

Death of Elspeth Hope-Johnstone OAM

media release.

Celebrated Tasmanian artist and photographer Elspeth Hope-Johnstone died this morning in Hobart at the age of 94.

Elspeth was a life-long promoter of education, women and the arts. Educated at Hobart's Friends School, she was appointed Director of Hobart's Lady Gowrie Child Centre in 1949 and in 1953 became the Tasmanian Supervisor of Pre-School Education.

Elspeth was a commissioner of the ABC, first chair of the Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) and a life-long supporter of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. She donated Tasmanian art and furniture, dating back to the 1820s, to public institutions including TMAG.

As Elspeth Vaughan, she was a member of Tasmania's watercolour school or Sunday Group of Painters which was at its height in the second half of the Twentieth Century.

Elspeth was influenced at the outset by her Launcestonian grandmother Mary Greig whose paintings, in particular still-lifes of flowers, were highly prized a century ago.

She learned the art of simple, powerful lines from Tasmania's famous mid-century painter, Jack Carrington-Smith. Taking Sunday excursions with her fellow watercolourists Max Angus, Patricia Giles, Roy Cox and Harry Buckie, Elspeth developed a clean, evocative style of landscape painting which capitalised on Tasmania's renowned soft, clear light.

After a major exhibition with Harry Buckie in 1965 she staged the first Hobart exhibition dedicated to the threatened Lake Pedder in 1970. For this she walked into the remote lake "almost every weekend between Christmas and Easter" to paint en plein air. Elspeth said that "the experience of the real Lake Pedder was spiritual, aesthetic and emotional in any weather conditions". In recent years she backed the campaign to have the lake restored.

Her greatest public legacy is her watercolours of the Tasmanian wilds. In a 1992 review for the Mercury, critic Joerg Andersh described her work as 'bold, august and with an almost germanic "no-nonsense" air'. Her beach scenes were 'the most evocative ... technically the most satisfying ... it is in the unstated that Elspeth shines'.

With husband Ralph, who died in 1989, she was prominent in environmental campaigns including for Lake Pedder, the Franklin River and the wild forests.

"Elspeth was an inspiration for artists and environmentalists alike. She lived for Tasmania's wilderness and has left the state a tangible legacy of paintings, photographs and antiques. A remarkable Tasmanian," friend and former senator Bob Brown said today.

Elspeth was survived by her sisters Margaret and Gwenneth and seven nieces and nephews.

Bob Brown
20 March 2020

Paul, thank you so much for letting me know. I'm going to miss dear Elspeth, as are you and Bob. She was the highlight of my visits south - that deep voice and glacial delivery of extraordinary travel stories, or offering the best advice on the planet, or making me laugh my head off.

She was just wonderful wasn't she.

Sending warmest regards to you and Bob,

Merridy Eastman (Sydney)

Well that was wonderful.

Thank you both so much. We felt a part of that celebration and feel very grateful for it, and for our dear marvellous Elspeth!

Beautiful words from Bob.

love to both of you from

Merridy and Eastmans everywhere.



Hello Paul,

Sad to hear the news about Elspeth. Thank you for holding onto her generous gift. I regret not having met her, I would have loved to hear some of her stories. Hope you and Bob are tracking okay. Take care of each other.

Cheers

Jason Whitehead (Howden)

Thank you Paul and Bob,

What a great lady she was so full of joy and life.

I hope that you are both well down there in beautiful country.

How is Randalls Bay Hill Paul - still intact I hope.

Kind regards to you both.

Helen Connor-Kendray (Kingston)

Dear Paul and Bob,

I only knew Elspeth for a couple of years, yet we spent some lovely sessions together. In 2018, we introduced ourselves over a cup of tea, following a church service held fortnightly at BUPA in South Hobart. The name, Elspeth Vaughan rang a bell and after a few minutes, I established the connection; she had been friends with my late parents in law, Geoff and Alison Cox.

At a later date, during one of our conversations, I discovered that she and her two sisters had been pupils at The Friends' School with my late mother, Marjorie O'Brien in the 1930s and 1940s. Margaret Vaughan is the same age as my mother and although Elspeth was four years younger, she remembered my mother. I discovered with great interest that she also remembered my mother's dear friend and fellow boarder, John Eshott Carr who served in Rabaul and tragically perished at sea on the 'Montevideo Maru' in WW2.

