

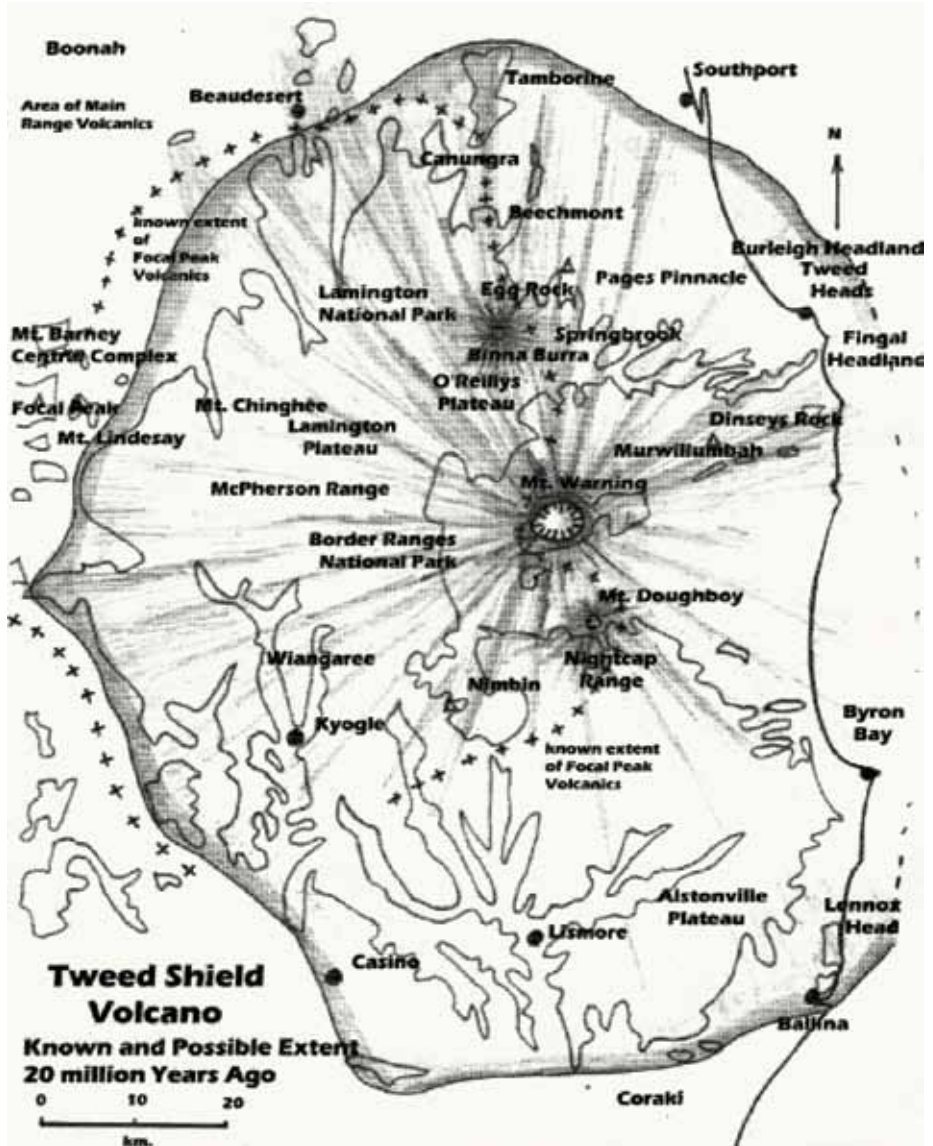
An aerial photograph of a mountain range with a river valley, overlaid with a grid pattern. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some snow patches. The river valley is lush and green, with a winding river. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The grid pattern is composed of thin, light-colored lines.

Caldera Art 10

promoting biodiversity values

in Australia's Green Cauldron

Caldera Art embraces the region as defined by the extent of the lava flows associated with the original Mt. Warning/*Wollumbin* shield volcano, remnants of which now include the Tweed Valley, the surrounding escarpments and beyond to include Lismore, Byron Bay and Ballina to the south, out to sea in the east, the Kyogle area in the west, and north to Beaudesert, Tamborine and Southport.



Map from *Tweed Volcanic Region* compiled by Bruce Graham 2001

Caldera Art 2010

Promoting biodiversity values

in the local government areas of

Scenic Rim

Gold Coast

Tweed

Kyogle

Byron

Ballina

Lismore



Published by Caldera Regional Arts Inc www.calderaart.org.au
Compiled by Andy Reimanis & Denise Scott, Printed by *Inkspot*

Caldera (*caldaria* Spanish) cauldron-like formation with volcanic origins

Venues

Caldera Art would especially like to thank the following organisations for facilitating venues for 2010 and the forthcoming 2011 events program.



Venues - 2011



Tweed River Art Gallery



Photograph by Christopher Frederick Jones



The Centre, 82 Brisbane St. Beaudesert

www.liveatthecentre.com.au

07 5540 5050 Open Tues – Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-2pm

**Scenic Rim Regional Council is proud to host Caldera Art Fellowships Exhibition
14 Oct – 11 Nov 2011**

The Centre is a modern, flexible art space that offers high-quality facilities for exhibitions, performances and community events. With air-conditioning, disabled access, ample parking, online booking facilities, gallery, theatre, meeting room and workshop spaces, the Centre is a cultural hub for residents and visitors to the Scenic Rim.

Foreword

Diversity in the cauldron – a subtropical convergence zone.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution and his famous publication "*On the Origin of Species*" in 1859 engaged in a visual re-ordering of nature. The beauty and order of this theory and how human society responded to it resulted in an artistic response that was more than an 'illustration' of ideas (Donald and Munro, 2009). In essence Darwin's genius challenged both science and art and produced the very foundation for our current understanding of biodiversity.

The word 'biodiversity' provides recognition of all species no matter how small or apparently insignificant. It includes the structural complexity of the environment, the ecosystems, and the influences of these on species diversity. This complexity gives rise to microhabitats within ecosystems, the crack in the cliff face, the hollow log on the forest floor, and the high branches of a rainforest giant all provide for different species with different needs.

