

September 2023

Hi there,

This month's newsletter is action-packed with fresh artworks and events, settle in with a cuppa :)

Hot off the press - Bird Prize finalist!



The finalists for the Holmes Prize for Excellence in Realistic Australian Bird Art (quite a mouthful!) were announced on the 19th September and my white-throated treecreepers made the cut! Entries have been narrowed down to just 40 artworks, and include work from some of the most talented bird artists in the country, so it's a massive honour for me to be included. The exhibition will be held on the Sunshine Coast, QLD in October, more details to follow!

A little about this artwork 'Treecreeping'. It's a 12 x 16 inch ink on scratchboard and was inspired by a recent camping trip to Kaputar National Park near Narrabri - absolute heaven for keen birders and nature lovers in general - if you haven't been, do put it on your list!

I was having some quiet time near the summit of Mt Kaputar whilst my hubby and daughter hiked to a nearby peak. I'd spotted a treecreeper scruffling up a large tree earlier, but I was loving watching a large, chatty group of thornbills that were having a field day amongst the leaf litter and tree bark. As I turned to follow some thornbill antics, I caught a glimpse of a treecreeper probing the bark on an ancient-looking teatree only a few metres away.

Treecreepers are apparently quite solitary outside of mating season, but I wanted to create an artwork showcasing both a male and female...particularly the female's blush of red-orange on her cheek! The pattern on their belly is also beautiful and their long claws are very impressive - such an underrated bird I think. So this artwork has been created by cobbling together quite a few reference photos from that stunning close encounter.

Short-listed for 2023 Sketch for Survival

In more happy news received earlier in the month, 'Better the devil you know' has been shortlisted (top 100) for Explorers Against Extinction's 2023 Sketch for Survival!

That means that this little fella will be exhibited in Edinburgh and London in October/November and it will then be auctioned off, with all money raised going towards EAE's wildlife conservation projects - a most worthy cause that I am so happy to be involved in!

Check out the link below to view all of the brilliant shortlisted artworks. People's choice is now open too (also in link below), and I would be incredibly grateful for your vote if you feel so inclined!



[2023 Sketch for Survival Shortlist](#)

Canvas prints now available!

Fine art reproduction prints of some of my latest artworks are now available to purchase on my website shop. The fine lines of scratchboard come up surprisingly well on textured cotton canvas, and the colours and blacks are lovely and rich. These prints are made using archival quality inks and canvas and come ready to hang. Below are the artworks currently available.

In trying to keep with supporting local where I can, the prints are made in Newcastle, however they will generally be made to order so I don't have them cluttering my tiny studio space! So please allow for 2-3 weeks between placing an order and delivery. And feel free to drop me a message if you'd like a different reproduction print on canvas, or a different size :)

[Shop prints](#)



Bushland Festival and Laguna Art Fair

I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who dropped by my stall at the Our Bushland Festival and Laguna P&C Art Fair over the last two weekends. It was really wonderful to put faces to names, meet lots of new characters and chat about art, plants, gardening and much more. I received so many lovely, encouraging comments, and knowing that people like you are connecting with my art really gives me the drive to keep creating.

For those that may not have seen it on socials or in person, I'm currently running a giveaway to all on my mailing list - if you're reading this, you are already in the running to win an 8x10 inch canvas of 'Better the devil you know'! The offer ends at 5pm for those that want to sign up, and I'll be in touch with the winner shortly afterwards. Just a small thank you to say I appreciate your support in my artistic journey :)

This is me and one of my two beautiful helpers at the Our Bushland Festival - a cracking day all round! And Laguna is such a beautiful little community, we arrived not really knowing anyone and left feeling almost part of the family, everyone was so welcoming!

My next market stall will be at the Christmas markets in Braxton and Huntlee in December, more details to come.



On the drawing board - new artworks



Here are the latest finished pieces and works in progress - I finally cracked open my watercolour paints to experiment with an Ampersand Aquaboard - a sister product to Ampersand scratchboard. It's also on a masonite base with a textured clay surface that takes watercolour just like watercolour paper, without the buckling issues! The result is my emu 'Bush chook' above, who is available for sale, just not on my web shop yet. The paper daisies and wattle pieces have sold but the appleberry (top left) will be available for sale at Bowral (see below), and my treecreepers will be available at the Holmes Bird Prize exhibition. I finally finished 'Wally', my little 5x7 inch koala, and he's now [available here](#).

Upcoming events



CanAssist Southern Highlands Botanical Art and Illustration Prize

The Botanical Art Society of Australia will hold their annual Botanical Art and Illustration Prize in Bowral from 5th October, with 25% of proceeds from all sales going to CanAssist.

Happily, two of my artworks 'Pink gem' and 'Common appleberry' have been juried into the exhibition, which will be at the magnificent Victorian homestead, Retford Park.

Opening hours: 10am - 4pm, Thurs - Sun

Exhibition dates: 5 - 29th October 2023

Location: White Gallery, Retford Park, 1325 Old South Rd, Bowral.

Botanical Art Prize and Exhibition



Flora: Art and Science of the Plant

Open now until 14th October in Perth, Western Australia! You can see my flannel flower scratchboard along with many other gorgeous botanical works from members of the Botanical Art Society of Australia at the Holmes a Court Gallery in West Perth. Follow the link below for more information, including a catalogue of works.

Opening hours: 11am - 5pm

Exhibition dates: 2nd September - 14th October 2023

Location: Holmes a Court Gallery, 10 Douglas St, Gooyaman, West Perth.

Flora: Art and Science of the Plant



Margaret Flockton Award now showing

The Margaret Flockton Award exhibition opened last month at Mt Annan Botanical Gardens. I was delighted to hear that a high-resolution print of my *Persoonia pauciflora* scratchboard is included in the exhibition, alongside work from some of the best botanical illustrators in the world. You can also view the exhibition online (see link below) and my original scratchboard of *P. pauciflora* is available to purchase in my [web shop](#).

Opening hours: 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri

Exhibition dates: 21 Aug - 6 October

Location: National Herbarium of NSW foyer, Mt Annan Botanical Gardens.

[Margaret Flockton Award](#)



Shop updates - A new range of cards and originals now online

At long last, my website shop is getting a freshen up with a new range of cards available based on my latest artworks as well as some older favourites. If you purchase five or more, you'll receive a 10% discount on each card. I've also dropped the price on some older designs - if you'd like to snave a bargain, you can follow the link below to browse.

With exhibitions over for now, I've also been uploading some more originals to my shop. Check them out in the link below!

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