During our times together, we generally talked about Art and Education. Elspeth was physically frail and I wasn't sure if she had enough strength to talk at length with me but she encouraged me to continue visiting her. Time spent with her was always a great pleasure! If I had lived in the same city, I surely would have seen her more often. I became acquainted with a strong, highly intelligent and dignified woman who I respected deeply. Had more months or years been given to us, there would have been more aspects of life for us to share. We laughed often and I loved her dry sense of humour.

I am very grateful to have known Elspeth even though it was for such a short time. If we hadn't spoken on that first occasion, I would have missed out on a friendship that has truly been my privilege and one I will never forget.

Thank you, Elspeth.

From Priscilla Cox & family (Longford)

Oh no, we're so sorry to hear of the loss to so many Paul and Bob...

We didn't know her well as many of you had the pleasure, but the couple of times in her company and viewing her beautiful paintings were more than memorable.

Wishing you love during this time.

All good things you way from us both, Adrian & Allegra Dale (Hobart)

Dear Paul,

Thank you for letting us know about Elspeth

Very sad news but what a wonderful life she was such a powerhouse

What a privilege I had knowing her for 35 years

sending our very best wishes to you and Bob
Luke and Ainstie Wagner (Hobart)

Tx Paul and Bob,

Very sad in a way tho at 94 tis a good innings.

I loved her photos in Bob's Pedder book... they were 'painterly'.

Love to you both,

Karen Alexander (Melbourne)

Thanks for letting us know Paul - gorgeous lady
Asha Milford (Sandy Bay)

Thank you so much for letting me know, Paul. I didn't know her well, but the few memories I have of her I will treasure. I think her timing is excellent.

Warmest wishes; stay safe,
Danielle Wood (Hobart)

That's so sad. I have been thinking of Elspeth during all this virus crisis and worrying about her. Dear Elspeth - and we can't even gather to honour her, at least not yet.

I hope you and Bob are taking care of yourselves and staying happy and well.

Thanks for letting me know and sending love

Steph Cahalan (Taroona)

Sorry to hear that sad news Paul and Bob.
Pleased her passing was peaceful
Anne Foale (Hobart)

Dear both,

Thank you for letting us know. What a terrific woman. The ripples of her inspirational life will continue to flow out and affect us.

Rosalie Woodruff (Cygnet)

Sad news mate, sorry to hear that.
Rowan Simpson (Brisbane)

Thank you for letting me know. I remember her as a strict, but courteous, inspector of schools as well as a passionate defender and recorder of wilderness. May she rest in peace.
warm regards
Helen Hutchinson (Western Creek)

Dear Paul and Bob,
I'm so sorry to hear about Elspeth.
I wonder if you managed to see her yesterday as you were hoping to?
When I'm in my room I rarely do anything without using something that belonged to Elspeth, and I feel honoured to have the use of her brushes for instance - her charcoal. I could kick myself, for it was nothing more than stupid shyness that stopped me from visiting her.
I'm very glad that she died peacefully and didn't have to endure prolonged illness.
My deepest condolence, you will miss her
Jessica Miller (Deep Bay)

Hello Paul and Bob,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out. Not sure what to say, I know many hearts will be hurting with this news, and mine is one of them.

Be well and stay safe,
Levi Johnson (USA)

Hi Paul and Bob - thank you for letting me know - sadly we hadn't seen Elspeth for quite a while - Denice and I would usually go together - and thank you for the history of her life which was very full and rewarding, she cared a lot for others and the Environment.

Having spoken to Denice I would gather there will not be a funeral - perhaps we could have a celebration of her life later in the year
Take care and well done for all your care of her.

Regards Val

Hi Bob and Paul - Thank you for expanding our knowledge of Elspeth's life - her Life, her Love of the Environment, and her Care of Others -
Well Done. I really appreciate being able to share in it - Thank you Val Brown (Kettering)
Not forgetting all her wonderful Art !!!!

Chloe-Emma Hart
My beautiful Elspeth,

It pains me to hear that you have passed. You truly are the most beautiful person I have ever met. You were so young at heart, you were always up for an adventure and I will miss our shopping adventures where you always convinced me to buy things I may not have bought if I was alone. Thank you for all of your support, your friendship, being my confidante, my councillor, my guide, for giving me honest advice even if painful, for being my shoulder to cry on more than once and just being you. It has been an absolute blessing being able to call you my friend, I know I am a better, kinder person just from knowing you. Elspeth, you will be missed by everyone who knew you and I am not alone in disbelief at the news.

