

UP ARTISANS INCORPORATED



2024

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Its been an incredible journey of synchronicity, hard work and community support, to faciliate and manifest a gallery. A 'Be the change you want to see' moment led me to step 'up' and pioneer this ambitious project. From 2020 I enjoyed running my own weekend gallery in a shipping container on the Sassasfras site - it was then I saw it's potential as an arts precinct. When the nursery building became vacant, I took the plunge to lease it as a community gallery space. The dream was realised in May 2023 when my business plan and council planning permits were approved. On a tight budget we installed walls, lighting and hanging systems, helped by artists keen to create this inspiring new venue in the heart of Sassafras township. This location gives local artists high exposure to premium tourism visitors, which is a key to its success.

The gallery has become a showcase of diverse contemporary local art representation with a high standard of work in all genres ranging from landscape to still life to abstract works, as well as ceramics & sculpture and handmade gifts.

In February 2024 UP ARTISANS INC. incorporated as a not for profit association, which assist in access to funding streams which is needed to fund managing the running of this space. We are now a cohesive group of established artisans, all local to the area with a diverse gallery membership from 21 to 80 yo. We all regularly exhibit and help curate or sit the gallery space.

In its first year all gallery operations have been volunteer led, with my ongoing personal commitment as founding director, to build capacity for our local arts community. Having achieved a solid year of sales and trading, we achieved really good financial returns directly to artists,

As director I manage the complexities of exhibition calendar scheduling as well as website, marketing, and day to day business of selling art, paying bills and artists. Thankfully now, this workload is backed by the contributions of a dedicated committee team and more active supporting roles by many members.

Up Gallery continues to flourish and evolve as we primarily =focus on local, affordable and professional exhibition space. Our busy calendar brings us together regularly, to lift up cultural activities in the hills and profile our art both online and on walls. Exhibiting pathways for emerging artists exist though mentoring and curatorial guidance and our open call exhibitions. As a venue I feel we have really activated this Sassafras precinct to strengthen how tourists access and percieve the visual arts of the Dandenong Ranges, for all our benefit.

I sincerely thank all the members, old and new, our committee and customers who have helped us to thrive, supporting this model of an artists run intiative to see us achieve an amazing first year result! The current retail economy is tougher these last few months and art galleries will only continue with full community engagement and support. We have a strong exhibition sales history now so let's build on our strengths and talents and keep Up the vibrancy this Gallery offers us all.

Jacqueline Christians President - Up Artisans Inc.

KEY 2023-24 FY ACHIEVEMENTS

THROUGH THE DOOR ANNUAL VISITORS

26,442

WEBSITE VISITS
12 MONTHS

19,582

GOOGLE SEARCHES

26,442

KEY GOOGLE SEARCH WORDS

ART GALLERY
SASSAFRAS

SALES OFF GALLERY WALLS
OF ORIGINAL FINE ART

108

GROSS TURNOVER ARTWORK + GIFTSHOP

\$206K

BEST MONTH FOOT TRAFFIC

APRIL = 2,798

ANNUAL VISITS SOCIAL MEDIA

105,719

JULY MONTHLY
SOCIAL MEDIA VISITS

7,052

FEATURE EXHIBITION
BEST SOLO SHOW SALES

EMILY LOWE 10
KELLY KONDIS 12

BEST SALES MONTHS

AUGUST 23 SEPTEMBER 23

PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO ARTISTS (IN 1ST YEAR)

\$130,000



WE INCORPORATED AS A NOT FOR PROFIT ASSOCATION - UP ARTISANS INC. ON FEBRUARY 6 2024, NEW ABN + GST REGISTERED.

