

BAKER

THE ARTIST, THE INFLUENCER





The Baker – The Artist, The Influencer exhibition shows a diverse range of artistic styles and materials. Sleek modernist influenced sculptures in stone and wood, commemorative busts, traditional oil paintings, and expressive watercolours hang side by side showcasing the impressive body of work created by Camden Art Group members in the years of the group meetings, continuing beyond Baker's death and up to the present day.

*Welcome
to the Exhibition*

GALLERY I

A founding member of Camden Art Group, Ken Rorke, was a primary school teacher and provided a room in Camden Public School for Camden Art Group to meet. He had heard that the professional artist, Alan D. Baker, was living in The Oaks.

Alan and his wife Marjory Baker had moved to the area in the early 1960s with their son Gary, following the tragic loss of their two older boys. Baker had a distinguished career as an artist. He had started studying, age fourteen, at the JS Watkins School of Art. Spending years as a commercial artist, he produced iconic posters and images from Tooth & Co Brewery. Twenty-six of his portraits had been finalists in the Archibald Prize. Accomplished in alla prima, en plein air landscape paint-



"Ken reported that he had visited the artist, Alan Baker, and that he would not teach, but that he would paint with us. We could not do better, so we went ahead."

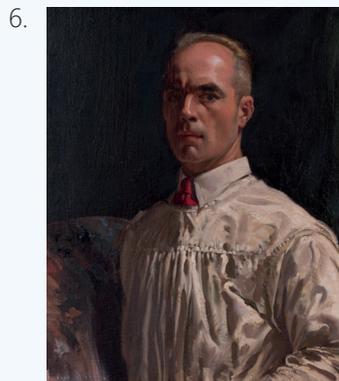
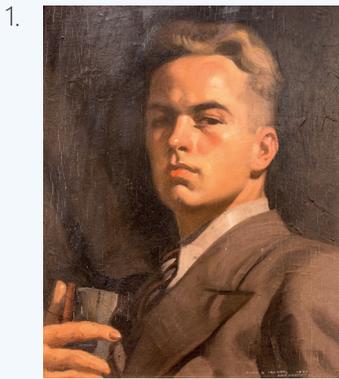
- Jack Dunn

ings, he was also well recognised for his floral works which were hugely popular and commercially successful.

Baker was initially approached by Ken Rorke, to teach Camden Art Group, which he refused, preferring instead to attend as a member who could, and often would, offer advice and an expert hand. Founding member, Patricia Johnson, warmly remembers "he'd come around and criticize our work, and often it was just a brushstroke. He'd pull your whole work together. It was just extraordinary how he had that talent." Baker became an invaluable member of the group. He as generous with his expertise and enormously encouraging of those wanting to pursue further studies.



The Artist in the Oaks



1. Alan D. Baker, Self Portrait (1935), Oil on Board, 51 x 41 cm
2. Alan D. Baker Hickson Road (1933), Oil on Board, 29 x 36.5 cm
3. Alan D. Baker, Life Drawing, Graphite on Paper, 24 x 18 cm
4. Alan Baker, Monday, Oil on Board, 33 x 25 cm
5. Alan D. Baker, Portrait II, Oil on Board, 14.7 x 12 cm
6. Alan D. Baker, Self Portrait, (1950) Oil on Canvas on Board, 76 x 64.1 cm
7. Alan D. Baker, Kakula Kila (c1944), Oil on Copper Plate, 50.5 x 30 cm
8. Alan D. Baker, Cecile Brunner Roses, Oil on Board, 30 x 40 cm

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GALLERY II

The Baker family was very much involved with Camden Art Group.

Marjorie Baker received her arts training at the JS Watkins Art School. Marjorie painted with oils and watercolours, and did some printmaking. She participated in Camden Art Group as a member and was a frequent sitter for the Wednesday night meetings, being well versed in modelling as she had frequently sat for Alan. During their marriage Marjorie dedicated herself to mothering the children and being a practical support for Alan. She documented his work, entertained gallery visitors and important guests, and tended to their garden which provided Alan with constant inspiration and subject matter for his floral paintings. Following Alan's death,



“Alan...was inspiring, kind and sincere. He was as a father to the group always giving encouragement, guidance and a kind word.”

- Russell Steele

Marjorie continued to pursue her own artistic interests. She had long established friendships with Camden Art Group members, Olive McAleer, Nola Tegel and Patricia Johnson, and joined them on painting trips at home and abroad.

