



About Sugar Tully

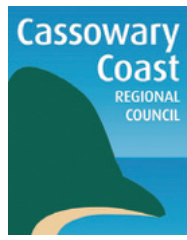


Exhibition Catalogue

Tully Masonic Centre

May 16 – June 7, 2025

A Tully Arts and Cultural Precinct Inc. Initiative



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cassowary Coast Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. Workshops to create artist books for this exhibition were supported through the CCRC RADF.

First published in Australia in 2025. Copyright © Tully Arts and Cultural Precinct Inc., Valerie Keenan, all artists listed above right, and 3E Innovative. All rights reserved.

Except under the conditions described in the *Australian Copyright Act 1968* and subsequent amendments, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, duplicating or otherwise, without the prior permissions of the copyright owner.

Cover image: Valerie Keenan, 2025

Back cover image: Debra Murray, 2024

 Publication design: Paul Gleave, 3E Innovative www.3e.au

Printed by 3E Innovative www.3e.au

Artists

Nancy Beeron	Alison Murray
Judy Brady	Debra Murray
Dick Camilleri	Emily Murray
Nephi Denham	John Murray
Joy Dinan	Madeline Murray
Carol Evans	Ninney Murray
Maria Girgenti	Bruce Parry
Christine Jenkins	Helen Pedley
Valerie Keenan	Sue Pullman
Clarence Kinjun	Kerry Robertson
Joe Leggett	Chiara Samperi
Elaine Lever	Anneke Silver
Peggy Sabadina	Sue Shannon
Peg McQuillan	David Smith
Tammy Day	Brenda Weeks-Kaye
Carolyn Moncur	Ann Wilkinson
Roger Morten	Annette Wybird

ISBN: 978-0-6457009-1-6



Introduction - *About Sugar Tully*

This project initiated by the Tully Arts and Cultural Precinct Inc., is our first exhibition and has been a fantastic journey for us. Developed to supplement Tully Sugar 100, an event which marks 100 years of operation for the Tully Sugar Mill, artists worked to a theme which considered all elements of the sugar industry in the Tully region, including the environment, farming, histories, machinery and innovation, the processes of making sugar and the people who are involved.

What you see in this exhibition is the result of 34 artists who have drawn on their own experiences and connections with the sugar industry. Some of you may have noticed people with cameras poking around looking for inspiration out in the paddocks, checking out the trains, following the planting and harvesting. Now you know why. Two groups of artists had the opportunity to walk through the sugar mill with John Edwards in the last week of the 2024 season for inspiration. Thank you John to you, the management and staff at Tully Sugar Mill for your support and bagasse sample.

Funding for a series of workshops was received through the CCRC RADF program to create artist books for the exhibition which were led by Dr Anneke Silver.

Dr Valerie Keenan, Artist and Chair of Tully Arts & Cultural Precinct Inc.



The Tully Arts and Cultural Precinct Inc. initiated the Artist Book Project to celebrate the hundred year anniversary of the Tully Sugar Mill by engaging the vibrant Tully arts community to create artist books about the sugar industry in the area.

So you may ask. What is an artist book?

It isn't a book as we know it. Artists' books as an art form, play with the idea of the book as a storyteller; always handmade, they engage in challenging and interesting ways to convey observations, histories and memories. By using images, different ways of connecting pages, and choosing materials which in themselves carry a message, these artists' books become creative objects in their own right.

The viewer becomes an active participant by having a personal dialogue with the works on display. Some are easily understood, others are more of a cryptic puzzle. Please enjoy engaging with the works in this exhibition!

Dr Anneke Silver, Arts Tutor

We are here on Gulgnay country to acknowledge country and to honour those who came before us, through this exhibition, the first exhibition of its kind for our area.

This country, bordered by Wet Tropics World Heritage areas of rainforest, river catchments and marine environments, supports a rich and diverse biodiversity. A variety of vegetation types through our region supports a host of birds, animals, plants species not found anywhere else in Australia.

There are many government and non-government entities including Marine and National Parks, Local Government, the Tully Sugar Mill, Terrain, community groups, individuals and others who are working together each with a part to play in managing our environment.

Clarence Kinjun, Artist and Gulgnay Traditional Owner

Nancy Beeron

TULLY

Nancy Beeron, a Girramay/Jirrbal Traditional Owner, is a story-teller whose great sense of humour comes through in her work. As well as being a painter, Nancy is a weaver of traditional basket forms including the jawun (bicornual basket) and mindi (small grass basket). She also likes to work with clay to create contemporary forms of the traditional fire making tool. Nancy is represented by the Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre and has had work included in numerous exhibitions across Australia and has work in a number of major collections.