VOTED IN INAUGURAL COMMITTEEAT AGM ON MON 2 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESIDENT JACQUI CHRISTIANS

VICE PRESIDENT JUDE CRAIG

TREASURER **CAROLINE THOMAS SECRETARY** MARY LIN LITCHFIELD

SOCIAL MEDIA ANNA LIPSANE

JOHN DUKE

RAIN WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

JUDE CRAIG, BEN PHILLIPS **EVENTS**

ROSTER JUDE CRAIG

CURATION TEAM JACQUI CHRISTIANS LANA DE JAGER PRUE CROME CAROLYNNE MCINTYRE & INSTALLERS

STEPHEN GLOVER RAIN WHITE

CURRENT EXHIBITING MEMBERS 31 PARTICIPATING ARTISTS TOTAL 64

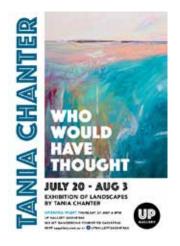
Our members are artists who live on the mountain as our primary exhibitors. These listed mountain townships fit our MADE ON THE MOUNTAIN ETHOS: Tecoma, Upwey, Belgrave, Selby, Emerald, Menzies Creek, The Patch, Monbulk, Silvan, Gembrook, Cockatoo, Avonsleigh, Olinda, Ferny Creek, Kallista, Sassafras, Sherbrooke, Kalorama and Mt Dandenong.



EXHIBITIONS 2023















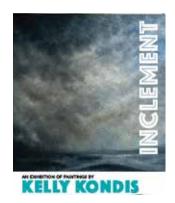








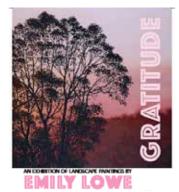
























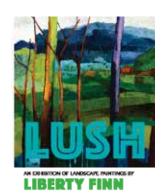










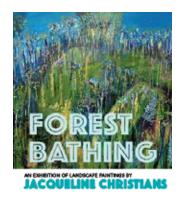








EXHIBITIONS 2023-24



















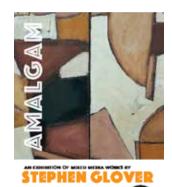


















EXHIBITIONS 2024











































CALL FOR ENTRIES

Open call exhibitions reach out to hills community artists to submit art work, some for the first time - to try out the space, encouraging new artists to step up onto walls with other artists. We have held 4 open call exhibitions and our first award exhibition 'LOCAL ICONS', which was juried with prizes and commendations. We received a \$1000 grant from YARRA RANGES COUNCIL to support the Local Icons awards event night and a \$1000 first prize from our landlords.



























