



Dear Decophiles,

As many of you know, this year marks a truly special confluence of milestones—the grand centenary celebrations of Art Deco (1925-2025) and my own entry into my tenth decade, with my 91st birthday on the 3rd of June. It felt only fitting that such a momentous occasion should also herald my retirement from the position of President—a decision made all the more meaningful by the triumphant conclusion of our splendid autumn programme of events.

With this in mind, I will be proposing at the upcoming management committee meeting that we bring forward our Annual General Meeting. It brings me great joy to share with you that our esteemed Vice President, Philip McAllister, has graciously agreed to stand for the position of President. I am certain this transition will guide the society into an exciting new chapter. Further details about the AGM and the Spring Programme of Events will be shared in a special email update in July.

As you will read in this edition of *Dear Decophile* — and I am sure many of you can attest from firsthand experience—our Autumn Programme was a resounding success.



Vyonne Geneve with Philip McAllister

More than a hundred passionate individuals embarked on Art Deco Discovery Walks, culminating in a exceptional tour of Beverley on the 18th of May. Our exhibition welcomed over 3,500 visitors. This extraordinary reception warranting an extension. Such achievements, however, would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of our wonderful volunteers. I extend my deepest gratitude to Karl Haynes, Kevin Jackson, Philip McAllister, Helen Griffiths, Tim Hillyard, Leslee Mordount, Marilyn West, Annelle Perotti, and Dr Cathie May. Thank you for your unwavering commitment.

Though I step down as President, this will not be my final *Dear Decophile*. I have been assured that, in my new role as President *Emeritus*, I will continue to share a few words in each electronic newsletter—a privilege I embrace with great delight.

Decoratively yours,

Vyonne Geneve



Members and supporters out front of the Beverley Town Hall with Shire President Mr David White, 18th May 2025.

Email: artdecowa@gmail.com

Web: www.artdecowa.org.au

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtDecoSocietyWesternAustralia/>

An experience to savour and enjoy

A message from our Patron - Jean Jenkins

I visited this exhibition in the Perth Townhall in its penultimate week and was entranced by its professionalism, charm and education value.

Members of the Art Deco and Modernist Society of Western Australia can be proud that the Society, together with the City of Perth and the National Trust, successfully recreated a living picture of the Art Deco era.

On entrance, the visitor was greeted by the life-size copy of the stylised artwork by member Colin Andrews of President Vyonne Geneve and former Vice President Ron Facius. The cheeky swirl of Vyonne's skirt set the tone for a rewarding Art Deco experience.

Panels, with information supplied by Society President Vyonne Geneve, depicted Art Deco buildings regrettably demolished--many in the 1970s, 80s and 90s—and those precious few which remain. I relived seeing the Emu Brewery explode and fall in ruins. It was 1992 and ADMSWA members gathered in Kings Park, overlooking the Emu Brewery in Spring Street. Tears were shed as the 1936 building designed by Oldham, Boas and Ednie-Brown met its cruel and untimely end.

There was the reminder that where the Parmelia Hilton now stands on the corner of Mounts Bay Road and Mill Street, there was once the 1938 John Oldham designed Riviera Flats. Vyonne has reminded me that she resided in this Krantz-built apartment block at the time she worked for the ABC.

A fascinating exhibit was a computerised reconstruction of the Adelphi Hotel made by students of the North Metropolitan TAFE College – interestingly the college at which former Vice President of the Society, Ron Facius, and I both taught many years ago. Construction of the Hotel Adelphi was begun in 1935 on a design by architects Oldham, Boas and Ednie-Brown and the hotel was opened on 16 January 1936. Vyonne has a connection here too, as she spent the early part of her honeymoon in the Adelphi Hotel.

Society members loaned their own precious Deco memorabilia –amongst others, a display of Clarice Cliff glassware and ceramics, chrome cocktail-making paraphernalia, a complete dinner service displayed on a table setting of the era, a splendid green telephone and items of clothing including dresses, menswear and bathing costumes.



