



# Somerset Art Society Inc

Supporting the arts and artists in the Somerset Region SE Qld

## Newsletter April 2024

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### Presidents Ponderings

with Sandi Hook

Last week we had the committee meeting at my studio. The energy in the room was palpable as we discussed many matters as a committee does. One of our concerns is that no one group was keen to have Somerset Celebrates Art this year. We brainstormed together and decided that an exhibition for the month of July at Glen Rock Gallery named Somerset Mini Art Awards would do two things: to showcase Somerset artists and importantly to raise funds to support the organisation of SASI. This is in an early development of the concept and would be a precursor to a bigger show in 2025.

I am also extremely grateful to Cameron Maine for the wonderful job he does with the monthly newsletter. A huge thank you from all the SASI committee and artists.

Paige Garland is our new member this month. Welcome Paige!

The Environmental Biennial Expression of Interest is due on the 3rd of April. I encourage artists to apply for this as it is a great project to learn more about applying for and presenting your work. To have professional development with concept development, artist statements and all aspects of curating your work is valuable no matter what stage you are at in your artistic endeavours. The curator Cara Ann Simpson and Madeline Brewer presented a very doable and exciting program. The application form is available on The Condensery website. You could also email Madeline at the gallery.

Have you got your concertina books ready to go to The Condensery? Mine will be filled soon and I am driving up to Toogoolawah on Wednesday 3rd of April to deliver mine. Happy to take others up too. These concertina books (by Somerset artists) will be presented at the same time as Deb Mostert's sketchbooks. Many artists attended Deb's workshops using sketchbooks and was enjoyed by all.

Showing our artist books is a great opportunity to showcase Somerset talent. Last week I had a play with my lithographic process, and here is the result. I have sent several prints to Townsville so that one can be displayed there, and also at Firestation Print Studio and several galleries in South Africa.

Have a great month making art.

Cheers  
Sandi



Hook, Sandi, Creek Bed at Alice R. NQ.,  
Lithograph, Magnani Litho paper, 15cm X 10cm

## Join SASI Groups

Click on the LOGO to visit the SASI Website



Join SASI - <https://www.sasiart.com.au/memberships>

SASI Members are active in supporting the arts and artists in SE Qld. Members enjoy free exhibition curation at Glen Rock Gallery Esk, discounted or free workshops, participation in SASI Members Market Stalls and a monthly email newsletter.

SASI Contacts : <https://www.sasiart.com.au/contact>

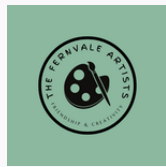
For more info Click the photo to visit SASI website Groups page



Join the Mount Beppo Artists - Contact: Gwen 0437 197 381

Meeting on Wednesday mornings from 9am until 1pm at Mount Beppo Community Hall, 916 Mount Beppo Rd, Mount Beppo QLD. New members warmly welcomed.

Click on the LOGO to visit The Fernvale Artists Facebook page



Join the Fernvale Artists - Contact Sue White 0407 072 926

The Fernvale Artists meet on Thursdays 9.30am - 12.30pm at the Fernvale Community Hall in Banks Creek Road, Fernvale, or at the Lowood Open Door Gallery. Anyone in the local area is welcome to join them, or just to visit.

For more info Click on the Camera to visit SASI Photography Group page



Join SASI Photography Group

Contact Phil Lister Email [plphotographix@gmail.com](mailto:plphotographix@gmail.com)

We meet at 9:30am every third Thursday at Nash Gallery and Cafe, 212 Ipswich St Esk, January to November, welcoming all skill levels. Friends welcome.

## Join Somerset Regional Council Volunteers



Join the Esk Visitor Information Centre Tourism Volunteers  
Contact Carole Labram [mail@somerset.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@somerset.qld.gov.au)

To Apply visit [Volunteer | Experience Somerset](#)

To Apply Visit <https://thecondensery.com.au/about/get-involved/>



Become a Gallery Ambassador at The Condensery  
Contact email: [mail@somerset.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@somerset.qld.gov.au)

Supporting the arts and regional tourism

## Join a Somerset Group

<https://www.somerset.qld.gov.au/somerset-arts-culture-directory>

Somerset Arts and Culture Directory

A Somerset Regional Council Initiative supporting the arts and regional tourism



Esk Glen Rock Stitchers Lynne Robson Ph 07 5424 1382

The Glen Rock Stitchers meet every Thursday in air-conditioned comfort at the Anglican Hall, Ipswich Street, Esk. They sew and share ideas and knowledge amongst friends with this common interest.



