

## Somerset Art Society Inc

Supporting the arts and artists in the Somerset Region SE Qld

## **Newsletter February 2025**

### This issue:

Presidents Report

PAGE 01

Join a Group
Info and Links

PAGE 02

<u>Calendar</u>

PAGE 03

Glen Rock Gallery

PAGE 04

Lowood Open Door Gallery

PAGE 05-06

The Condensery
Somerset Regional Art Gallery

PAGE 07

SASI Workshops

PAGE 08

Group Chat

Group Photos and reports

PAGE 09 - 10

Photography Article

PAGE 11

Members Page

PAGE 12

## **Presidents Ponderings**

with Sandi Hook

The start of a fresh new year brings the promise of wonderful awakenings for our creatives. Glen Rock Gallery, Open Door and The Condensery are extremely busy with artist's bookings and the next round of agricultural shows offer wonderful opportunities to showcase artwork.

Our new committee member and Social Media Manager Nikki Douthwaite has reenergised the SASI Facebook and several artists are utilising the advertising and promotion of workshops and events. And speaking of the energetic Nikki Douthwaite, she has produced a bright, colourful and emotive collection of animal paintings in her exhibition 'A Wild Embrace'. This work is such a reflection of her dynamic personality and colour use and knowledge. Well done Nikki!



Michael Bishop, Nikki Douthwaite, Jan Godfrey & Sandi Hook at 'A Wild Embrace'



Friends celebrating 'A Wild Embrace' at Glen Rock Gallery

Members and partners had an enjoyable New Year's lunch in January at the Esk Grand Hotel. Was lovely to catch up. Don't forget to come along to the opening of 'Volatile Terrains'. This exhibition including five local artists opens from 4pm to 6pm on the 15th February 2025. Bookings are essential for catering. See you there. Read on for more fabulous news and opportunities!!

Best wishes all Sandi

# Join a Group

**Contacts** 

## **Join SASI Groups**

Click on the LOGO to visit the SASI Website



### Join SASI - <a href="https://www.sasiart.com.au/memberships">https://www.sasiart.com.au/memberships</a>

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.

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

If anyone would like to join the Photography Group or has questions about photography in general, please contact Phil

For more info Click on the MUSOS Logo



### Join SASI MUSOS Contact Andrea Oxenford 0459 031 895

SASI Musos will meet on Monday mornings from 9am until 12 noon at St Agnes Anglican Hall, Ipswich St, Esk, starting on 3 February 2024. Players of all instruments are welcome at this friendly weekly session.

## Join Somerset Regional Council Volunteers



Join the Esk Visitor Information Centre Tourism Volunteers Contact Carole Labram mail@somerset.qld.gov.au

To Apply visit Volunteer | Experience Somerset

To Apply Visit
<a href="https://thecondensery">https://thecondensery</a>
<a href="https://thecondensery">.com.au/about/getinvolved/</a>



Become a Gallery Ambassador at The Condensery Contact email: mail@somerset.qld.gov.au

Supporting the arts and regional tourism

## Join a Somerset Group

https://www.somerse t.qld.gov.au/somerset -arts-culturedirectory

### 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

ESK CLEN ROCK
STITCHERS

The Glen Rock Stitchers meet every Thursday in airconditioned 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**

Friday 7 February to Wednesday 5 March 2025 Alan Bell 'Canned Art'

### Lowood Open Door Gallery

1 February to Saturday 22 February 2025 Mt Beppo Artists

### The Condensery

15 February 2025 – 27 April 2025 Volatile Terrain

### WORKSHOPS

See workshop page for details on Workshops at Lowood Open Door Gallery

and Free workshops at The Condensery Toogoolawah

### **EVENTS**

### Musician's Meetup

Mondays from 3rd Feb 2025 9am - 12 noon SASI Musos sessions at St Agnes Hall Esk. All musicians are welcome.

