



# GDAS NEWS

## NEXT MEETING

**Thursday  
13<sup>th</sup> August, 10am**

at the ART STUDIO,  
2 Bourke St, Goulburn

## GOULBURN & DISTRICT ART SOCIETY INC.

📍 The Art Studio, The Old Council Depot, Cnr Combermere & Bourke Sts, Goulburn

✉ PO Box 71 Goulburn NSW 2580

🌐 [www.artsociety.goulburn.net.au](http://www.artsociety.goulburn.net.au)

✉ [goulburnartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:goulburnartsociety@gmail.com)

📱 @goulburnanddistrictartsociety

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## COMMITTEE

**President** Judith Dimitrov  
**Vice President** Barbara Nell  
**Secretary** Margaret Parry  
**Treasurer** Gail Davies  
**Committee members** Christine Bentley

## PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

**Membership Secretary** Gail Davies  
**Public Officer** Bryce Ronning  
**Newsletter Editor** Alex Mortensen  
**Web Master & Graphic Designer** Katya Mortensen  
**Workshop Coordinator** Gail Davies  
**Social Media Coordinator** Judith Dimitrov  
**Sports Council Delegate** Judith Dimitrov

Our Constitution - download at  
[https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0020/1143605/Model-Constitution-for-Associations-2024-5-31.docx](https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0020/1143605/Model-Constitution-for-Associations-2024-5-31.docx)



Congratulations to our new GDAS committee, 11 July 2026.

Goulburn & District Art Society Inc  
presents

THE GOULBURN WORKERS CLUB

# ANNUAL ART PRIZE

**2026 OCTOBER 2-5**  
GWC AUDITORIUM

NON-AQUISITIVE

**OPENING & PRIZE  
PRESENTATION**

**Friday 2 OCTOBER, 6pm**

\$10pp entry fee to include canapes.  
Bar service available.

## ARTISTS ENTRY FORM & ENQUIRIES

[www.artsociety.goulburn.net.au](http://www.artsociety.goulburn.net.au)

📱 @goulburnanddistrictartsociety

✉ [goulburnartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:goulburnartsociety@gmail.com)



Goulburn & District  
Art Society  
celebrates  
**25 YEARS**  
of Art Exhibitions  
with Goulburn  
Workers Club



• EXPANDED  
EXHIBITION SPACE

• HERITAGE PRIZE

• YOUNG ARTISTS  
AWARD (AGES 14-18)

• NOVICE PRIZE

• LINKING WITH THE  
LILAC FESTIVAL

## AGM SUMMARY

Art Society AGM addressing leadership changes, strategic restructuring, financial updates, and future plans amid declining membership and outdated operations.

### Key Takeaways

- The Art Society is undergoing significant transformation after years of stagnation, driven by leadership turnover and falling engagement.
  - A new venue is pending council approval, expected to revitalise activities with better facilities and expanded access.
  - Financial systems have been modernised using AI and software automation, improving efficiency and reducing redundant roles.
  - Membership remains stable but stagnant; new outreach and workshop models aim to attract younger and beginner artists.
  - The society is embracing innovation, including AI for documentation and collaborative partnerships, while preserving core traditions like exhibitions.
- Organizational Changes and Leadership Transition.

The past year has been marked by substantial leadership shifts. After 12.5 years, long-serving President Helen DeJong resigned, prompting the current speaker to assume the presidency. Vice President Susan Harris also stepped down due to poor health and relocated. This rapid transition led to a new executive team focused on revitalising the organisation.

Several committee roles have changed:

Alex and Katya Mortensen are stepping back from the management committee due to relocation and family commitments, though they will continue supporting the monthly newsletter for a few more months.

Susan Maas, former membership secretary, is being thanked for her years of service; the role is being eliminated due to system automation.

Julia Laybutt, long-time minute secretary, is unwell and has been replaced by an AI system that records and generates meeting summaries within 15 minutes – proving highly effective.