May you Rest In Peace, until we meet again.

Dear Paul and Bob

Thank you for letting me know that Elspeth has died. I had been told she was in hospital by someone whose mother is at Bupa, but she didn't know which hospital. As I had a cold at the time, it would not have been appropriate to visit anyway.

She was a mighty woman, and your obituary reminded me of some of her achievements and told me some things I didn't know. She was very generous to me when I first came to Hobart, and it was a privilege to know her.

As very close friends and supporters of hers for many years, please accept my condolences for the loss of such a great friend.

May you both stay safe and well in these distressing times.

Very best wishes

Eve Phillips (Sandy Bay)

Hi Bob

I've been thinking so much about Elspeth and I want to tell you my memories of her.

When I was 6 years old my mother died suddenly in a traffic accident. It was 1961. She was hit by a car on Sandy Bay road outside Wrest Point hotel as it was known then. My father, who was Elspeth's mother's doctor was injured as well with fractured ribs as he tried to save her. What followed from then was not something my sister Liss and I were privy to of course as it was 1961.

But my memories are of her taking care of us in the only way she could. She kept us busy with bushwalking at Cradle Mountain, Mt field and at our shack in Doo town at Eagle Hawk Neck. She would sing a song on our bush walking trips called On Ikla Moor Bah Tat or something like that and I've never forgotten it. There was often a group of us. The Parkes family and O'Farrels. We would stay in the old government huts. She introduced us to the beauty of Tasmania. When Dad would visit her mother in Sandy Bay Road we would always be offered Tea cake which I remember very vividly.

I lost touch with her when my father married my future step-mother when I was 12. I asked Elspeth when I returned to Tasmania in 2010 and found her after looking for her, about those times. I asked her if she'd been in love with my father and she said she'd been warned off him as he was seeing the woman who was later to become my stepmother. I told Elspeth that I was sorry that she didn't marry my father as she would've made a wonderful mother. I think my sister and I would've been quite difficult though.

I loved reconnecting with her in the 4 years I spent back in Tasmania from 2010-2014 and feel so fortunate to have reconnected with her.

I will always remember when she opened her door to me in 2010 when I saw her, having located her via someone I met in Bicheno and she said "hello Prudy do you think I've changed much". Of course we both had but she was still and always will be the beautiful Elspeth. A rare find these days.

Regards

Prue Millingen

Lake Pedder Restoration Committee reflects upon the extraordinary life of environmental campaigner, educator and celebrated artist Elspeth Hope-Johnstone AOM (nee Vaughan).

Peacefully passing on Sunday morning, Elspeth leaves behind an inspiring legacy of generosity through her time on many boards and committees, tenacity through the turmoil of environmental activism, patience in education and artistic talent shared through many series of captivating water colour paintings.

Exhibiting alongside Tasmanian legends; Max Angus, Patricia Giles and Harry Buckie, together they founded the renown Sunday Painters Group. Elspeth's distinctive style articulated every mood of Tasmanian landscapes, so accurately depicting our state as a translucent dream.

A deep love of Tasmania's wild corners kindled an unbreakable bond with the land that powered Elspeth's passionate advocacy to protect and conserve our wilderness.

Elspeth gave much time and resources to the Lake Pedder campaign over the years; from walking into the original Lake on many weekends to supporting recent restoration efforts, Elspeth so generously donated her art works and photographs from her late husband Ralph Hope-Johnstone for the recent art exhibition to raise funds for the Restore Pedder movement which we are forever thankful for. We will forever fondly remember her smile, quick-wit and unshakable, enduring belief that Lake Pedder will, one day, be restored.

Vale Elspeth Hope-Johnstone.

Lake Pedder Restoration Committee

Hi Paul,

In Jan 1995 Carol & I went to Flinders Island and booked in at the Whitemark Hotel.

Turns out there were only two other guests there. We found out at breakfast time.

Yes, it was Elspeth and Max Angus – on a water colour painting excursion... of Flinders' landcapes.

Anyway, we had a good old natter. Made our day.

Later Elspeth invited us to her Sandy Bay home where she showed us a number of island paintings.