### **Exhibition Opening**

Sat, 15 Feb, 4pm - 6pm The Condensery - Volatile Terrain

### OTHER

### SASI General Meeting

Friday 21 February 9:45am for 10am start St Agnes Hall, Esk

### SASI's Small Is Beautiful Competition & Exhibition

The Terms and Conditions PDF is now available online at <a href="https://www.sasiart.com.au/entry-form">https://www.sasiart.com.au/entry-form</a>



# 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

A Wild **Embrace** 

FRI 7TH FEB - WED 5TH MAR

### In The Display Cabinets at Glen Rock

LOCAL ARTISTS Coal Creek Pottary Exquisite Cards and Gifts



# What's Coming to Glen Rock Gallery

MARCH SASI Members Exhibition APRIL Charlotte Sybenga

## INTRODUCING THE AMAZING EXHIBITION OF 'CANNED ART' **ALAN BELL**

7TH FEBRUARY - 5TH MARCH

I take my inspiration from what is around me, objects from day to day life, and use my imagination to interpret this through my art.

Creating art can be a solitary pursuit, and displaying what we do opens us up to public scrutiny about our craft. In this exhibition I want to present my art to a broader audience and receiving feedback would inspire me to think about what I do and can do creatively.





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

# What's Coming to Open Door Gallery

FEBRUARY Mixed Media Mt Beppo Artist

MARCH Textile Art Darling Downs Fibre Arts Group

APRIL 2D or 3D Mothers Day Theme Lowood open Door Gallery reopened on after a Christmas break with Aaron Heck's History of Lowood morning tea and what an event it was, visitors who grew up in Lowood came back for the event. The place was buzzing with over 40 people coming to the event including Councillors Sally Jess, Brett Freese and Michael Bishop, who showed great community spirit. Things didn't stop there. Over at the Lion's Den, Gai Edmonds and Linda Maine were keeping children entertained with clay modelling and a pottery wheel. Creations were unique and the kids had a ball. Councillors took time out after the history event to pop over and visit the kids and admire their creations. See images Our next exhibition is with Mt Beppo Artists in February and we are looking forward to seeing their unique creations.

We are also happy to announce that Yvonne Hawkins, founder of the Lowood Open Door Gallery and new SASI member was nominated for 'Citizen of the year 'Award, in the Australia Day Celebrations at the Esk Civic Centre on Friday 24th of January. We are all very fortunate to have such a venue and thank Yvonne for her foresight into providing a space for us all to enjoy and exhibit. We would like to congratulate Yvonne on being nominated and thank her for her efforts. (see images)

Lowood Open Door Gallery has a new Summer/Autumn workshop list for you to peruse and see if there is anything of interest. Karen Leahy's popular Resin workshop is booking fast. To avoid disappointments, call to secure you booking. Gai Edmonds will be joining us with a new addition of Adult China Painting in March. For those interested in honing in on their colour mixing skills Marita Reynolds will be doing a practical guide to creating your own colour palette reference you can use in your work no matter what your medium is. Bookings for all workshops are essential. Please see the list of all our workshops with all details in the workshop section of this newsletter.

Just a reminder we have our Mother's Day Theme exhibition is coming up in April and we invite all artists who would like to place their artwork in this exhibition for sale to contact us on the following email. Please note Lowood Open Door Gallery do take a 15% commission of the sale price. If you are interested in displaying and selling your art during this exhibition, please notify us on <a href="mailto:lowoodopendoorgallery@gmail.com">lowoodopendoorgallery@gmail.com</a> so we can forward you a contract informing you of our gallery's terms and conditions. (see advert later in this newsletter)

Please note that the Lowood Lion's Club is also opening the Lion's Den, another great space to hold workshops. If there are any SASI members who are interested in doing workshops in 2025, please contact Karen Leahy on 0402 217 912 for further information. Weekend and Weekdays availability see advert for further info.