### New nominations include:

- Barbara Nell, nominated as Vice President with a specific mandate to build community connections and grow the local art network.
- Christine Bentley, joining the management committee, bringing organisational and artistic experience.
- Margaret Parry continuing as Secretary,
- Gail Davies as Treasurer,
- Judith Dimitrov as President and
- Bryce Ronning as Public Officer.

The President emphasised that while roles like Vice President previously had undefined responsibilities, the new structure assigns clear tasks to enhance accountability and strategic growth.

### Strategic Challenges and Revitalisation Efforts

The speaker identified a critical decline in engagement: membership down 30% over recent years, under-utilised Thursday Open Painting days, frequent workshop cancellations due to low enrolment, and waning interest in monthly meetings. The current venue was cited as a major deterrent – described as cold, unattractive, and uninspiring. Root causes were analysed through a social science lens: the society had become stagnant, repeating the same programs without adapting to evolving member needs. The speaker acknowledged that dedication wasn't lacking, but innovation was. In response, the management committee began meeting biweekly to implement change. Key initiatives include:

- Venue relocation: In discussions with Council General Manager Scott Gallacher and Councillor Bob Kirk, a new location has been proposed. The GM submitted a formal proposal to council, pending approval.
- The new space is 130 square metres.
- Features include carpeted floors, air conditioning, south-facing windows for natural light, a wet room, storage compartments, an office, a meeting room, and a dedicated tutorial room.
- Shared kitchen access with private coffee facilities; ablutions cleaned by council staff.
- Potential for 24/7 member access and hosting concurrent workshops.
- Technology integration: Plans include installing internet service and a sophisticated audio-visual system to enhance workshops and studio experiences.

### Financial Overview and Sustainability

Treasurer Gail Davies reported on financial improvements:

- Bank balance: \$40,259.11
- Term deposit: \$30,649.70 reinvested for one year at 5.05% interest
- Annual surplus: \$495, indicating minimal profit but financial stability
- Exhibition income: \$15,862.35, resulting in a \$191 surplus after expenses
- Workshop losses: \$340 loss, mitigated by cancelling three high-cost external workshops due to low sign-ups
- Refunds issued for cancelled workshops are documented in the financial statements.

Continued page 3 >>

## AGM SUMMARY (CONTINUED FROM P.2)

The society secured 6 out of 10 grant applications, including:

- \$2,000 from Goulburn Council for the exhibition
- \$1,000 from Goulburn Workers Club
- \$1,000 from Veolia Trust for workshops.

A new financial software system, RECON, has streamlined operations, automatically managing membership records and eliminating the need for a separate membership secretary. The goal is not to accumulate wealth but to build a sustainable income stream, particularly to support the move and future upgrades.

### Membership and Programming Reforms

Efforts to reverse membership decline have yielded mixed results:

- 8 new members joined in recent months, primarily through workshops and outreach
- 8 members lost due to relocation, one passing, and others disengaging
- Net effect: membership is currently stable but not growing

Workshop programming has been restructured to be more accessible:

- Focused on beginners and intermediate artists, with some offerings for experienced artists seeking casual engagement
- Lower fees to increase accessibility, with facilitation primarily by Art Society members
- Aim to generate modest income while increasing participation. Thursday Open Painting continues pending the move. The Still Life Challenge, previously run weekly for 18 months, will resume in the new space with a revised format.

Future programming ideas include:

- Plein air painting
- Video and online tutorials
- Regular social events
- In-house exhibitions of member work

### Collaborations and Community Engagement

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted with Queanbeyan Art Society to provide reciprocal benefits:

- Members of each group receive discounted rates for workshops and exhibition entry fees
- Does not include eligibility to enter the member section of the other's exhibitions
- Currently in a 12-month trial phase

The society continues to collaborate with Southern Tablelands Arts (STA), which has facilitated regional connections and idea exchange. A current exhibition in Gunning features 34 paintings by 13 artists and runs until July 31, open Fridays with a

"Meet the Artist" morning tea from 10am to 12pm.