You can't plant cane under the bed, 2025, Artist Book

My mum and dad would make and decorate the many different tools such as shields (bigin), firesticks (bagu), baskets (jawun). They gave me a cultural background which continues to inspire me. My work has been displayed and sold across Australia and overseas. Working with the Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre in Cardwell has helped me to mix with others and learn new skills. If you look around our area, sugar cane is everywhere, but if you think about it, you can't grow sugar every where. Not on the beach, on the mountains, in the river or under the bed? But a more serious message about the impact of sugar on the health of friends and family underlies this work.



Judy Brady

EAST FELUGA

A largely self-taught painter Judy has loved art and colour from a young age. Her rainforest home provides a perfect environment for creativity and her passionate nature is evident in her work. Her lived experience has allowed for flexibility and themed diversity. Her work is fresh and bright, non-conforming with touches of naivety and whimsy – artworks that will endure through time.



Coming Home, 2025, acrylic on canvas

The delight of seeing my driveway after many years absence from the tropics is the focus of this painting. The cane is in full flower and the sky is threatening rain. A beautiful welcome home to sugar cane country.

Early Cane, 2025 Artist Book

Workers in the cane have endured many challenging weather events, long days in a hot tropical climate showing strength and perseverance as they worked in difficult conditions. Shoulder loading cane was hard work with payments tied to weight so they had to work fast in the scorching heat. As time moved on harvesters and haul out machines now do the work of many men. But crews still work long hard hours assisted by mechanization. Diesel loco's now haul in the bins of cane for processing at the Tully Sugar Mill. The mill works continually through the season and men work a rotation of twenty-four hours a day to keep the mill supplied with sugar cane.

Dick Camilleri

TULLY

Dick Camilleri has lived most of his life in the Tully area and was farming cane from a young age. New to painting, Dick participated in the 2024 Tully 100th Anniversary Exhibition at the Tully Nursing Home.



Ages of My Life, 2025, Painting

I served as Director and Deputy Chairman of the Tully Sugar Mill and during that time I would go around and talk to everyone on farms in the area. I have painted myself as I appeared during my time at the mill.

Nephi Denham

CARDWELL

Artist, arts worker and Girramay/Jirrbal Traditional Owner Nephi has won awards, exhibited in multiple exhibitions in Australia and overseas and has work in major collections including the Qld Art Gallery, Art Gallery of NSW, National Museum and more. Nephi draws from his traditional culture to create contemporary works and has continued to hone his craft with ceramics with the Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre.



Shields on cane train bins. 2025, Artist book

My artwork is about remembering how the land was, Girramay land where traditional hunting, camping, living, places of significance criss-crossed with paths between camp sites, waterways and hunting areas.

Cleared for agriculture - cattle, bananas and mostly cane - a large area in Murray Upper has gone under cane. Jobs have been provided for many locals but the land has been scarred, no longer the rainforest where animals once lived. I hear the stories. We drive past different places to go fishing and they'd say, "You see all this boy, we used to walk through here with our mother and fathers when we was kids. Now it's all changed, the river, the land."

There are only certain places we can go now and few families will let us go on properties. There is no more walking like the old people did, crossing the land, walking through the rainforest. It's all under cane and closed off with fences and signs. The advantage of walking through rainforest on country to teach the young ones is now limited so it puts our culture at risk.



Joy Dinan

TULLY

A resident of the Tully Nursing Home, Joy is an active participant in the regular art activities. She is an inspiring artist who has recently discovered her passion and talent for painting.



Cane Beauty, 2025, Painting

Most people don't often get the chance to see sugarcane up close. By capturing the sweet, fresh cross-section of sugarcane in her painting, Joy offers viewers a unique opportunity to enjoy sugarcane closely through art.



Maria Girgenti

EAST INNISFAIL

I have worked as a freelance journalist/photographer covering sports, schools and community events in the Cassowary Coast region with feature in the Wet Tropic Times and Tully Times. I am an avid photographer of wildlife, sports/action, scenery, live concerts, people and community events. I have a keen interest in the sugar industry and enjoy photographing all aspects of the farming and milling processes.



Next Stop, Tully Sugar Mill, 2025, photograph

I grew up with my family on a small cane farm in Mossman and my father, a proud Sicilian who turns 90 in May this year, cut cane by hand in Innisfail and Babinda. I loved being around and going out on tractors and harvesters with my father and brothers, exploring

the headlands, and helping with the harvesting, planting, fertilizing and so on. During the season my favourite time was watching the cane fires light up the night sky, feeling the intense heat and inhaling the sweet smell of burnt cane.