We acquired one of Maria Island for our son.

A much valued momento of Elspeth.

Cheers,

Chris Harries/Carol Bristow (Dynnynrne)

Cathie Plowman (Deviot)

A privilege to have known this beautiful woman. She was lovely. I now have the honour of regularly working at an out patient clinic at the Launceston General Hospital where a painting of Elspeth's (River Derwent at Bridgewater) graces the walls. Thank you Elspeth, for giving us all so much.

Strength and love Bob, and look forward to when I next see you. I'll be part of celebrating and saying farewell to Elspeth with her loving friends at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow. I remember writing to Elspeth from the Overland Track when Ralph passed.



It's the River Derwent above Bridgewater.

Dear Bob. Paul and to your kind team—Matthew, Jenny and Adam

Thank you for your kind and beautiful tribute to Elspeth. It's nice to feel connected to you all ad others reflecting on Elspeth's life today, to Elspeth and Ralph and to Lake Pedder and all those who worked so hard to save it, and those who are working to keep the memories alive and building the efforts to one day restore it.

I tried to 'like' the video but was not able to.

I'll keep the Lake Pedder books out in my study today to keep connected with Elspeth. I've got a bunch of sassafras laves here from our garden too.

Love and best wishes to you all. I'm going to now go and have the best day I can with Elspeth's lovely memories despite all the gloominess around us.

Cathy Plowman(Deviot)

Good morning Paul and Bob,

Thank you for the information about Elspeth's celebration of life ceremony tomorrow. Hopefully we can view it later. We met her when she had her sell-out exhibition in Battery Point and have read much about her, enjoyed her beautiful photographs in our Lake Pedder book and would have enjoyed knowing her. Some people have so much more to give (you two?) and are so multi talented. Even when it is time for them to depart this world they are missed for not just for themselves but for the wonderful contributions they have made that so enrich our lives. I'm sure it will be a lovely tribute to her. Your eulogy Bob was beautiful.

Hugs,
Sharyn Yelverton (Randalls Bay)

During the early 1970s I met Elspeth at the Battery Point child care venue where I took a group of student nurses from the Royal Hobart Hospital tutorial department. We were there to learn something about childhood development. Elspeth hosted the group as we sat in a room watching the children through one-way glass. The children – suitably dressed in protective smocks – were painting. They painted lots of marks of happy colours on the paper in front of them on small easels.

What I remember of Elspeth was here strong voice and her professional observations.

Children when they paint and not ‘doing a painting or making a picture – they are telling a story, with each new episode of the story on top of the last.

So it is not sensible to ask “What is it?” when viewing a child’s effort with the brush.

Jeanette Hyland at the time Nurse Educator at the RHH. (Glenorchy)

My Memories of Elspeth

Elspeth was a career woman in the Tasmanian Public Service when first I met her around 1954. She had been appointed the Supervisor of Pre-school Education across Tasmania, and that was a prestigious position for this feisty woman then. She set an example in Tasmania which put emphasis on the value of early childhood education.

Her position held many challenges including extensive travel around the entire State, over much poorer roads, in lesser transport than we expect to have available today. We met when Olegas was introducing me to his Hobart friends. She lived with her widowed mother and two sisters in one of Hobart’s beautiful mansions in Sandy Bay.

Elspeth had befriended a solitary skier on the snowfields of Mt. Mawson; back then *New Australians* stood out differently to the style of the local Tasmanian people. That he was obviously a good skier probably helped the conversation. Later she introduced him to her sailing friends and the skipper of Hobart’s much admired yacht *“Kintail”* during Hobart’s Saturday afternoon sailing races. Later Olegas sailed his own yacht – a *Finn* – as he had in his home in Lithuania. The skier was Olegas Truchanas who became recognized for his exploration and photographic records of the magnificent South-West of Tasmania, and they shared a love of Tasmania’s wild places.

Elspeth and many artists responded to something profound there. Others have written of their emotional responses which intensified later when they walked and visited the beautiful Lake Pedder ***the jewel in the crown of the Lake Pedder National Park.*** They recorded the drama and glory of views combining lake and mountains in their paintings and photography.

Elspeth and her artist-friends made many journeys to Lake Pedder, making combined camps on the dunes in the centre of the widely curving beach at the foot of the Frankland Range. Flying in by small aircraft and landing on the beach was a memorable and never-to-be-forgotten gift.