The annual exhibition during the October long weekend will mark the 25th anniversary of the Goulburn Workers Club event. New features include:

- Expanded exhibition space (an additional room)
- Heritage Prize, increased from last year's gift certificate to include monetary value
- Young Artists Award (ages 14–18), sponsored by Goulburn Workers' Sports Council
- Novice Prize in the adult category for first-time exhibitors
- Saturday framing seminar for novice artists to prepare their work
- Joint promotion with the Lilac Festival, including an Art Society float in the parade.

### Historical Recognition & Future Milestones

The Goulburn District Art Society is the second oldest in Australia, founded in 1904. In 2029, it will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Plans are underway for a commemorative event, supported by the local council. A historical review is in progress using archived documents, with the goal of publishing a short history. AI is being used to digitise, analyse, and organise archival materials, making the task significantly easier than in the past. Notable historical figures connected to Goulburn include painter Sidney Long, born in the area, and John Peter Russell, who was educated at Garroorrigang and influenced European Impressionism. The society has adopted a new tagline: "Inspiring Art in Goulburn since 1904", to be added to the logo.

### Governance and Succession Planning

To encourage fresh leadership and avoid stagnation, a motion was passed to adopt a policy of regular turnover in executive and committee roles, encouraging new members to take active roles. While the constitution does not limit term lengths (Section 16), the society resolved to promote succession planning. This is not a mandate for rotation but a cultural shift to welcome new contributors and prevent burnout. Treasurer Gail Davies emphasised the need for understudies, particularly in complex roles like treasurer and secretary, to ensure knowledge transfer and organisational resilience.

### Action Items / Next Steps

- Await council decision on new venue proposal
- Organise a site visit to the new location once approved
- Continue developing AI-assisted archival project for 125th anniversary
- Promote current Gunning exhibition through July 31

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## AGM SUMMARY (CONTINUED FROM P.3)

- Prepare for 25th annual exhibition with new prizes and events
- Finalise and launch reciprocal agreement with Queanbeyan Art Society
- Recruit assistant treasurer to learn RECON system
- Explore Saturday programming for youth and families
- Develop joint advertising with Lilac Festival
- Begin planning 125th anniversary celebration (2029)
- Review and refine workshop pricing and facilitation model
- Resume Still Life Challenge in new studio
- Investigate options for selling unclaimed or donated paintings to raise funds.

## EXHIBITION & OCTOBER WORKSHOP

Mandy McDonald will be judging the Young Artist prize this year. She is a well known artist from Crookwell. She is also running a workshop on Gelli Printing at the studio on 31 October. Cost is \$25, materials provided.



## ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

ENTRY FORM



YOUNG ARTIST ENTRY FORM



## EDITORIAL

Hello everyone. Firstly, I'll congratulate those members who put up their hands and volunteered their services to the GDAS by becoming executive, committee members and portfolio holders. It would be wonderful to see more of our members volunteer to be a committee member and to take on various roles to help the GDAS function and grow. The burden becomes light when more people share the load! Thank you, new member, Barbara Nell, for taking on the role of vice-president. Having known Barbara for many years I know that with her artistic skills she will be a valuable contributor to the GDAS community and will carry out the role of vice-president very capably indeed.

Secondly, the GDAS needs a new newsletter editor and a website officer as Katya and I will be doing these jobs only temporarily because we have sold our property and will be leaving the area. I just hope that members will continue to produce the newsletter as it provides a regular and ongoing "face" for our members, other art societies and the public. As an organisation's newsletter, it is submitted to and held in the national e-library and therefore widely available.

Please consider what you can do to play an active part in the GDAS as it has existed for a very long time and needs its members to ensure it continues to function for many years, many decades to come.

Art is a very important part of the cultural landscape and the GDAS is an organisation that fosters art in the community. Let's not only keep it that way but increase its public profile.

As always, thank you to Katya Mortensen for the effort you put into the production of the GDAS Newsletter.

Keep painting and prepare for our major exhibition in October.

*Alex Mortensen*

## PLEASE DONATE YOUR ART WORK FOR THE RAFFLE PRIZES AT OUR ANNUAL EXHIBITION IN OCTOBER

The raffle will support The Crescent School in Goulburn <https://crescent-s.schools.nsw.gov.au/> We need at least three paintings which will be on display throughout the exhibition.

