



Vale: Elspeth Cameron

It is with great sadness that we report the tragic loss of Borderline member, artist and dear friend, Elspeth Cameron.

Elspeth, a quiet achiever, was a positive asset to the artistic community, especially in the Stanthorpe district. She will be sorely missed.

Elspeth grew up locally and was inspired first by listening to Jeffrey Smart's wonderful radio art segment on the ABC Children's Hour. Art was one of the subjects she relished in secondary school in Toowoomba and then went on to study Anthropology and Sociology, English Literature and Ancient History at University of Queensland before becoming a teacher.

Later, a six months adult education course in acrylic painting at the Tin Sheds, on the campus of University of Sydney Elspeth was a revelation and a great contrast to her day time university studies in Linguistics and teaching English as a foreign language. Working in classrooms locally as a History and English teacher as well as Teacher Librarian she was able to undertake local courses in folk art and later in watercolour. These provided guided experience in artistic discipline, using colours, and an appreciation of the capabilities of different sorts of brushes. Another strand of continuing interest was the opportunity to review gorgeous Australian children's picture books and texts for the Children's Book Council, Australia, for over twenty years.

Since 2006 Elspeth progressively completed units in Print making, Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Art History through Open Universities Australia and in 2010 reached the level of obtaining a Certificate in Arts (Art History) from Griffith University. She had almost completed a degree in Fine Arts through Griffith University. Further studies included the Tate/ London City Lit online course: Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Art, Levels one and two. Another online practical course from the Tate strengthened her interests in black and white drawing and in collage.

Elspeth stated for a joint exhibition, "Branching Out" at Stanthorpe Art Gallery in 2012 that: "Stories, texts, and words fascinate me. For instance, Tennyson's line: '...our echoes roll from soul to soul, And grow for ever and forever.' comes to mind as one of the fragments of verse that intrigues me".

Banksia", a watercolour painting from a workshop with Lyn Butchart



Elspeth also added: "Meeting, and working with, artists who teach, paint, and specialise in the gorgeous Botanical, Natural History, and Wildlife domains has helped focus my interests. It is a continual challenge for me to strengthen techniques. I want to become more observant and to be expressively adept, while seeking conceptual integrity based on life long connection to the land, and my interests in history, literature, visual, and social culture. The attention and interest of my family and friends has always encouraged me very much in my artistic experiments and investigations".

Elspeth's artworks have been exhibited at: The Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery and boutique 2000-2016; Stanthorpe Agricultural Show 2005-2015; "Bush Christmas" in Toowoomba 2009-15; 'Branching Out', the local branch of the Botanical Artists' Society of Queensland, "Feather and Flower" exhibitions at Drake and Tenterfield; "Brush with Verse" in Tenterfield 2010, Borderline Regional Arts Association exhibitions in Stanthorpe and Tenterfield, 2013 - 2016 and "Art in the Mill", 2015-6; local arts and crafts outlets and markets since 1975. Some of Elspeth's photographs are represented online in Out of Australia www.glades-globalenterpriseinnovation.com

A talented, intelligent and thoughtful person, Elspeth was involved in a variety of associations. She was a well respected member of the Stanthorpe Art Society, Borderline Regional Arts Association, Botanical Artists' Society of Queensland. She also spent many hours proof reading theses for university students, particularly those from other countries who were working to gain qualifications in Australian Universities.

Elspeth - a very special person. We will miss her.