

A Special Collection

A Celebration of Art Acquired by the City of Victor Harbor



Exhibition

Experience stories of our rich maritime heritage & celebrate the history of the Rotary Art Show.

This exhibition showcases painting from the City of Victor Harbor art collection, acquired mostly through acquisitive sponsorship of the Rotary Art Show, as well as portraits depicting local fisherman who operated across our coast line from 1855.

Acquired Works from the Rotary Art Show Rotary Art Show

This exhibitions presents a selection of the work which has been acquired by the City of Victor Harbor through the annual Rotary Art Show. This has been a popular event in the arts calendar and attracts national interest. It has also enabled the Rotary Victor Harbor to inject funds into our local community and provide grants, scholarship and research opportunities into a number of humanitarian and health projects. The contributions of the sponsors, volunteers, artists, the City of Victor and the local community has resulted in a number of awards and commendations including SA Great Regional Awards.

In 2021, it will be the 42nd Rotary Art Show which has become part of the culture of Victor Harbor. It is also Australia's largest outdoor art exhibition with over 10,000 people attending the event over nine days viewing in excess of 400 paintings and sculptures on display. This year, there will be acknowledgement for Indigenous work with inaugural prizes.

Importantly, the Rotary Art Show has provide many opportunities to promote for artists locally and nationally to display and sell their work. For many artists, it has been a pivotal point in their career, it has provided a sound basis for emerging artists to establish their careers, consolidate and proceed to the next stage of development of becoming an established artist.

The Special Collections Exhibition presents a wonderful array of talent, technical competence and work which is highly resolved. It is an exhibition, that you need to take time over, view each painting in the context of the time, it was acquired and the subject matter of the artist. There is a diversity of work in this display from the fine detail inherent in landscape and the sea. Many paintings capture of their emotional engagement with the subject, through abstraction to realist work. Throughout this exhibition, the capturing of light in many works is exceptional and this has helped to bring the exhibition together and become cohesive. In many ways, it is a snapshot of art yet to come in the next Rotary Art Show and a testament to the quality of entries that its attracts.

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Artist - Ainslie Roberts

Born: 12 March 1911, London, United Kingdom

Died: 28 August 1993, Blackwood

Ainslie Roberts was an Australian painter, photographer, and commercial artist. He is best known for his interpretations of Aboriginal legends in his Dreamtime books, written in collaboration with ethnologist/anthropologist Charles Mountford.



'The Transformation Of Burnba'

Print on Hardboard

1770 x 600 cm

Donation

The Legend of Burnba

The hawk-man, Wabula, was without a wife. One day he visited a neighbouring tribe and was attracted to an unmarried girl, Burnba. Wabula went to the nearby beach, caught some lobsters and cooked them. Then he returned to the camp and offered them to the girl who, much to his disgust, would have nothing to do with him.

Wabula was determined to capture her. He retired to a spot out of sight and hearing of the camp and there he built a bark hut. That night he returned to the sleeping camp and carried Burnba away by force, placed her in the hut and blocked up all the openings so that she could not escape.

Afraid and lonely, Burnba cried all night for her father to help her. He was a skilled magician and had a spear-thrower with which he had performed many wonders. The first time he rubbed it, a heavy wind sprang up and grew stronger and stronger. It blew violently upon the bark hut which shook so much that cracks appeared in it everywhere. The magician rubbed the spear-thrower a second time and transformed his daughter into a butterfly. In this form she was able to escape through one of the cracks.

At last the wind lifted the bark hut off the ground, and Wabula discovered that Burnba had gone. Still yearning for the girl, he changed himself into a hawk so that he and Burnba could always live together in the sky.

Copyright Ainslie Roberts Estate 2013



'The Encounter'

Acrylic

1550 x 700 cm

Bequest

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Artist - Alfred Engel

It was Rotarian Alfred Engel who first came up with the idea to hold an Art Exhibition on the lawns of Warland Reserve in 1979 whilst returning from the Camberwell Art Show in Victoria after a very successful showing. The Rotary Art Show has grown enormously since then and now attracts artists from all states of Australia. The Rotary Club and the Victor Harbor community remains grateful to Alfred for forming the foundation committee to such a successful fundraiser for the benefit of local charities, community projects, national and international aid.