1930s Lounge room display, ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025, Courtesy Brian Jenkins

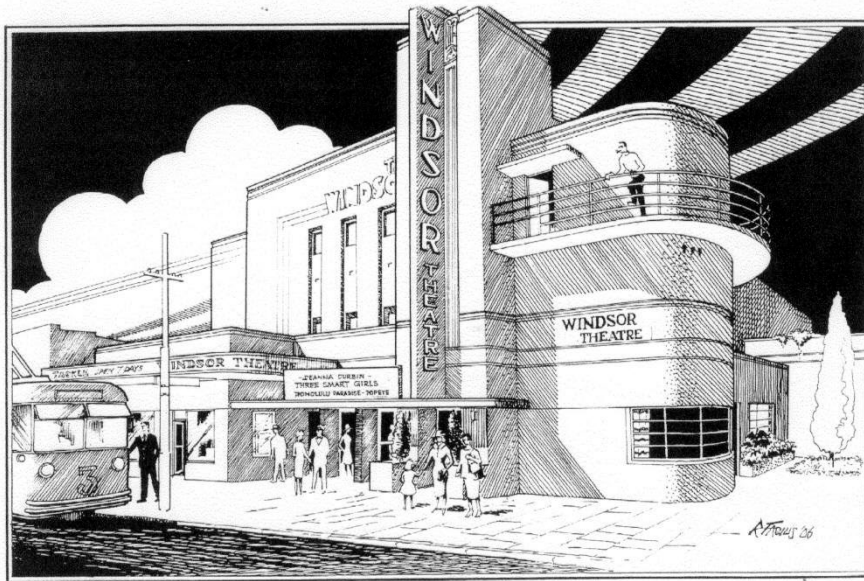


Mannequin and Artwork, ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025, Courtesy Brian Jenkins

Member Kevin Jackson was on duty every day of the exhibition, with member Annelle Perotti, Vice President Phillip McAllister and others assisting him from time to time. Kevin reported a steady flow of visitors to the exhibition, including some from interstate. Many took a pamphlet giving details of the Society and/or signed the petition to save the Windsor.

Because of its popularity, the exhibition was extended an extra week, this encounter was more than a mere glimpse into 1930s elegance; it was an experience to savour and enjoy.

Help save the Windsor Theatre



Windsor Theatre, Nedlands Architect: W T Leighton (1937) Drawing by Ron Facius 2006

HELP PROTECT THE WINDSOR THEATRE, NEDLANDS.

SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE

The Windsor Theatre currently lacks essential heritage protection at both the local and state levels. We believe it is vital that the Windsor be added to the City of Nedlands Heritage List and that the State Heritage Council reconsider its decision not to include the theatre on the Register of Heritage Places.

With the support of Upper House Parliamentarian, Hon Brad Pettitt MLC, the ADMSWA has launched a petition advocating for the Windsor Theatre's heritage protection. This petition is set to be tabled in State Parliament later this year, marking an important step toward securing its future.

During our recent exhibition, we collected over 125 signatures in person, and we have already gathered more than 190 signatures with the online petition. In the coming weeks, we hope to raise questions in Parliament about heritage protection, and we are also working on generating local publicity to highlight the importance of preserving the Windsor.

Please share this petition with your friends, family, and networks—and encourage them to sign and support this important cause.

Link to online Petition: <https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/LCePetitions.nsf/petitions/25-0009>

Link to more information: <https://www.artdecowa.org.au/save-the-windsor/>

Report on Art Deco in Perth - A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance

On April 8, 2025, the exhibition Art Deco in Perth – A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance opened at the Perth Town Hall entrance foyer. The exhibition ran until May 7, 2025.

The City of Perth promoted the exhibition through its major communication channels, including the widely distributed Boorloo Festival Program and the Visit Perth website. This was complemented by a radio interview with Philip McAllister, Vice President of ADMSWA, on Curtin FM.

The exhibition was open for a total of 24 days, from 10 AM to 4 PM each day, with an average daily attendance of 146 people, totalling 3,492 visitors. The ADMSWA exhibition guest book received over 90 positive comments, 150 signatures were collected for the Society's petition promoting the conservation of the Windsor Cinema, and 111 copies of *Picture Palaces of the Golden West* (a book on the history of Art Deco cinemas in WA, written by ADMSWA President Vyonne Geneve and illustrated by former Vice President Ron Facius) were sold.

