

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Mar 13th - 1st Apr 2021:** "Matthew Hurdle and friends" exhibition.
- **19th March:** Ivy Minniecon's 'basket weaving' workshop.
- **6th - 23rd Apr 2021:** Jeanette Trefle will be back with her new exhibition.
- **4th May 2021:** Men Shed '2nd edition' exhibition.
- **1st Jun 2021:** Priya Gore's exhibition.

Your Artyscope for 2021!

Aries: Add on a creative note to the way you do things this year. Start singing "Heigh Ho Heigh Ho..." coming back from work. Add a positive twist to the words of your loved songs! This mental trick will undoubtedly spark your life with enthusiasm and joy!

Taurus: Dance with life asap! Embrace equanimity with life's Ups and downs. Whenever you start seeing life in grey, respond with white #yellow: Smile! Put your favourite music on and dance your joy out like everybody is watching...and so what?!

Gemini: Feeling a little down this beginning of the year? See the big picture: do some installation art! Sometimes what you just need is letting go of the melodrama...Do this and who knows, you might have a "Ah ha" moment that will allow your genius to glow!

Cancer: Get out of your comfort zone this year! Change personality no matter what! Taciturn? No more! Adopt a geometric hair cut to match your new artistic self! Capture different angles with your camera! Make it artistic and exhibit it. Smile, click and chat!

Leo: Some complaints about your "slightly" too dominant leadership skills? Time to put your nose in little things to appreciate their own values! Register for an Origami workshop! Sometimes a few little pieces of paper can create wonders for a big ego! Start now!

Virgo: You are getting emotional just by seeing a dog running? Put your sensitivity to good use: take on a poetry class! Have your words go with the flow of constant change...
4 Next time you know, you might be jogging along with the doggie laughing out loud!

Libra: You wish to keep your health on track, but don't want to train for a marathon?! Just practice the art of miming like Marcel Marceau. Start miming your family members & friends... No doubt that shortly after, you will be the fastest runner in the neighbourhood! Practice asap!

Pisces: If you are worried that you have a bit of ADHD, quickly go to a speed Life Drawing class! Enjoy spontaneity! This simple exercise will test your limits and let you uncover your own spectrum of capabilities. Believe that everything is possible in 2021 and magic will happen!

Sagittarius: Feeling agitated from moment to moment? Recenter yourself by registering for an Ikebana workshop! Accomplish ecstatically simplistic bouquets. Remember not to pick your flowers next door though: we also want to keep it peaceful in the neighbourhood! Be Zen!

Capricorn: If you are angry at your next-door neighbour who is picking your flowers for his new hobby...Remember to look at the fun side! Draw cartoons of his funniest expressions! You will be creating joyful moments for you, your family...may be your neighbour too, who knows!

Aquarius: Bored of typing every day?! Go back to the beauty of forms and shapes with the art of Calligraphy. Embrace the letters like you have never before. Allow yourself to be sublimed by the pure essence of ink on paper. Relearn to appreciate each moment being fully present.

Scorpio: Open your mind this year and be one with nature. Like Pocahontas ask yourself: Can you paint with all the colours of the wind? Go into the forest with a blank canvas. Use the elements of nature to create your picture. Let yourself be guided by your own spirit: be it!

Editor: Nirmala Gnana



The Palette

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Newsletter of the Inala Art Gallery

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Our volunteer team wishes you a wonderful year 2021! May this new year be full of creativity, enthusiasm and happiness! Best Wishes to all!

The latest Gallery news from our President, Rowena Solomon...



For most of us 2020 was a year better forgotten and Inala Art Gallery suffered along with the rest of us. Forced to close for several months, exhibition bookings were reorganised with a focus on fairness to artists and classes were curtailed.

At the beginning of 2021, the Management Committee has picked up the pieces and is determined to make the year a productive one in spite of the inevitable difficulties.

To fill casual vacancies on the Management Committee, two new members were welcomed at the first meeting the year, Ms Ella Hewitt and Mr Matthew Hurdle who will bring with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm which will enhance Gallery operations.

During closure of the Gallery, the Executive worked behind the scenes to ensure necessary activities continued. Bills were paid, members were kept informed and a COVID plan was developed. A major achievement was the production of a Gallery Operational Manual which covers all functions of the Gallery and detailed information which is necessary to ensure smooth operations.