I recently stopped and snapped this photo of a Tully Sugar train. I love how the train seems to go forever with full bins on its journey to the mill. Every time I see anything related to the sugar industry it brings back such wonderful memories of growing up on the farm. With the demise of the Mossman Central Mill after 127 year of operations I feel blessed that I live where I do, surrounded by sugarcane. I also feel that it is imperative to preserve the history of the industry for future generations and celebrate milestones such as this, the centenary of the Tully Sugar Mill.

Carol Evans

TULLY

A resident of the Tully Nursing Home Carol has never missed a single painting activity in the past 12 months. Her dedication and passion for art is truly inspiring. Despite discomfort in her right arm, Carol paints with her left hand creating works that carry a unique and expressive touch all her own.



The Night of Tully, 2025, Painting

This artwork depicts sugarcane at night. Under the dim glow of starlight the sugarcane glows bright, lighting up the night in Tully. It conveys the vibrant energy and beauty of the local community.

Christine Jenkins

TULLY HEADS

Christine spent a few decades as the Steward in the art section at the Tully Show and has an Australia Day award for the Arts. She has tried several mediums including pottery, wood carving, painting and sculpture. Her first attempt at Papier-mache using bagasse from the Tully Sugar Mill is the crocodile she has made for this exhibition and this has also been her first attempt at making artist books.



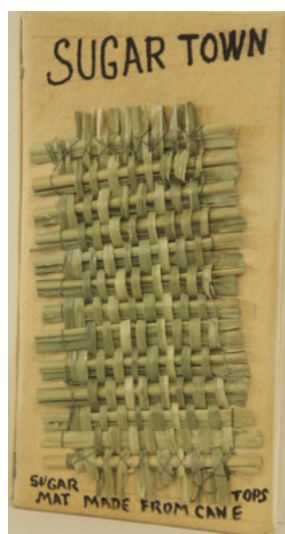
Euramo – the village among the canefields: Euramo was a popular place for farmers and cane cutters with shops for groceries and bread, the pub for entertainment and a community hall.

Sugar Town, 2025, Artist Book. The dog looking over the cab at the smoking chimneys of the mill, the cane flowers suggest it is time for harvest and the fire to start the procedure to make products from the cane.

Cane fire at sunrise, 2025, Artist Book. Images of working cane cutters and fires that look like sunrises.

Six Poetry Pages, 2025, Loose Artist Book. Tully, Night Trip to the Morgue, The Farmhand, Frog in the Loo, Little Boy Lost, Floods

Crocodile in Bagasse, 2025, Sculpture



Valerie Keenan

MURRAY UPPER

Valerie is a practicing artist with a focus on visual art, authorship, culture and Queensland history. She has a PhD (Visual Arts, Museum Studies, Ethnography) and enjoys learning new ways and working with ideas.

When I create work I aim to challenge myself both creatively and professionally, to create narratives, make a difference and inspire others.



Sweet Deal, 2025, Artist book (pictured)

This artwork, Sweet Deal, is a story about the way native animals have adapted to change in the landscape as cane farms have increased in size over time. These animals, some of whom are regarded as pests, have adapted to find different ways of negotiating their environment.

Dingoes, echidnas, sulphur crested cockatoos, feral pigs, black necked storks, wallabies, cassowaries, cane beetles, bandicoots, rats, toads (introduced) and others have variously found ways to assimilate.

Other artworks include:

