



BOONAH ARTS SOCIETY INC.

February 2024

Contents

- 01: January 2024 – what a month!
- 02: Current Exhibition
- 03: BASI Updates- General Meeting discussion
- 04: BASI Updates - other
- 05: Upcoming Exhibitions – Special Interest Article Nigel Gillespie by John Wright
- 06: Artsy News – artisan Artist Residency Program; Warwick Art Gallery; Somerset Art Society
- 07: BASI Calendar

January 2024 – what a month!

2024 has started with a bang!

The start of 2024 for Boonah Arts Society has included:

- finalizing an exhibition and installing a new one;
- an Exhibition Opening;
- an open meeting of productive and strategic conversations;
- heat and floods (no, not of the gallery) affecting our ability to keep the doors open;
- an article in the local paper (thanks to a talented BASI member);
- the induction of two new volunteers for Gallery reception;
- another two new volunteers for special projects;
- the commencement of upgrading our entry and security system;
- a promise of ‘working’ air conditioning later in the year;
- and exhaustion!

Thank you to the hardworking members of the Management Committee for getting up and running hard so early in the year. And a thank you also to the new volunteers; participants in the Open Meeting and for the gallery reception volunteers who have experienced the deteriorating air conditioning during the insane heat and humidity of the past month. Thank you also to the artists in the current exhibition who have provided a high standard of art work for local and visiting art lovers. Continuing to improve our standards empowers everyone to continue to produce, evaluate and improve their own work which is great for individual artists as well as the local artistic community.

On behalf of the BASI Management Committee for 2023-2024, we continue to extend an invitation to all members and community stakeholders to be part of the ongoing commitment to establish and sustain a community Arts Centre for local artists and artisans, with spaces to work, teach, socialize and display a permanent exhibition gallery for members.

Current Exhibition

Local Artist’s Showcase 2024

Over sixty art works are currently on exhibit from twenty local artists. There are a variety of acrylic, oil, watercolour, mixed media, pastel and coloured pencil paintings, as well as textile and glass art, including sculptures. There are also new, beautiful pieces in the Gallery Shop. The current exhibition runs until March 3. (NB the change to dates advertised in the last newsletter).

Go to Instagram to receive daily peeks at the current art works. Find us and like us at [boonah_arts_society](https://www.instagram.com/boonah_arts_society).



BOONAH ARTS SOCIETY INC.

February 2024

BASI Updates

General Meeting January 13

Thank you to those who responded to the recent invitation to attend the first general open meeting of the year. The meeting started off with a catch-up, including our status with regards to our service agreement with the Scenic Rim Regional Council, the lights and air conditioning in the gallery, social media and communications and volunteer increases.

Most exciting was our follow up strategic discussions with regards to our membership and volunteer program, and a vision of our future.

Key takeaways were:

1. Membership of an organization was deemed important for:
 - learning new skills
 - a feeling of purpose/relevance
 - meeting new people/social connection
 - mental health
 - productively using time and giving back
2. BASI Membership was seen as:
 - an opportunity for local artists to exhibit and sell work
 - a conduit for supporting others
 - accessible for locals
 - creating a sense of belonging
 - providing learning and social opportunities
3. To encourage BASI Membership, the following ideas were proffered:
 - themed group exhibitions
 - art competitions with prizes
 - multiple tiers of Membership
 - social events
 - membership discounts for volunteers
 - corporate sponsorship
 - partnerships with other like-minded organisations

4. The following visions of BASI's possible future were generated when considering what we might do as an organization IF we had no time, financial, space or resource constraints:
 - fixed infrastructure to cater for all the organisation's activities
 - hosting of national and/or travelling exhibitions
 - proactive engagement with art buyers and investors
 - competitions and sponsorship for large exhibitions which would have national advertising exposure
 - running conferences and workshops (some with accreditations)
 - advocating for and promoting local artists nationally
 - running 'artists in residence' programs
 - partnering with local businesses to extend 'exhibition' times and/or other Membership benefits

As you can see it was, I believe, a fruitful discussion, and just the starting point to creating a shared understanding and aims for our future operations. Of course, at this point, we are limited in time, resources, money and space, but there are also some things that the Management Committee has already been discussing with regards to our best way of addressing previously identified challenges to some of these activities.

It's not too late to have your say. If you didn't attend the meeting, send us an email with your thoughts, additions or amendments to the discussion outlined above. Or if you did attend the meeting and had some further thoughts, send them in. Thank you to BASI member, Elissa, who attended the meeting and followed up with some detailed activities/actions could possibly be implemented to achieve some of the identified goals.



BOONAH ARTS SOCIETY INC.

February 2024

Exhibition Coordinator

Thank you to those who responded to the recent callout for applicants for an Exhibition Coordinator role on the Management Committee. We are planning to make a decision with regards to this position at our upcoming Management Committee meeting in February. The Position Description was attached to the January newsletter. It's not too late to send your Expressions of Interest directly to myself or Lorinda at boonah.arts.society@gmail.com or if you missed the last newsletter or would like us to send you a copy of the Position Description. We'd love to hear from you.

2024 Member Fees

Please note that a 12 month Membership with BASI remains at a modest \$10 for 2024. A reminder notice was sent out recently to Members who had not submitted payment and I apologise for anyone who had already paid and responded thus. January was a little disrupted (see what a month!) but we are back to our regular financial recording schedule.

