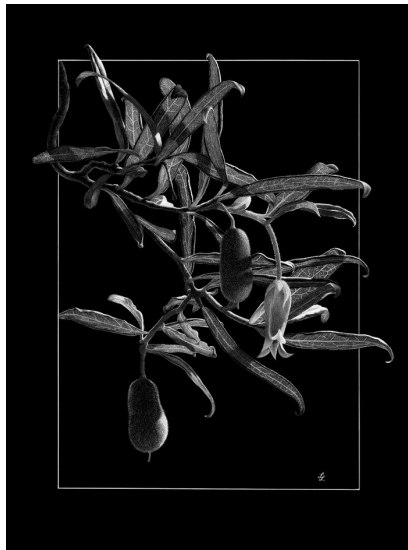


November 2023

Hi there,

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

'Bush tucker treat' receives 2nd prize in Bowral



In early October, the opening of the CanAssist Botanical Art and Illustration Prize exhibition was held at historic Retford Park in Bowral, NSW. Although I couldn't make it, I was delighted to receive the initial news that my scratchboard of the common appleberry, *Billardiera scandens*, had sold on opening day. Then more exciting news to say that it had won 2nd prize!

This is a plant and composition that I've wanted to capture in scratchboard for a long time, so it was very special to see it so well received. I adore this plant so much that I had a seedling shipped from Melbourne Bushfoods a couple of years back, and I'm happy to report that it is still thriving in our back garden!

[CanAssist Exhibition Gallery](#)

'Treecreeper' receives Award of Excellence



In late October, my husband and I flew to Queensland for the weekend to attend the opening of the Holmes Prize for Realistic Australian Bird Art. I went into the evening just happy to be there to celebrate making it to the top 40 finalists, and delightedly meeting talented artists that I'd only known through social media. And walking into the exhibition itself was impressive, the bird art on display is truly some of the best you'll find in Australia. The prize is generously funded by Dr Gary Holmes and his wife Dr Margaret Anderson, who share a love of realistic bird art and recognised the absence of a major prize that celebrated it.

This year's judge was Steve Morvell (pictured above), an internationally recognised wildlife artist, who gave a fabulous, heartfelt talk on an artist's connection to their subject and the importance of that connection to create powerful artworks that really engage the viewer. I think I dropped a minor profanity when he called out my name for an Award of Excellence - the next 10 minutes or so after that are a bit of a blur. I stumbled through a quick thank you speech and ended up rambling about our camping trip to Kaputar - the shock and elation were real, and lasted well into the following week!

I'm so very grateful for this entire experience, and highly recommend any artists who enjoy painting and drawing our spectacular birdlife to throw your hat in the ring, you just never know! Check out the link to the Holmes Prize Facebook page below for all the posts sharing finalist works and the opening night speeches (video goes for over an hour, winner announcements start at 43 minutes and my rambling speech is about the 50 minute mark!)

[Holmes Prize Facebook page](#)

And then this happened...

The last few months got a little hectic with artworks heading in all directions (hence no October newsletter!), including my portrait of Nancy, which made it's international debut at the International Society of Scratchboard Artists annual exhibition in Tuscon, Arizona. The opening weekend was the same weekend as the Holmes Prize, and adding to what was already a very memorable couple of days, I got word from my scratchboard buddies in Tuscon that 'Nancy' had received an Award of Excellence in the Masters Category!

If you're lucky enough to be in the vicinity, the ISSA exhibition is on at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum until 10th December, and the quality of artworks on show is simply spectacular. [View the works online here](#) (including a virtual tour of the show!)



On the drawing board



The last couple of months have been a mix of commissioned and personal pieces, so let's go clockwise from top left.

~ 'Mama's kisses', 11x14 inch ink on scratchboard. The original is available to [purchase here](#), with prints coming soon. My last giveaway of the year will be one 11x14" canvas print of this piece, with the winner being drawn randomly from those only on my mailing list, to say thank you for all of your wonderful support this year - so if you are reading this now, you're in with a chance to win! The winner will be announced in mid-December and all effort will be made to get it to you before Christmas.

~ My clownfish (as yet untitled!), 11x14 inch ink on scratchboard - slow progress on this one..

~ A special commission of 17 year old Bear (8x10 inch), who unfortunately passed away just two weeks before his owner received this beautiful gift from her work mates.

~ 'Jolly conversation', 5x7 inch - I was determined to finish this piece before Christmas this year (it's been in the drawer for the past 2 years). Cards with this artwork are on their way (available early December) for those of us that leave Christmas cards and gifts til the last minute!

~ This is a new and exciting 18x24 inch board of one of my garden visitors, the yellow-tailed black cockatoo

~ 8x10 inch giraffe portrait, now sold and still looking for a title if you have any suggestions..!

~ 'Eugene', 4x4 inch study of an Eastern Quoll, available to [purchase here](#)

In other news...



Calendars available now

I've just received a restock of my calendars that are available to purchase now - birds, wildlife and I've even snuck in a limited number of smaller botanical calendars!

[Browse calendars](#)

Christmas Markets

Christmas in Huntlee

When: Saturday 2nd December, 4-8 pm
Where: Ridgetop Park, Kesterton Rise, North Rothbury

Christmas Twilight Market

When: Saturday 9th December, 4-8 pm
Where: Branxton Community Hall, 35 Bowen St, Branxton



Argyle Gallery, The Rocks

If you are visiting The Rocks at some point, there is a wonderful little place called the Argyle Gallery, 21 Playfair St Sydney, which hosts a beautiful range of art and other treasures (we found a beautiful piece of boulder opal to bring home!)

'Ruffled' and 'Sitting pretty' have recently been sold there, but 'Bush chook', 'Curious Joe' and 'Wally' are all available to purchase.

Sketch for Survival Auction Results

The 2023 Sketch for Survival exhibitions have now wrapped up, with the auction closing this morning. I was so delighted to see that 'Better the devil you know' sold for the equivalent of \$500! This, along with sales proceeds from all of the other incredible artworks will go towards Explorers Against Extinction's conservation programs. Not sure what the total is yet, but truly a wonderful effort from all involved in making it happen.



[Follow me on Facebook](#)

[Follow me on Instagram](#)

Share on social

+61 491 744 245



SHOP NOW [→](#)