# Calendar of Events

What's on and What's coming up

## GALLERIES

### Glen Rock Gallery

Until Wednesday 3rd April, Gerard De Roo Photography  
Friday 5th April to Wednesday 1st May, The Fernvale Artists  
Catered Opening Event: Friday 5th April 9:30 - 10:30am  
includes Sue Whites delicious punch punch

### Lowood Gallery

Opening Sunday the 7th of April at 10:30am 'The Weird and the Wonderful'  
Exhibition. Artists: Jack Lait, Sue White, Alexis Starke, Madison Lait, Charlie  
Lait and Robyn Northey.

Summer Workshops at Lowood Open Door Gallery  
see details at <http://tiny.cc/lowood-workshops>

### The Condensery

Saturday 24th Feb - 28th April 'ĀM / AMMĀ / MĀ MARAM' & 'PILGRIMAGE'

## WORKSHOPS

Lowood Open Door Gallery 45 Railway St, Lowood  
Sunday 7th April 1pm-3:30pm Scratch Art - Booking Ph 0400884388  
Tuesday 9th April, 2024 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm  
Free Kids Colour Pencil Workshop  
Sunday 12th May 2024 1pm to 4pm Paint a watercolour Flower

## EVENTS

Market Stalls  
28th March Application Open for Bris Style Made It Market at the Condensery  
Sat 15th June.  
<https://www.brisstyle.com.au/made-it-market-at-the-condensery/>  
<https://www.brisstyle.com.au/stall-holders-faqs/>

SASI members are invited to participate in SASI 'Members only' events by  
email.

## OTHER

9:30 am Thursday 21 March 2024, **SASI Photography Group**  
at Nash's Gallery, Esk (Contact [plphotographix@gmail.com](mailto:plphotographix@gmail.com) for any  
last minute changes)

Friday, 22 March, 2024, 9:45 for 10 am start, **SASI Committee Meeting**  
at Shirley's

Thursday 18th April, 9:30am Photography Meet at Nash Gallery, Contact  
[plphotographix@gmail.com](mailto:plphotographix@gmail.com) for last minute changes

Friday, 19th April, 2024, 9:45 for 10am start, SASI Committee meeting at Shirley's



# Glen Rock Gallery

supported by SASI and Somerset Regional Council

ESK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE 82 IPSWICH STREET, ESK, QLD 4312  
OPEN TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 9-4PM SATURDAY 10-2PM  
CLOSED SUNDAY, MONDAYS THE FIRST THURSDAY MONTHLY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

## What's Up at Glen Rock

**The Fernvale Artists**  
FRI 5TH APRIL - 1ST MAY

## Meet The Artists Opening event at Glen Rock

The Fernvale Artists  
FRI 5TH APRIL 09:30 - 10:30AM

## In The Display Cabinets at Glen Rock

LOCAL ARTISTS  
Coal Creek Pottery  
Exquisite Cards and Gifts



## What's Coming to Glen Rock Gallery

MAY  
Kilcoy Country Artists

JUNE  
Artists of Crows Nest

JULY  
Mini-Somerset Art Awards

## The Fernvale Artists

5TH APRIL - 1ST MAY

The Fernvale Artists meet weekly at the Fernvale Community Hall to paint together and share their love of art. Painting with friends is encouraging and broadening, and members enjoy each other's work as much as their own.

They meet on Thursday mornings from 9.30am until 12.30pm at the Fernvale Community Hall, 32 Banks Creek Road, Fernvale. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For any enquiries, please phone Sue White 0407 072 926.



View the full exhibition at Glen Rock Gallery, Esk Visitor Information Centre 82 Ipswich Street, Esk, QLD 4312 Tues-Fri 9-4 Saturday: 10-2

[CLICK to EXPLORE  
Glen Rock Gallery online](#)

# Lowood Open Door Gallery

## A Lowood Lions Project

RAILWAY STREET, LOWOOD, QLD 4311  
THUR 9:30AM - 12:30PM SAT/SUN 9:30AM - 2PM

Lowood Open Door Gallery keeps delivering. In the last 12 months, the gallery has given approximately 120 artists the opportunity to exhibit, with over 1500 visitors to the gallery. Workshops are being well received and attended. Participants are enjoying a variety of different mediums. Please see the Lowood Open Door Gallery flyer in the workshops section of this newsletter with our upcoming Winter workshops. Bookings are essential.

What's on offer: Kid's free drawing and coloured pencil workshops on Tuesday, 9th April (both AM & PM sessions are fully booked); Painted Flower in Watercolour, Mother's Day special event (fully booked); Resin Art and Matting your work are all on offer this coming Winter season. Have a look and see if anything interests you and don't forget to book; places are limited.