The World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests, Marine Parks and associated reserves provide some security for this region's terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Here, the convergence of Australia's tropical and temperate climates has led to a unique overlap of species and a range of endemic fauna and flora. Commitment from government, commerce and local communities in ecosystem restoration on private lands is needed. Nurturing what we have helps build resilience to the ever present scenarios of climate change and urbanisation.

Caldera Art is about artists promoting awareness of the significant biodiversity values within *Australia's Green Cauldron*. In only its second year the artists have again provided artistic quality and variety that reflects the scope of subject matter. Biodiversity is a subject where art and science can consciously meet in a space that enhances both disciplines.

The United Nations declared 2010 as the *International Year of Biodiversity*, so it is timely to reconnect art and science in a regional context.

Reference

Donald, D. and Munro, J. (2009) (Eds) *Endless Form – Charles Darwin, Natural Science and the Visual Arts*. Yale University Press, London. p 344.

Dr. Amanda Reichelt-Brushett

Senior Lecturer

***School of Environmental Science and Management, Southern Cross
University***

2010 recipient of SCU Teaching and Learning Fellowship

–Science and art interactions, developing inquiry.



Caldera Art 2010

Selected works

Interpreting flora, fauna, landform and ecosystem sustainability within *Australia's Green Cauldron*



With sincere thanks to Ray Richardson, Ruth Tsimbinis, Digby Moran (jury members), Pieter Verasdonck, Mark Kingston, Claire Masters, Karen Ransome, Phil Lomas, Tweed Tourism staff & volunteers, Alex Wilkinson, Fiona Munro, Simon Berry, Carolyn Rifello, Jacqueline King, Marika Bryant, Denise Scott, Lisa Flower, Kerry Turner, Gail Hickey, Amanda Reichelt-Brushett, Helen Manning, students at the Caldera Art Space, and

all participating artists and staff within supporting organizations.



Graham ABRAHAM

Kenmore

***Wompoo Fruit-Doves
deep in the Nightcap
Range***

acrylic

76 x 122

Most of the earth's biosphere and the immense variety of flora and fauna probably seem remote and unfamiliar to most people. But often just out of our usual sight – perhaps a short distance from suburbs or a few steps from tourist trails, incredibly interesting biodiversity and natural value abounds. Wompoo Fruit-Doves, for example, though classed as vulnerable, can sometimes be seen by chance in the rainforests of the Caldera.

In my artwork, I strive to reflect on these hidden values as well as our adverse impacts on the natural environmental.

Sir David Attenborough remarks, *“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.”*



Katka ADAMS

Clunes

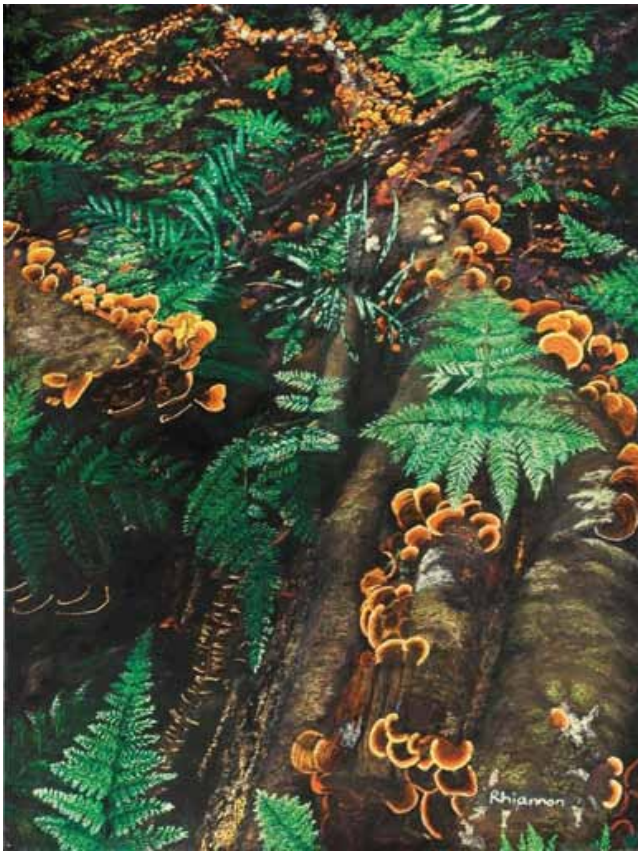
Portrait of Alectura lathami

pastel

103 x 65

Australian Brush-turkeys are threatened by habitat destruction, yet they maintain a regal disposition when strutting around gardens. Their survival often depends on the goodwill of householders who have encouraged them into populated areas by feeding them. We should welcome these fascinating creatures into our gardens (despite their occasional frantic raking of mulch to create huge nesting mounds), as an opportunity to observe the wonder of nature in our midst.

After the eggs are laid deep in the mound by the female, the male makes sure the temperature for incubation is just right (using highly accurate heat sensors inside his upper beak). He also endeavours to keep predators like dogs, cats and pythons at bay. A chick's chance of survival to adulthood is one in two hundred.



Rhiannon ATCHISON

Murwillumbah

The rainforest floor

pastel

90 x 75

This painting depicts a typical rainforest floor found deep in Lamington National Park, one of the many reserves that comprise the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests.

The composition highlights the contrast between the bright colours of the bracket fungi and ferns with the decomposing logs. This reflects the connection between the living and the dead.

The fungi, moss and lichen assist in breaking down old organic matter and provide nutrients for the new.

These nutrient cycles are vital for sustaining biodiversity and life throughout the Caldera.



Lyndall BENSLEY

Bogangar

Port Jackson Shark

BRT clay / glaze

20 x 30 x 50

The coastal waters of SE QLD and Northern NSW are home to many species of sharks, however, I am intrigued by the beauty and colouration of one in particular - the Port Jackson Shark. *Heterodontus portusjacksoni*, like many other sharks and marine life, is vulnerable to over fishing, habitat destruction and pollution.

Sharks generally are slow growing, late maturing, and have a high infant mortality rate which means their numbers are slow to recover if their habitat is disturbed in any way.

They are nocturnal feeders so if you are fishing at night, and catch a Port Jackson Shark, enjoy its beauty and carefully release it back into their fragile ecosystem.



Lloyd BULLOCK
Murwillumbah

Migaloo and friends

wood and stone

80 x 35 x 35

'Migaloo and friends' is a celebration of how far we have come with the conservation of the mighty leviathans of the deep.