Stay creative, Marita Reynolds







## Lowood Open Door Gallery

### A Lowood Lions Project

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

## What's on 2025

January	Aaron & Jason	Local History
February	Mt Beppo Artists	Mixed Media
March	Darling Downs Fibre Arts Group	Textile Art
April	Mother's Day Theme	2D or 3D
May	Carol Fletcher	Watercolour
June	Donna Vale The Crooked Potter	Acrylics Pottery
July	Fernvale Artists	Mixed Media Graphite Arytists other than FAG
August	Lowood High School	Mixed Media
September	Bec & Paul	Photography
October	Breast Care Unit	Fund raiser
November	Noela Lowan & Jodie Lone	Paintings Quilter



Mother's Day Gallery Sale

John Grooten

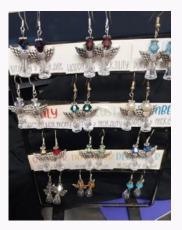
Lowood Open Door Gallery is having a theme for April 2025 exhibition of 'Mothers'

We welcome handmade items or artworks for sale over the month of April, prior to Mother's Day. The gallery take 15% of commission on sales.

To register your interest so we can provide more details closer to the event please email Karen at <a href="mailto:lowoodopendoorgallery@gmail.com">lowoodopendoorgallery@gmail.com</a>



In The Cabinets at Lowood





December

Acrylic



# The Condensery

## Somerset Regional Art Gallery

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

# What's Up at the Condensery

VOLATILE TERRAIN EXHIBITION OPENING

SAT, 15 FEB, 4PM - 6PM AEST

# What's Coming To the Condensery

### **SCRIPTED PERMANENCE**

3 MAY 2025 - 13 JULY 2025

**CUBOMANCY** 

3 MAY 2025 - 13 JULY 2025

### HARVEST BIENNIAL 2025: VOLATILE TERRAIN

15 February 2025 - 27 April 2025

FEATURING BONITA ELY, CASSANDRA HODGINS, DYLAN SARRA, JIM FILMER, JUDY WATSON, KATE GECK, MARIAN DREW, MEGAN COPE & KEG DE SOUZA, NAOMI MCKENZIE, PRITA TINA YEGANEH, SANDI HOOK, SHIRLEY GREGOR.

CURATED BY CARA-ANN SIMPSON.

The Condensery's inaugural Harvest Biennial exhibition, Volatile Terrain explores the intersections and divergences of geography and geology, with consideration to a world in constant flux. The exhibition provides an opportunity to examine how humanity lives on Earth, as well as interacts, destructs and rehabilitates it.

The exhibition is hyper-local and responsive to the Somerset region. The project is underpinned by substantial local artist development opportunities and an extensive community engagement program. The Somerset artists participating in Volatile Terrain are Cassandra Hodgins, Jim Filmer, Naomi McKenzie, Sandi Hook and Shirley Gregor.

Designed to extend and enhance audience engagement, the following talks are led by local artists featured in the exhibition. Visit <a href="https://thecondensery.com.au/programs/">https://thecondensery.com.au/programs/</a> to register.

Artist Talk & Morning Tea with Naomi McKenzie Sat, 8 Mar, 10:30am - 11:30am AEST · Event info

Artist Talk & Morning Tea with Sandi Hook Fri, 14 Mar, 10:30am - 11:30am AEST · Event info

Artist Talk & Morning Tea with Cassandra Hodgins Fri, 28 Mar, 10:30am - 11:30am AEST · Event info

Artist Talk & Morning Tea with Jim Filmer Fri, 11 Apr, 10:30am - 11:30am AEST · Event info

Artist Talk & Morning Tea with Shirley Gregor Thu, 24 Apr, 10:30am - 11:30am AEST · <u>Event info</u>

See the workshop page for more....

**EXPLORE**The Condensery Website

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



## **Art Workshops**

### for the Somerset Community

## Jan-May Lowood Workshops

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

### **Contact: SASI Art Workshop Coordinator: Sarah-Jane Charlier**

workshop@sasiart.com.au

### Artists are most welcome to apply to present a workshop

Glen Rock Gallery Esk QLD 5 July - 5 August 2025

#### Small is Beautiful 2025

**Competition & Exhibition** 

2D & 3D Artworks up to 30cm

#### Online entries open 9am 1 April 2025

Terms and Conditions available online at www.sasiart.com.au/entry-form



### Kid's Clay Workshop



Sunday 19th January 12.30pm - 2pm \$20 per child

Clay needs to be fired; you will be contacted when items need to be picked up from Lowood Open Door Gallery at a later date.

