

Yarra News

Summer 2024 Vol. 35 No. 1

From the Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. I trust that you have all had an enjoyable summer break and are looking forward to this year's program.

As in 2023 we will again have both UK and Australian lecturers and the lectures cover a diverse group of topics ranging from Scandinavian design to Ceylon's first modernist art movement, from Georgian and Regency Jewellery to the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

A warm welcome to new members who have joined ADFAS Yarra this year and a thank you to all those members who renewed their membership for 2024 and to those of you who were able to support our Young Arts Program as part of your renewal.

A list of committee members for this year is included on the back of the wallet programme sent to you with your 2024 badge insert. Esther Lewin is our new Membership Secretary and the contact for guest bookings. We also welcome 3 new members to the committee - Liz Zenner who is our new Young Arts Co-ordinator, Helen Owens and Rosemary Pullan.

Please remember to update your badges with your 2024 name tag and to wear these to lectures and special interest events. Returning members will know that member badges with a star indicate a new member. Please introduce yourselves to new members and make them welcome.

Guests are welcome to attend up to 3 lectures a year except for the first lecture which is for members only. Prior booking is required and the cost per lecture is \$25. If you wish to invite a guest please contact Esther Lewin on 0493 433 817 or email adfasyarra@gmail.com no later than the day before the lecture. Payment can be made, preferably by credit card, on the day of the lecture.

As in previous years there are also 2 Special Interest afternoons and 2 excursions during the year. Our first excursion in April is to the Duneira Estate and the Stokes Collection in Mt. Macedon to view their art collections and visit their stunning gardens. Our first special interest lecture in May is on Art Nouveau.

For the information of our new members, profits from the special interest lectures and excursions are used to support our Young and Emerging Arts program. The Special Interest lectures are held on Wednesday afternoons in the Caulfield Cup Room starting at 1.30. They run for 2 hours with a break for afternoon tea. The cost per lecture is \$45. An article by Suzanne Katz on the Young Arts projects supported in 2023 is included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at our first lecture of the year Artistic and Cultural Representations of Ethel Rosenberg and the Making of an American Icon on 22 February.

Jan Bennellick
Chair, ADFAS Yarra

YOUNG AND EMERGING ARTS 2023

Each year ADFAS Yarra's Philanthropy program provides a variety of grants to young and emerging artists, made possible by the support of Special Interest sessions, excursions and your generous member donations. Awards go to both individuals and groups, covering a range of art practices.

Grants also spread the word about ADFAS Yarra more broadly in the community. The 2023 Awards covered music, artists with a disability, an indigenous glass artist, painters, puppeteers, theatre artists, accommodation support for a university art student and art conservation. The total amount awarded was \$15,000.

In this Newsletter we will feature three of the Grant entities and recipients.

1] Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), \$2,000

ANAM is a national classical music performance training facility, with students from across Australia and New Zealand and the only professional performance-training institute of it's kind in Australia, and one of few in the world.

The ADFAS Yarra prize for the most outstanding solo recital was awarded to **Ronan Apcar**, a Piano student seen below with ADFAS Yarra Chair, Jan Bennellick, at Abbotsford Convent in November.



Ronan has come from NSW to study at ANAM, because he had met previous graduates and found that they had been involved in interesting and adventurous projects at a high level of musical skill.

Ronan explained that his theme was the Industrial Revolution and consisted of 5 pieces of music. It was inspired by an American composer and related to the industrialization of the US cotton industry.

Also, our last year's winner, Nicola Robinson, has won the ANAM Director's prize. She wasn't there to receive it as she is currently working in Germany. Students are invited to present a submission to the Directors and Nicola's entry was successful. She will use the \$10k prize to purchase a Natural Horn.

Google describes this as:

The natural horn is a musical instrument that is the predecessor to the modern-day horn. Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth century the natural horn evolved as a separation from the trumpet by widening the bell and lengthening the tubes. It consists of a mouthpiece, long coiled tubing, and a large flared bell.

Apparently, currently when one is required for a performance in Australia, a musician is usually brought in from overseas. Nicola's intention is to work with it in Australia when she returns from Europe.

We offer our congratulations to Ronan and Nicola on their success in these pursuits!



2] Patricia Robertson Fund Scholarships for students of Conservation \$500

Each year ADFAS Yarra donates to a fund, named in honour of a long serving chair of ADFAS, who recognized that financial support would make a meaningful difference to the vital art of conservation. The donation is used for the conservation of Australian cultural materials and training of young or mid-career conservators. Students must show evidence of high academic achievement and have made a contribution to the conservation profession.



ABOVE: Daniel Bornstein, a previous Melbourne University scholarship winner, seen with Celia Cramer, who was awarded \$2000 from the Patricia Robertson Fund.

Celia was the recipient of a Mid-Career Scholarship. She has already obtained a PhD in Science and a BA in Cultural Heritage Conservation. Over the last 4 years she has developed a protocol for the non-destructive chemical analysis of objects made from skin, e.g. leather goods and natural history specimens, using a near infrared spectroscopy, which doesn't require samples, but uses light alone. The protocol has further potential in authentication of cultural heritage objects.



ABOVE: Harpreet Tanday also won a Mid-Career scholarship worth \$2000.

She used her scholarship to attend a workshop in Reggio Emilia, Italy, an area renowned for research focusing on the treatment of mural paintings and graffiti removal.

With many Heritage buildings and public places in Melbourne, she is often called upon to assist with cleaning treatments. Selective removal of new spray paints with complex formulations, without damaging paint layers underneath, is a challenge that requires material-specific knowledge.

Harpreet has a Master of Arts in Conservation of Cultural Materials from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Switzerland. She believes the knowledge she gained from the workshop, will enable her to offer the best national and international practice available in Australia.