Following in the footsteps of his mother and father, Gary Baker came to art early. As a teenager he excelled at art in high school with a self-portrait selected in the state's top works. From 1973-1979 he studied at the Royal Art Society under Henry Hanke. At the same time, he joined Camden Group, allowing him to establish his own lasting connections to Camden's community of artists. He takes inspiration from the places and objects around him.



The Baker Family

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9. Alan D. Baker, Untitled (Camden Art Group), Charcoal on Paper, 50 x 65 cm

10. Alan D. Baker, Self Portrait, Ink Wash on Paper, 68 x 48 cm

11. Gary Baker, Alan, Graphite on Paper, 36 x 24 cm

12. Gary Baker, Camden, Etching on Paper, 14 x 19 cm

13. Rita Bloomfield, Gary, Fiberglass Resin Bust, 50h x 20w x 50d

14. Gary Baker, Burragorang Bush, Watercolour on Paper, 42 x 62 cm

15. Alan D. Baker, Untitled, Charcoal on Paper, 63.5 x 48 cm

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16. Marjory Baker, Blue Study, Oil on Board, 52 x 68 cm
 17. Marjory Baker, Untitled, Watercolour on Paper, 45 x 33 cm
 18. Alan D. Baker, Gary (1973), Charcoal on Paper, 66 x 48 cm
 19. Alan D. Baker, Marjory, Charcoal on Paper, 64 x 48 cm
 20. Alan D. Baker, Marjory, Charcoal on Paper, 65.5 x 50 cm
 21. Rita Bloomfield, Alan D. Baker, Fiberglass Resin Bust, 55h x 33w x 30d cm

GALLERY III

Camden Art group comprised of a mix of people from all walks of life. There were local business people, high school students, teachers, mothers, fathers, forestry workers – anyone with an interest in art was welcomed and found a place for themselves among the friendly group.

Some were experienced painters and artists who came to form connections with like-minded people. Rizwana Ahmad, a migrant and university educated artist, settled in Camden in 1973. Rizwana remembers the importance of finding a welcoming community of artists in her new hometown; “this community, under the leadership of Alan, provided me with the necessary welcoming



"I believe this experience changed my life, I love the practice and the passionate chasing of the perfect painting."

- Nola Tegel

and friendly network of people that an artist needs to continue to paint." Others came to learn new skills and found that they thrived under Baker's encouragement. Christine Parrish was greatly inspired by watching Baker work. He instilled in her the importance of hard work, as well as offering advice such as how to arrange a palette and prepare a board. Supported by the encouragement and practical skills they gained through Camden Art Group, many members went on to further studies. Patricia Johnson, Nola Tegel, Olive McAleer, Rita Bloomsfield and Jack Dunn all took lessons with the Royal Art Society. Nola and Patricia even went on to become fellows of that institution.



The Camden Art Group



22. Alan D. Baker, Camden Art Group (1976), Charcoal on Paper, 45.5 x 75.3 cm
23. Alan D. Baker, Red Mitchell, Graphite on Paper, 15 x 22.5 cm
24. Arthur (Red) Mitchell, Pair 1 & 2, Stone Granite, Each 22h x 34w x 15d cm
25. Max Wootten, Reclining Form (date), Wood Sculpture, 33h x 50w x 40d cm
26. Alan D. Baker, Jack Dunn, Oil on Board, 21.5 x 15 cm
27. Alan D. Baker, Ted Wale (1977), Graphite on Paper, 65 x 50 cm
28. Jack Dunn, Rita Bloomfield, Charcoal on Paper, 50 x 32 cm
29. Alan D. Baker, Patricia, Oil on Board, 37 x 28 cm

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30. Alan D. Baker, Nola, Oil on Board, 26 x 22 cm