In addition to Town Hall reception staff, the exhibition was staffed by ADMSWA volunteer Kevin Jackson during regular opening times, with additional support from Annelle Perotti, Philip McAllister, Helen Griffiths, Tim Hillyard, and Leslee Mordaunt. This totalled 202 volunteer hours, which, using the dollar value attributed by Volunteering WA, represents an in-kind contribution of \$10,872.

The exhibition was formally launched on the evening of April 9, 2025. The event was attended by over 60 invited guests. Hon. John Cowdell, current patron of ADMSWA and former President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, was master of ceremonies. ADMSWA President Vyonne Geneve, Philip McAllister, and Society Historian Cathie May gave brief speeches on the background and history of Art Deco and the exhibition.



Entrance Panel, ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025

The launch was attended by an array of prominent Perth figures, including Perth City's Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Bruce Reynolds, Cr Clyde Bevan, Cr Raj Doshi, CEO Michelle Reynolds, and National Trust CEO Julian Donaldson. The City of Perth provided catering for the event.

The exhibition consisted of 24 A0 didactics, each containing an average of 400 words of engaging and informative narrative. Across the 24 didactics, over 120 photographs, drawings, paintings, and copies of newspaper ads and articles were displayed.

The didactics were accompanied by:

- Nine display cases of artifacts and ephemera
- Four mannequins and four dressmaker's dummies in period outfits
- Two set-piece displays (a dining room setting and a typical 1930s lounge room setting)

Report on Art Deco in Perth - A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance (2/2)

A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance was made possible with financial support from the City of Perth. The ADMSWA responded to a request for expressions of interest to deliver heritage activities in the 2025 Boorloo Heritage Festival in October 2024. The Society's submission proposed delivering an Art Deco exhibition (particularly as 2025 marks the centenary of Art Deco) for the duration of the festival, along with three heritage walks. The submission was positively received, and in January 2025, the Society and City of Perth executed a fee-for-service letter agreement to deliver the exhibition in April 2025 for a total of \$20,100 gst ex.

To deliver the contracted outcomes, the Society engaged:

- Julianne Mackay (Curation)
- Morgane Guedj (Graphic design)
- Imagesource (Printing and fabrication of didactics)
- Art Hire (Display cases)

Along with curating, Julianne Mackay undertook the bulk of the exhibition research and writing, with the assistance of Cathie May.

The project development was directly supported by volunteer contributions from:

- Philip McAllister
- Dr Cathie May
- Karl Haynes
- Kevin Jackson
- Helen Griffiths

Karl Haynes undertook overall contract management and assumed direct responsibility for content review and approval from mid-March onwards. Cathie May assisted in content research and development, along with final text editing. Philip McAllister contributed to content development and research, along with exhibition design and advice on photograph selection. Kevin Jackson and Philip McAllister coordinated the displays with assistance from Helen Griffiths.

Total volunteer time for project development is estimated to be more than 200 hours.



Exhibition Panel (Art Deco and Modernist Society), ADMSWA
Exhibition May 2025



Exhibition Panels mounted, ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025

Report on Art Deco in Perth - A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance

Summary of exhibition content

Exhibition Didactics

- Deco Dreams: The rise of Art Deco in Western Australia
- Hollywood Glamour: Art Deco on the silver screen
- The Windsor Theatre: A revolution in cinema design
- Cinemas of Perth: 'Going to the movies' (Piccadilly Theatre and Arcade)
- Cinemas of Perth: 'Going to the movies' (Plaza Theatre and Arcade)
- Art Deco in Commercial Spaces (Gledden Building & Devon House)
- Art Deco in Commercial Spaces (P & O Building & Atlas Building)
- Art Deco Hotels (Criterion Hotel)
- Art Deco Hotels (Adelphi Hotel & Carlton Hotel)
- Residential Art Deco – Apartments in Perth (Rostervor & Arbodale Flats)
- Residential Art Deco – Apartments in Perth (Lawson Apartments & Riviera Flats)
- Landmark Art Deco Buildings in Perth (Perth Girl's School)
- Landmark Art Deco Buildings in Perth (Harper's Building & Motor House)
- Landmark Art Deco Buildings in Perth (First Church of Christ, Scientist & St John's Ambulance Building)
- Art Deco House: A Perth Icon of Glamour and Sophistication
- Art Deco Fashion and Attire (The Glamour and Resilience of 1930s Art Deco Fashion)
- Art Deco Fashion and Attire (The Evolution of Men's Fashion in the 1930s)
- Some Notable People Behind the Style in Perth (Boas, Leighton & Bennet)
- Some Notable People Behind the Style in Perth (Kohler, Pitt Morison & Krantz)
- Art Deco Lost (Metro Theatre)
- Art Deco Lost (Modern Emu Brewery)
- Art Deco Lost (Colonial Mutual Life Building)
- Art Deco Lost (Ambassador Theatre)
- The Art Deco and Modernist Society



