



Newsletter - June/July 2022  
[merriwagallery@gmail.com](mailto:merriwagallery@gmail.com)

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Merriwa Gallery! Lots to share!

First up, the Gallery has a recent Instagram page, and while early days our presence is getting out there and we are reaching and connecting with interested parties and expanding the Gallery community.

So, sharing in this news catch up, includes, the Gallery makeover (so far), the recent pop - up exhibitions, the pinning down of an official opening date, July 29th (yay!), and the first three exhibition blocks being locked in!

## Make over for the Pop - ups

The schedule of the space makeover was to be 'ready' for the two pop up photographic exhibitions in June. Carpet up, purple walls gone.



The first of the two pop up photographic exhibitions took place over the Festival of the Fleeces June long weekend. Co - exhibited by Ellie Matthews 'for the love of rust' and Roger Skinner 'Landscapes et.al'

The Festival attracted a crowd and the Gallery received its fair share of attention from both locals and visitors. One of the local area FM radio station hosts came in for a tour and facilitated a live chat about the Gallery. Engaging also in the intention to promote the official opening in July.



'Staysis' from Ellie Matthews  
 Photo of local Communication Wise business owner and strong community advocate Elizabeth Griffiths



The Sunday of the long weekend saw the set up of the Community Contribution Photography Exhibition.

Visual Arts students from the local high school contributed along with four other independent contributors aged between 14 and 71!



Works from Lily Swan and Makayla Mobberley

## Lead up to the opening

The Gallery is now on restricted duties as the cosmetic overhaul continues in the lead up to the official opening. On the wish list are more white walls, along with track lighting and hanging rails. A grant submission has been written and will hopefully be the bearer of the latter of this wish list! Forge ahead we will regardless :).

While the painting continues the momentum gathered from the pop ups and increased exposure will not be waylaid! The window space is to

be visited by pop up displays and performances to let all know we haven't closed shop, but are building up to our official opening.

Muswellbrook local Maddee Phelps was the Gallery's inaugural pop up performer last Friday serenading Merriwa on the violin. Paving the way for Miss Cello to have a turn on Saturday.



## Letter Box Drop

Apart from social media forums, the opening is being promoted locally with letterbox drop flyers.



Calling for contributions for the opening of the new Gallery. The aim is to have the Gallery filled with art the residents of the Merriwa area have created.

**If you've made it, it's got a place in the space!**

Drop off is  
Tuesday and Wednesday 26th and 27th of July

Official opening is Friday July 29/7@5,  
contributing or not, all invited!

Any questions,  
[merriwagallery@gmail.com](mailto:merriwagallery@gmail.com) or Instagram.



## Exhibition agenda

The Gallery is to be programmed in two week exhibition blocks.

The first two weeks, Merriwa Area mixed medium exhibition. July 29 - Aug 11.

The following block August 12 - 25, is to be co - exhibited by Etching works local visual arts teacher and artist Hannah Waters, and Lino Printing works from new resident Ellie Matthews.

Ellie will be printing at the window over the Frid/Sat/Sun gallery opening hours, and will facilitate two three hour workshops, the first on Thursday August 18th, the other Sunday 21st. Contribution of \$20 per participant to cover cost of materials. Further information and bookings via gallery email.



It's VERY exciting to be able to confirm the exhibition 'Our First Teachers' will fill the third gallery booking block.

Tash and Roz are sisters who are proud descendants of the Gomeroi people, who have grown up on Wonnarua Country and are active members of their community.

Roz and Tash share that the exhibition is called 'Our First Teachers' as knowledge is passed down by our ancestors and is also embedded in our veins as blood memory. It is also about truth-telling and understanding our shared history is a vital stage towards healing our future.

Most of the work to be displayed has been hand crafted by Tash such as the stone tools, naturally tanned animal skins, bush medicines, wooden tools and a Gunyah (hut/shelter). Roz creates woven baskets, rope and jewellery using traditional and contemporary materials. Some techniques used have been from blood memory but both sisters have been guided and mentored by Auntie Daniella Chedzey (Auntie D) a proud Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan woman of the Pilaarrkiyalu Pilar tree Mayi, and also a registered traditional owner for Mount Grenfell.





Images from Roz's Instagram page :  
wayilaart

Tash and Roz were honoured to be a part of the Unsettled exhibition at the Australian Museum in Sydney in 2021. Roz weaved a number of flowers that are included in the Winhangadurinya (listening/reflecting/meditation) space of the Unsettled exhibition, which also includes artefacts from before colonisation, alongside artworks from around 100 other indigenous artists.

Unsettled means: This land was not peacefully settled - Unsettled uncovers the untold histories behind this nation's foundation story.

<https://australian.museum/exhibition/unsettled/>

The 'Our First Teachers' Exhibition will run from 26th August to 8th September.

Roz is open to facilitating weaving workshops on Thursday 1st September and also Friday 2nd October. Workshops capped at eight participants. For bookings and further information email the gallery.

## Important dates

26/27 July : Drop off for Merriwa exhibition block  
Contributions

29th July : OFFICIAL OPENING @ 5!!  
All ages 'bubbly' and catering on offer.  
All invited.

29th July - 11th August : Merriwa residents Mixed Medium Exhibition

12th - 25th August : Etching and Lino Print exhibition

18th August : Lino Print Workshop  
21st August : Lino Print Workshop

26th August - 8th September  
"Our First Teachers' Exhibition

September 1st and 2nd : Weaving Workshops

## Until next time.....

Plans are in the works for a high school interdisciplinary exhibition block (art/woodwork/metal work/english) - very exciting!

There have been a number of expressions of interest in the bookable two week exhibition blocks and those expressions have in turn received an information PDF.

Should facilitating a workshop sit better with you as a creator at this stage, then drop the gallery an email and lets work out what works for you!

Remember, if you've made it, it has a place in the space!

Happy creating, MG