The Fernvale Photography Group exhibition at Lowood Open Door Gallery was incredibly busy and very well received by the locals and visitors from afar. This month, we have 'The Weird and the Wonderful' Exhibition (please see flyer attached) with award-winning artists Jack Lait (Exhibition Debut), Sue White and Alexis Starke, and aspiring artists Madison Lait, Charlie Lait and Robyn Northey. Varying from delicate watercolour to intense colour - the opening will be on Sunday the 7th of April at 10.30am. All are welcome to attend.

Fernvale Artists/Volunteers for the Lowood Open Door Gallery had their Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea event on Wednesday, March 20th. 18 volunteers attended and had a lovely time catching up and discussing recent updates and plans for the gallery and how volunteers are an integral part of that journey.

### In The Cabinets at Lowood





# The Condensery

## Somerset Regional Art Gallery

29 FACTORY ROAD TOOGOOLOWAH QLD 4313  
WED TO SUN 10AM – 4PM CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

### What's Up at the Condensery

#### 'ĀM / AMMĀ / MĀ MARAM' & 'PILGRIMAGE'

24 FEB - 28 APR

#### ENVIRONMENT BIENNIAL INFORMATION SESSION

1 MARCH

#### SOMERSET SKETCHBOOKS WITH DEB MOSTERT

14 - 16 MARCH | 10AM - 4PM

### 'ĀM / AMMĀ / MĀ MARAM' & 'PILGRIMAGE' 24 FEB – 28 APR

In ām / ammā / mā maram, Sancintya Mohini Simpson makes visible the histories of indentured Indian women that remain marginal or erased in colonial archives. A first-generation Australian and descendant of labourers sent from the port of Madras (now Chennai), India, to work on sugar plantations in the British colony of Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), South Africa between 1863 and 1911, Simpson's exhibition traces her family's journey through the use of materials common to these places and histories – such as sugarcane and mango.

Located in The Condensery's Bomb Shelter, Pilgrimage: Remote Animism & Ornamental Displacements forms part of a continuing series from the collaborative practice of husband and wife artists, Miguel Aquilizan & Jessica Dorizac. In their life and work they navigate through culture, colonization, history, geography, folklore and faith as contemporary Australian Filipinos. In the Pilgrimage series, they explore the interconnected themes of identity, globalisation, culture, colonization and resistance through a playful sculptural installation. This iteration is a new body of work produced in Australia, since Miguel Aquilizan & Jessica Dorizac have returned from practicing in the Philippines.

### VISIT THE CONDENSERY

Come to Toogoolawah and experience art with us.

We are family friendly and fully accessible. There is ample parking, including coach parking, and free Wi-Fi across the building. Entry is always FREE.

We are closed periodically for exhibition changeover and select public holidays. Keep an eye on our social media platforms for up to date announcements. We look forward to welcoming you.



### EXPLORE The Condensery Website

CLICK to EXPLORE  
<https://thecondensery.com.au/>

Condensery Gallery Manager Madeline Brewer [mail@somerset.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@somerset.qld.gov.au) or  
Contact Email [thecondensery@somerset.qld.gov.au](mailto:thecondensery@somerset.qld.gov.au)

To recommend a Workshop  
with a particular tutor and/or in  
a specific media

Contact: SASI Art Workshop  
Coordinator

Joanne Hegney  
workshop@sasiart.com.au

Artists are most welcome  
to apply to present a  
workshop

## Sketchbook Workshop Report

The Condensery hosted a fantastic series of skillbuilding sketchbook workshops by Deb Mostert in February and March.

Participants were given a kit consisting of a small set of watercolours, brush, water soluble pen and sketchbook. Deb gave us excellent practical instruction in a variety of methods she uses in her own sketchbooks. The photos cover a small proportion of the topics Deb covered. Each participant has been encouraged to complete a concertina sketchbook as a complement to Deb Mostert's Sketchbook exhibition at the Condensery in May.



## Mount Beppo Art Group

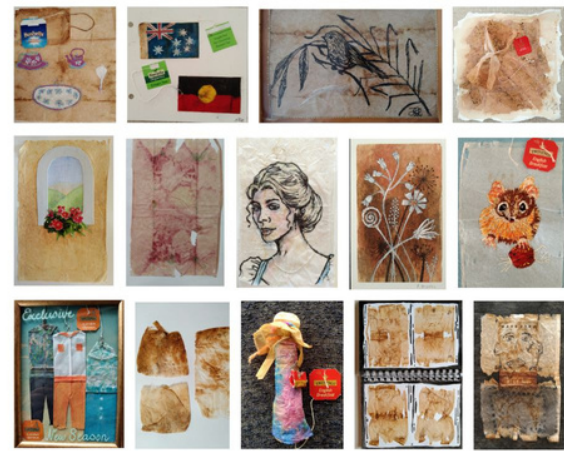
How stimulating the Mt Beppo March 'Paint a Tea Bag' challenge turned out to be.