Alfred was born in Austria and immigrated to Australia in 1973. In 1975 he was granted Australian citizenship and now resides in Victor Harbor. Since 1974 Alfred has been a professional artist. In 1980 he travelled to New York to study with Professor Robert Hale at the Art Students League.

In 1988 Alfred was appointed by the Minister for the Arts to the Advisory Committee and the Management Committee of the Central Regional Cultural Authority, and to the Board of the Regional Cultural Council SA, where he served until 1992. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts SA and a Tutor, Past President of the Sothern District Art Society SA and foundation member of the Ocean Street Art Society.

Alfred paints masterfully in a number of genres. He may use oil, egg tempera or watercolour. His still life images are often a fascinating collection of thought-provoking items. You'll find stunning compositions of animals and birds. In contrast, whimsical watercolours of misty landscapes, oils of powerful seascapes and he captures brilliantly the heart of an old building or shed.

Alfred has staged many solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Adelaide, Southport Qld and Victor Harbor and was Corporate Award Winner of the Rotary Club of Victor Harbor Art Show in 2002, among many other prestigious awards. His work is held in many well known public, private, and corporate collections including the Queensland Art Gallery.



'By Rail'

650 x 520 cm
Rotary Art Show 1981

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Artist - Allyson Parsons

Allyson Parsons, born in rural South Australia in 1965, works full-time in her studio near Port Vincent, South Australia.

Born profoundly deaf as a result of rubella, she has overcome many challenges in her life.

At the age of just 18, Allyson won her first major art prize at the Annual Victor Harbor Rotary Art Exhibition, one of South Australia's Major Art Events.

Allyson has sold more than 1000 paintings into corporate and private collections throughout Australia and overseas. Her work consists of strong composition, simply organised with good colour and tonal relationships, & she is an artist who produces work of considerable substance and intensity. Captivated by the moods, the light, mystery & magic of the Australian bush, Yorke Peninsula's Allyson Parsons is one of the most sought-after artists in the country.

Her ability brought her to the attention of the internationally renowned Adelaide artist and art critic, Ainslie Roberts, who was astounded by the young artist's work.

"She is one of the rare gifted few who were born with the instinct for doing everything right with brush and paint. What she has achieved in a few short years is probably unique in the history of Australian art. There were no tentative beginnings, no slow struggle for recognition of the mature talents, techniques and perceptions of acknowledged artist three times her age. She has a remarkable affinity with the inner life of the Australian Bushland she has known and loved since childhood. And her haunting paintings extract the magic of it with a tantalising sense of the mystery of secret places." Ainslie Roberts, 1990.

Ainslie Roberts became Allyson's valued mentor as he offered her advice and encouragement. He saw what he believed was 'a genuine touch of genius' in an 18 year-old and advised her to use her natural abilities and begin painting, untutored.

<http://www.allysonparsonsart.com/>



'Just Off The Track'

Acrylic

1380 x 1070 cm

Winner 1987 Rotary Art Show

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Artist - Barbara Powell

Born 1927



'The Bluff in Summer Dress'

Oil

1330 x 970 cm

Winner 1980 Rotary Art Show

Artist - Daisy Napanangka Nelson

Born c.1924, Yinjirimardi, NT,

Died 2001, Yuendumu NT

A senior Warlpiri artist who was at the forefront of the painting movement at Yuendumu in the early years. She has represented Warlukurlangu Artists in exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

Exhibitions

- Aratjara - Art of the First Australians 1993
- Dusseldorf, Germany; London, UK; Humleak, Denmark; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- Tigari Lai Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Australia 1990
- Third Eye Centre, Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- Windows on the Dreaming 1989
- National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- Yuendumu: Paintings out of the Desert 1988
- South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia
- First exhibition of Yuendumu work 1985
- Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT



'Purpalangi Jukurrpa Bush Vine Dreaming'

Acrylic

1210 x 915 cm

Rotary Art Show 1989

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Artist - Fred Schmidt

Fred Schmidt (born January 12 1945) is an Australian watercolour and oil paint artist who specialises in painting landscapes and harbours, especially boats with reflections.



