

Mulberry Hill Historic House

September 2024

(Photos & written report by Julie Matthews)

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When I rang the National Trust to confirm the numbers for our tour on September 5th, I was delighted to advise that we had 31 members who were keen to visit "Mulberry Hill," the historic home of artist & printmaker Daryl Lindsay & his wife Joan Lindsay, an artist & writer whose most famous novel was "Picnic at Hanging Rock."

On the morning of our visit, 15 members arrived promptly at Lum Reserve carpark for our carpooled departure for Mulberry Hill in Langwarrin South, where we met the other 16 members who drove directly to the house.



Our group photo.



Our 3 guides for the tour.

Soon we were ready for our group photo, to put on shoe covers & to be divided into 3 groups to accompany our volunteer guides Liz, Barb & Rowena who were excellent. They were so knowledgeable & happy to share all they knew not only about the lives of Daryl & Joan Lindsay, their home & personal possessions but also the many great pieces of Australian art throughout this home which the Lindsays had built in 1926. They incorporated the original tiny farmhouse on the property, which was modified to become Daryl's studio, a spacious room in which they spent much of their time.

We learnt that Mulberry Hill was a popular place to visit & the Lindsays enjoyed entertaining their friends who included many famous artists of the time as well as people like Nellie Melba, Robert Menzies, Robert Helpmann, their neighbours Keith & Elizabeth Murdoch & even Sir Laurence Olivier & Vivien Leigh. Following their deaths Mulberry Hill was donated to the National Trust & it has been left just as it was when Joan passed. The house is like an art gallery with so many paintings which Daryl either painted or bought or acquired from many well-known artists of his era. Daryl's other passion was his horses which he enjoyed painting, & their reins & a saddle can still be seen hanging in his studio.



Very early (1926) basic ensuite for guest's bedroom.



Different wallpapers in guest's bedroom.



Living room with Georgian furniture & glassware.



Painting of Joan.



Another painting with paper weight collection.



Ceiling repainted by Joan.



Former Scullery converted to wine cellar.



Dining room.



Dining room with "Girl in Red Tights" painting by Australian artist Constance Stokes purchased by Daryl before it was exhibited in several shows in Brisbane & London.



Kitchen showing Staffordshire ceramics, on top shelves.



Painting of nude by local artist friend Rick Amor.



Painting of Joan wearing dark hat in art studio.



Various paintings including large one of Daryl in studio.



The spacious art studio.



Fireplace in art studio... where many simple meals were often cooked.



Reins & saddle Daryl used with his beloved horses.



Spacious main bathroom with lead flooring for waterproofing.



Ellen on chair in bathroom the Lindsays used.



Joan's writing room, with tiny furniture for a tiny lady.



Sketch paintings of a friend - Daryl talked friend into allowing him to keep them.



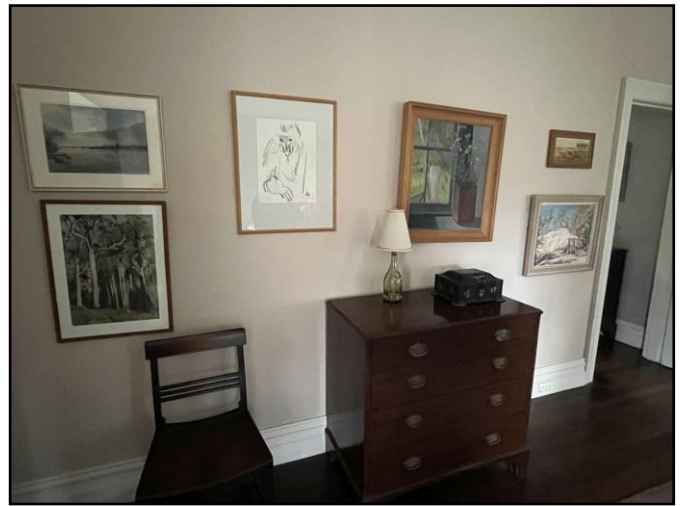
Simple small bedroom where some sobering up occurred.



Main bedroom with painting by Arthur Boyd (a relation of Joan's) above fireplace. Joan's tiny clothes are still in these wardrobes.



Daryl's suit in wardrobe.



More paintings in their bedroom.



In 1930's Daryl sketched & painted ballet dancers of the touring Ballets Russes.



Ellen & Gary passing one of Daryl's watercolour paintings of Bacchus Marsh, where they lived briefly during WW2.