3] La Mama Theatre \$2000

The ADFAS Yarra Grant was spent on supporting four 'Explorations' performances that involved young creatives as part of the 'Explorations' Season. The Performances received funds towards a production budget for hiring a stage manager during the season at La Mama. The following performances were supported: The Talk July 13-15 at La Mama HQ, Everyone Wants To Be Emma August 28-30 at Carlton Courthouse, Seduction September 3-5 at Carlton Courthouse and Cherry Bomb September 15-17 also at Carlton Courthouse. The productions enjoyed sell out seasons with two of them adding an extra performance, to accommodate the large audiences wanting to attend. 'The Talk', an irreverent peek at the delicate relationship between mother and son as she talks to him about the facts of life, was so successful they have already been offered an extra week's season at La Mama. The Grant helped La Mama to provide opportunities to the young theatre makers, to present new and original work to audiences within a professional setting, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills and broaden their audience.



LEFT: The TALK, written and performed by Amber and River Hart



RIGHT: More young actors having a chance to be on stage.

Upcoming Events

Lecture 1

Thursday 22 February 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

Artistic and Cultural Representations of Ethel Rosenberg and the making of an American Icon ANNE SEBBA

In 1951 Ethel Rosenberg was electrocuted for conspiracy to commit espionage. The US Government knew evidence was weak. Her death left two sons orphaned and led to an outpouring of literature. Novels, plays and paintings used satire to show how women were only expected to be housewives. Since her death, Ethel has become an American icon, a symbol of how hysteria can make governments behave shamefully.



Lecture 2

Thursday 21 March 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

Jewels of the Regency

This talk delves into the world of Georgian and Regency Jewels. From magnificent necklaces to gorgeous brooches and elaborate parures (a set of jewels intended to be worn together). The extravagance can at times be overwhelming and yet simplicity and the use of paste often shines through. We will hear about three items of jewellery once owned by the author Jane Austen as well as current day wearers of these 18th and 19th century adornments.

ADRIAN DICKENS



Lecture 3

Thursday 9 May 2024

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

How we got Ikea: Scandinavian Design 1880-1914

Scandinavian countries have emerged as leaders of progressive design. Influenced by British Arts and Crafts, Carl Larsson of IKEA hand-crafted furniture while Georg Jensen, Denmark's silversmith, also drew on the Arts and Crafts ethos. Scandinavian glass and ceramics were similarly inspired. In this lecture the impact on Scandinavian designers of the Arts and Crafts Movement, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Modernism will be appraised bringing us up to the 1950s when Scandinavian Modern offered an ideal based on clean lines and 'less is more'.

ANNE ANDERSON



Guests are most welcome to attend lectures. Prior booking for guests is essential and a \$25 fee applies. Please call Esther Lewin on 0493 433 817 for further details.

AUTUMN EXCURSION:

Thursday 18th APRIL 2024

The April Excursion to Mt Macedon is a MUST DO. Not only will it be a beautiful day exploring the historic Houses and Gardens of Duneira Estate which dates to the 1870's and the Forest Glades with their fine sculptures, but we get to see the private art collections, especially the Stoke Collection. Collections like these often provide a glimpse into the art and craftsmanship of different periods.

The day trip will include guided tours and time to walk around their spectacular autumnal gardens.

Duneira Estate

Duneira Estate was first established in 1872 to a pastoralist as a summer retreat. It is 820 meters above sea level. It survived the devastating bushfires of 1983 with the grand residence and significant gardens surprisingly intact. In the 1940s, Betty Alcock was gifted Duneira as a wedding present from her father. She planted over 150 varieties of rhododendrons which today are tree- sized and outstanding when in flower.



Forest Glade and Gardens



In 1971 Cyril Stokes acquired Forest Glade and did further extensive garden work that had already been created by the Newton family in the 1940s. Unfortunately, they were decimated in the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983. After many years of hard labour Forest Glade was reborn from the ashes.

In 2011, the property was gifted to a registered charity, the Stokes Collection Ltd with the intention of keeping the gardens maintained and open to the public. However, this remarkable and impressive Collection is by appointment, and we will see it on Thursday.

The cost of the excursion is \$130 (our bus hire has substantially increase this year)
Coach transport will leave Central Park East Malvern at 0800 sharp and return around 1630.
Morning tea and lunch are included in the excursion cost.

BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE FROM MID-MARCH VIA TRYBOOKING

A SPECIAL ARTICLE:

A Birding Trip to Birdsville, Boulia and Beyond

South West Queensland and the Channel country is vast and starkly beautiful at any time but if you are lucky, you will be there a few months after good rain. On our driving tour in September, sightings of Brolgas and Bustards were a daily occurrence. Murmurations budgerigars in their tens of thousands were a spectacular sight, darkening the entire sky. Crimson Chats and Orange Chats were seen regularly and we were treated to splendid views of Burkes Parrot.



Channel Country cattle were fat and sleek with many channels wider than the Yarra.

At Eyre Creek, with the waters elsewhere beginning to dry up, countless raptors, egrets, night herons and many other species competed for dwindling fish supplies and other food.



Dinosaur tourism around Winton is a thriving , well organised industry providing insights into the geological history of the land. It is intriguing to grasp the fact that 90million years ago large and small dinosaurs roamed this region. Volcanic activity and climatic and other events resulted in extinction and bones buried under perhaps 2km of sediment were fossilised. Incredibly this sediment has eroded over millions of years back to the level where a local farmer, David Elliot could pick up huge dinosaur bones on his property



There is so much to love and learn about our extraordinary country.

Jane and Philip Anthony

Send contributions, including interesting art and design articles, travel articles, jokes, life's helpful hints, art exhibitions to: **Editor:** Wendy Coxhead to adfasyarra@gmail.com
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