'Morning Fog - East Coast Tasmania'

Watercolour

950 x 780 cm

Rotary Art Show 1992

Artist - Hal Barton

Born in Adelaide in 1927, Hal Barton studied at the South Australian School of Arts and Crafts and became a traditional landscape painter. He has exhibited in Melbourne and Adelaide, his first solo exhibition being in Melbourne in 1965.



'Wallaby Track'

Oil

1305 x 1000 cm

Winner Rotary Art Show 2001

Artist - Harris Smith

INFO



'A Victor Harbor Morning'

Oil

800 x 690 cm

Rotary Art Show 1991

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Artist - Helen Stacey

Since 1987 Helen Stacey has held over thirty solo exhibitions and participated in some fifty group shows in Australia and other countries. Living Desert (with textile works created with Lorraine Marter) toured to four states, then to Beijing in 1990. In 1997, with Elsie Reade of Reade Art, she coordinated Journey & Discovery with seven other SA artists touring to London, Kuala Lumpur, concluding at Hill-Smith Fine Art, Adelaide. In 2004, with Sheila Whittam, she conducted a week's workshop for women asylum seekers at Baxter Detention Centre. Grants from Country Arts SA enabled artist-in-residencies, mentoring and a co-consultancy for the SA-Malaysian exhibition exchange, Antara - Between Remote Regions, partnering CASA with the National Gallery of Malaysia 2000-2001. She was joint coordinator of two Alexandrina Farm Gate Festivals, 2010-12, and a co-collaborator in The Border Crossing Art Project in 2010, a New Zealand, Thailand and SA initiative that toured to Bangkok and Adelaide.

In 2007 at the RSASA, her solo, Negotiating Boundaries, explored the gate as a metaphor for colonisation and spirituality in the Alexandrina Lakes region. A series of collaborative works with Ngarrindjeri artist and Elder, Ellen Trevorrow, lead to Ngarrindjeri weaving being part of the exhibition's tour to four regional galleries. In 2014 she and Gaynor Hartvigsen presented Liminal at the South Coast Regional Gallery.

From 2013 to 2018 she and her husband, Dr David Bunton, (songwriter and performer) took a multi-media social-justice exhibition, Australian Reflections on 'Blackbirding', to Queensland, Fiji and Vanuatu. Then in May 2018 an expanded exhibition and forum was co-hosted with the Pacific Islands Council of SA and the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at the UniSA, Adelaide, assisted by a Peace Foundation grant.

HORIZONS - art as a transforming journey was opened by Professor Simon Biggs, Director of the UniSA SA School of Art, at the Royal South Australian Society of Arts on Sunday March 24th 2019. Her book, HORIZONS - art as a transforming journey, was launched at the opening.



'Arcadian Summer'

Acrylic

900 x 1100 cm

Winner Rotary Art Show 1997

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Artist - JH Bolitho

The origins of these paintings, the artist and how they came into Council's possession is unknown.



'The Bluff Encounter Bay'

1410 x 800 cm

Dated 1927



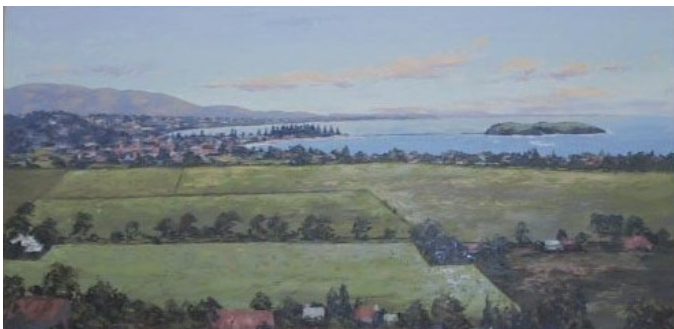
'View to Granite Island'

1410 x 800 cm

Dated 1927

Artist - Peter Matthews

INFO



'Encounter Lakes Before'

Oil

1400 x 790 cm

Bequest

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Artist - John Lacey

INFO



'From Mt Alma - Inman Valley'

