

## Rockhampton celebrates 30 years in 2025

2024 opened on a high-note for ADFAS members, with a new name (ArtsNational Rockhampton), a comfortable new venue (Lighthouse Baptist Church) and a new committee led by Chair Anne Dunne.

2025 is shaping up to be an equally exciting year as ArtsNational Rockhampton celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a range of wonderful international, national and local speakers and special events.

It is also a good time to remember where we started.

In late 1994, with the guidance of the AADFAS Council and Executive Committee, a steering committee was formed headed by Gail Grant and the Health Science Auditorium at Central Queensland University was selected as a lecture venue.

In 1995 Diana Alroe was appointed the first ADFAS Rockhampton Chair.

The very successful pattern for delicious suppers, which became morning teas prepared by members, was established.

In 1997 the venue was changed to the Memorial Hall, The Rockhampton Grammar School. In 1998 ADFAS Rockhampton moved to historic Middle Hall, The Range.



From left: Secretary Janet Gentle, Vice-Chair Dorothy Khoo, Chair Anne Dunne and Treasurer Cath Dass have led ArtsNational Rockhampton through a very successful 2024.

Due to a lack of car parking, Middle Hall and Friday night lectures were farewelled in 2013 and Saturday morning lectures at the Rockhampton Regional Library Fitzroy Room were adopted.

Boasting quite a number of Capricorn Coast members in the Rockhampton society, it was arranged for one meeting to be held on the coast at St Ursula's School's Ballygriffin Cultural Centre.

In recent years that has been extended to two lectures a year.

Due to library changes in 2020, ADFAS lectures moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Centacare in Bolsover Street. From there to St Therese Church.

We now enjoy the parking and comfort of the Lighthouse Baptist Church, Norman Road.

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## Celebrating local art

All those attending the ArtsNational Rockhampton AGM and lecture on Saturday, 30 November will be treated to a wonderful display of printmaking art from members of Capricornia Printmakers Inc. Many of the pieces will be available for purchase.

From 4-13 October, 2024 Capricornia Printmakers held their 13<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition at Walter Reid Centre, Rockhampton.

The theme, "Two Words" invited members to explore their creativity and extend their printmaking skills.

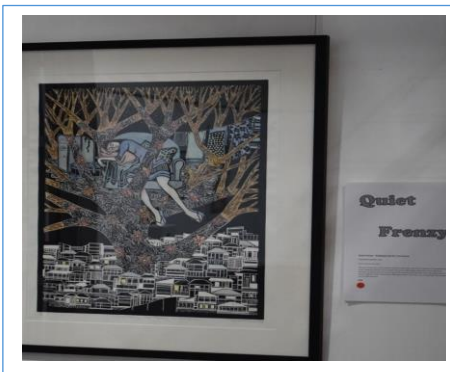
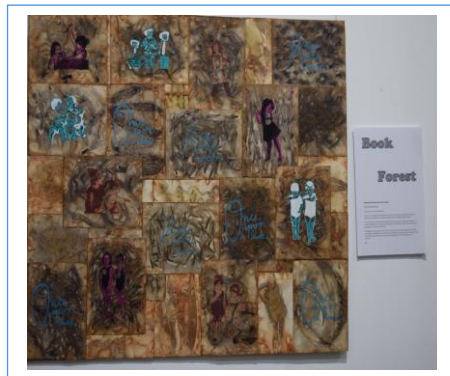
President Phillipa Sturgess said 17 artists, including 5 new members, and a couple from other groups, submitted works for the exhibition.

She said it was a wonderful collection, with each artist choosing to work with cloth, paper, botanicals, eco-printing, embroidery or lino-art to showcase their printmaking skills.

She said members enjoy workshops, Monday studio sessions between 5.30pm and 7.30pm where they can bounce ideas off each other, and a monthly studio day on the last Sunday of the month at Walter Reid.

The more accomplished members are always keen to pass on techniques, ideas and assistance to newer members.

**Right:** Soaring Oceans, Phillipa Sturgess; Book Forest, Erin O'Shannessy; Quiet Frenzy by Carmel Knowles. **Below:** Empathy Garden, Niloufar Lovegrove; Home Layers, Belinda McGrath; Earthy Limitation, by Peta Lloyd.





## Capricornia Printmakers pushed to the edge

2023 was a year of living dangerously for 20 Capricornia Printmakers, as they embarked on a daunting task, that pushed them to the extremes of their comfort zones.