We thank the artist who suggested it ... and google for answering the "What!?" and "How?" questions we had. There are so many types of tea bags and innovative ways artists are using these tiny canvases. Please enjoy the Mt Beppo Artists contributions to this interesting art form. A hint from Paige (a new Mt Beppo Artist) Use any of the berry teas for a red stained background. We are looking forward to the April Challenge of Florals - any medium.

Several of the Mt Beppo Artists have enjoyed Gerard de Roo's photography exhibition at Glen Rock Gallery.

Gerard has provided the story of each photo which makes this exhibition a special treat. Gerard's exhibition closes at 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April On Friday 5th April at 9am we will be at Glen Rock Gallery in expectation to peruse the fine works of The Fernvale Artists.

Mt Beppo Challenge March 2024 ....Paint a Teabag



## Fernvale Artists

The Fernvale Artists have had a most enjoyable month, preparing for their coming exhibition at the Glen Rock Gallery, being guests at the Lowood Open Door Gallery at a thank you morning tea for volunteers, and most of all on an excursion to the Phil Whatmore Gallery at Skydive Ramblers at Toogoolawah. This wonderful gallery, a collection of around four hundred paintings by a champion parachutist, Phil Whatmore, is open by appointment only.

An artist all his life, Phil began to paint in earnest after a sky diving accident at the age of thirty-one left him unable to walk. From landscapes to seascapes, from portraits to townscapes, from religion to animals; from realism to impressionism to abstract, the range and size of the collection is amazing.

We sincerely thank Dave McEvoy, curator of the exhibition, who gave us an excellent guided tour, and urge all art groups in our area to arrange a visit for their members. An uplifting experience.

This very enjoyable morning was followed a couple of days later by the official opening of the new murals on the back of the Fernvale Visitor Information Centre.

Commissioned by the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Users Association, the murals were painted by Somerset artist Susan McConnell. The Fernvale Artists had a stall on the day and held an art workshop, enjoyed by one adult and half a dozen children. Our thanks to all those who helped us on the day. And yes, Sue has a Blue Card.

Sue also reminded everyone that the original Fernvale Murals, in the same park, were created by the Fernvale Artists following the 2011 flood.





# Photography Article

## Slumps and how to avoid them

Every been in a motivational slump? Just don't seem inspired anymore? Not having taken a decent photo for ages? Well, you're not alone! My personal "journey" (ugh...everybody seems to be using this word!) over the last couple of months has been all but inspired.

I wonder if we are placing too high an expectation on ourselves with having to produce outstanding work, living for the expectations of others and not ourselves? I think sometimes this is a trap people can so easily fall into and that in some regards leads us to think that we failed ourselves for not creating that next amazing image, the show stopper, the award winner with every click of the button. Truth is that these amazing images that we so eagerly chase can be elusive and that's just part of the game. Ansel Adams once said that if he produced just 10 images a year he was happy with, then that was a great year!

There are many things, including life events, that can lead to a situation where we can sometimes feel that its an insurmountable effort to get those creative juices flowing again (there are only so many YouTube videos you can watch!). But maybe we've immersed ourselves so much in our pursuits that we have become too focused and we miss out on the bigger picture - you know, the "I can't see the forest for the trees" thing. I've been down that road and I eventually run into a wall and get frustrated because the images I am creating are not what my expectations are, well... expecting. Over-editing is another pitfall where I get so carried away that I start to lose sight of the initial pre-visualisation I had when pressing the shutter button. Leaving that edited image for a few days and then coming back to it often, for me anyway, leaves me wondering what the blazes I was doing - it's too contrasty, too saturated, too this or too that. And I hit the reset button and start again. This by-the-way is a technique I do a lot of now, leaving an image for a while and come back it with fresh eyes.

Maybe that's what we all need to do sometimes - to hit our own personal re-set button, put the camera down and go walk barefoot somewhere - you know - to lose those built up electrons or whatever and "earth" ourselves. Take a walk, take a road trip, go camping, go somewhere... and yeah, don't listen to me - just take the camera!

And lets not forget that Social Media can be partly to blame here as I think it's all to easy to fall into the "chasing likes" mentality and we feel that our creations are just not good enough and start to wonder what we've done wrong when we don't receive the sought after thumbs up we think we should be getting. Personally I can't be bothered trying to keep up with the never ending changes Instagram does to manage an audience.