Exhibition Panel (The Windsor Theatre), ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025



Exhibition Panel (The Art Deco Home), ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025

Report on Art Deco in Perth - A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance

Summary of exhibition content

Display Cases

- Selected coloured glassware c 1930s
- Cigarette boxes and assorted paraphernalia
- Crystal Perfume Bottle, Hoffman & Schlevogt, Prague
- Marquestie necklace, chrome metal and green vitrolite necklace with black ribbed silk evening bag.
- Chas Brass & Copper Co, metalware c 1930s
- Charles Lemanceau statues, c. 1930s, Leaping Greyhound, Sitting Greyhound and Racing Greyhound
- Souvenirs of West Australia's First Air-Conditioned Theatre, the Piccadilly, 1938
- Album of Ambassador's photographs presented to Mr Frank Marsden who worked for the theatre in 1928.



Display case (Chas Brass & Copper Co, metalware c 1930s), ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025

Mannequins and dressmaker's dummies

- Evening ware 'Elegance from the 1930s' (Male and Female outfit)
- 'A Day at the Races', Day wear from the 1930s (Male and Female outfit)
- Beach wear from the 1930s
- Day Dress c.1930
- Evening Dress c 1938-39



Mannequins (Evening ware), ADMSWA Exhibition, May 2025



Display case (Album of Ambassador's photographs), ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025

Art works

- Fashion drawings by Norman Aisbett, 1938
- Untitled, oil on Canvas by Harald Vike, 1940
- Oil painting of founding President Vyonne Geneve and Vice President Ron Facius with Windsor Theatre in the background, Mr Colin Andrews undated.

Report on Art Deco in Perth - A Glimpse into 1930s Elegance

Summary of exhibition content

Lounge and dining room (selected pieces)

- 'Pan Chromatic' Radio cabinet c 1930's
- Art Deco Lounge Chairs c late 1930's
- Deco Drinks trolley and cocktail set c 1940's
- Deco side table (circular) and ashtray stand c 1940's
- Chrome S-shaped smoker's stand c 1940's
- Art Deco coffee table with marquetry inlay top c 1930's
- Smith's electric mantle clock in black and cream Bakelite casement c 1940's
- Art Deco large vase c late 1930's
- Chrome statue of 'Diana with hound' by Hagenauer, Vienna c 1930's
- Oak dining table and chairs early 1930's
- Dark veneered curved China cabinet with flamingos etched on central glass doors c 1940's
- Ornamental lamp like piece with reclining lady in C- shape chrome & yellow opaque globe c 1930's
- Clarice Cliff 'Biarritz' Royal Staffordshire Coffee set c 1930's
- Clarice Cliff 'Biarritz' Royal Staffordshire Dinner Set c 1930's



*Display (Radio cabinet, vase and ornamental lamp),
ADMSWA Exhibition May 2025*

Acknowledgments

The support of City of Perth staff was essential to the exhibition's success, particularly:

- Susanna Iuliano (City Cultural Project Officer)
- Habiba Farrag (Festival Support Officer)
- Perth Town Hall venue staff

The ADMSWA is extremely grateful to the individuals and organisations that provided content and artifacts for the exhibition, specifically:

- Streetkid Industries
- Yvonne Geneve Collection
- Leighton Collection
- Museum of Perth
- Museum of Performing Arts
- Art Deco and Modernist Society Archives
- Subiaco Museum
- Kevin Jackson
- Helen Griffiths
- Philip McAllister
- National Library – Trove



*Display (Dinning Table with Clarice Cliff setting), ADMSWA
Exhibition Mayh 2025*

Discovery Walks - Autumn 2025

A key feature of the ADMSWA Autumn program of events was a series of Discovery Walks. As part of the Boorloo Heritage Festival in the City of Perth, we conducted three walks that explored the essential Art Deco history of the CBD. With the support of the Heritage Council, we also delivered five Discovery Walks during the Australian Heritage Festival—two each in Mt Lawley and Nedlands, and an all-day tour centred on Beverley.