On the Lake Pedder website is a small interview made by Stephen Curtain with Elspeth speaking of Lake Pedder. It is a classic of our time telling of her love of the wilderness and the flora of the places she visited, which are now represented in her memorable paintings.

After the death of Olegas, Elspeth stood in the very demanding job of secretary to the Committee of friends which came together to publish the book ***The World of Olegas Truchanas***, written by Max Angus, in 1975.

Melva Truchanas, 28.3.2020 (Blackmans Bay)

Memories of Elspeth

Geoff Corrick here, Elpy's senior nephew (eldest son of Elspeth's older sister Margaret), born in 1948 when Elpy would have been 'only' (and just) 22. Her birthday was 6 Jan, mine was 8 Jan.

She was always Elpy for me, my three subsequent siblings and my cousins. I don't know whether that was a contraction from her childhood or ours.

I would put Elpy among the top four influencers, to use the current expression, of my interest and concern for the environment. She stands alongside my Mum, and two books: Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring' and The Club of Rome's 'The Limits to Growth'. These books were a significant part of growing up for many young people in the '60s.

Elspeth lived in her family home at 545 Sandy Bay Rd until she was in her 60s. Being unmarried until later in life she was the companion and later carer for my grandmother. We used to see them often for the first 4 years of my life as my family lived in Kingston Beach and Dad drove into Hobart each day to work. Often I was dropped off to spend the day with Nanny at Sandy Bay.

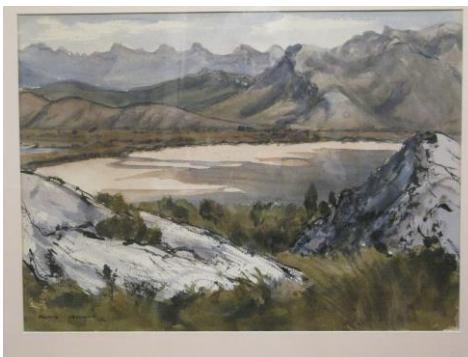
One thing that should be recorded is that Elpy spent a year (more or less - not sure) as a Fullbright Scholar studying in Chicago in 1959. I think it was before I was old enough to understand what it was all about. I remember our household gained some interesting children's picture books from America - some of which seem rather quaint nowadays. Gifts of interesting books to suit our age at birthdays and Christmas was one of the delights Elpy brought to our young lives.

My family moved to Launceston, where we would see Elpy spasmodically as she drove around Tasmania in her employment as Supervisor of Pre-schools. When I was ten we left Tasmania so our contact with Elpy became less frequent. But the following visits back and forth, often including time in the bush, were a foundation for my appreciation and concern for the natural world.

My brother Andrew and I returned to Tasmania in the early 1960s for a Christmas holiday. I was 12 and Andrew would have been 10. Elpy boldly organised a walking trip to climb Frenchman's Cap, which was a great adventure. There were one or two other adults with us. Apart from the hard walking I can remember the elation at reaching the top, a strong dislike for Rice-a-Riso (far too spicy for our inexperienced palettes). And one rather warm day, maybe on the return trip, where we had just climbed up or over the huge rocks of a glacial moraine, we rested, and Elpy produced a cucumber from her pack which was the most refreshing and memorable cucumber I have ever tasted.

On a subsequent visit to Tasmania, still in my teens, we joined what was probably a Walking Club excursion to Mt Field with George Lowe (of Hillary's Everest expedition) as guest of honour. I can remember George leaping like a mountain goat over the glacial boulders, and leaving those of us more cautious and less able far behind. I also remember eating far too much, waking up in the middle of the night and throwing-up on the floor of the hut shared with 6 or 8 others. Of course Elpy was there to clean up the mess, and missed the next days rock-leaping to be with me.