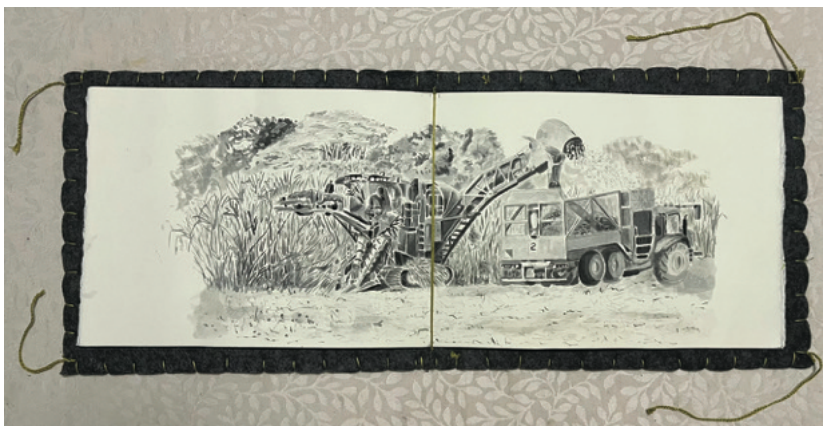
My Dad George,
2025, Artist book

Harvesting up the Murray,
2025, Artist book

Faces of sugar,
2025, Artist book

Panoramas,
2025, Artist Books

Racing to get the harvest finished, 2025, Photograph



Clarence Kinjun

DAVIDSON ROAD, EURAMO

Clarence Kinjun is a Gulgnay Traditional for the Tully area who is committed to looking after country working with multiple Traditional Owner groups and government agencies to further that aim. A maker of traditional objects Clarence has work in a number of major collections including the National Maritime Museum (Sydney), Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Art Gallery of NSW and had work in the award winning Bagu on the Strand as part of 2011 Strand Ephemera Townsville through the Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre.



Gulgnay Sugar, 2025

I was 16 years old when I started in the sugar cutting cane for the Digman family. It was my first ever paid job and I worked together with Hugh Henry. Before long I went on to work for Les Jenkins, Leo Penissi, Maingay's (planting), Hassell's and George Henry. I stripped and cut cane, did spraying, planting, discing, ripping, fertilizing, tractor work and on the 4 and 3 tonne bins hauling out. Tractors I worked on then like the Ford 5000 were all open, out in the sun. Now they are air conditioned. I really appreciated being able to learn the skills of running cane farms. I still work the cane.



Joe Leggett

WONGALING BEACH

Joe Leggett studied art in Toowoomba (DDIAF) and photography at Seven Hills ACT College in 1970 – 1980s.

Badilla #2, I chose to depict Badilla cane because of its importance in the early days of the sugar industry in the Tully District. Its distinctive form and colours can be spotted in people's yards and at various other places in the region.

2025, Acrylic on Canvas



Elaine Lever, Peggy Sabadina, Peg McQuillan, Tammy Day

TULLY

The four artists are residents of the Tully Nursing and actively participate in the regular painting activities. Each artist has great passion for creating art and painting.

Tully's Golden Tracks

Acrylic on Canvas, 30 x 160 cm

This artwork depicts the iconic sugarcane train of the Tully Sugar industry. The work combines red, white and yellow colors enhanced by the blue sky and green mountains to achieve a fantastical quality. The image of sugar filled trains showcases the abundance of the local sugar industry.



Carolyn Moncur

WONGALING BEACH

My love of the tropics was instant after arriving in the late 1970s when I was 18 after a childhood in busy Sydney. I was spellbound by the wonderland of plants, animals, fish, ocean, cassowaries and birds of this tropical paradise. My art comes from my love of this place that has held my heart.



Cane Season, 2025, Acrylic on Canvas

Cane Season is a depiction of how Tully might have looked 'back in the day'. In a time when cane was burnt at sunset and workers drank plenty of the amber ale in local pubs. They worked hard but life was more simple and everyone knew each other. The pub was the heart of the town where people met, socialized and did business. Pay cheques were cashed over the counter, stories were shared and the odd fight broke out over an argument between mates. Life was good.



Roger Morten

CARDWELL

A photographer in the RAAF for over 20 years travelling across Australia and overseas Roger's interest for wings has more recently changed to those of a feathered variety, bugs, animals and local landscapes.

Caning in the paddocks, 2025

Photographic series

The activity and innovation associated with cane farming in the Tully region is particularly labour intensive and during the harvesting season it is full on in your face 24/7 for all to see. Recording this activity has been an eye opener for me, someone who had never been on a cane farm before.



Alison Murray

MURRAY UPPER

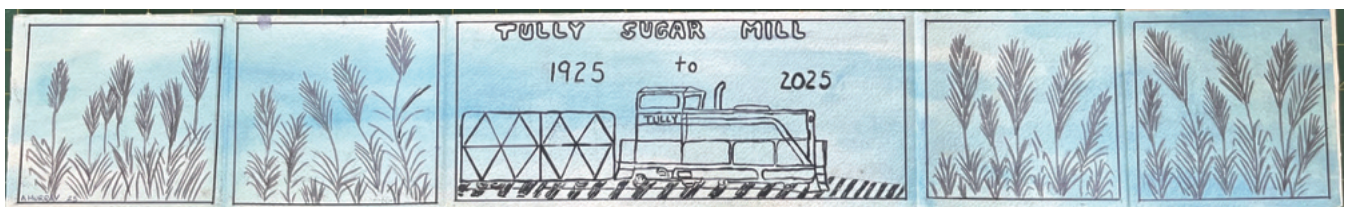
Alison Murray is a gifted artist with work included in major art collections in Australia and overseas. A Girramay Traditional Owner Alison was commissioned to create site specific works for the Cairns Performing Arts Centre and the invitation only exhibition in the prestigious TarraWarra Museum of Art in Victoria. Alison also created a large sculpture for "Taba Naba" an exhibition of Indigenous Australian artworks at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and has had artwork acquired by major collections in Australia and overseas.