31. Alan Baker, Untitled, Graphite on Paper, 50 x 28 cm

32. Alan D. Baker, Head Study of Ken Rorke (1974), Charcoal on Paper, 63.5 x 48 cm

33. Alan D. Baker, Ken Rorke with Guitar, Charcoal on Paper, 63 x 48 cm

34. Alan D. Baker, Heather Mitchell (1972), Charcoal on Paper, 65 x 50 cm

35. Alan D. Baker, Untitled (Christine Parrish), Graphite on Paper, 50 x 30 cm

36. Alan D. Baker, Russell Steele (1976), Charcoal on Paper, 75.3 x 45.5 cm

37. Alan D. Baker, Daphne Wilson, Charcoal on Paper, 71 x 45.5 cm

GALLERY IV

A thriving arts community was established with the inception of Camden Art Group. The group blossomed under the guidance of Alan D Baker and ran for over two decades. Camden Art Group consisted of members from all walks of life who shared a common and sincere interest in art with Baker affectionately remembered as a participant and mentor. The informal structure allowed members to work alongside Baker, observe his technique, seek his advice, and thrive under his encouragement. Former members fondly recall his focus on tone, composition, and drawing. From this foundation, many participants found the confidence to pursue artistic careers. All found firm friendships among the community of like-minded people. These

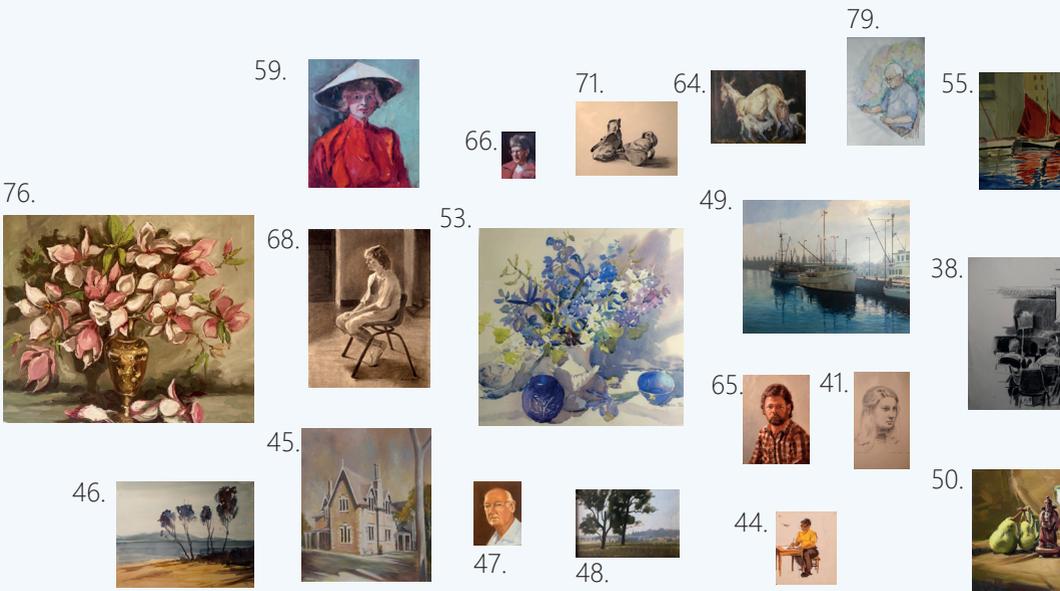


"We were from all walks of life and age groups, but art was our common denominator."

-Christine
Parrish

meetings connected a community of artists whose influence is still felt in Camden and beyond. Baker – The Artist, The Influencer, celebrates Camden Art Group and Baker's lasting influence on Camden's art community. The exhibition features the works of Alan Baker's alongside the works of the members and models of Camden Art Group