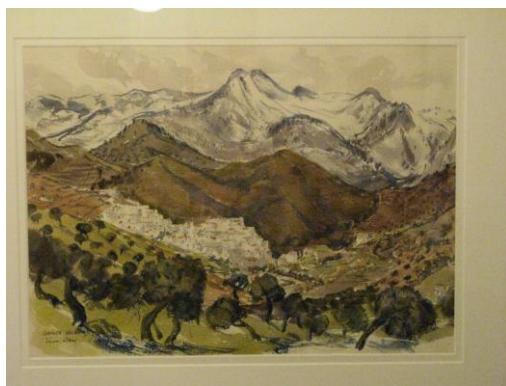
My third memorable trip was as a young adult in 1972 when I flew in to Lake Pedder with Elpy and Ralph, landed on the beach and camped for a few nights. This was not long before the beach was flooded. I learnt a lot about the artists' and photographers' eye for a picture during this time, and was sad that such a beautiful place was to be flooded. I still have my Pedder Penny souvenir, something that my conservation mind would leave in place nowadays.



This picture (now on our wall in Perth) was painted at the time. I have a photo of Elpy painting it.

About this time Elpy made a visit to me where I was working in the iron ore country of the Western Australian Pilbara. She tried to paint in the few days we had in the Hamersley Ranges (now Karajini National Park) and I remember her saying she was overwhelmed by the red, orange and brown colours in the landscape, a palette so different from Tasmania that she needed much more time to become accustomed to it.

My wife Wendy has provided a few notes about our contact with Elpy and Ralph in Europe, where they travelled extensively in a campervan. I was working in London at the time but was able to spend a week with them at Fuengirola in southern Spain at Christmas 1979. We explored the scenic and photogenic countryside and villages of the inland including Ronda, Coin and Tolox. This painting by Elpy is of Tolox. I think she had mastered the colour palette here.



Elpy was always full of stories about her travels and could remember places, names, stories, dates and events in great detail. Maybe the painter's eye and memory made it easy to place events in time.

With our children her educator's mind was always active. She never asked the children a question that had a Yes/No answer. She was always a fount of stimulation for the young, and us parents as well.

Fondly remembered

Geoffrey Vaughan Corrick (Perth, WA)

28 March 2020.

Hello Paul and Bob

My husband Geoff Corrick, is Elpy's oldest nephew. He is writing his own story. I thought I would add a few lines of my own. Elspeth and her sisters, Gwen and Margaret are three amazing women and I have greatly admired all of them over many years. Margaret is Geoff's Mum and the eldest of the three.

Vale Elpy.

Best wishes to you both.

Wendy

I first met Elpy in early 1979 in London. Geoff (Elpy's nephew) and I had just begun a courtship and had moved into a house together. Elpy and Ralph had arrived in London after spending some time in Europe and so we invited them for dinner.

I think it was that night I realised Elpy was quite a woman. She verbally painted wonderful pictures of their travels, particularly of life in Spain.

A couple of years later, in 1981, Elpy visited us again, this time in Perth, Western Australia. Ralph did not accompany her on this trip. She was in Perth for an ABC Board meeting. Geoff and I had married and I was teaching at a local high school. Elpy asked me lots of questions about the education system in WA and my school. I recall her being very passionate about the need for good early education.

When Elpy came west again in 1990 we were living in a different house and with three young children. They all fondly remember Elpy staying in our home and then accompanying us on a family Christmas holiday to Denmark. We were joined by one of Elpy's early childhood students, Linda Moir who was also living in Perth with her husband and 2 children. Another of Elpy's nephews, David Vaughan and his wife and two young boys also joined us. Attached are two photos from that holiday.

Another catch up was in Hobart just a couple of years later. We decided to drive from Perth to Melbourne, put the car on the ferry and visit as many of the Vaughan/Corrick relatives we could. We had a wonderful few days with Elpy in her Sandy Bay home.

There have been a couple of visits over the past 10 years. The erect, physically imposing woman was no longer there when we last saw Elpy two years ago but the old Elpy with the big laugh, astute comments and quick wit still wanted to know everything about everything.

Vale Elpy.

Wendy Corrick (Perth,WA)



close up of Emma, Elpy and Geoff Hobart 2016



Denmark Christmas 1990 with Elpy



Elpy in Hobart with Geoff Jan 2019

Hi Paul and Bob,

I first met Elspeth at music concerts, Musica Viva and TSO, somehow we were introduced and chatted whenever we met. She was always warm, interested and engaged with life. I liked her very much, but knew nothing about her past other

than she painted. Many years later I bought 'Pedder Dreaming' and found Elspeth in it! Without ever discussing these issues I found we shared the same feelings and love of nature and wilderness. I attended her exhibition in Battery Point. In Elspeth's later years when she became ill I found her at the supermarket in some distress and helped take her home and get some much needed medication. While at BUPA Elspeth had another painting sale. I bought one of her earliest paintings 'the convict cottages by moonlight' on Maria Island – somewhere I love too! It is my special link to Elspeth.