Please contact Judith Dimitrov by SMS 0430 380 429.

**PLEASE SIGN IN**  
AT THE RECEPTION DESK  
WHEN YOU ENTER THE ART STUDIO



# GDAS EXHIBITION AT GUNNING

19 June 2026



Kate McKay on the ladder, Rose Marin (both from STA) hanging the exhibition and Marg Parry from GDAS.



Kate McKay from STA welcoming everyone at the exhibition opening on Friday 19th June.



Just a few shots of our Gunning visit last Friday. We entertained the people waiting to catch the Melbourne train and they were happy to view the exhibition and partake of our morning tea – wasn't quite rent-a-crowd – it proved to be a crowd pleaser from just waiting to catch a train.

Margaret Parry



Some visitors at the exhibition *Seasons of Life* at the gallery space Connect@Gunning. From L-R: Ian Anderson, John Weatherstone OMA, Jan Weatherstone, Krista Knapil, Judith Dimitrov, Wendy Anderson.

## Seasons of Life

**Goulburn & District Art Society**  
**Friday 19 June – 31 July**

Works in various mediums created by members of the Goulburn & District Art Society. 13 Artists and 34 works of art, there is something to impress everyone.

**10am Every Friday –  
Meet the Artists Morning Tea**

Meet GDAS artists with work on display and share a cuppa and a biscuit. FREE no bookings.

**at Connect@Gunning**  
 Arts & Cultural hub for the STA Region –  
 OPEN 10am-3pm EVERY FRIDAY  
 Located in the historic buildings of the Gunning Train Station,  
Grovenor St. Gunning NSW 2581





## PLAGIARISM?

Click on the link to see the [ABC article](#). It's interesting and well worth reading.

Do you think one of the paintings in each pair was plagiarism of the other? On reading the article you will find out what the ABC thought about this matter.

"An Australian artist who won a \$20,000 prize for a painting copied from another artist is being accused of a second case of imitation.

Lennox Head artist Jane Allan was a finalist in the Darling Portrait Prize in 2022 and won the \$2,000 Art Handler's award.

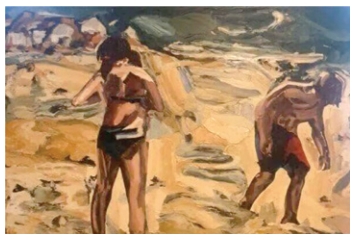
Her work, titled Weight of the Mind's Periapt, bears similarities to a 1982 painting by renowned American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat called Untitled (Two Heads on Gold)." (Quote from the ABC article)



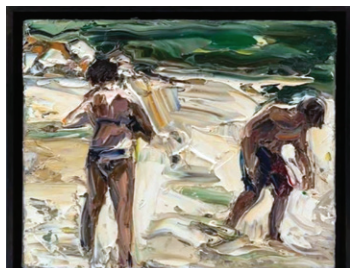
Jane Allan's Weight of the Mind's Periapt won the \$2,000 Art Handler's award. (Supplied: National Portrait Gallery)



Jean-Michel Basquiat's artwork Untitled (Two Heads on Gold). (Instagram: @basquiatofficial)



Jane Allan's Seaside Explorers won The Doyles 2025 landscape prize. (Supplied: The Doyles Art Award)



Nicholas Harding's 2011 artwork Two Estuary Figures. (Supplied: The Doyles Art Award)

**PLEASE RENEW  
YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

## WELCOME TO NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

The GDAS committee is pleased to announce the following people are now members of our art society:

Lidena Carr, Suzie Duncan, Katherine Lee, Carmel Poeche, Judith Seery, Bronwyn Stanton, Pamela Stevenson, Anita Turner, Charles Weyman and Barbara Nell.

We sincerely hope that, as members, you will take an active part in the art society by attending Thursday Painting Days and meetings as well as participating in our exhibitions by entering works and assisting in the running of them. Our thanks to Barbara Nell who became the vice-president at the AGM.