ARTIST SALON WALLS



















HILLS COMMUNITY FOCUS MAGAZINE







MADE ON THE MOUNTAIN





STAR NEWS

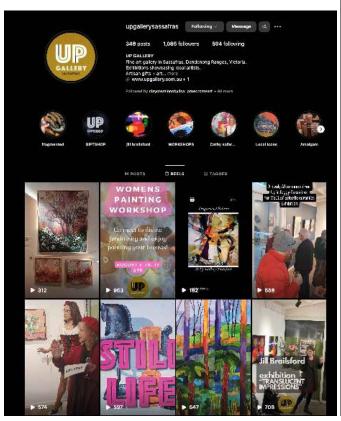


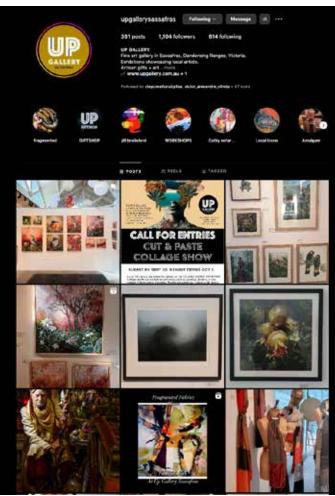




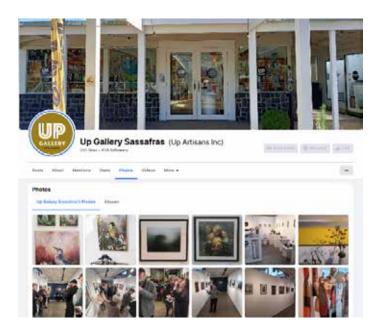


INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS 1104





FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 478



VILLAGES WEBSITE



SUBSCRIBERS NEWS

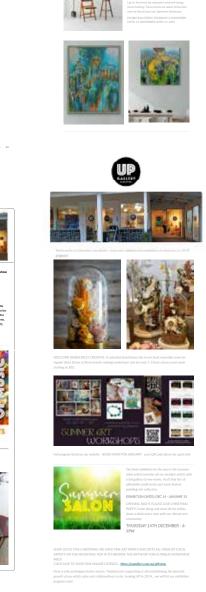
JACQUELINE !!!

NOVEMBER EXHIBITIONS

OUR SUBSCRIBER LIST HAS BUILT SLOWLY UP TO 140 IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, A MODERATE UPTAKE -SOME LOCAL PEOPLE REALLY WANT REMINDERS SO WORTHWHILE SENDING E NEWSLETTERS. 98% OPEN RATE NO BOUNCEBACKS AND BUILDS CLICK THROUGHS TO WEBSITE, & EVENT ATTENDANCE



FABULOUS NEW STOCK IN THIS MONTH HARE BY JENNY ROWE, CERAMICS MIRANDA BURGESS AND





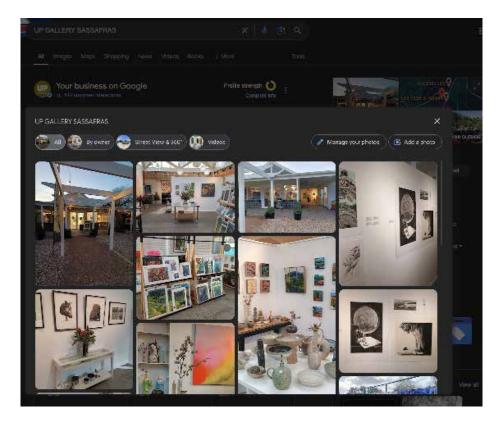




GOOGLE PROFILE

AN IMPORTANT CHANNEL TO HELP PEOPLE FIND THE GALLERY WHEN ON THE ROAD, WE HAVE SEEN HUGE SEARCH ENGINE GROWTH THIS LAST YEAR.

PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR US AND CHECKING IN, A FEW MORE POSITIVE REVIEWS WOULD HELP US AND TRYING UPDATE IMAGES OFTEN TO REFRESH FEED AS IT CAN HELP GET TOURISTS ATTENTION.

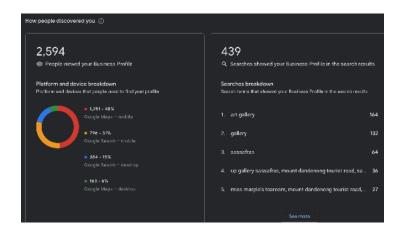


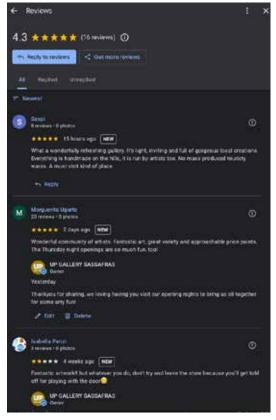
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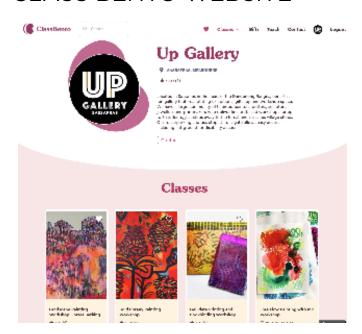




WORKSHOP + REVIEWS

The workshop spaces have been finally weatherproofed, after a Bendigo raffle prize over \$760 paid for front verandah plastic blinds to protect from winds and cold, allowing us to heat space too and to work through most seasons, except colder months of June July. This is a welcome improvement. Booking and promotions are building with lots of great reviews. The wider distribution of calendar flyers is important to promote dates well in advance and now seeing artists coming up with new dates for summer. Bento as booking choice has been seamless and payments are mostly (90%) via our website so not high commisions if booked from Bento. We turned over almost \$5000 in workshop booking last financial year.

