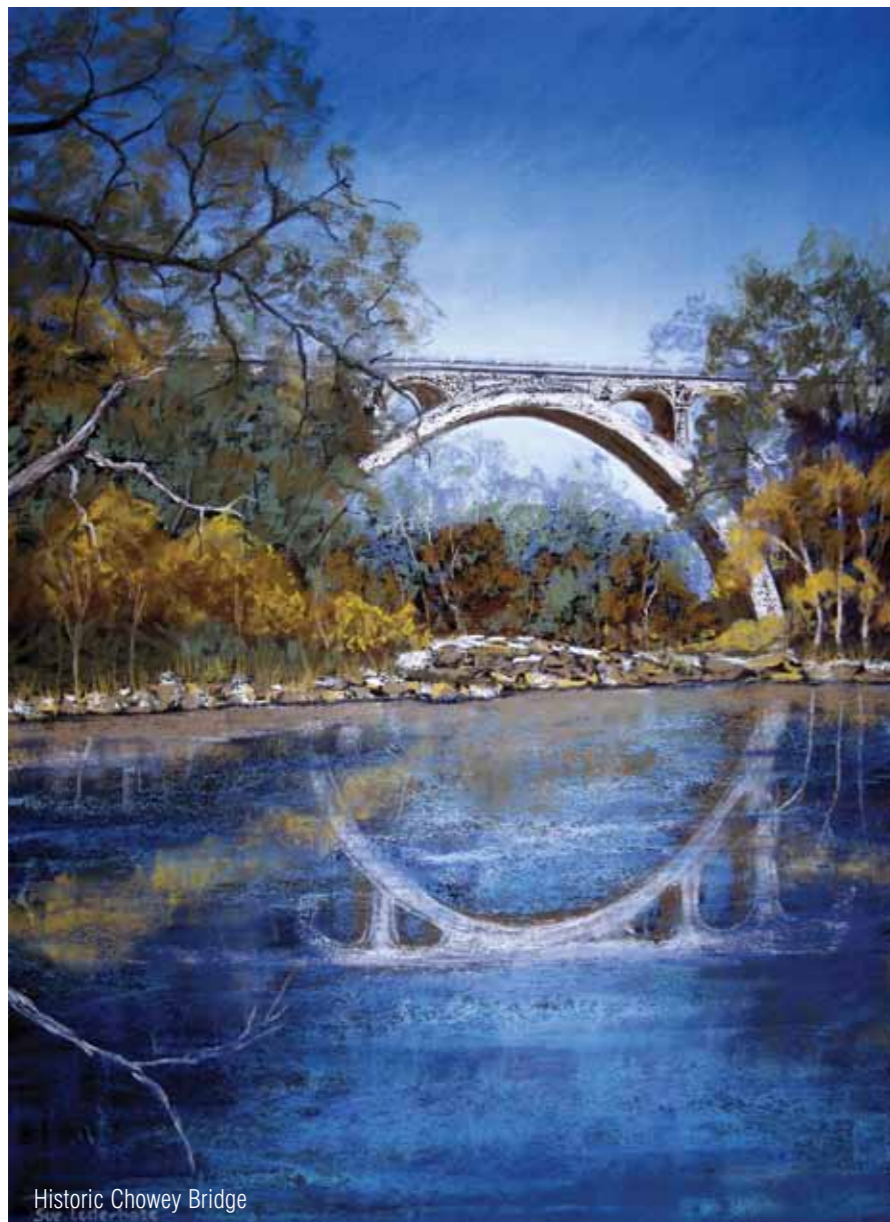


Sue Lederhose

# It's My Turn

Being a teacher, mother, business woman and active community member wasn't enough for this artist, who decided that she also needed to follow her artistic ambitions.



Historic Chowey Bridge

I began my true artistic journey 11 years ago in 2002, when I considered it was high time for a bit of selfishness in my life. I had played with creativity as a child, experimented in oils as a teenager and encouraged art in all my teaching roles as an adult. When it came time to pursue my own art dreams, watercolour was what I wanted to do. I had spent years touring galleries, studying and admiring works of art that were way beyond my financial means. In the end I decided that I just needed to paint my own!