As part of our agreement with the Heritage Council, each of the walks organised for the Australian Heritage Festival included the development of background heritage documentation and a tailored 'script'. This will play a pivotal role in enabling ADMSWA to train a team of guides to deliver Discovery Walks in the future. We look forward to seeking further support to develop walks in additional rural centres across Western Australia, as well as other areas in Perth, such as Menora.

All the walks were well attended, with over 100 participants sharing our passion and commitment to Art Deco and Modernism.

Kevin Jackson and Philip McAllister served as lead guides for the City of Perth walks, with Karl Haynes and Louise Turner assisting. Karl Haynes led the Nedlands walks, supported by Cathie May, Philip McAllister, and Kevin Jackson. Cathie May led the Mt Lawley walks, with support from Karl and Philip. For the Beverley Walk, Karl and Cathie shared lead roles, assisted by Philip.

With documentation nearly complete, we will soon have six fully researched and documented Discovery Walks, and five trained members ready to deliver them as part of our growing engagement program.



Karl Haynes leading the Nedlands Discovery Walk with Krantz designed Portland Flats in the background.



Vyonne Geneve and Philip McAllister presented the Beverley Shire President, David White, with a full size copy of Ron Facius

Visit to Beverley by the Art Deco and Modernist Society – 18 May 2025

Twenty members and supporters of the Art Deco and Modernist Society of Western Australia (ADMSWA) visited Beverley on Sunday, 18 May 2025, to enjoy the historic townscape of Vincent Street—most notably the magnificent Art Deco Town Hall. Designed in 1938 by William Bennett, the Town Hall is recognised as one of the most important and impressive Art Deco buildings in Western Australia.

The group was welcomed by Stefan de Beer, the Shire's Manager of Planning and Development, who arranged for the tour to visit the Town's Visitor Centre and gain access to the Town Hall and Lesser Hall.

A highlight of the visit was the Society's presentation to Shire President Mr David White of a full-sized reproduction of a hand-drawn ink sketch of the Town Hall by Ron Facius, the former Vice President of the Society.



Dr Cathie May leading the Mt Lawley Discovery Walk

Two new exhibitions celebrating women artists and their contribution to Australia's cultural life at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists

31 May – 30 August 2025

KNOW MY NAME tells a new story of Australian art. Looking to moments when women created new forms of art and cultural commentary, the exhibition suggests new histories by highlighting creative and intellectual relationships through time.

[Know My Name: The University of Western Australia](#)



LINES
IN THE
SAND:
WOMEN
FROM
THE
WEST

Curated by
Brent Harrison
and Lee Kinsella

LAWRENCE WILSON
ART GALLERY
31 MAY – 30 AUGUST
2025

Lines in the Sand: Women from the West

31 May – 30 August 2025

Lines in the Sand: Women from the West draws on the strong holdings of artworks by Western Australian women artists in The University of Western Australia Art Collection, the Berndt Museum and the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art. The exhibition seeks to champion these artists, who may not be household names due to gender disparity or the tyranny of distance but deserve to be acknowledged for their dedication to practice.

[Lines in the Sand: Women from the West: The University of Western Australia](#)

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery,
35 Stirling Hwy,
Crawley WA 6009, Australia

Gallery open Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 4pm, and admission is free

Art Deco Scotland: Design and Architecture in the Jazz Age



Art Deco Society of New York

Online Zoom Lecture

Perth Time

Thursday 19th June 2025

6:00am-7:30am

[Online Registration](#)

\$15 USD

In this Zoom presentation, Bruce Peter, Design Historian from the Glasgow School of Art, takes us on a fascinating virtual tour based on his new book *Art Deco Scotland: Design and Architecture in the Jazz Age*. In this illustrated talk we will discover the background and development of the Art Deco style in Scotland's towns and cities in the inter-war era. Peter will give an overview of the modern decorative arts in Scotland since the mid-nineteenth century and examine the continental and American influences in the early-twentieth century.

[Art Deco Society of New York - Art Deco Scotland: Design and Architecture in the Jazz Age](#)