Gallery Shop

The Gallery Shop will continue to operate during 2024, stocking primarily BASI Member's products. If you would like to submit products for sale in the Gallery shop for consideration, please request a form through boonah.arts.society@gmail.com and we'll send one out or organise for you to pick up at the Gallery. The plan is for the current Management Committee to consider stocking rates and items at the beginning of each new Exhibition, with allowance made for products of exhibiting artists if required.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Nigel Gillespie Exhibition 2024

7 March – 14 April

Special Interest Article by John Wright

Nigel Gillespie was a teenager in Melbourne when letters written by a long-dead artist set his life on a creative journey that would lead him to the heart of Queensland's Scenic Rim.

The letters, from 19th century Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh to his younger brother Theo - the closest of his siblings - had a profound and immediate impact.

"From the moment I saw those letters, that was it," Gillespie says, more than half a century later. "I knew I wanted to be a painter. His honesty and his love for his brother was wonderful."

Curiously, Gillespie's road to artistic expression began with painting houses, not canvasses. But one naturally led to the other.

"I did a lot of jobs after high school, but the one that paid the bills was house painting. And that has been a tremendous aspect of my art - of being a painter - it made me very familiar from the start with the medium of paint."

These days, Gillespie paints in oils and beeswax and sometimes enamel, both on canvas and on paper, and his style is firmly entrenched in abstract, contemporary art.

As such, in the way contemporary art



BOONAH ARTS SOCIETY INC.

February 2024

eschews traditional representational art in landscapes, for example, Gillespie's works are expressionistic.

This is not to say he is unappreciative of representational landscapes. He lists Australian landscape painter and Heidelberg School member Sir Arthur Streeton among his favourite artists.

The creative process and the inspiration, for Gillespie, is as much about the physical application of paint and how it affects him as it is about natural beauty.

A Boonah resident for four years, Gillespie is well aware of the Scenic Rim's unparalleled beauty, but does not allow his art to be entirely defined by his surroundings.

"I was gob-smacked when I first saw the Scenic Rim and began looking for a place to live in Boonah. I found an available unit straight away and it's been a God-send.

"But the natural beauty is simply a catalyst to the process of painting...it initiates the movement that immerses me in the landscape. In that way it's more expressionism than inspirational."

Gillespie's latest solo exhibition at the Boonah Art Gallery showcases a predominantly 4ft x 4ft (120cm x 120cm) collection of oils on canvas and on rag paper framed in glass.

His use of interacting colour in many of the artworks is striking.

"I tend to paint in earthen colours - in yellows and blues - which are minimalist. "With expressionism, it's about communication between areas of paint, areas of colour, how they interact with each other.

"And I react to the paint that I put on the canvas. I'll look at it and I'll respond. I try not to be laborious. There's something in the chemistry of painting that I really love. I'm addicted to it."

The Nigel Gillespie exhibition runs from **March 7 to April 14.**

April Member's Exhibition: Theme – Celebration

17 April – 19 May

In recognition of the thirtieth anniversary of the Boonah Arts Society in 2024, BASI would like to invite Members and other local artists to exhibit art works of all media to portray the theme *Celebration*. This could be interpreted in many different ways, and the main aim is to celebrate our community, our history, our talent and our persistence. What does this look like to you? There is a registration form attached to the current Newsletter. Please feel free to distribute to artists who are not Members of BASI as well.

For this exhibition, Members and other local artists are all invited to submit art works, of which one piece will be designated as a priority for hanging. Volunteers are invited to submit up to another 4 pieces, and other Members are invited to submit another 2 pieces for possible hanging at the discretion of the Management Committee and in consideration of available space. Please provide Artist Statements as requested on the registration form (attached).

Please find attached a registration form which needs to be completed and received by BASI by Sunday 31st March.



BOONAH ARTS SOCIETY INC.

February 2024

Artsy News

Get your message out

If you would like to promote artsy events of other organisations you are part of, please drop us a message and we will do our best to include your news in our newsletter.

The Co-Director at **artisan** in Brisbane, Mr Simon Linssen, is reaching out regarding a residency opportunity they currently have open for regional craft and design practitioners. The 4-6 week residency covers all travel, accommodation, living costs and material expenses and includes a curated exhibition at artisan.

Here is a link: [Artisan Residency Program - Regional Queensland Emerging 2024 – artisan](#)

If you have any questions at all, please let Simon know at the following email address: executivedirector@artisan.org.au

artisan

45 King St, Bowen Hills, Qld 4006

www.artisan.org.au

Warwick Art Gallery have kicked off the year with two exhibitions, **Observations - Stirred, not shaken** which continues through to March, and **Paint the Town** which is about to enter its final week. The next exhibition will be **Soil & Mortar**, featuring the work of local artist Peter Osborn and Toowoomba artist, Johanna Park.

Somerset Art Society Inc has reported that the development of the Somerset Studio Artist Trail is underway. If there are artists in the Somerset region who would like to have their studio showcasing work in gallery space for the public, or any other concept, please contact president@sasiart.com.au. They are at the very beginning of building this project, and together with the Regional Council, will work to deliver a July Artist Trail for Somerset. It is important to register your interest as soon as possible.

There are also a number of exhibitions happening at **Glen Rock Gallery**, **Lowood Gallery** and **The Condensary**.

BASI Calendar

Management Committee Meetings, General Meetings & Annual General Meeting dates

The BASI Management Committee meets monthly on a Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm. The following dates are currently timetabled but may change depending on individual and/or collective circumstances. We also conduct business through email and other platforms.

February 10

March 9

April 13 (followed by a general open meeting)

May 11

June 8

July 13 (followed by a general open meeting)

August 10

September 14

October 12 (followed by the Annual General Meeting)

If you want to have a chat or offer some input, contact: **Vikki** on 0437280269 or vikki.a.rose@gmail.com or drop into the Gallery where she will be sitting at the reception desk every second Tuesday and every Friday morning.

Or **Lorinda** at boonah.arts.society@gmail.com