Later again, to my delight I found Elspeth in a room a few doors away from my own mother in Residential care. So I have often dropped in to have a chat or been called in to assist with difficult operations for her. It has always been a delight to see her, discuss the world, and always she would refer to the next concert series. Always positive, always optimistic, she led a wonderful full life. As such she has my admiration and will be my inspiration. Farewell Elspeth!

Amanda Thomson (Hobart)

I will be with you very much in spirit but only heard from Steph re your wonderful way of celebration such an amazing woman whom I feel proud to be able to 've called a friend!

Belinda Kendall-White (Bellerive)

Thanks Bob and Paul,

I couldn't get the link to the eulogy to work so I just did my own thing. It was short because I'd only met Elspeth a handful of times, but I remembered a speech I gave about restoring Lake Pedder when I was minister for education opening a Tasmanian Archives exhibition featuring Sunday Group paintings - Elspeth and Max Angus were in attendance. We had a lovely chat afterwards.

I cast a daisy flower into our birdbath and was sitting reflecting and a beautiful little juvenile Black Headed Honeyeater dropped in for a drink. I'll send you photos in a separate email.

Had a cuppa as it turned out it was a bit early for a dram!

Vale Elspeth.
Nick McKim (Hobart)

Dear Paul and Bob,

Thank you Bob for your Eulogy and your steps for us to celebrate Elspeth's life today, separately yet together.

It was a wonderful idea which is appreciated. We carried out the our service as suggested, with our chosen music being 'What A Wonderful World' and Steve Crump's 'Unbroken'.

Best wishes,
Lindsay & Sue Hope (Alexandra Headland, Queensland)

Vale Elspeth Hope-Johnstone (nee Vaughan) OAM, 1926 - 2020,
Tasmanian Educator, Artist, Bushwalker, Photographer, Wonderful Lady.
Thank you Elspeth for leading the way in seeking to Restore Lake Pedder.
Today, thanks to Bob and technology, we have been able to celebrate her
life separately, yet together ❤️😊. 'I see trees of green, red roses too, I
see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself what a wonderful
world, I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed
day.....!'





Funeral for Elspeth - Apart together.

Meditating on my print of David Bluhdorn's photo of a flooded and softly lighted Lake Pedder - 'Still Watching, Still Waiting' - today during Bob's eulogy for Elspeth, I noticed a little whisper of wind moving across a section of the still waters ...

Vale Elspeth

Appreciations Paul and Bob for a nice lead

Helen Tait (Launceston)

Good afternoon Bob and fellow Pedder restorationists,

Congratulation to you Bob and all those involved with producing the tribute to Elspeth in this historically challenging time.

It was a great idea and we have attached the tableau set up at our home in Connells Marsh.

A little about the content—the picture is by Elspeth painted in Tarbena, Spain and was purchased at her last exhibition held in the Battery Point Community Hall a couple of years ago. It reminds us of our visits to Spain to see Di's son and his family and is a place that is very much in our thoughts as the pandemic sweeps across the world.

We chose to have a bowl for the water made by local potter, Bill Thomas (now retired), behind the report *Lake Pedder: Values and Restoration* published in 1995 and the flower from our garden was resting on the book during your eulogy and then placed in the bowl.

How extraordinary to have the simple candle used over many centuries next to our digital technology as a means of celebrating Elspeth's life of dedication to Lake Pedder.

Your initiative has enabled us all to participate in this commemoration thus overcoming the present restrictions to gather at funerals during this Covid 19 pandemic.

Vale Elspeth.

Chris Cowles and Di McPherson (Connellys Marsh)



Beautiful virtual memorial for the indomitable Elspeth Vaughan today. 94 yrs young, Elspeth gave so much to Tasmania. Met her on Christine Milne's Senate 2004 Senate run. May we all be painting & campaigning as long as Elspeth! Vale.