Bookings essential

Call Gai 0401 036 544

### Floral Impressions in Watercolour

with Susan Wellingham & Sue Howard



Saturday 1st February 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Come and be measmerized by the magic of watercolour!

You'll fearn the wonders of this medium using the wet-on-wet technique.

We'll take you through some colour theory and then lead you on a wonderful

diventure celebrating the unpredictable properties and naturally occurring

techniques that can happen when you "let it do its own thing".

All materials provided, just bring your enthusiasm. Booking essential.

Call Sue

#### **Resin Workshop**



Saturday 22nd February 10am - 2pm \$50 (materials included) Bookings essential.

orkshop to learn the basics of resin art, which is poured on A fun atternoon workshop to searn the basics of reaman, which is positive top of different surfaces to create a thick and glossy protective coat. Resin cabe mixed with paint or inks to create colourful patterns and designs. Wear old

to cure and can be picked up the next day.

Karen Leahy 0402 217 912

#### Colour Mixing with Marita



0425 735 581

soleresponse@hotmail.com

#### China Painting with Gai



### Two-Session Workshop

Saturday 8th of March Sunday 9th March 1pm - 3pm (both days) \$50

Price includes materials & firings. Bookings essential.

> Call Gai 0401 036 544

### **Plant Print Dyeing on Paper**



Saturday 17th May 1pm - 5pm \$60 Bookings essential.

An afternoon workshop to give you the basics of using dyes from plants to create prints on paper. We will discuss the dye process, different techniquidifferent plants, mordants, equipment you need and how the magic happe

You'll need:

Pencil and paper for note-taking
Scissors to cut paper to size
A few pages of newspaper/butcher's paper to carry wet samples home.
Wear old clothes or an apron

Please note this class is for adults.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** 

0400 884 388 quiessenceart@gmail.com

Email for bookings: lowoodopendoorgallery@gmail.com

## Free Workshops in March and April at the **Condensery**

Presented by Somerset artists participating in the Volatile Terrain Exhibition Note: Spaces are limited. Book your tickets now. https://thecondensery.com.au/programs/

Linoleum printing with Sandi Hook Fri, 14 Mar, 1pm - 3pm AEST · Event info

Scratch Art Workshop with Cassandra Hodgins Thu, 3 Apr, 10:30am - 12:30pm AEST · Event info

Shoot Film with Naomi McKenzie Thu, 10 Apr, 10:30am - 12:30pm AEST · Event info





## **Mount Beppo Art Group**

The Beppoites are excited to visit each new exhibition at Glen Rock Gallery. It is especially lovely to meet the artist and chat to them about their life and their art. In January we attended Nikki Douthwaite's opening and are looking forward to the February exhibition of 'Canned Art' by Alan Bell. Mt Beppo Artist, Shirley Gregor, has work in The Condensery's Volatile Terrain exhibition, opening on 15th February. We look forward to seeing you there!

You can also view an excellent exhibition of Mt Beppo Artists work at the Lowood Open Door Gallery during February. Or book in there for an art class. Many of the artists are also readying works for the SASI members exhibition in March at Glen Rock Gallery and the Small is Beautiful competition which starts accepting entries on 1st April.

Mt Beppo Artists are back from their break on Wed 5th February. During our break a few artists sent in their January Challenge photos. The February Challenge is Paint a Piece of Fruit.

Mt Beppo Artists Challenge Jan 2025 One Line Drawing









## Fernvale Art Group

After a lovely end of year lunch at Jenny's home at Coominya, followed by the Christmas and New Year break, the Fernvale Artists resumed their Thursday painting days on 30th January. A warm welcome from all of the Fernvale Artists to new members Tim and Karen Leeson.

A busy year lies ahead, with the combined SASI artists' annual exhibition at the Glen Rock Gallery in March as the first challenge.

On 15th February members will be travelling up to Toogoolawah for the opening at the Condensery of the Volatile Terrain exhibition, the first in the Environmental Biennial series, in which two of the Fernvale Artists, Sandi Hook and Cassandra Hodgins, are participants. Members also look forward to the subsequent talks by each artist in March.

And lastly, our treasurer Colleen and her always kind and helpful husband Steve have resigned. We wish them both every happiness in the future.