One of the handmade bricks left over from rebuilding Captain Cook's Cottage in 1934 which Daryl had specially inserted with plaque in the wall he built around their garden.



One sad old namesake mulberry tree! The heavy chain was installed by Daryl.

As our tour concluded we were able to spend a short time in the remnants of their back garden, which is bordered by the brick wall Daryl built, & see the old namesake mulberry tree which apparently still produces fruit but looks quite sad.



Back view of the house.



Remnants of their back garden furniture & water tank tower.



Our group leaving the house & gift shop.



Rear view of the house & garden with the wall that Daryl built.

After a short time in the small gift shop & saying goodbye to our guides, light rain started to fall & it was now time for a short drive for lunch at Harry's Cafe, at the McClelland Sculpture Garden & Gallery in Langwarrin. Interestingly, Lady Joan Lindsay's later years were spent invested in visual arts, & she enjoyed frequent visits to the [McClelland Gallery](#) where she was involved in the local art community. She painted several works in her later years & held an exhibition there in 1972!

A brief background on the Lindsays....After working at several jobs in Australia, Daryl served as a driver with the AIF in France during World War 1 & soon became a medical artist in England, where he drew medical diagrams for facial surgery for the wounded, while also studying part time at the [Slade School of Art](#) in [London](#), where he made many contacts in the art world. Returning home in 1919 he met fellow painter Joan a Beckett Weigall at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School. In 1921 he returned to London for further study & on [Valentine's Day](#) 1922 he married petite Joan at Marylebone Registry Office in London.

After returning to Melbourne, they lived in smaller dwellings before making their permanent home at Mulberry Hill. They visited Europe several times in the 1930's for an exhibition of Daryl's water colour paintings, buying artwork & seeing relatives & friends. Joan at this stage was more interested in pursuing her literary career, writing books, plays, articles for magazines & newspapers. Whilst Daryl had moderate success with his water colour & oil paintings, he is remembered more for his skills as an arts administrator, having organised many successful exhibitions, becoming director of the NGV from 1941-1956, the founding president of the Victorian

branch of the National Trust & member of the Commonwealth Art Advisory Board. For his 'services to art' Daryl was knighted in May 1956.



Wide-angle view of our group across Harry's Café.



Barbara Young & Elizabeth Vogt.



Rita Hall & Suzanne Gribble.



Barbara Matthews & Rita Hall.



Lorraine & Martin Thomas.



Jenny & Brian Menzies.



Gary Codner & Lorraine Thomas.



Ellen Stokes & Warren Gribble.



John Hall & John Matthews.



Jenny Carter & Pam Cotton.



John Page & Gwen McKean.



Ian Miller & John Page.



Ann Godbold & Beryl Dickinson.



Barbara & John Shives.



Christine Richards & Barbara Shives.



Val Dale & Sue Miller.



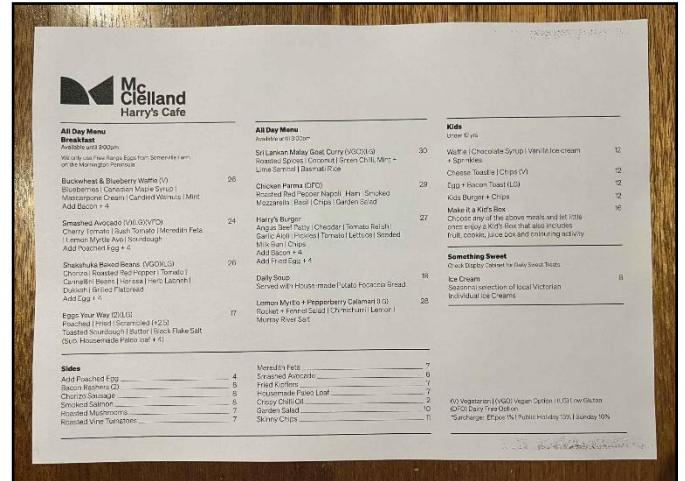
Phillip Shelton & Allan McKean.



Julie Matthews, Dianne & Phillip Shelton.



Dianne & Phillip Shelton.



Lunch menu at Harry's

Following our delicious meal & much chatting in a very comfortable setting at Harry's, while the rain fell upon the many amazing sculptures outside, we had to make a quick dash to the carpark & then headed home after an interesting & successful outing. Many thanks to all who came & were a pleasure to be with, & special thanks to the members who happily drove those of us who really appreciated a ride on the day.