Migaloo (the Aboriginal name for 'white fella') was first sighted passing Byron Bay on the 28th June 1991, and it is believed to be the only documented sighting of a hypo-pigmented all white Humpback whale in the oceans of the world.

But I still have strong memories of the OLD Byron Bay as a child! I remember the blood of whales wash up on the beach after a 'successful' whale hunt and the pungent odour that hung in the salty air from the carving up of the whale carcass.



Katherine CASTLE

Rosebank

***Heed the warning
– Red-tailed Black
Cockatoos***

oil

120 x 80

My painting reflects a scene from times past. The magnificent Red-tailed Black Cockatoo taking off to soar over the valleys below Mt Warning. This beautiful iconic Australian parrot has been listed as critically endangered. It was last seen regularly in the Tweed Valley in the 1970's, since that time there have been very occasional sightings in the far north-east NSW. The decline has been caused by land clearing and the degradation of our forests. With recovery efforts underway (establishing new habitats, food sources and general forest conservation) hopefully this painting will also reflect the future.



Luke CLOSE

East Lismore

Wollumbin

acrylic

82 x 32

This artwork was painted just fifteen kilometres from Murwillumbah. Wollumbin can be seen from a long way off, before you actually arrive. This painting honours the indigenous sacredness this landmark represents. The markings on the land represent the line designs that were used in this area on ceremony grounds, carved trees, shields and body paint design for various ceremonies. The lines running under Wollumbin represent the song-lines that pass through this amazing landmark and connect sacred places and nations together.



Mark COMFORT

Carool

Wirely strung

pastel

60 x 30

Barbed wire, an American invention in the late 1800's (labelled the 'devil's rope') faced much protest when first introduced. It was argued that it restricted the freedom of roaming native animals as well as injuring and killing them. It now straddles all parts of Australia.

The following is a list of **some** of the species in the caldera region that suffer as a result of barbed wire: Grey-headed Flying-foxes, Black Flying-foxes, Red-headed Flying-foxes, numerous species of insectivorous bats such as Eastern Bentwing Bats and Tube-nosed Bats, Sugar Gliders, Yellow-bellied Gliders, Squirrel Gliders, Black Swans, and Tawny Frogmouths.

Unnecessary barbed wire should be removed or replaced with plain wire. On small acreage, the top strand of barbed wire can be made more visible by attaching shiny objects at regular intervals.



Mark DAVIS

Ballina

Cedar Point barn

photography

56 x 70

Infrared light is not visible to the human eye. Like infrared light, the importance of the caldera biodiversity is not always visible to the human eye. A sustainable place for increased human impacts within the spectrum of living species is becoming increasingly difficult to visualise. Maintaining the abundance of flora and fauna and the unique geological integrity of the region is often in harsh contrast with agriculture, ever growing urbanisation and subsequent impact of climate change. This image contrasts the tension between the natural environment, illustrated by the tall trees, with the built environment portrayed by the old dairy barn, thereby creating a surreal image of how the region may look in the future.



Jan DRYNAN

Mt Gipps, Qld.

Bristlebird country

oil

95 x 125

The Eastern Bristlebird usually lives on high sunny ridges covered by Native Sorghum Grass and close to forested gullies. Unfortunately this combination of habitat is in short supply in the region.

Being ground dwelling birds, and usually flying only short distances, they are easy prey for wild dogs, cats and foxes. To minimise predation, bristlebirds often move through tunnels which have naturally formed between clumps of sorghum.

The male will display on fallen logs and rocks, with a melodious and piercing call to assert territorial claims.

I have tried to show the shifting light and energy of this country without following a literal interpretation. Such wild and beautiful places are rare and need to be respected. This country is also where I live, at Mt Gipps.



Karyn FENDLEY
Mullumbimby

Subdivision

mixed media

130 x 50

I am inspired by the area where I live, a pocket of remnant rainforest in the upper catchment of the Brunswick River. A land-care group involved with bush regeneration told me about some of the rare and endangered plant species in the area, and their battle with the thriving weeds that compete for space and sunlight.

We have cleared and divided the land, and introduced weeds and pests with no consideration for native species.

Subdivision refers to the degradation of the natural environment and shows native rainforest species growing by a pristine creek, and encroaching areas of cleared land and thriving weeds. The landscape divided by straight lines represents our tendency to segment and consume. The division into diptych further emphasizes this process.



Carol FORSTER

Mons, Qld

***Shell we have tea at
Byron Bay***

porcelain

12 x 58 x 30

The coastline of Byron Bay is washed by warm currents from the Great Barrier Reef, bringing down many assortments of corals and marine invertebrates. Climate change and pollution pose a threat to the future of all marine ecosystems along the east coast of Australia. Inspiration for this whimsical set of teapots came from some of the many shells found on the reefs and seashores of the Caldera region .

As you sip your tea and take in the beautiful coastline of Byron Bay, please stop and ponder on the fragility of our marine environs and the need to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.



Tanya FOUNTAIN
Tanglewood

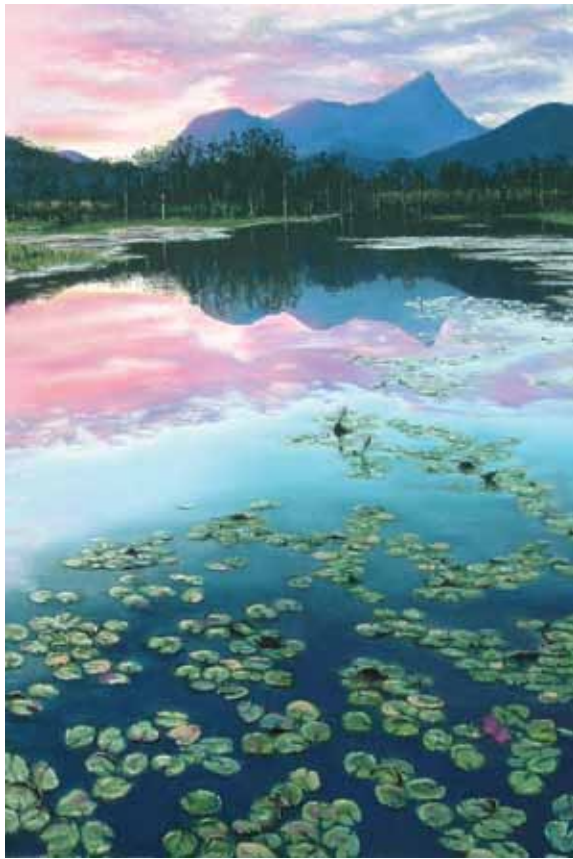
Life after the fire

photography - digital print

125 x 125

Bushfire can be devastating for flora and fauna, or can bring new life to a landscape. The ability of plants and animals to recover after fire depends on many factors including the intensity and extent of fire, time since the last fire, environmental conditions following fire, mobility and adaptability of fauna species, particular adaptations of plant species, and disturbances like weeds and feral animals.