## THURSDAY PAINTING DAYS



Photos by Sue Maas

**JOIN US  
THURSDAY  
PAINTING DAY**



# HELEN DE JONGE: INTRO TO WATERCOLOURS & LEARN NEW SKILLS TO ENHANCE YOUR ARTWORK

27 June 2026

We had 7 people attend, 3 of whom were recent new members. Helen shared about how her watercolour skills developed over the years through lots of practice and attending workshops. She shared about watercolour papers, brushes and various types of watercolours available on the market. Helen took us through information on mixing of colours highlighting that the 3 primary colours (red, yellow, blue) can provide you most every tone you need to paint with watercolour, especially if you are on a budget. Helen showed us how to do a winter landscape using the white paper for the winter snow and watercolours for the tonal highlights. We were then given a choice to do other scenes of our choice or paint a penguin. The



penguin was traced onto watercolour paper and then we learned to develop the layers of colours. It was a really great opportunity to learn some basics and receive the insights from Helen's years of experiences.

Gail Davies







## JULY - AUGUST EXHIBITION

**WATERWORKS & COUNTRY LIFE**  
featuring  
**MARION SCHUMACHER & GEOFF NAYLOR**

Ph 0450 893 943 or  
02 6238 1640  
Open 10am - 4.30pm Fri - Mon  
42b Ellendon St, Bungendore  
[www.bungendorefineart.com.au](http://www.bungendorefineart.com.au)



## ART WORKSHOPS AT VISUAL ARTS SOCIETY OF YASS INC

### Special Events

Creative Encounters with Guests  
Gina Fairley and Kerry McInnis,  
17 June 2026

Annual General Meeting  
7 August 2026

VASY Annual Members  
Exhibition 5-8 November 2026

Creative South 18 November  
2026 an exclusive art experience  
fully catered - a one day coach  
trip Yass return.

### Semester 2 Workshops

25 July: "Blossom Box" - Helen  
Cattell

15 August: "Love Letters" -  
Stephanie Corkhill Hyles

12-13 September: "Dare to be  
Brave" - Kerry McInnis

26 September: "Petal Bowl" -  
Helen Cattell

[www.vasyinc.com](http://www.vasyinc.com)



## EXHIBITION: THE HOODIES CREATIVE COLLECTION

**Jan Armstrong  
Jannine Devery  
Susan Pearson  
Jos Roberts**

Until 26 July 2026  
The Goulburn Club,  
19 Market St



arts in the valley

## KANGAROO VALLEY ART PRIZE ENTRIES NOW OPEN

**2-5 October 2026**

**Total \$23,500 in prizes!**

<https://www.artsinthevalley.net.au/visualarts2026>

Ph: 0467 209 819

E: [info@artsinthevalley.net.au](mailto:info@artsinthevalley.net.au)

PO Box 6114 Kangaroo Valley  
2577

**IS ANYONE INTERESTED  
IN RUNNING A WORKSHOP?  
A N Y M E D I U M**

Please contact Judith on 0430 380 429



## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The GDAS has numerous sponsors who give us a variety of forms of sponsorship that is of great assistance to the running of our organisation throughout the year and our annual exhibition. We thank them all.



**THE WORKERS CLUB  
SPORTS COUNCIL**



**OZART  
FINDER**



**ANDREW LIN  
DENTIST**

**PAUL  
O'ROURKE**



**THANK YOU**  
**TO ALL OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT**  
**NEW SPONSORS ARE WELCOME!**

## WHEN BUYING AT MITRE 10

When you buy at Mitre 10 you can receive a 10% discount on various items by telling the checkout staff you are a member of the Goulburn & District Art Society and that **the art society has a cash card account**. Mitre 10 is sponsoring the GDAS and appreciates business that you carry out with it.

## PAYMENTS TO GDAS

**Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Acc. No 200104032**  
**Acc. name: Goulburn & District Art Society Inc, REFERENCE: SURNAME + INITIALS**  
Alternatively post a cheque to The Treasurer, GDAS, P.O. Box 71 Goulburn NSW 2580