Members of the Capricornia Printmakers Inc regularly meet and share their printmaking skills in the stress-free environment of Walter Reid Cultural Centre, corner of East and Derby streets, Rockhampton.

President Phillipa Sturgess said all that changed in late 2022 when the members of Capricornia Printmakers Inc were invited by the Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA) to create art responding to works held in the gallery's extensive collection of noted regional, national and international artists.

She said each printmaker was invited to choose a work from the collection to examine and research.

Over a period of a year and a half they each worked to create an original piece of art that reflected a piece from the Rockhampton collection.

Their finished work was to be displayed next to the chosen work as part of a six-month exhibition at RMOA.

On Saturday, 30 November, at the Lighthouse Baptist Church, Norman Road, North Rockhampton, ArtsNational Rockhampton Inc will invite Capricornia Printmakers Inc president Phillipa Sturgess to present: "Responding to the Collection: Our Year of Living Dangerously".

"This talk explores the journeys of the 20, mostly amateur, printmakers who took up this daunting task, exploring new ways of thinking about their work, new techniques and new possibilities for presenting their art," Phillipa said.

"Basically, where do you start. We are not professionals, printmaking is our hobby," she said.

Phillipa said adding to the pressure, their finished works would be hung next to well-known pieces in the Rockhampton Museum of Art gallery for all to see.

'We just had to step-up and meet the challenge – and we did.

"It was a great opportunity to do something we had never done before.

"We had to learn totally new techniques and we were told to 'go big'.

"It was very exciting and the gallery was very supportive through the installation process," she said.

Phillipa Sturgess is a Rockhampton based printmaker, who has shown her work in various group exhibitions and community events over the past eight years.

She has been president of Capricornia Printmakers Inc since 2017.

**Above:** Phillipa with her work at the Rockhampton Art Gallery exhibition. She has accepted an invitation to speak at our final lecture for the year, on Saturday, 30 November.

## From Yarra Valley to Bendigo - a long wish fulfilled

**By Bernadette Hunt**

In the last week of October, I was able to fulfil a long-awaited wish – to take a tour to Victoria's Regional Galleries, complimented with tours of historic sites such as the Dame Nellie Melba estate, Dame Elizabeth Murdoch's Cruden Farm, Port Leo Sculpture Park and spectacular vineyards.

Our coach took us through scenery that has been the inspiration of generations of artists; the rolling hills of the Yarra Valley, the panoramic Mornington Peninsula then across Port Philip Bay to the unique Australian countryside of the Gold Fields.

Our visit to Geelong Art Gallery was thwarted by the fact that a murder had been committed during the night before our visit and so the whole area was cordoned off due to the police investigation.

However, the visit to the extremely interesting Wool Museum held us all in awe of the history, success, and inventiveness of that *rich*, in every sense of the word, era in the Australian wool industry.

On to Ballarat and a visit to the Eureka Centre and a viewing of the remains of the famous Flag, along with the history of the uprising and subsequent results.

At the lovely Ballarat Regional Gallery, we had a guided tour of the marvelous collection by the curator of the National Gallery of Victoria, who was visiting and is a good friend of our Tour leader, Kenneth W Park.

From here on to Bendigo to our hotel, the Shamrock (not out of place in London), for three nights, as our base to also discover some well-preserved gold rush townships in the area and beautiful Lake Wendouree.

Bendigo Regional Art Gallery and its outstanding collections of fine art and artifacts was a gem, hard to tear oneself away from!

A guided tour of the Golden Dragon Museum was an outstanding treat for many of us interested in the Chinese history of the area and the gold rush days.



Our next Gallery visit was to Shepparton Art Museum, which we visited with the curator and again, marveled at their wonderful art collection and artifacts and sculptures.

Later in the day we had a guided tour of the Loel Thomas Costume and Clothing Collection (superb), also the MOVE Museum (museum of vehicle evolution) an exciting place to visit with its vast array of vintage cars, trucks, bikes and driving memorabilia.

It is one of the largest regional museums of collectables in Australia for variety.

On our last day on our way back to Melbourne airport, we stopped at Castlemaine Art Museum with its Magnificent Art Deco façade.

The gallery opened just for us and again, the curator took us through the lovely collection and objects donated from bygone times.

Amidst all the beautiful art seen, I will not forget the striking architecture of the Galleries and Museums and the cities and towns visited, the wealth created trickled down to all citizens in well planned and visually pleasing townships.