Life after the fire illustrates the regeneration of fire adapted plants, predominantly found in wet and dry heath communities, following fires that affected large parts of Cudgen Nature Reserve in late 2009. Species photographed include Wallum and Fern-leaved Banksia, Pink Bloodwood, White's and Olive Tea-tree, Johnson's and Wallum Grass Tree, Blueberry Ash, Broad-leaved Paperbark, Swamp Water Fern, Common Ground Fern, King Fern and a Saw-sedge.



Jill GARDEN

Goonellabah

Sunset on Clarrie Hall Dam

pastel

89 x 65

Gazing across Clarrie Hall Dam from the Cram's Farm recreation area, the fire of the sunset reminded me of the volcanic origins of the landforms of the Wollumbin caldera. High rainfall and fertile soils subsequently led to the formation of magnificent subtropical rainforest. White settlement resulted in the clearing of this for agriculture, and then, in 1974, construction began on the dam, on Doon Doon Creek.

Where forests and farmlands once existed, there is now aquatic flora, such as waterlilies (including tiny fringed native waterlilies growing amongst the larger, better-known varieties), and fauna such as the Australian Bass. Unfortunately the spread of aquatic weeds such as salvinia threatens to further disrupt the biodiversity of natural waterways in this valley.



Arnie GAUTSCH

Cawongla

Our forest

slumped glass

70 x 40 x 15

Ever since moving to the caldera region in the late 90's, I have enjoyed spending time in the wonderful natural world surrounding me. When I walk on our property and hear all the different birds, smell the eucalyptus and enjoy the huge variety of wildflowers and other plants, I sometimes feel I am in heaven and my spirits soar. In my glass work, I try to show my respect for all natural things and the beauty that lies within.



Mirra-Winni GAZE

Brunswick Heads

Grandmother pot with crab trap

clay pot with woven trap

100 x 100 x 70

By weaving a web of old ancient lore I am promoting regional biodiversity values and ecological sustainability. The grandmother pot could represent the volcano and the original lava forms. The crab trap is like a spider web woven from the morning glory vine and banana stem fibre. The beauty of working with the morning glory is that you are using a weed that is strangling the native plants and making something useful out of it. Calling on the grandmother lore for protection of our environment.



Janet HAUSER

Laravale

Antarctic Beech trees

watercolour

67 x 53

ANTARCTIC BEECH

Fagus carronii, Nothofagus moorei

Botanist William Carron discovered this tree while surveying forested areas during an excursion around the headwaters of the Bellinger River in the 1870's.

Some fine examples of Antarctic Beech can be found growing at high altitude in the cool misty rainforests of the Border Ranges within the Caldera region.

Some of these magnificent moss and lichen-covered giants are estimated to be over 2,000 years old.

Their dense crowns, are often supported by multiple leaning trunks with massive butts, and huge moss-covered root systems. These gnarled root stocks are the result of the trees habit of continual coppicing from the base.

The Antarctic Beech tree is host to the **Beech orchid** *Dendrobium falcorostrum*.



Barry HENDERSON
Tweed Heads South

***Our dear departed
friends***

hoop pine, acrylic, ply, silk

103 x 45 x 21

My work is intended to challenge and shock the viewer, encased as it is within a coffin of local hoop pine. The species shown are on the 'rare and endangered list' and while inclusion on the list is not necessarily a death sentence, the reality is that very few will survive. From the smallest snail to the imposing shark, all are threatened by pollution, loss of habitat, etc. The various planes of the display point to the multi-layered commitment required from individuals and governmental bodies alike to reverse this situation. While retaining elements of specimens in a museum case, the grey pallor creeping from their hindquarters denotes the end that slowly and surely will overtake them. Rest in peace? I think not.



Pauline JOHNSON

Mt Tamborine

Life in the balance

acrylic

91 x 61

This little female Brush-tailed Phascogale hangs precariously from a branch. It also hangs precariously to its very existence. The Phascogale is threatened by predatory dogs, foxes and cats and by habitat fragmentation due to development encroaching on its territory of mature, dry sclerophyl and rainforest. They particularly need large hollow trees in which to nest.

The female Phascogale has a short life span of only 3 years whilst the male exhausts himself during the mating season and dies in 12 months.

We need to be vigilant against obliterating this shy little marsupial.