Tully Sugar, 2025, Artist Book

From Then to Now, 2025, Painting

I enjoy working on cane farms in the Upper Murray area and I like being in the outdoors. We live in a beautiful place with lots of little creeks and the mountains. Every day is different and its always good to see what we've done. Not only is the farmer proud but us workers are too, to see the cane growing. We can say, "We planted that", and feel proud.



Debra Murray

MURRAY UPPER

Debra Murray is Girramay Traditional Owner living in the Murray Upper area where she works as a farm worker on cane farms in the area. Deb is also a talented artist, photographer and filmmaker with work in a number of collections across Australia and overseas. Like Alison, Deb also travelled to Monaco in 2016 with artwork and to attend the opening of 'Taba Naba' at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, the patron of which was His Highness Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco. Debra likes to paint, to work with clay and she is now trying her hand at carving.



Planting up the Murray, 2025 photograph

Out of the ground, 2025, Artist book

Sugar cane, 2025, Artist book

Ever since growing up I've always been interested in the big machines, so when I was living on farms and then working on farms, I got to see and use some of those machines. I mostly drive tractors preparing the ground, planting, getting ready for harvest, slashing, spraying and so on. I just love the big trucks, the harvesters, locos, anything with a big engine and always have my camera or phone ready to get photos, to jump down off the tractor, to run along and take photos. Something I really enjoy to do.



Emily Murray

MURRAY UPPER

Emily Murray works with both contemporary and traditional creative methods. A weaver, sculptor and painter Emily also works with textiles and will try her hand at anything. A Girramay Traditional Owner, Emily's works feature in major collections across Queensland, Australia and overseas and was one of several featured artists at Taba Naba, an exhibition of Indigenous Queensland artists at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco in 2015. She has work in the National Art Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Museum of Australia, Qld Art Gallery, Qld Museum and many other major collection.

The old ways, 2025, Artist Book

I am sharing a message with everyone about the old ways. Those old people would come down to the river where they make camp and tell us stories about how to use the shields and other tools, special plants and how to send messages. We would collect fire wood, clean up the sandbank to make the midja (house) for the old people there at Murrabul on Warrami. I have painted Bigin (shields) birrabl birrabl, bagu (firemakers) and ground orchids on a background of grass, sand and dirt, a background of country.



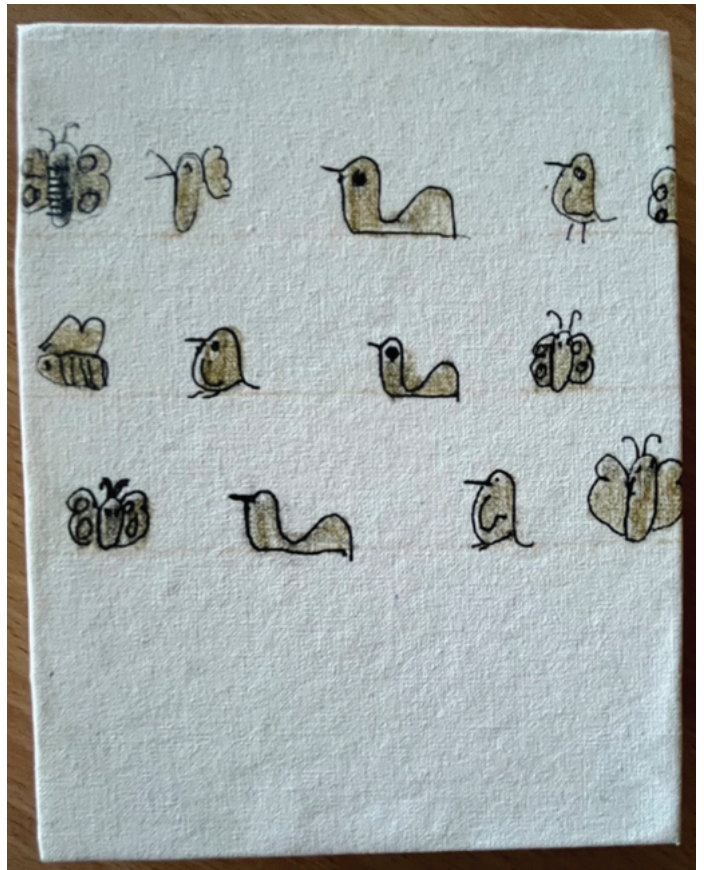
John Murray

MURRAY UPPER, TULLY

An artist of some distinction John has work in major collections across Australia and overseas, Girramay Traditional Owner John Murray, John paints his life in stories. As well as exhibiting in Australia, John has had his work shown in Paris, Monaco and Poland. John is represented by the Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre.