38. Alan D. Baker, *Untitled (School Hall)*, Charcoal on Paper, 50 x 65.5 cm

39. Alan D. Baker, *Jane*, Oil on Board, 35 x 25 cm

40. Alan D. Baker, *The Fair-Haired Girl in the Red Pullover (Virginia Murray)*, Oil on Board, 25 x 20 cm

41. Alan D. Baker, *Julie Wrigley (1972)*, Graphite on Paper, 22 x 12 cm

42. Alan D. Baker, *Kim*, Graphite on Paper, 37.5 x 25.5 cm

43. Alan D. Baker, *Untitled (1980)*, Graphite on Paper, 44 x 64 cm

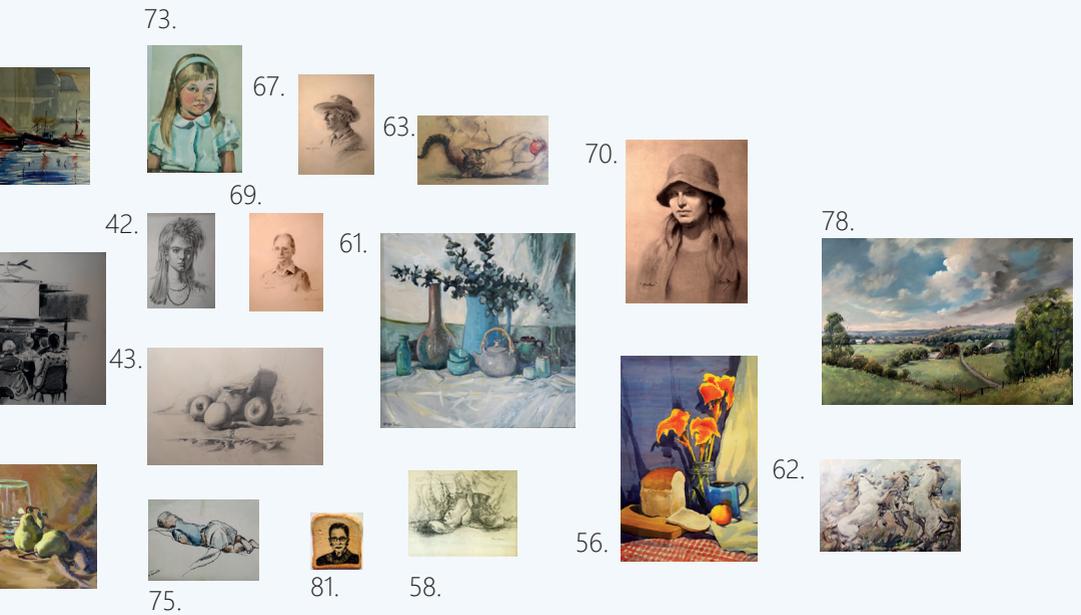
44. Alan D. Baker, *Camden Art Group Sketch*, Oil on Board, 18 x 15 cm

45. Ken Rorke, *Macaria*, Oil on Board, 44 x 37 cm

46. John Wrigley, *South Coast Scene*, Watercolour on Paper, 26 x 34 cm

47. Jack Dunn, *Self Portrait*, Oil on Board, 20.5 x 15 cm

48. Jack Dunn, *Camden*, Oil on Board, 20 x 30 cm



49. Jack Dunn, Bermagui Harbour, Oil on Board, 35 x 45 cm
 50. Gary Baker, Pear, Oil on Board, 34 x 53 cm
 51. Patricia Johnston, The Fair Girl, Oil on Board, 30.5 x 23 cm
 52. Patricia Johnston, Study in Yellow and Blue, Watercolour on Paper, 77 x 80 cm
 53. Patricia Johnston, Study in Blue, Watercolour on Paper, 77 x 80 cm
 54. Patricia Johnston, Still Life, Oil on Board, 25 x 36 cm
 55. Marjory Baker, Honfleur, Watercolour on Paper, 42 x 56 cm
 56. Olive McAleer, Untitled, Watercolour on Paper, 52.5 x 35 cm
 57. Arthur 'Red' Mitchell, Australian Natives (date), Oil on Board, 86 x 76 cm
 58. Nola Tegel, Boots, Graphite on Paper, 18 x 23 cm
 59. Nola Tegel, Portrait of Marjory, Oil on Board, 31 x 27 cm
 60. Nola Tegel, Spring Garden, Oil on Board, 59 x 75 cm

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- 61. Nola Tegel, Still Life in Blue, Oil on Board, 58 x 58 cm
- 62. Rita Bloomfield, Melee, Watercolour on Paper, 26.5 x 36.5 cm
- 63. Rita Bloomfield, Untitled, Watercolour on Paper, 19 x 35 cm
- 64. Rita Bloomfield, Open Milk Bar, Oil on Canvas on Board, 17 x 22 cm
- 65. Russell Steele, Self Portrait (Oct 1980), Oil on Board, 21.5 x 15cm
- 66. Russell Steele, Marie, Oil on Board, 16.4 x 12.3 cm
- 67. Russell Steele, Ray with Hat, Graphite on Paper, 13 x 13 cm
- 68. Russell Steele, Stillness of Light, Charcoal on Paper 40.5 x 30.5 cm
- 69. Russell Steele, Martin After He Retired, Graphite on Paper, 14 x 14 cm
- 70. Russell Steele, Alaska, Charcoal on Paper, 51.5 x 38.5 cm
- 71. Russell Steele, Old Boots from Rita's Attic, Graphite on Paper, 10 x 16 cm