From photographic reference by Jean-Paul Ferrero,



Jacqueline KING

Dalwood

White magic

glass and steel

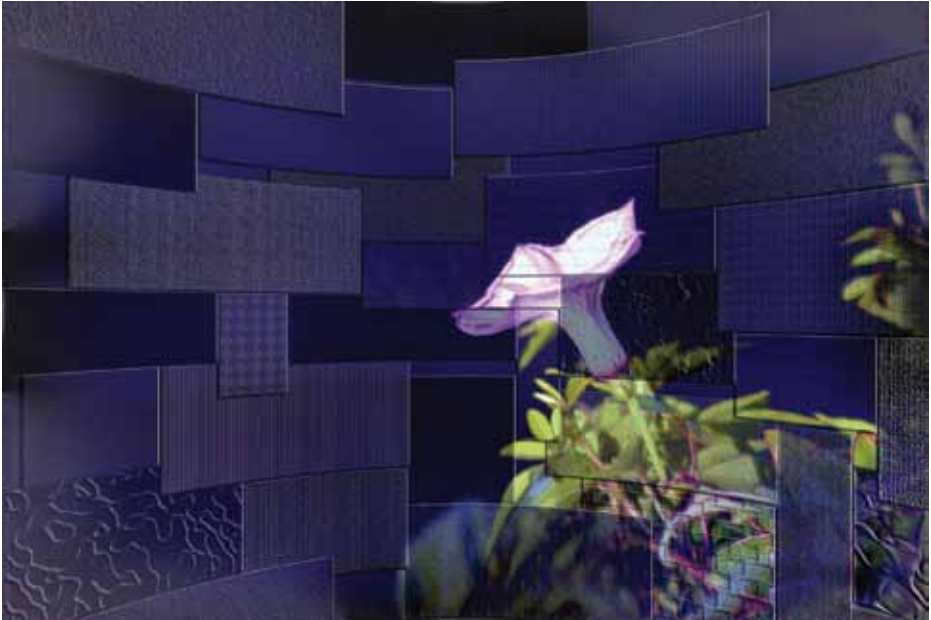
120 x 80 x 5

We are indeed custodians of nature's magic in the Caldera, with the White Cedar, *Melia azedarach*, being one of the many treasures.

One of only six native deciduous trees, it preciously reveals the changing seasons. The summer flowers bloom in lilac clusters. The yellow/white fruit often last through to winter and are poisonous to humans but not to our native birds - they enjoy the treat.

This beautiful tree grows prolifically within the Caldera, reaching up to 20m with a round crown of 8m & living for up to 20 years. It is hardy, readily propagated and can be very useful in bush regeneration as it provides a rapid shade canopy, soil stabilisation and a native food source while understory plants are establishing.

Going native? Consider a lush White Cedar for your garden.



Kristine KOWITZ

Tweed Heads

Morning Glory

photographic art print

75 x 60

As the name implies, it is in its glory in the morning and as the day progresses the petals start to roll inwards.

Some plants in our country have been introduced due to their attractive appearance. Morning Glory is one such plant, a native to tropical Africa and Asia.

It is an environmental toxic weed along our coastal region. By definition, a weed is any plant which is growing in the wrong place and is a threat to the survival of native plants. Morning Glory uses other vegetation to climb up towards the light and in doing so, smothers it.

We all need to increase our knowledge of environmental weeds and encourage planting of native alternatives.



Heidi LEDWELL

Fingal Head

***The curlew has plenty
to cry about***

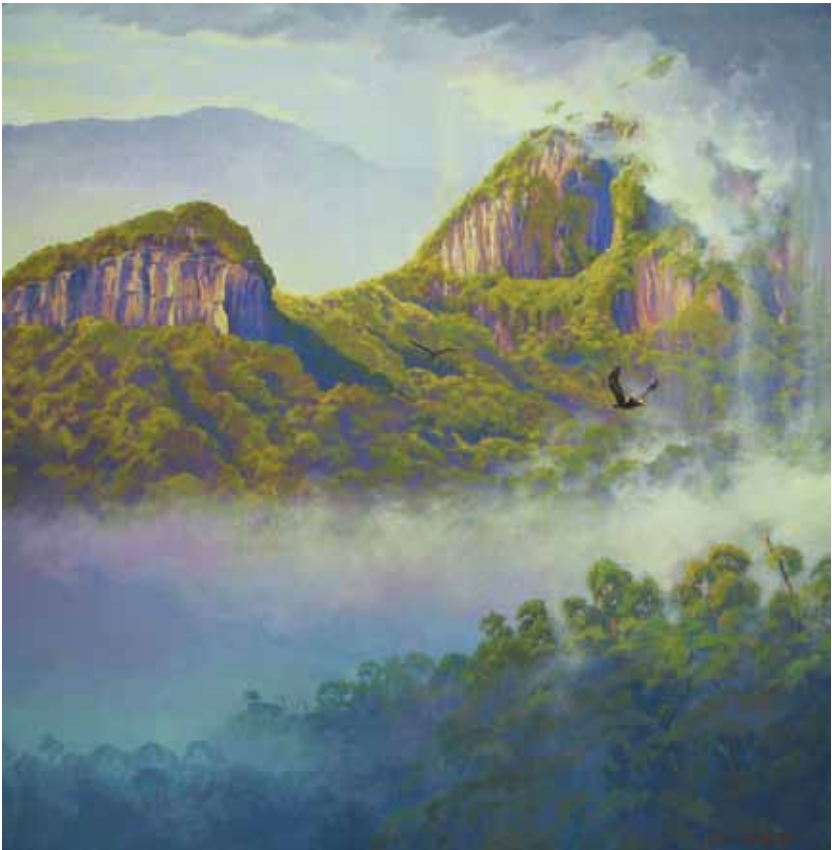
pen, ink, acrylic on plywood

66 x 96

In my beautiful home town of Fingal Head, the curlews have chosen to make a nest in a quiet corner of the local school. Here they stand vigil over their eggs. Nestled among the leaves and broken branches they have found a small pocket that allows them to blend into their environment. If threatened, they stand motionless, often in odd looking postures.

The curlew has plenty to cry about refers to the vulnerability of these majestic birds by the encroachment of suburbia and the rapid degradation of the natural flora of this region.

I have created this painting on plywood, a product used in our building industry for fast paced development. The stitching I have used up the centre represents our delicate ties with nature.



David LEWIS

Robina

Where eagles dare whilst eagles can

acrylic

97 x 95

After 25 years painting in the Springbrook area, it still has the power to move me emotionally. With every scene I paint, I feel empathy with the subject and Springbrook calls me back time after time. Its accessibility allows me to begin the work directly onto the canvas and then complete it in the studio.

The early morning light and mist in this precious remnant ancient forest creates a mysterious atmosphere. Although this scene is partly from my imagination, the view is of a section of the escarpment, looking over the top of the rainforest to the gorge below.



Phil LOMAS

Currumbin Valley

Serenity in symmetry

photo image on gloss print

130 x 87

Mt. Warning/*Wollumbin* sits serenely and symmetrically during a cool *Clarrie Hall* dawn - true balance of nature tilted only by two men in a boat.

Stripped of former freedom, *Doon Doon Creek* is unwillingly entrapped in an artificial man-made ecosystem: one lost, or one reborn?