***Filling the bins*, 2025,**
Artist Book

I love watching and waiting for the cane bins to get filled up and when they are full they take them back to the mill to make sugar. The birds land on the bins to use them as a lookout. When you paint something it is a good way to take your mind off things, to spend time doing something I enjoy.



Madeline Murray

MURRAY UPPER, TULLY

Madeline carries on a family tradition of creativity and has wonderful talent.

***Cane train*, 2025,** Artist Book

A story about how the sugar cane goes from the farm to the sugar mill. We live beside a cane drop off point and get to see the haul-out bins, the tractors and locos. I often go up to pick up grandma from work and get to see all the planting and harvesting activity. I like to ask questions and like to know what my family members are doing.

I like to go camping and catching prawns in the river for bait or to eat. I love to swim in the creek to be out in the bush. I really like spending time with my great grandmother Emily and my other aunts.



Ninney Murray

JUMBUN

Ninney Murray is a Jirrbal artist and Elder who has worked with the Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre for many years. Her country is the Davidson Creek area and she lives at Jumbun. Ninney is a painter and weaver and has had work acquired by major collections across Australia and the world including the Qld Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of NSW. Her work was also included in Manggan – gather, gathers, gathering, a major touring exhibition over 5 states over three years.

Midja by the River, 2025, Artist Book

The old people would go out from Warrami to go camping up the Davidson. We would go out there and stay in our midja for how many months then come back again. We used to set up a bush camp half way there going out and then stay there at the same place on the way back. We would make the midja with tea tree bark or blady grass there where the cane is now and bananas too. It's all different now and we don't go there any more.



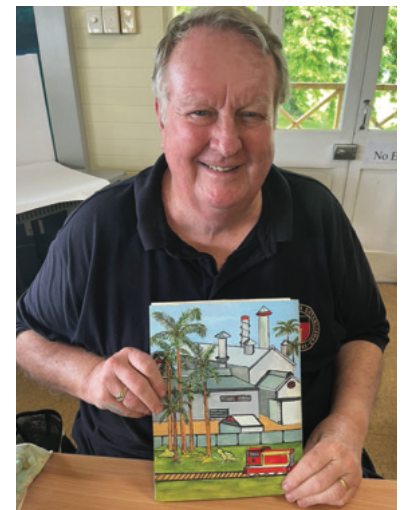
Bruce Parry

SOUTH MISSION BEACH

Bruce has always had an interest in art but have only been painting since he retired 7 years ago attending art gatherings at Mission Arts. Bruce paints mostly in acrylics but more recently he has found a love for watercolour. He has won several art prizes for both and also for photography.

Tully Sugar – 100 years, 2025, Artist Book

Living in FNQ you are constantly reminded of the importance of the sugar industry to our region. I have enjoyed taking an almost abstract naïve view of the Tully Mill and especially like the juxtaposition between the hard industrial shapes of the mill with the soft shapes and greens of the palm trees planted all around it. Our landscape is moulded by sugar cane and I am always impressed by the huge pieces of machinery that emerge out of it!



Into the Valley of Plenty, 2025, Acrylic on canvas

This work attempts to convey the drama and vivid colours of the far north - its lushness, dramatic mountains and the endless fields of sugar cane that create a feeling of awe and drama.



Helen Pedley

TULLY

Helen is a retired librarian, writer and historian with a particular interest in our local area. As a girl she learnt to crochet, knit, sew and embroider from her mother and grandmother. Helen have always practiced these crafts, learning new stitches and techniques and experimenting with different types of yarns over the years. Several of her items have won prizes at the Tully Show in the past. Helen's work is often inventive, creating her own projects rather than following patterns and using a variety of yards and colours. She often draws on features of the region for inspiration.



***Where the Sweet Things Are*, 2025, Artist book**

This artwork approaches the theme of the sugar industry in Tully through its broader context. Essential to our local economy and community for over 100 years, commencing with the construction of the mill which employed many people and its official opening in 1925. Set in a region of outstanding natural significance, the reef and the rainforest are the backdrop to our sugar-based activities. This work is a reminder that sustainable economic outcomes can be integrated with caring for the natural world. Community, industry and agriculture can work together, cherishing the treasures of our region while maintaining thriving community outcomes.