Emma Belfield

Thank you Paul and Bob,

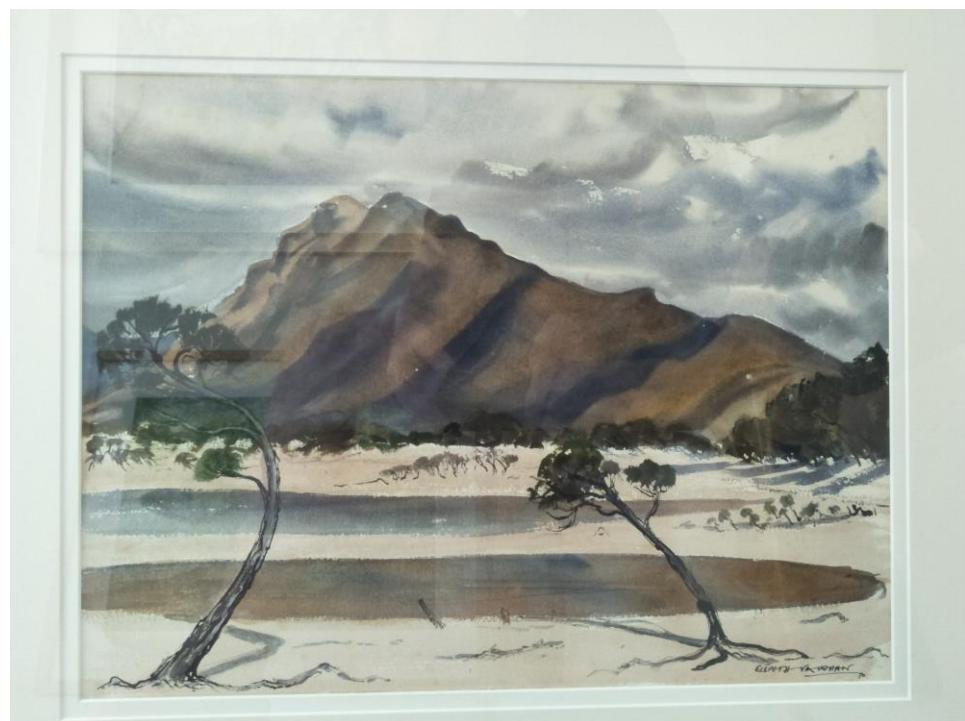
Very touching in these times.

Attached some treasures we hang on our walls for use elsewhere if appropriate, including what I think Bob understands to be one of Elspeth's first paintings from excursions at the time she was learning to paint, *In the cabin, Lunawanna, Bruny Island*.

Steph has a voice recording with her talking about Claudio and Lesley Alcorso from 2018.

Best wishes,

Vica Bayley and Steph Cahalan (Taroona)



Dear Paul and Bob

A brief note from London, where my wife Hiroko and I have just now finished watching Bob's magnificent eulogy, a presentation which was so in keeping with the lively optimistic spirit of the wonderful lady herself...and one which she would have dearly loved.

I only add a brief personal reminiscence... I have been extremely lucky, looking back, to have had so many interactions with Elspeth, in the course of visiting Berenice. My most recent trip to Bupa enabled me to encounter Elspeth in all her glory, throughout the first half of January. There was no indication of a decline in her condition... and many times I would sit close to her at lunch, each time she was perfectly turned out, often in a bright blue dress, and keeping us entertained at the table (and yes.. this under extremely difficult conditions!).

My wife Hiroko took a particular liking to Elspeth, and went and spoke with her a couple of times. (My wife although a pianist, is also a keen artist).

On one such meeting, after Yoko enjoyed hearing about many field excursions to paint such a plethora of beautiful paintings, Elspeth said to her

"Well do you have breakfast?"

"Yes" replied Hiroko.

"Then after breakfast spend 5 minutes each day drawing"

And my wife has taken the advice. It has changed the course of her life as she has discovered something, just as Elspeth said she would, an ability to 'see into the heart of things'.

Yoko flew back to London, but immediately asked me to send a photo of Elspeth so could attempt a portrait.

On 5th January I cheekily snapped this picture, and within hours Yoko had done a rough sketch. (Both attached)

Sorry if this is too long a reminiscence there are many other things I could relate.... (how completely shattered I felt upon hearing the news, the feeling of wasted opportunities to engage with dear Elspeth, I stupidly thought she would always 'be there'!!)....

The 3rd image is Hiroko's best to date, and reminds us both of Elspeth.

Sending love to you both.... please thank Bob for such a truly wondrous eulogy.... lifting a candle here..

John Eastman x (London)