White-breasted Sea-eagles still nest in its hardwoods and patrol for prey below. Wallabies nibble fresh shoots on grassy shores. Native bass slurp wayward cicadas and ambush unwary gudgeons. Lotus birds delicately tiptoe over floating water lilies. Migratory waterbirds make it an annual stopover. Man shares its bounty.

Natural biodiversity for better or for worse? Who knows? Still, one thing's certain; we need to think carefully, tread responsibly, and be mindful that what we change, changes everything forever.

(True confession: it's still my favourite place on earth.)



Soren MARTENSEN

Murwillumbah

Natural Arch

photography

105 x 70

Natural Arch is very special part of the Springbrook National Park. After living in the area for over 20 years, it has been with a sense of pride that I have been able to take friends and family visitors, especially at night, to see the glow worms and iridescent fungi found throughout the area. Not only is it a lovely place to visit but it also shows the contrasts of powerful natural forces with the fragility of some species. We need to appreciate such beautiful places and be reminded of our responsibility to protect them, especially if we want to continue to promote their value. We are indeed privileged to live in close proximity of such natural beauty and need to be responsible in our interaction with it.



Greg MULHERAN

Bilambil Heights

Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

watercolour, ink

99 X 40

The Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) is native to Australia's east coast, including the Caldera region.

The brightly coloured male, and the larger but less colourful female, rely on the Richmond Birdwing Vine (*Pararistolochia Pralenosa*) and the Mountain Pipevine (*Pararistolochia Laheyana*), with their colourful fruits and flowers, as host plants for the fertilised eggs.

With the clearing of native habitat, and the introduction of exotic plant species, such as the Dutchman's Pipe Vine (which is attractive to the butterfly, but toxic to its eggs), the species has now become extinct in some parts of its former range.

I hope to encourage replanting of the native host vines in order to increase the habitat and the population of this beautiful butterfly.



Barbara MURRAY

Gradys Creek

***Where orchids deck
the treetop***

watercolour on ink

77 X 68

I have a great deal of appreciation and fascination for the beauty of our forests, bird life and flora. Their tranquillity and variety inspires me to question the depth of creation. But the beauty of our region is beyond my comprehension - it's spectacular and unique.

As an artist interested in the natural world, I am continually challenged by the depth of colours and variety of shapes inherent in the flora and fauna in this region. My quest is to capture the essence of this natural beauty - it will remain a life-long endeavour.



Greg NEWLAND
Murwillumbah

Pelagic predators

watercolour pencil on
paper

90 x 70

The fishes illustrated are all fast swimming carnivores that feed on a wide variety of prey, typically hunting for food in packs or following larger carnivores such as sharks and dolphins.

The body shapes of fishes tell us much about their lifestyles. These similarly shaped species are adapted for fast swimming, with pointed snouts, streamlined bodies, and deeply forked or 'lunate' tails. These features enable them to move rapidly through the water by transferring nearly all their muscular power to the tail.

Many pelagic (swimming in open seas) species are targeted by both commercial and recreational fisheries, and are vulnerable to over-fishing. Fishery management to maintain sustainable stocks of these species is essential to help conserve our local marine resources.



Dei NEWPORT

Bilambil

Caldera's beauty

oil

80 x 112

There is an incredible biodiversity of hidden treasures in our Caldera rainforests. The various species of mosses, fungi, lichens and smaller ferns begin a regeneration cycle by assisting the break-down of spent plant material. The resultant nutrients in the soil contribute to an explosion of a kaleidoscope of larger plants and trees. Unfortunately many of these are destined to become endangered species.

We must nurture and protect this special habitat for future generations. It is my passion to paint this pristine beauty and share with others, just how special our forests are.

Walking through our rainforests, one can feel the abundant life-force healing the soul.



Shobhan OLIVER

Ewingsdale

Organic

acrylic, ink , glue, silver
leaf

101 x 46

A branch, a stem, an organic coral-like shape, found in the forests of our coastal regions, inspired me to create this 'media up' mixed media art piece.

I could not help myself drawing spore like dots on the work since this shape also resembles an elkhorn fern. This gave it even more structure, style and another level of interpretation.

It is organic matter, something that has perhaps lived and waved in water or wind. Like many natural things in this region, they were at one time influenced by volcanic activity and the forces of water.

I find the remains of pieces of organic matter, whether it be fine coral or a plant stem, fascinating.



Hobie PORTER

Uki

***Consumption: bury
the bottle***

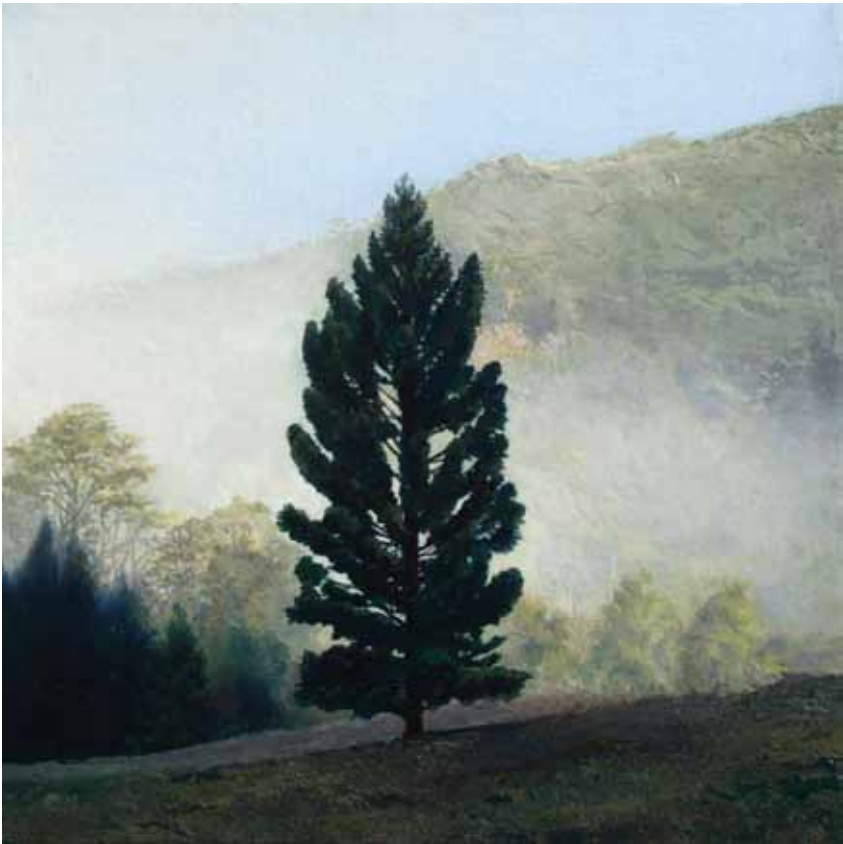
oil

36 x 36

In the last cyclone, I drove to Cabarita beach to get a sense of what nature's unleashed fury looks like. Considerable media attention has been given to Australia's precarious coastlines, including the costly real-estate beaches at Belongil Beach, Byron Bay, and Main Beach, Gold Coast.