At the first Committee meeting of the year, a discussion of possible activities for the year included the concept of an Artist in Residence, the Biggest Morning Tea in conjunction with the Cancer Fund, craft markets outside the Gallery and a variety of Workshops. The Inala Electoral Office has been contacted and funding has been secured for another Children's Art Competition which was successful early 2020. Details will be sent to schools in the Inala electorate shortly. Teachers are already enthusiastic and ready to prepare their students.

The current Executive is passionate about ensuring the future of the Gallery and is supported in this goal by our Patron, Councillor Charles Strunk. Teamwork is essential and new members, class tutors and more volunteers will ensure the reality of the Management Committee's hopes for the future.

Our weekly classes

- * Tuesdays from 9am to 12pm: 'Brushstroke Friends' drawing and painting group.
- * Thursdays from 9am to 12pm: Helen Ridgway's acrylic painting class.

We are always looking for volunteer teachers to be part of our artistic community! Contact us!

The Toy Soldier Association Exhibition

Extract from Bob Hume's Notes on the history of the Toy Soldier Association.

There is anecdotal evidence that the Brisbane Toy Soldier Association started in 1930's. However, the only history traces of the Association date of 1953, time of The Queen's coronation.

The Club had different names throughout the times. The name "BTSA" only appeared in the 90's. Prior to that it was known as the "Brisbane Military Modelling Society" for about 20+ years. Its previous appellation was "The Queensland Branch of British Model Soldier Society".

The hobby itself has also evolved with time. In 1953, plastic figures started being available on the market. They are still around both as "toys" as well as "connoisseur figures". Recent years have seen the apparition of resin figures as well. Firms like "Britains" began creating roughly painted and sculpted "glossy" figures. These ones were challenged by well designed "unpainted castings" that collectors had the possibility to assemble and decorate themselves. In the late 90's, the beautifully made "matte painted" figures originated from Hong Kong were launched onto the market. Till this day, one can find great varieties of figures. They are represented within the BTSA membership.



Photo by M. Ming

Recently, there has been a resurgence of dioramas using miniature figures. Numerous members of BTSA have taken on this challenge and are thrilled to present today their own dioramas at the Inala Gallery. Dioramas represent a particular scene of time in the diversity of human history. Creating a diorama requires a heavy invest-

ment not only in time but also in accessories as well as in figures. There is an adage in figure collecting circles: "Somewhere, at some time, someone has made a figure of whatever you can think of".



Photo by M. Ming



Photo by A.M. McPhee

Glen Kennedy "Dioramas are snapshots in time - they tell a story..."



Ph by N. Gnana

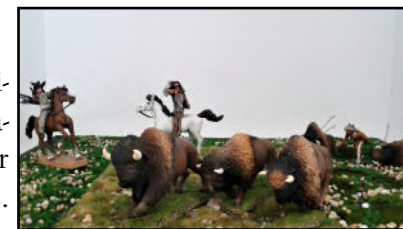
Glen started a small collection of plastic toy soldiers at age 5, when his mother would take him shopping at Sherwood. He remembers giving them names and making up stories about them. His teacher told him once he had a very good imagination. As he grew older, he

stopped collecting them, but his interest was renewed during a trip to a Toy Soldier exhibition in Tweed Heads.

In 1992, Glen discovered a display in a shop window with 5 small metal soldiers. When two of them were remaining, he decided to purchase them. In 1993, Glen joined The Brisbane Toy Soldiers Association. He attended meetings there and found everyone sharing information and telling stories about their own figures. He began collecting more metal and plastic models, assembling, and painting them with acrylic or water-based paint.

"When you paint them they tell a different story", Glen said. He started making dioramas then, taking his inspiration from books, magazines, and movie scenes. "You can watch a movie and see a series of models from the story line. Dioramas are snapshots in time - they tell a story. Anyone can look at them and wonder what happened before or after it."

Participating in exhibitions and competitions are a great source of pleasure. His favourites are Indian tribes, Samurais or Vikings whose lifestyles go with the figures. He especially likes these vibrant characters as strong stories emanate from them.



Ph. by N. Gnana

Glen shares his passion with others at the weekly meetings of the BTSA. There, members bring their models and buildings and discuss them. He says going there has taught him a lot and expanded his awareness of what could be possible. He especially enjoys the strong sense of community he experiences there. In the future Glen would like to develop his figure painting skills. He is already working on his next project - A Wild West diorama featuring Geronimo!