CLASS BENTO WEBSITE



Verified reviews

We only show reviews from customers who have paid for and attended this class

Kirstin Hibbs + May 2024 ****

Loved this workshop! Mary Lin was very helpful with ideas and techniques and encouraged us to find our style! It was great to play around with colour and various tools that were available to try different, expressive mark making! Great, inspiring



Verified reviews









Verified reviews





TREASURERS REPORT

UP GALLERY

Profit and Loss

July 2023 - June 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP fees 2024	3,309.04
BOOK SALES	40.91
OPERATING GRANTS	1,000.00
Sales of Product Income	503.64
SHOP SALES	156,814.97
SPONSORS	1,600.00
STALL FEES	39,350.91
Uncategorised Income	30.00
WORKSHOPS CLASS BENTO	4,227.29
Total Income	A\$206,876.76
Cost of Sales	
GALLERY WALL CONSIGNMENTS PAID	67,427.96
INVENTORY STOCK PAID	59,250.20
Purchases	27.27
WORKSHOPS PAYMENTS	3,943.20
Total Cost of Sales	A\$130,648.63
GROSS PROFIT	A\$76,228.13
Expenses	
Accounting and bookkeeping	318.18
Advertising and marketing	2,655.32
Bank charges and fees	1,722.20
Catering event	1,587.05
Contractor J Christians	7,118.25
Gas and electricity	2,334.33
Gifts and donations	32.20
Insurance	2,609.08
MV Repairs	10.91
MV Tolls	79.17
Postage	512.46
Printing and Stationary	3,745.07
Registration & Licence	72.27
Rent	37,125.00
Repair & Maintenance	5,775.03
Square Fees	1,967.11
Staff Expenses	19.73
Subcontractors	200.00
Subscriptions	2,772.28
Telephone Expenses	654.32
Travel expenses	259.94
Total Expenses	A\$71,569.90
Other Expenses	
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss	0.34
Total Other Expenses	A\$0.34
NET EARNINGS	A\$4,657.89

FUNDRAISING

WE MUST AS A GROUP STRIVE TO GET MAJOR AND MINOR SPONSORS OR PATRONS TO SUPPORT EXHIB-TION PRIZES AND TO HELP FUND OUR EXPENSES LIKE MARKETING. THIS IS A KEY PRIORITY FOR 2025 - THE IDEA OF AN ANNUAL ART AUCTION AS MAJOR FUNDRAISER, IS SET FOR NOV 2024 ACTIVATION.



IN 2024 WE WERE ABLE TO JOIN IN THE BENDIGO BANK COM-MUNITY RAFFLE AS A COMMUNITY BASED NFP GROUP. WE RAISED \$760 TOWARD THE PATIO ENCLUSRE FOR WORK-SHOPS WHICH WAS A GREAT RESULT AND NEEDED ASSET.

GRANTS



IN 2024 WE RECEIVED \$1000 FROM YAARA RANGES COUNCIL SMALL GRANTS FUNDING TO HELP PAY FOR THE LOCAL ICONS LAUNCH EVENT OPENING NIGHT- IE: MARKETING, PRINTING POST-FRS. AND EVENT CATERING.

SPONSORSHIPS





OUR LOCAL ICONS AWARD EXHIBTION-WE HAD 3 MAJOR SPONSORS MAJOR PRIZE

- -\$1000 BY KERRY AND MALCOLM BISHOP
- \$250 BY ARTBOARDS AUSTRALIA
- \$200 FROM ARVYS FRAMING.