Consumption: bury the bottle belongs to a series which explores the theme of consumption, in terms of both civilisation and the natural world. It points to the possibility of rising sea levels and extreme weather, and proposes the idea that nature itself can be a powerful consuming force.

Consumable waste often ends up on our local beaches and in the sea. A healthy ecosystem is one without waste. The painting depicts barnacles striving to consume a bottle, while, on a larger scale, the ocean threatens to consume the coastline.



Jennifer PORTER

Uki

Bio-fragment

oil

36 x 36

My painting portrays the Hoop Pine, an iconic conifer of the Green Caldera, in a typically fragmented habitat within the foothills of Mt. Warning. There is an intensity of light and low lying cloud which frequently engulfs the southern side of the mountain. *Bio-Fragment* shows the emblematic Hoop Pine [*Araucaria cunninghamii*] as a dark monolith silhouetted against a brilliantly lit morning sky.

The Araucariaceae family has managed to sustain existence from near extinction at the end of the Permian era to a sixty six million year gradual journey of recovery. The descendant Hoop Pine now occurs as an emergent environmentally friendly tree with its prickly leaves providing safe havens for nesting birdlife. Now assigned to regenerate in limited refuges within the caldera, the Tweed's Hoop Pine commonly occurs as an ornamental relic, relegated to grassy paddocks.



John PUMPURS

Eungella

Let's face it (we have a problem)

photo collage

89 x 105

All of these frogs are affected by human habitation. Some cope with habitat alteration or destruction better than others.

They all look to us for their continuing survival.

All of these beautiful frogs live in the Caldera...some in the rainforests, some beside lowland streams and some in higher altitude areas. Some even manage to survive close to human habitation.

Of Australia's approximately 220 species of frogs, about 35 are found in this Caldera region....this is remarkable in itself, but it cannot be stressed enough that their continued existence relies on our being aware of these wonderful creatures and the important role they play in our environment.

I hope these photographs help raise this awareness.



**Amanda
REICHEL-TBRUSHETT**
Lismore

***Giant Flathead – cryptic
confucius***

acrylic on canvas

45 x 60

Flathead fish belong to the order Scorpaeniforms and family Platycephalidae. They can be found in marine waters in subtropical and tropical environments and some species venture into estuaries. Of the 44 species of flathead recognised in Australian waters, nine of these are found in our region's coastal and estuarine waters. In our unique tropical-subtropical convergence zone, of these nine species some are at the southern extent of their geographic range while others are at the northern extent of their range.

They disguise well in the sandy bottom and this helps them ambush their prey. This painting strives to show the clever camouflage while identifying the fish as the subject of the painting.



Narelle ROBBINS

Tyalgum

***Mount Warning Rock
Pool II***

pastel

58 x 74

Living at the foot of Mt. Warning (Tyalgum), I can't help but be struck by its awe, beauty and sheer dominance of the local landscape.

This draws me nearer, so travelling along the road that leads up the mountain, we cross the many streams and bridges along the way and notice how the eco-climate and vegetation changes to a more sub-tropical/palm valley habitat.

This unique environment of the rock pools, streams and palms of Mt. Warning is what I wanted to capture in this pastel.



Lesley RYAN

Ballina

Harmony

watercolour

67 x 86

I have named the painting *Harmony* as it is a word that means peace, co-operation rapport, unity and attuned. This is what I feel when sitting in a rainforest, absorbing the sounds, smells and sights.

Did you know that 80% of flowering plants in the Australian rainforests are not found anywhere else in the world? Did you also know that 1 out of 4 ingredients in our medicines is from rainforest plants, eg tubocurarine, a muscle relaxant used to treat Parkinson's disease and MS (this substance cannot be artificially synthesised). If we kill the rainforests, are we killings ourselves?



Roland SCHICHT

Lismore

Towards Mt. Warning

mixed media

60 x 120

Living in Lismore, I have the best of both worlds – being relatively close to the sea as well as the mountains. And I love it. I just had to paint an image that indicated the vast amount of biodiversity found in the Caldera. The various tree species, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds that live here are to be admired for their variety. To fit the over 100 creatures (spot the marsupial mouse!) and the lighthouse of Byron on the horizon, I had to paint in a wide panorama format.



Donna SHARAM

Clunes

Endangered food source (Davidsonia jerseyana)

mixed media

100 x 90

This work depicts the *Davidsonia jerseyana* or 'Davidson Plum', a native tree that produces a small purple or crimson fruit. The original inhabitants of the region depended on this and other food from the rainforests for sustenance during certain seasons. This fruit is now important in the modern 'bush tucker' industry. The pure variety of this magnificent tree is now in danger of extinction in the wild.

This artwork, painted from a perspective of lying under the tree looking up into the canopy, uses bold colour, exaggerated texture and distorted geometric forms, symbolically highlighting this magnificent yet fragile Davidson Plum. The Caldera area has the most amazing landscapes, yet there is little pristine environment left. My love of the life that remains inspires me to paint.