All this seems rather negative but there is a point to my ramblings and that is to do the stuff you love for you, and not someone else. That's where the happy-ness comes from. And if someone else likes your creations, then that's a bonus. I would have given the wonderful art of photography away ages ago if I didn't think like that.

Until next time

Phil

PS Next photo talk catchup will be 9:30am Thursday April 18 at Nash Gallery.

# SASI Members Page

Dedicated to members, for members, from members.

## Recommended by Members



### Ipswich Art Society

#### Saturday Morning Casual Painting

SECOND SATURDAY of each MONTH 9.00AM TO 1.00PM

The Old Court House (Ginn street rear entrance) cnr East and Roderick Streets , Ipswich.

Come along to our Untutored Art Group held at the Old Ipswich Courthouse to enjoy some quality time and share ideas and interact with other artists.

Cost: \$5.00 for Members and \$10 for non members with 'join on arrival' facility.

Coffee/tea is provided , bring your lunch.



### Photography/Art Suppliers

If you're setting up to photograph something and need flowers to fill in space, or to be a focal point, consider giving Flowers by Felicity a call and discuss your requirements. Located just out of Esk on the Hampton Road.

**Flowers by Felicity**  
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for all occasions

Felicity Maden,  
emervale4@activ8.net.au  
0413 133 168  
#FlowerPower



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[LEARN HOW](#)



Hassel St Esk Qld

[facebook.com/BargainManiaEskQLD/](https://www.facebook.com/BargainManiaEskQLD/)

**Riot Art and Craft Stores  
are now stocking  
quality artist supplies**

<https://riotstores.com.au>

SASI appreciates the support of Esk Fruit Shop for displaying SASI brochures and our Glen Rock Gallery posters.



*Gerard de Roo*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

*Keep the date.*

*From 7<sup>th</sup> March till 4<sup>th</sup> April.*

*I will be having a solo exhibition.*

*At the Esk Visitor Information Centre.*

*82 Ipswich Street, Esk, Qld, 4312.*

*For my exhibition I will be showcasing a collection of my award winning and favourite photographs. The exhibition will consist of Panorama, Colour and Black + White photographs, all framed, behind glass. I will be in attendance on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am till midday to answer any questions you may have.*

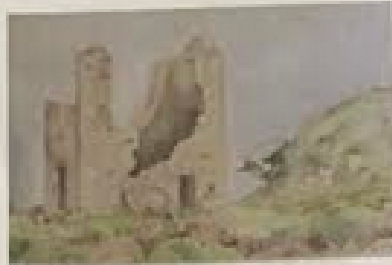


# The Weírd and the Wonderful!

We invite you to our exciting exhibition, displaying works from local award winning artists and aspiring artists, ranging from ages 13 to 80!



Award winning artist,  
Jack Lait 18 years old.



Award winning artist,  
Sue White.



Award winning artist,  
Alexis Starke.



Aspiring artist,  
Madison Lait, 17 years old.



Aspiring artist,  
Charlie Lait, 13 years old.



Aspiring artist,  
Robyn Northey.

Also featuring poetry by Olivia Gunn-Polye.

The exhibition is on display in April, come along and meet the artists for morning tea on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 10.30 am.

Open Door Gallery, 45 Railway St Lowood.

Opening hours

Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm

Saturday 9:30am-2:00pm

Sunday 9:30am-2:00pm



# Lowood Open Door Gallery



45 Railway Street, Lowood 4311

## Winter Workshops 2024

### Plant Print Dyeing on Paper

Saturday 27th April, 2024

1pm - 5pm

\$50

Bookings essential.

*An afternoon workshop to give you the basics of using dyes from plants to create prints on paper.*



**Cassandra Hodgins**

0400 884 388

quiescenceart@gmail.com

### Paint a Flower

Sunday 12th May, 2024

1pm - 4pm

\$50

Bookings essential.

*An introduction to using watercolours in Botanical Art.*



**Cassandra Hodgins**

0400 884 388

quiescenceart@gmail.com

### Resin Workshop

Saturday 20th July, 2024

2pm

\$50 (materials included)

Bookings essential.

*A fun afternoon workshop to learn the basics of resin art. Your work will be left overnight to cure and can be picked up the next day.*

**Karen Leahy**

0402 217 912



### Matting Workshop

Saturday 3rd August, 2024

2pm

\$40 (materials included)

Bookings essential.

*Learn how to matt board your own artwork.*

**Mark Leahy**

0412 585 722