## **Group Chat**

## SASI MUSOS

New SASI group for musicians starting in February

Do you play an instrument? (or do you know someone who does?)

Would you like to play with other musos in a safe supportive environment?

The Somerset Art Society Inc. (SASI) are starting a new SASI group - SASI Musos – a weekly session for musicians who are wanting to collaborate (play along) with other musos and/or are looking for an opportunity to perform in a positive and supportive environment. Music for each week's session will be provided, including lyrics with chords, melody and harmony lines. Transposed music for non-C instruments will also be available. A new song will be added to our repertoire each week. All instruments welcome!

WHEN: Monday 9am - 12noon (starting February 3)

WHERE: St Agnes Hall, Esk

COST: \$5 per session (first session free)

BYO instrument and music stand (if you have one)

### Weekly session programme:

- Welcome and set up (attendance sign on/add to the song suggestion book)
- Latest addition (Play our latest song together)
- Old favourites (Play through some of our repertoire)
- Break for morning tea
- White board walk-ups (Volunteered performances)
- New number (Run through the song for next week's meeting)
- Musical Lucky Dip (Volunteered names placed in hat and drawn out in pairs. Duos to perform song of their own choice at next week's White board walk-ups)



## The Concept Of Sharpness In Photography

So this guy comes up to me a while back while I was taking a photo of a beach scene and was adamant that I should be using a tripod to get a sharp photo. "It should be pin sharp to make it look really good" was his emphatic statement. And he went on about how photos aren't really great unless they are razor sharp. We had a brief chat but I think he was convinced because there was no tripod, I had no hope of making any semblance of a decent photo!

Then I recently watched a YouTube video on this very topic as the presenter, a street photographer with more than 20 years experience, put it out there and asked, what is sharpness?

Back in the day I cut my black and white teeth (figuratively!) on Ansel Adams wondrous landscapes of Yosemite in all its crystal clear monochrome beauty. So much detail was revealed in his pin-sharp 5" x 4" or 8" x 10" glass plate negatives. Then I came across the works of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Irving Penn, Robert Doisneau and others and their amazing social documentary images from the bustling alleyways and streets of Paris - none of which had the sharpness of Adams landscapes but were marvellous images documenting daily Parisian life. If you have never come across these names before, look them up - better still, see if you can buy one of their books, it will be well worth it.

So...what is sharpness? Is it based on how well you focus, the clarity of the image, the quality of the lens, how "crisp" the photo is, how many megapixels your sensor has, does it give a "3-D" like quality, or a combination of all these? Does composition play a role in perceived sharpness? What about noise in the digital image, those frustrating low light shadow problems! This can be corrected with various software options but almost all adjustments reduce the sharpness of the image and it then becomes "soft". Do we need to ask questions of ourselves then, when creating images depending on what they are of - do I intentionally make this image sharp, will blur better illustrate the story or does it really matter? Do I really need to think about this or has it become intuitive? Does sharpness take away the energy of a scene? Does an image have to be technically prefect to be a good image?

Oh dear ...all this thinking can be exhausting!

And does anyone really care about this with todays phone and compact cameras - just point it in the right direction and press the shutter! In reality though, it would only be on rare occasions that any of these questions actually run through the mind when taking a photo. It's all part of the creative process though, being able to read the scene to interpret it the way you want. And if you're wondering, yes I do think about these questions at times, judging how much of the scene should be sharp to achieve the outcome I'm after, such as portrait vs street, landscape vs pastel creativity and so on!

Although there are exceptions, CRM being one, landscapes, portraits, macro and astro photography all benefit from sharp or crisp images. Almost 2 years ago now a friend and I did a trip to the Flinders Ranges and I created some of my best landscape images - sharp, expansive and totally rewarding. But then some of my most treasured street images are not sharp, or expansive but are also totally rewarding. What they do show are human interactions, social trends, a moment in time and capturing that "decisive moment" as Cartier-Bresson put it.

Creating images with atmosphere, a story, composition that engages and maybe sharpness when it matters all comes with time and experience. But at the end of the day if you're happy with the photo then that's all that really matters.

Until next time

## **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.





Hassel St Esk Qld 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.