Jan SINCLAIR
North Tumbulgum

Thank you for the seed

mixed media

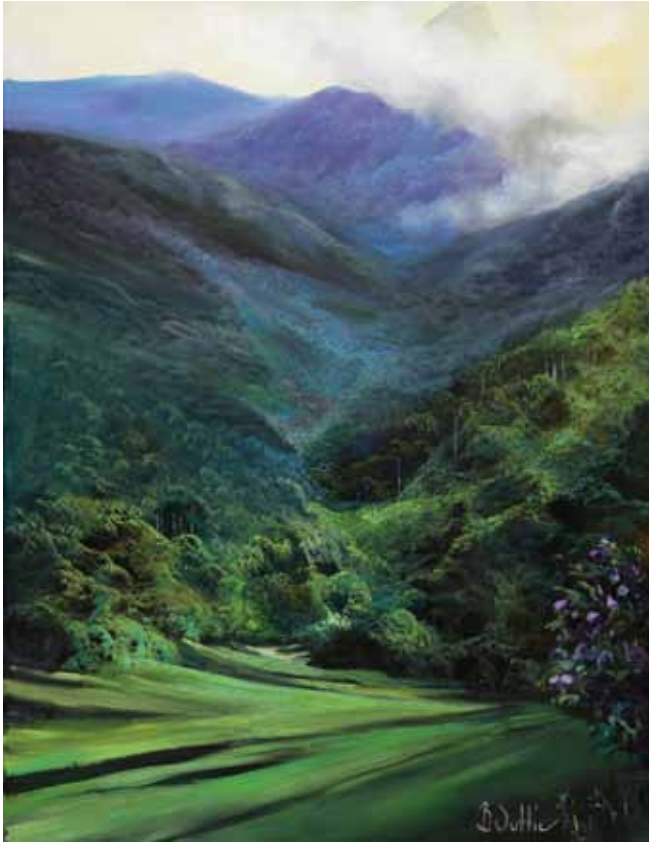
69 x 83

In this International Year of Biodiversity, I pay tribute to the Tweed's 'Man of the Trees' Bruce Chick (1910 – 2007).

His legacy lingers in the form of thousands of sub-tropical native plants throughout the Tweed and Brunswick Valleys. At his memorial service his granddaughter sang her song 'Thank you for the seed' to honour him.

I thank him regularly when I see his seedlings flowering and fruiting in parks and gardens throughout the Caldera. My first *Diploglottis campbelli* (Small-leaved Tamarind) came from Bruce in the late 1980's, propagated from seeds he had collected from one of the few natural riverine rainforest sites. This rare and endangered tree was just one of the many that Bruce helped to save from extinction.

I cannot imagine a more lasting legacy.



Barbara SUTTIE

Murwillumbah

Ancestral heavens

oil

68 x 58

The caldera bioregion of northern NSW contains some of the most diverse flora and fauna species found in Australia. This uniqueness is now under threat due to areas of habitat being destroyed or modified by human activity, introduced exotic species and climate change. The local lush, sub-tropical rainforest scene is so typically shrouded in cloud. Looking closer you will note the illusive presence of introduced species of flora. If left unchecked these could potentially choke large sections of our rainforest. Connect with others and let's become more knowledgeable on our impact when planting introduced species or eradicating what we believe is unnecessary vegetation.



Leah THIESSEN

Bilambil Heights

Endangered flora

clay, timber

95 x 95

This sculpture focuses on endangered flora within the Tweed. The three main plants I have chosen are:

White Yiel Yiel: a rainforest tree, characterised by white to pale green cylindrical flower heads 8-22cm long.

Small Leaved Hazelwood: a tall shrub that has small cream clusters of flowers and shiny succulent red fruit.

Pink Nodding Orchid: a ground orchid that has a flowering stem 15-30cm long and white to deep-pink flowers.

This world is a fragile place where many species of flora and fauna are disappearing at an alarming rate. These are just a few species we are lucky to still have in northern NSW.



**John
VAN-DEN-BROEKE**
Kingscliff

Breakfast Osprey style

photographic print

97 x 73

Imagine this Osprey with fishing line caught around its legs. It has been recorded by a park ranger that fishing line is accidentally taken to a nest by one of the parents and subsequently found wrapped around a chick's neck and wings. There have been other instances of young Osprey swallowing hooks, with the line still hanging out of their beaks.

Please use fishing lines that break down in ultraviolet light, and hooks that break down in salt water and the stomach acid of fish and birds. Not stainless steel hooks!

We all have a part to play in maintaining the region's biodiversity and ecological sustainability.

Furthermore, please don't litter our waterways, even a small cigarette butt counts.... *bin your butts*.



Susanne WALDEN

Uki

Tread softly

felted wool

10 x 14 x 31

The Fleay's Frog, *Mixophyes fleayi*, of the family of Great Barred Frogs, is found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, including Antarctic Beech forests, and usually close to permanent running water.

Frogs are considered an indicator species for changes in environments for whole ecosystems. Frogs breathe and drink through their skin, they live in water and on land, and their eggs have no protective shell from the sun and from water. Their survival depends on living in specific habitats.

The slippers are a reminder that we all create footprints, which contribute to the destruction of sensitive ecosystems and their specific habitats. Two thirds of all species in the unique and rich biodiversity of the Caldera region are at risk of extinction. The Fleay's Frog is one of them.



Koyomi WAKI

Southport

Jelly baby

acrylic and gold leaf on
canvas

60 x 92

Frogs are the gems of nature, true symbols of beauty and peace within the natural world we live in. Unfortunately, they are disappearing, falling victim to predators, disease and pollution. These precious creatures have almost become a memory to us rather than reality.

I wanted to capture the beauty, fragility and stillness of frogs. The transparency of its body, which adds the 'surreal' quality to the work, may evoke a sense of wonder if the creature is real or a fantasy.

I wanted to raise awareness to the silenced voices of these creatures, waiting and waiting for something to change for the better.



**Karena
WYNN-MOYLAN**

Bangalow

Things fallen: Green-winged Pigeon

oil on linen

20 x 90

Also called the Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps Indica*), they are fairly common rainforest doves. This painting is part of a series of 'Fallen Things' which are found on the ground underneath our feet but often overlooked.

This bird stunned itself on my studio window when chased by a currawong. It later recovered.

Camphor Laurel leaves turn beautiful colours when the trees shed before summer. Although Camphor Laurel is considered a pest in the Northern Rivers, their introduction in the early part of the 20th century saved many birds including doves and pigeons from extinction. The fact that Camphor Laurel berries form a large part of many bird's diets makes them very difficult to remove from the cleared areas of the Northern Rivers.



Caldera Regional Arts Inc
www.calderaart.org.au

Image: Barbara Suttie *There is only one earth*

B Suttie