When closed this work appears to be in the form of a traditional book, but it opens concertina like. The first and last pages portray the reef and rainforest. Embedded within these two, the second page is a representation of the sugar mill itself. Page three, sub-titled *Starry night over the sugar mill and gumboot* (with apologies to Van Gogh), might prompt us to recall our place in the global community and culture with a special responsibility for our World Heritage listed neighbourhood.

Sue Pullman

MISSION BEACH

Sue Pullman was raised in Melbourne, where she spent ten years studying pastel and graphite under Janet Matthews, a wildlife master. She moved to Mission Beach in 2003 and concentrated on watercolour painting, emphasising transparency though a variety of methods to achieve different effects in a painting. Sue's artwork reflects the brilliance and looseness of brushwork which she learned to use across various subject matter. More recently she paints in oils, her artworks range from figurative to landscape studies.



***Sugar Cane Reflections*, 2025, Artist Book**

My concertina book is a series of documentary studies. This refers to the practice of using paintings as primary sources for historical, cultural and social research. The paintings are a visual record of the past, documenting a specific cane cutter gang in the Tully region.

The series of water colour studies reflect one day in the life of men working on a sugar cane farm. These gangs are a significant part of Queensland's sugar cane industry's history, particularly in the Tully region. Cane gangs were hired to perform various tasks related to cane cultivation, such as planting, digging, and cutting.

Many migrant groups formed cane cutting gangs, often living in temporary accommodation known as cane cutter barracks. Life was difficult as many men left families, wives and children, their only contact via mail. Cane gangs returned each year to the same farms around Tully and built strong relationships with their peers and farm owners.

Kerry Robertson

CARDWELL

Kerry loves making all types of things including cut pieces with my hands. Her favourite medium is hand embroidery but Kerry also uses lots of other techniques including weaving, handmade paper, basketry and photography.



Cane, 2025, Artist Book

This handmade book has used sugar in the Tully area as inspiration. Each page is different - firstly cane was incorporated into handmade paper and hand embroidery. Another page includes the side view of Mt Mackay with cane fields and another is of flowering cane. The colour and straight lines of cane was done as a weaving.

Sugar Sweets, 2025, Artist Book

You can't have a sugar mill and not look at the way sugar can be enjoyed. This is my fun way of looking at that.

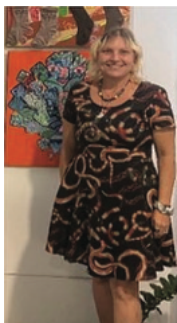
Peters Story,

2025, Artist Book in Tool Box

Peter's story is about repairing the last diesel generator before the Tully Sugar Mill was converted from diesel power generation to steam turbines.

Small Tully Mill Tour, 2025, Artist Book

A small book of our night tour of the Tully Sugar Mill in December 2024.



Chiara Samperi

TULLY

Chiara's early interest in creativity began with sign writing and creating murals and graffiti work. This led to acrylics on canvas which continues to be her favourite means of working.

Chiara has undertaken commissions, murals at schools etc, won awards and participated in many exhibitions. Her love of colour, her attraction to colour has allowed her to experiment, to touch and feel, to express the character of colour.

Tully Sugar – 100 years, 2025, Artist Book

My artist book is a narrative of words and images. It is an illustrated book all about the Tully Sugar Mill, about 100 years of progress, a history of the mill, its founders and more. Offset with cursive scripts, this hand painted water colour becomes a resemblance of the past and present.

Tully Mill in Collage, 2025, Artist Book

This small hand cut and hand folded book was great fun to make and I love the result.





Suzanne Shannon

MISSION BEACH/CAIRNS

With initial formal training through the North Adelaide School of Art, Sue's practice progressed from weaving to fabric printing, works on silk, mixed mediums and acrylics on canvas. The constants have been a drive for intuitive free expression and a love for pattern and colour.

Vibrancy, 2025, Painting

My husband Bill and I produced 12,000 tonnes of sugar annually for Tully Sugar at Bilyana for 20 years. In that time I slashed a lot of headlands and saw a lot of cane! My artwork seeks to capture and celebrate the vibrancy and strength of sugar cane as a crop. The prolific growth confined in the order of rows. I also seek to pay homage to the beauty of the surrounding environment, the mountains and the skies.



A question of balance, 2025, Artist Book

This work aims to highlight the need for balance between conserving the unique rain forest environments and the sugar plantations.

Sugarmaking, 2025, Artist Book

This work celebrates the amazing machinery and installations at the Tully Sugar Mill.