Enjoyable company on the tour, beautiful food, wine, scenery and all those MAGNIFICENT ROSES in bloom!

## Looking back on an enjoyable year of lectures



Bill and Chair Anne Dunne give out Leichhardt catalogues to lucky members of the audience.

**February 24, 2024 launch:** Well received local guest speaker, Bill Gannon of Yeppoon, took a close look at Ludwig Leichhardt – Explorer, Polymath, Enigma



From left, John and Joy Ghea, speaker Bill Gannon and Janette Dobson.



From left, Mike Wagner, Wal Taylor, Bill Gannon and Andrew Palmer.



Rockhampton Chair Anne Dunne chats with Di and Peter Roper.



Raffle winners Penny Palmer, Ngaire and Don Kane.



Immediate past Chair Bernadette Hunt and Diane Hume.

**March 16:** UK speaker Anne Sebba's address: "Les Parisiennes - how women lived, loved and died in Paris from 1939 to 1949", gave an eye-opening account of the Nazi occupation of Paris.



Chair Anne Dunne, UK speaker Anne Sebba and treasurer Cath Dass.



UK speaker Anne Sebba, chats with Bernadette Hunt and Paul Collins.



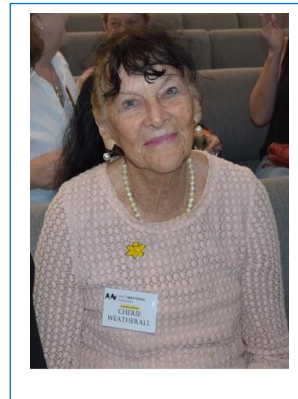
Chair Anne Dunne with speaker Kendrah Morgan. Centre: Gail Grant, Pat Handley, Ngaire and Don Kane.



**April 20:** Australian speaker Kendrah Morgan delights Rockhampton members with new and colourful insights into Melbourne's Mirka and Georges and their Culinary Affair during the 1950s

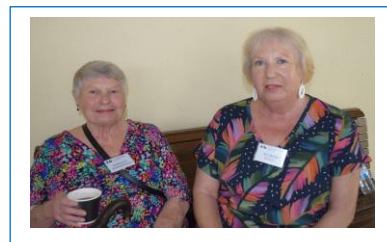
*April lecture  
continued*

Right: A thrilled raffle winner, Ann Thomas with her lovely Mirka Mora designed plate.



Far right: Committee member Cherie Weatherall.

Below Right: Barbara Zimmerman and Allison Hall.



Far Right: Margaret Featherstone and Sue Ford.

*June 1: UK speaker Anne Anderson ensured that “Everything stops for Tea,” as she explained the social history of tea drinking in the west.*



Anne Dunne and Anne Anderson show even Aussie swaggies enjoy a cup of tea.



Sandra Harris and Margaret Cowan.



Janette Dobson, Anne Burbridge and Terry Dwyer



Anne Anderson chats with Catherine Dunbar, Rae Cowie and Joy Ghea.



Leigh O'Connor, Bernadette Hunt and Lyn Harrower enjoy a cuppa.



Right: David helps Ngaire Kane fit her design pieces.



Peter Roper, Daniel Evans and Michael McCoy chat.

*July 27: UK speaker, Daniel Evans made a study of Michelangelo, warts and all, in his illustrated address: "Paper, Stone and Flesh"*



John Lowrey and Michael Peters enjoyed the lecture



Shirley Greenup and Joyce Wood.



Lyn Harrower and Jenny Macaulay.



Daniel Evans, Sandra Harris and Sarah McCosker.

*August 24: UK lecturer, Lynne Gibson attracted an enthusiastic audience when she gave two Half Interest Day lectures: "An Illustrated story of Drawing" and later "Tricks of the Light: the illusion of light and shadow in Western Art"*



Cherie Weatherall, Dianne Ericksson, Sandra Harris and UK speaker Lynne Gibson.



Chair Anne Dunne chats with UK speaker Lynne Gibson.

Centre: Dorothy Khoo and Gail Grant.

Rights: Peter Hutton, secretary Janet Gentle and Rob Macfarlane.



Maree Burke, UK speaker Timothy Walker, Helga Stolzenberg, Bernadette Hunt and Anne Dunne.

*September 21: Timothy Walker of the UK attracted the largest attendance of the year, when he spoke on "The Healing Power of Plants: Why plant derived treatments are not an alternative, instead they are the real thing".*



Sarah Parker, Inge Petersen, Jenny Macauley and Shelley Elsworth.