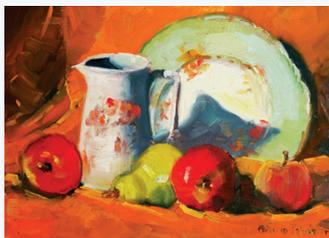
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72. Rizwana Ahmad, Dr Liz Kernohan, Marble Bust, 50h x 20w x 50d cm
 73. Rizwana Ahmad, Kylie Hearne, Oil on Board, 45.5 x 35.5 cm
 74. Rizwana Ahmad, Patricia's Mother, Mary Burt, Oil on Board, 38 x 30.5 cm
 75. Rizwana Ahmad, Our Baby, Naseer, Ink and Wash on Paper, 37 x 53 cm
 76. Christine Parrish, Magnolia Study, Oil on Board, 80 x 94 cm
 77. Christine Parrish, Australian Natives, Oil on Board, 140 x 70 cm
 78. Patricia Herd, Menangle, Oil on Board, 50 x 76 cm
 79. Sandra Turner-Brown, Jack, Mixed Media, 38 x 28 cm
 80. Alan D. Baker, Heather Mitchell, Oil on Board, 29 x 23.5 cm
 81. Heather Mitchell, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Acrylic on Toast on Board, 30 x 30 cm

ould open the tourists, but they they would never the W4 track leads to Yerrand, while public have been let in past, this will not wed again," Mr ton said. ever, one good ame out of the present unempt orang Lookout of the board's acknowledge- o the public — continued P. 14

Art display on Sunday

Talented Camden artist Mrs Olive McAleer (right), will be but one of several local painters who will be showing the results of 10 years expert tuition at an exhibition in the Argillion Gallery on Sunday.

The director of the gallery, Mrs Amy Bailey, left, invited the local artists to exhibit their works. The Camden artists are an enthusiastic group.

Ten years ago they began meeting every Wednesday night to paint under the direction of well-known local artist, Alan Baker, FRAS. Since then the classes have continued without

interruption, with many of the members progressing to a high standard. In fact, the Royal Art Society of NSW has accepted five as exhibiting members and one as an associate member.



Techniques

As will be clearly apparent to art lovers on Sunday, Mr Baker has always encouraged his "pupils" to develop their own styles and techniques. He discourages everyone from painting from photographs and slides. As a result, many of the members find time to paint some of the beautiful local scenery on locale. Members also spend a lot of time portrait painting. These sessions are usually undertaken on Wednesday evenings. The model are normally friends or relatives of the artists. These nights not only provide an outlet for artistic talent but also allow people with com-

The exhibition was held in the Argillion Gallery.

Ald. Kernohan said the transition started to occur ten years ago when a group of interested people met to rectify the situation.

royal art society



meeting Mr. Ken Rorke approached Mr. Alan Baker, a fellow of the Royal Art Society of NSW, and asked for help.

"Since that time," she said, "a group of between 12 and 25 people have met on Wednesday at the Camden Primary School under the guidance of Mr. Baker.

"I stress guidance as I understand that Alan doesn't 'teach' art in the conventional sense of teaching."

Ald. Kernohan explained that the sessions involved a group of people with like interests getting together and working together with an experienced professional.

Entertainment

A little bit of country on canvas

The beautiful countryside of Camden has inspired four well known local artists to produce the dramatic exhibition Country Colours, which will be on show at the Camden Civic Centre next week.

Nola Tegel, Gary Baker, Patricia Johnston and Olive McAleer, who are widely recognised in Sydney and Interstate - will each be show their distinctive style and technique when the exhibition kicks off on Friday, March 26, noon-

5pm until Saturday March 27, 9am-5pm. Everyone is invited to see this exhibition which has been arranged in conjunction with Camden District Rotary Conference.

For details call 02 46 57 1925

right: Just one of the pieces on display next weekend.



A service

"His 10 years involvement is indeed a community service.

So much so, she said, that Camden today had two permanent galleries and an annual art festival.

"The use of live models, ranging from fidgeting children to a full-feathered Red Indian, has provided the artists, not only the opportunity

The Camden Artists collective is now a decade old, with artists from the local area, under the direction of Mr Alan Baker.

