

Glenelg Shire Cultural Collection Acquisition– Expression of Interest – Response to Women’s History

Artist Brief

Introduction

The Glenelg Shire Council is located in Victoria’s South West. The Gunditjmara, Bungaditj and Jarwadjali people have inhabited this region since the earliest of times – coastal middens, stone fish traps and stone huts in this area date back over 12,000 years.

The shire takes in the towns of Portland, Casterton and Heywood and the smaller centres of Dartmoor, Nelson, Merino, Digby, Narrawong and Cape Bridgewater. It has a maritime identity as well as strong rural and farming traditions. The Glenelg Shire Council was established in 1996 with the amalgamation of the former City of Portland, Shire of Glenelg, and Shire of Heywood

The Cultural Collection is on display in several venues across the Shire. The former Town Hall in Portland was built in 1863 and currently has a museum display area but is also the home of the Portland Family History Group. The exhibitions in this museum will be redeveloped to tell the stories of women and children.

Current Situation

The Cultural Collection contains over 10,000 objects including art, maritime collection, civic collections, social history as well as natural history. The art collection is well represented by women artists and the collection contains many objects which relate to the stories of women, children and their lives.

The current display in the former Townhall is an eclectic mix of maritime history, civic history and pioneer history. This space will be redeveloped to tell the stories of women and children through objects and artworks from the collection. Additionally, the Casterton and District Historical Society have agreed to lend us several artefacts from their collection relating to these themes.

The museum operates on a gold-coin donation and currently attracts around 750 visitors per year with most of these visitors being from outside of the Glenelg Shire.

The museum in the old Townhall is staffed by volunteers who are part of the Portland Family History Group

Our aim is to attract more visitors, in particular, those from the shire. Council will include a school’s program along with any redevelopment.

The Commission

We are looking for an artist who can connect our visitors to the stories from the Shire and to the objects in the collection through a new piece of art which will be acquired

into the collection. We would like the artist to create an artwork which is inspired by the stories of innovative, daring and forward-thinking women. The artwork is intended to be the result of the artist's own ideas, research and learning, together with their personal response to objects and artworks currently in the collection and/or stories of significant women from the Shire.

We would like the artwork to explore hidden stories, the overlooked stories of women and their lives and, through this, engage new audiences. We would like the artist to respond to heritage and stories through a contemporary artwork.

The Collections Management Coordinator will endeavour to support the artist in whatever way they can – access to the collection, research and reaching out to local history groups, for example. If there are any specific installation needs, these should be included in the budget.

The artwork will be acquired into the Glenelg Shire Cultural Collection and can be any medium - clay, fabric, paper, paint, digital etc

Key words / phrases

- Women
- Feminism
- Suffragism
- Equality
- Children
- Diverse story telling
- A visual representation of women's stories
- Objects and artworks from the collection as inspiration and reference points
- Significant women from the Shire – Vida Goldstein, Connie Hart, Agnes Goodsir, Clarice Beckett, Bridget Ledwith, Mary Mackillop
- Everyday stories and lives as well as extraordinary stories
- Immigration
- Culture and cultural diversity

Resources

- The Glenelg Shire Cultural Collection should be a source of inspiration for the artwork and a response (see attached list)
- The lives of significant women from the Shire, including but not limited to:
 1. Janet Laurie Black (1822-1903) Pioneer female newspaper editor and owner/Established Mount Gambier's Border Watch newspaper in 1861/Cape Bridgewater 'second life'. Not born in Portland but lived all of her adult life here or at Cape Bridgewater.

2. Sarah Wadmore (1860-1941). Pioneer teacher and educator/ Historian and poet/Editor of 'The Victorian Centenary Book of Remembrance' in 1934. Publication entirely focused on Portland and district pioneer women. Born Cape Bridgewater.
3. Connie Hart (1917 – 1993). Gunditjmara basket weaver, born in Little Dunmore, near Lake Condah Mission in South West Victoria. Connie attended the mission school during her childhood. Although her mother and other relatives did not teach her their traditional basket weaving techniques due to fear of repercussions Connie was always attentive, watching and learning quietly.
4. Beatrice (1863-1947) and Clara (1867-1946) Dacomb. Developed a simplified and effective form of shorthand/ Challenged the dominance of Pitman shorthand/ Humanitarians. Born Portland.
5. Agnes Goodsir (1864-1939). Important Australian artist/Commercially successful female artist/Later lived and painted in France. Born in Portland
6. Vida Goldstein (1869 – 1949). Feminist, suffragist and pacifist. Born in Portland.
7. Clarice Beckett (1887 – 1935). Recognised as one of Australia's most important painters from the inter-war years, she is considered one of Australia's leading artists of the 20th century. Born in Casterton.

- Portland Family History Group

There is a wealth of archives, documents and photographs as part of the Portland Family History Group's collection.

- Casterton and District Historical Society

This group has huge collection of objects, documents and photographs relating to the history of the town of Casterton and surrounds.

Storage Considerations

As the artwork will be acquired into the Glenelg Shire Cultural Collection, it should be able to be easily stored, when not on display. The artwork should be no larger than 75cm in height and the same in width and depth.

Timeline and budget

Submissions of up to \$10,000 including GST will be considered.

Submissions to the EOI due	Friday 14 March 2025
Artist and project selected by a panel	Friday 28 March 2025
Contract and schedule finalised	Friday 18 April 2025
Work completed	Friday 27 June 2025

Glenelg Shire Cultural Collection – here are a just a few examples of artworks by women, objects used by women or items depicting women’s lives that could serve as a focal point for a response.

<p><i>Vida Goldstein</i> Ursula Dutkiewicz</p>	
<p><i>Cherry</i> Agnes Goodsir</p>	
<p><i>Ladies Dress Shoes</i> Early 1900s</p>	

Silk Bed Cap
Early 1900s



Wedding Dress
1871



Notes on Vida
Eleven pages of biographical notes on
Vida Goldstein written by her niece
Leslie M. Henderson, M.A. LLB.

No image

Con Kroker
Bathing Beauties



*The Pioneer Suffragettes of Casterton
and District*

20 Page booklet compiled by Jan Lier
for the Casterton and District Historical
Society Inc. Includes list of pioneer
women from Casterton and district who
signed the 1891 suffrage petition,
biographical details of the women, and
a number of photographs of the women.

No Image

<p><i>Banner – Women's Christian Temperance Union</i> c.1900</p>	
<p><i>Many examples of craft traditionally thought of as women's</i> <i>E.g crochet, lace, embroidery</i></p>	

Your submission

To submit your expression of interest in this commission please include:

- CV
- Images and examples of any previous work
- A short, 500 word maximum, response to the brief which highlights your experience, your creative practice and what is motivating your submission and approach. This should also include a brief statement which responds to the vision and themes of the commission.
- There is no need to include a concept design

Your submission should be emailed to ahawkins@glenelg.vic.gov.au