Oil

1SIZE cm

Rotary Art Show 2019

Artist - Peter Snelgar

INFO



'Petrel Cove'

??

cm

Rotary Art Show 2015

A Special Collection

A Celebration of Art Acquired by the City of Victor Harbor

Artist - Stephen Trebilcock

INFO



'Chianti'

Oil

1010 x 1210 cm

Rotary Art Show 1994

A Special Collection

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Artist - Tom O'Callaghan

INFO



'Shadow Play'
Oil
940 x 790 cm
Rotary Art Show 2004



'Coastal Landscape'
Oil
1040 x 930 cm
Rotary Art Show 2007

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Toilers of the Sea

The Rumbelow and Ewen Portraits

These portraits were donated to the City of Victor Harbor by Peter Matthews and were painted by William Needs and his younger son, Andrew. Peter thought it was important to commission portraits of these outstanding personalities and capture their lives on the sea. He offered twelve paintings to the District Council of Victor Harbor in the 1980's and in the records, he wrote 'I offer these portraits so that they may be safeguarded and exhibited from time to time – when hopefully Victor Harbor will have a gallery of its own and that I ask for no remuneration. It is just something that I thought worthwhile of the men portrayed and who lost their lives at sea'.

The Rumbelow family arrived at Port Adelaide from Suffolk on October 5, 1854, in the ship 'Pestongee Bomanjee, which brought 350 emigrants. They played an important role in developing the fishing industry. They were renowned for their excellent boat skills, physical strength and strength of character. There are many well documented stories of their Rumbelow fishermen and boatmen of their bravery and being involved in many rescues of people from the coast. It is interesting that the ability to save lives at sea has continued throughout the generations, Florence Rumbelow was one of the first female lifesavers to achieve their surf bronze medals in 1935 and another descendant, Don Rumbelow is involved in sea rescue, his father, Lionel and father, Graham were presented with Humane Society Awards for Bravery.

The Rumbelow women played a key role in the fishing business, there are images of the family boatshed, a simple but beautiful structure. This is where the fish were sorted to take to market in Adelaide. The portrait of Malen Rumbelow, perhaps depicts the boatshed in the background.

The Rumbelow family had many tragic experiences in their life at sea and women with the loss of their husbands were left to bring up children and support their family.

Throughout historical documents, there are many comments about the Rumbelow involvement in the community and this is described well by the unnamed Victor Harbor Correspondent in the South Australian Register on June 12, 1907.

'One cannot meet the Rumbelow family without admiring the genial, cheery dispositions of all, traits that have distinguished each generation. The family carry with them the esteem and regard of all who know them, and it is hoped success and renewed vigour will crown them in their new sphere'

1 Correspondence from Peter Andrews to the District Clerk, District Council of Victor Harbor 1989

2 Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 12 June 1907, page 9

3 Discussion with Don Rumbelow 29/09/2021'

4 Discussion with Kay Ewens (nee Rumbelow) 29/09/2021

5 Register (Adelaide, SA: 1901-1929, Wednesday 12 1907, page 9

A Special Collection

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Malen Rumbelow

Born Suffolk England June 1846. 7th born of 11 children arrived in Australia in October 1854.

Arrived Victor Harbor January 1855.
Introduced to fishing by Cain Jelliff (Brother in law)

Family fishing company established approx. 1864, dissolved about 1906.

Died 1st July 1905 at Yilki.



David Malen Rumbelow

First son of Malin
Born 20 September 1866 at Yilki.
Died at sea 10 April 1905 (heart attack) aged 39

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David John Rumbelow

Son of David Malen

Grandson of Malen

Born approx. 1894, died 1932 (Drowned) aged 38



Walter Malen Rumbelow

Son of William Henry

Grandson of Malen

Born 1894, died 1932 (lost at sea) aged 38

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Stanley Malen (WEEN)

Son of David Malen
Grandson on Malen
Born 1905, died 1985



Geoffrey Malen Rumbelow

Son of Charles Malen
Grandson of David Malen
Great grandson of Malen
Born 1918 (approx.) died 1975 (Drowned)