Watercolours were inspirational because of transparent beauty and the flow of the medium. I loved the clean power that could be expressed. The techniques were initially learnt by methodically working through books obtained from the local library. I worked on a corner of the kitchen table for several years, using white dinner plates as my palette. Being of a mature age I knew what I wanted and what I could do, and was prepared to put in the hard yards to achieve it. I juggled my work as a teacher, the mother of a large family, including a newborn baby with colic, a business woman and an active role in the church and community because this was important to me. I was inspired! I was having success and my spirit was light. I have been pursuing my dream in a dogged, unrelenting fashion ever since.



Old Lights

I work in isolation, not by choice, but because this is where I live, and where my family lives, in Mundubbera, Queensland. Because of this I make every effort to attend at least one workshop a year so that I can learn more quickly from experienced tutors and to enjoy the fellowship of, and be inspired by other artists.

I am not locked into any particular methodology of painting. I love to experiment with different surfaces, different ways of applying the medium and even adding other media into watercolour. I now take pleasure in choosing between rough and HP paper, stretched canvas or yupo as my surface. I have a passion for pure watercolour but if another medium enhances my idea, I can choose from inks, charcoal, pastel, acrylic or acrylic mediums. In fact I start with an idea or an image and decide what I need to use to bring it out in the painting. I then make all my decisions based on the emotive response I am seeking.

I mostly use Arches 185gsm paper as it dries quickly and I work quickly. It is also much cheaper than a heavier weight paper. I always stretch the paper using staples to hold it in place as I have found that they are fool proof. The quality of the surface, the paint and the brushes will not make a masterpiece, but poor quality tools will always produce a disappointing result.



Country Home



Hay, Gayndah



Bald Hills, Mundubbera



Dad's Pride



Faith of a Child

As a general rule the more you paint the better you will get; it's just the number of brushstrokes!

I have an eclectic mix of paint brands in my palette, although I mostly use Windsor & Newton. My art works really benefit from the discipline of limiting my palette i.e. using between one to five colours only. To this end I spend time studying and comparing colours, using the pigment number (found on all tubers of paint) rather than the brand name. I'm not

concerned about accurate colours, especially in a landscape, as they are often quite dull or boring and do not convey the sense of the scene. I feel free to choose any colour. I'm happy to make a pink, purple, red, yellow or even a green sky. I've done a number of green skies and nobody has even noticed. When I point out that the sky is green they are surprised because it fits so well with the colour scheme, and after all tone is more important than colour.

Two other pieces of wisdom I have picked up over the years are to keep it simple, eliminate the unnecessary, and treat your paintings like a railway crossing: stop, look and listen. Stop several times during painting, step back, look and listen to what your artwork is saying to you.

As an experienced teacher I quickly found myself involved in both adult and children's classes which have been very rewarding. I love to teach and help others on their



King of the Beasts



Channah



Burnett River Pelicans

own creative journey.

I see the beauty of God's creation everywhere and paint in an impressionistic style that makes my soul sing. I realise that I am only at the beginning an exciting journey that will take the rest of my life. My ambition is to continue to learn and explore the visual arts with a passion.

**EXHIBITIONS**

In the last eleven years I have held 12 solo exhibitions at Maryborough, Gympie, Chinchilla, Wondai, Kingaroy, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Mt Perry, Monto, Eidsvold and Biloela. I have also been privileged to participate in six group exhibitions.

**AWARDS**

I have won 54 first prizes since I began to enter competitions in 2003. These prizes cover an area of over half of Queensland, from Goondiwindi to Maryborough, Nanango to Blackwater, Blackall to the Banana Shire, Laidley to Roma, and Gayndah to the QRWN competitions.

I have been privileged in 2005, in that the then Federal Member for Hinkler, Paul Neville, chose one of my local landscapes for his 2005 Christmas calendar.

In 2007 I took part in RADICUL demonstrations of art and display at the Brisbane Exhibition.

For more information view the website: [www.lederhoseart.com](http://www.lederhoseart.com)



St Mark's



Sunshine Coast