



New local talent Ella Gray—singer-songwriter

ENTERTAINMENT

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
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In the realm of music, there exists a special breed of artists who captivate audiences with their heartfelt lyrics, soul-stirring melodies and the intimate resonance of an acoustic guitar. I came across one such artist, Ella Gray, at Platform 3095 in Eltham. Ella skilfully connects personal experiences, observations, and emotions into evocative compositions. She forged a connection with her listeners, painting stories and emotions with every strum of her guitar.

Many well-known singer-songwriters are associated with compelling lyrics and acoustic guitar playing, from James Taylor and Joni Mitchell to Ed Sheeran and John Mayer. No doubt Ella will be joining this group of talented artists in the future.

I asked Ella about her craft, inspirations and the magic she creates through her music.

When did you find your voice?

I found my voice I'd say about age 13 or 14 as I played guitar since I was little, but I hid singing from my family and friends until I was about 17 or 18 because I got very nervous performing and frankly thought I was no good.

What inspired you to start singing and especially writing your own songs?

I started singing because I played guitar and it became much more enjoyable together. The first song I ever fully wrote was a song about my brother and us growing up. After that I just kinda kept trying, so I guess he really inspired me.

Are you working towards an album?

Yes, I am currently getting some of my songs recorded in a studio and hopefully getting enough together to get my music out there.

What are your main interests apart from singing?

I love snowboarding and worked a season last winter. That's actually when I started gigging and performing. Unfortunately, I tore my ACL at the end of the season. So I can't go back this year or play footy, that's probably my other main hobby. I don't want to get back into that once I've fully recovered.

Are you available for private functions as well? How can people book you?

I'm available for all types of functions and I just recently started a music account on Instagram @ella.acoustics. Shout out to Platform 3095—creating community spirit, excellent customer service and making everyone feel like they're home. With an extensive menu of mouth-watering food and an amazing choice of drinks, including cocktails, definitely a place to visit.



▲ *Sandy Kenney, Covid Travel, winner Best in Show, 2022*

Photo by Hank Tyler

The Eltham Art Show 2023—a presentation of the Art Heritage of the Nillumbik Shire

MEDIA RELEASE

The Eltham Art Show provides an exciting platform and welcomes artists to present their works to be judged within 11 categories. Attractive prizes are on offer. Artists must have a strong connection to the heritage of the Nillumbik Shire in order to qualify for the show.

Supported strongly by the Nillumbik Shire Council and supporting partners, the show encourages a strong relationship with the artists to present their best works and establish the show as one of the region's leading art shows.

The inaugural show displayed over 450 works from esteemed artists from throughout the local area and beyond. The culture and legacy from the early forefathers was depicted in its truest form with interpretations representing contemporary, landscapes, still life with mediums in oils, acrylics, watercolour, pastel and drawings.

2023 will see exciting new dimensions

for the show in its decision to exhibit all 3D works at Montsalvat. Their relationship with the early art development and rustic culture fits perfectly with this decision to display glass, sculpture, ceramics and jewellery.

Eminent Judge and Artist, Paul McDonald Smith has been appointed as judge for the 2023 show. Paul is well acknowledged within art circles as a judge and artist. He has many notable accomplishments and held distinguished portfolios with the Victorian Artist Society and the Twenty Melbourne Painters Society. He has worked as a professional artist all his life.

Our featured artists this year are very well recognised and respected in their fields. We are pleased to present Ev Hales and Rob Knight and look forward to their art presentations this year. The lives of our artists are varied and inspiring.

We invite registrations by artists of their works, valued volunteers of their help, and all interested to subscribe for updates, at elthamartshow.org.au.

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