Sumptuous sugar pots, 2025, Artist Book

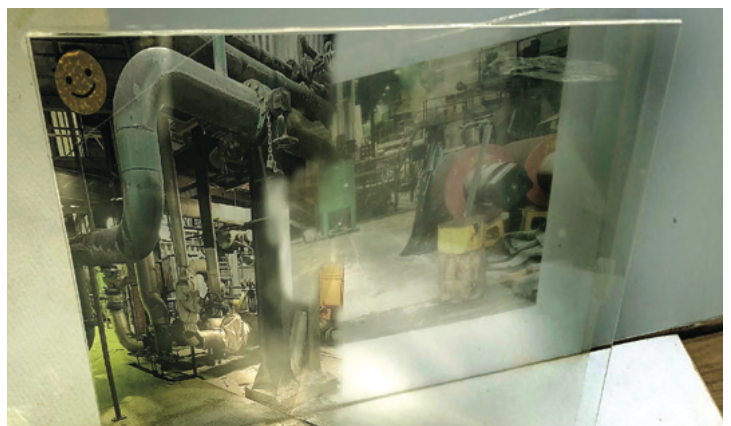
No entry, 2025, Artist Book

Delightful details, 2025, Drawings

Anneke Silver

TOWNSVILLE

Anneke is a practicing artist and art educator from 1962 to the present day and has a PhD Visual Arts. Anneke was most recently the Associate Profession and Program Leader of Fine Arts at James Cook University and has have over 50 solo exhibitions and countless group shows. Anneke also gave workshops with Flying Arts for many years. Her work in represented in major collections such as National Gallery of Australia; Queensland Art Gallery; Regional Galleries in Qld and NSW; Corporate and private collections.



David Smith

TULLY

A resident of the Tully Nursing Home David has participated in painting activities there. A skilled and artistic individual David has a keen sense for colour and enjoys gardening.



The Sweet Harvest, 2025, painting

This artwork dynamically captures the harvest of sugarcane. As June begins in Tully scenes of harvesting sugar cane can be seen in many places. This piece evokes a sense of familiarity and nostalgia for those who view it.



Brenda Weeks-Kaye

HULL HEADS

I have been painting on and off since I was a child but really got back into it in 2000. I'm working to build up a body of work to share with others.

I'm self taught but was lucky recently to have a few formal watercolour lessons whilst on a cruise to Japan. I find painting calming and a fantastic way to create special memory gifts for family and friends, and my own walls. I'd really like to now take my painting beyond my personal circle, but that's something I need to learn how to do. I don't have a particular style really - but I do love birds, animals and scenery some illustrated in the drawings here.

Many components with one outcome: SUGAR, 2025, Painting

There are a huge number of individual components which need to come together to create a single outcome – the production of sugar.

Anne Wilkinson

MURRAY UPPER

A lifetime of art, illustration and writing, both journalism and fiction, beginning with a National Diploma of Design from St Martin's School of Art in London, and including the Park Writers' Award in Australia. My most important book is "Up Country, Portraits of Rural Australia" (Cassell Australia) was included in the NSW present of 75 books for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Illustrating columns in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Weekend Australian, among many other publications, has been exciting.



View to the Cane Paddocks, 2025, Painting

Sugar cane is one of northern Australia's most important agricultural products and it is an honour to be part of the Beyond Sugar Tully exhibition for the 100 years anniversary of the Tully Sugar Mill. Living as I do on land between rainforest, bush and cane paddocks, all inhabited by wildlife, I can watch, and enjoy drawing the fascination evolution of country, forest and cane, in this amazing part of the world. Views to, and across, cane paddocks dot the lowland north, marking progress, history and the stories of this region, and are all part of the inspiration of my artwork.



Annette Wybird

KURRIMINE BEACH

At age 8 Annette discovered she could draw! Her teachers and father encouraged her and she has been drawing, painting and printing in many mediums ever since. Annette paints with acrylics, paint murals and signs using house paint.

Inferno in the Fields, 2024, painting

I lived in Tully from 1969 to the end of 1972 and fell in love with the beauty of the area. From our home looking over the town, the Tully Mill was clearly visible and the cane fires were spectacular. Now living in Kurrimine Beach, I am still inspired by the sugar industry and have produced many paintings depicting the production of sugar.



A Tully Arts and Cultural Precinct Inc. Initiative
Catalogue of Artworks for *About Sugar Tully* Exhibition
Tully Masonic Centre
May 16 – June 7, 2025



Compiled by
Dr Valerie Keenan

ISBN 978-0-6457009-1-6



9 780645 700916 >