It was initially formed at a meeting at Camden Public School over ten years ago, when the suggestion was made to form the group, with Mr Baker as advisor.

The aim of the Camden Artists was to

are especially grateful to the past headmaster of Camden School Mr Frank Hammond and the current principal Jim Thompson for the use of space in the school for the artists to work.

Mr Baker, a Vice President of the Royal Art Society, said that ten years ago, Camden was an artistic wilderness.

Today, according to Mr Baker, the local com-

Ms Amy Bailey of Argillion Gallery said that in previous exhibition of local artists, ten years ago, that the difficulty was that the different artists who had come to themselves over this ten years and of those who have recently joined

Ms Bailey encourages local

wasteland 'cleared'



talented local artists," she said.

The opening of the exhibition was well supported.

According to the director of the gallery, Mrs. Amy Bailey: "We were packed to the rafters."

She said everyone involved in the organisation of the showing were delighted that so many people saw fit to support the local artists.

The exhibition will hang for another three weeks.

● Ald. E. Kernohan

of sketching from life, but of meeting very interesting people.

"As a direct result of this group's activities there are currently five members of the Royal Art Society, of NSW and one Associate.

Ald. Kernohan said if the exhibition was to be sub-titled she would have called it "A Tribute to Alan Baker."

"I feel I can speak not only on behalf of the artists who have gained in knowledge and experience, but also on behalf of people like myself who are appreciative of art, but have no talents themselves.

"We now have the opportunity of decorating our homes with painting from out



ART DISPLAY AT PRIMARY SCHOOL

An impressive addition to the Rose Week activities is the Art Competition and Exhibition being held in the Assembly Hall of Camden Primary School.

art or craft group.

"I wish to thank all who contributed towards the success of the exhibition and particularly Mr. F. Hammond for allowing the use of facilities at Camden Primary School."

Commenting on the exhibition, Mr. Stafford Beard, deputy principal of Camden Primary School said, "This exhibition at the school has provided the public with a wonderful opportunity to witness at first hand the development in Art from infant levels to adults."

"It is also pleasing to note the number of local prominent artists and students who have been prepared to exhibit their work thus enabling younger folk to appreciate their styles and from closer inspection of the art pieces, to glean little ideas much must assist them in developing styles of their own."

Prizes for the art show will be presented tomorrow night (Thursday) at 7.30 p.m. by Mr. F. Hammond.

Mr. Alan Baker will give his comments on the entries.

● Local artist, Mr. Alan Baker (right) judging entries in the art exhibition of Monday evening. With

Over 500 paintings by school children are on display, ranging from entries by infant school children to senior secondary pupils. The entries will be judged by local artist, Mr. Alan Baker. Winners will be notified as soon as possible after judging.

In addition to the competition pictures, there are numerous other displays. These include paintings by local artists and wood sculptures by Max Wootten. A number of paintings are for sale.

Attractive displays of various craft objects illustrate the scope of creative activities currently conducted in schools.

Another interesting display is the copper work and jewellery by Mrs. Jewkes.

The art exhibition is open each day this week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and each evening from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The art exhibition has been organised by Mr. Ken Rorke, a teacher at Camden Primary School.

He said: "The response towards the exhibition has been most gratifying. The quality and variety of exhibits typify the degree of creative talent in the community."

"It is hoped that many will take the opportunity to visit the exhibition and perhaps consider entering work in 1970."

He continued: "I would

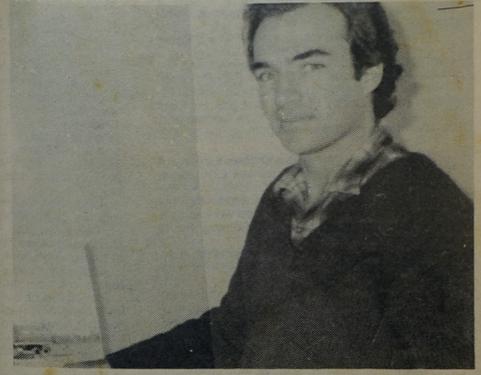
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● Artist Gary Baker putting the finishing touches to an outback painting.



Clippings and artefacts pulled from the Alan Baker Art Gallery archives.

Into the Archives



Macaria, 37 John St, Camden NSW



www.alanbakerartgallery.com.au



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Open Thursday-Sunday, 11am-4pm



Australian Government

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