**Left:** Marcia Kay, Cherie Weatherall and Joy McCartney. **Right:** Carol Petherick, Robyn Fields, Robyn Bycroft, Jim Fields, Cindi Birch and Rita Zeal at the Timothy Walker lecture.



**November 9:** *American born art historian, Deborah Jenner, who currently lives in France, invited the audience to “Pull up a chair” when she examined architect-designed furniture from the Bauhaus to Frank Gehry.*

**Right:** Madhev Nagarkar, US speaker Deborah Jenner and Dorothy Khoo before the start of the lecture at the Lighthouse Baptist Church.



## Church recording project

Under the ArtsNational (ADFAS) Church Recording Project, the committee of each society can select a church in danger of closing to record the description, dimensions, history, inscriptions and age of every internal item. Stained glass windows, carved pulpits, silver chalices, beautifully embroidered vestments and old bibles are examined, measured and described, and photographed. The recorded information is collated, entered onto a computer and checked for accuracy. After printing and binding, copies are produced for the church, for ADFAS and for the National Library of Australia.

In 2018 ADFAS Rockhampton studied and record St Mark's Anglican Church, Lanarch Street.

Sadly, in recent years an astounding number of Rockhampton and district churches of all denominations, have been closed. Some re-purposed, others removed or demolished.

## When religion came to Rockhampton

*(Taken from Bird's History of Rockhampton Churches)*

The year 1861 saw ministers of religion presenting the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Baptist, Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan churches, arrive from Brisbane to bring religion to the fledgling Rockhampton community.

All initially used the Court House to hold services, until their first churches were built.

The first Anglican clergyman was the Rev Thomas Jones and the first Anglican Church was erected in 1862 and remained in use until 1883.

Presbyterian minister Rev Samuel Kelly soon gathered a good flock and quickly built a church in Derby Street. It remained in use until a brick building was erected 1893.

Rev Samuel Savage, representing the Congregationalists, had a church built in Bolsover Street.

The first Baptist minister, Mr W H Buzacott first held services from his home.

The Primitive Methodists and Wesleyans held services in the open air or in buildings offering accommodation.

By 1864 all denominations had built, and Rev Robert Hartley opened the Primitive Methodist Church in Fitzroy Street.

Father Scully saw his first wooden Roman Catholic Church built at the corner of Alma and Derby streets in 1863. It remained in use until October, 1899.

## Grazier's passion gives new life to Duaringa church

*(From ABC Capricornia 14/9/2022 and an article by Claire Mactaggart)*

Grazier Claire Mactaggart has always admired the architecture of historical buildings in the bush.

Each time she travelled the dirt track from their cattle property, 'Balcomba', 45 km north to arrive in Duaringa, one of the first buildings she passed was a small weatherboard church on the northern outskirts of the town.

The old Methodist church was built in December 1907.

So after a wild storm blew another church, the 110-year-old St Michael and All Angels church, off its stumps in Duaringa, she was resolved to save the old Methodist Church from a similar fate.

She said it was deteriorating a little, so in 2018 she contacted the parish and asked about their plans for the church.

"We met on the site and walked through the entryway, interior and minister's room

at the back. Inside was a soaring ceiling with metal rods, a raised pulpit, an organ and pews – all seemed ready for the next service.

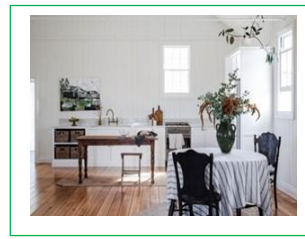
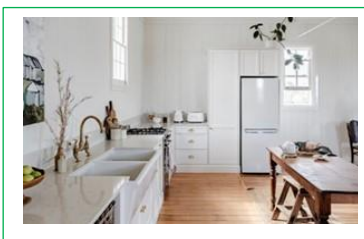
"From that moment I was hooked on the thought of bringing it back to life," Claire said.

She and her husband Andrew purchased the church and arranged to have it relocated to 'Balcomba'. Months were spent carefully restoring it, keeping as many original features as possible.

Builder Cameron McDouall said the structure's condition was as good as it could be for its age, despite some termite damage. He said it retained all its original timber carpentry.

The Mactaggart family have taken a piece of country Australia's history and breathed new life into its old timbers.

It is now a comfortable self-contained house on their property for family and visitors to enjoy



From tired, decaying church to a lovely modern home

