960s, studying painting at RMIT and Caulfield Technical colleges. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts [Hons] and Master of Arts from Monash University and Master of Philosophy from Leicester

University. He is the author of twenty-five books on Australian art and history and many catalogue and journal essays. In retirement Gavin has returned to his art training and exhibits as a painter in Newcastle and Melbourne. As well as working as a professional writer, he also designs and publishes books on behalf of other writers and artists.

Just three Australian women worked as Official War Artists during World War II - Nora Heysen, Stella Bowen and Sybil Craig. Nora Heysen AM, daughter of Sir Hans Heysen, was the first woman to win the prestigious Archibald Prize in 1938 for portraiture and the first Australian woman appointed as an official war artist. Stella Bowen, painter and writer, grew up in Adelaide, where she studied with Margaret Preston. She left Adelaide in 1914 to live in England and France for the rest of her life. Sybil Craig was born in London and grew up in Melbourne. In 1920 she began private art tuition with John Shirlow and then studied at the National Gallery of Victoria's school of painting.

In this lecture Gavin will relate some of the experiences of those at the front through the eyes of these women war artists. They each made a significant body of work, bringing a fresh vision to the official expression of Australia at War.

Special Interest Event - Two Lectures by Kenneth Park

Wednesday 23 March 2022

Glen Eira Town Hall

1:30pm

Cost: \$45

The tale of two cities - Moscow and St. Petersburg

In this beautifully illustrated lecture Kenneth profiles the contrasting cities of Moscow, with its world-famous landmarks, and St. Petersburg, a city of European sophistication that is a celebration of art and architecture. Moscow, the Russian capital, has impressive and world-famous landmarks like St Basil's, the Kremlin, and the Red Square. Saint Petersburg, the artfully planned statement city of European sophistication, is a celebration of art and architecture. Saint Petersburg is home to the incredible Winter Palace, the Imperial Hermitage Museum with its fabulous architecture and art collection as well as other key monuments of Russian history including the Peterhof Palace and the Peter and Paul Fortress.

Where East meets West - Istanbul

In his second lecture, Kenneth takes us on a stunning visual tour of Istanbul where East meets West. Once-called Byzantium and later Constantinople, Istanbul is an ancient city with a rich history and today is blessed with a tremendous ensemble of architecture and monuments including the Hagia Sophia, Top Kapi Palace, the Grand Bazaar, Pera Palace Hotel and the Theodosian Walls. It is spectacularly located on the strategic Bosphorus Strait. Founded in 660 BCE, and renamed as Constantinople in 330 CE, the city grew and became a centre of trade and exchange on the Silk Road and is one of the most important cities in history. It served as an imperial capital for almost sixteen centuries, during the Roman/Byzantine (330-1204), Latin (1204-1261), Byzantine (1261-1453), and Ottoman (1453-1922) empires.

Where at Glen Eira Town Hall the Special Interest Afternoon will be held will be advised closer to the date. Bookings open on Trybooking from 10am Friday 18 February or call Joanna on 0438 370 461.

Excursion

Thursday 28 April 2022

Gardens of the Dandenong Ranges

8.00am for 8.15 prompt departure - 4.00pm approximate time

Autumn is a spectacular time in this cool climate area with leaves of the many deciduous trees changing to brilliant reds and yellows. With private gardens open again, we plan to enjoy a full day visiting this region.

Information regarding the gardens we will visit, cost, departure details and morning tea and lunch arrangements will be provided closer to the excursion date.

Bookings open on Trybooking from 10am Friday 11th of March or call Joanna on 0438 370 461.