



“Off the Bitumen Track” the original art works from the 2020 Calendar and other associated pieces by Steve Mars.

This will be the fourth of my “Shed Calendars” and, after the 2019 calendar which featured “Sheds” of the Woodsdale Road, for 2020 it is back to the East Coast featuring various structures, many scarcely “sheds”, not so commonly or easily seen from the highway, from Rheban through to the Douglas River, including two from Maria Island. With some additional works featuring details of some of these buildings and a couple of others still very much with an East Coast theme.

Again it has been my intention to depict a wide variety of building types, uses, materials and state of repair, etc. I would like to thank all those people who helped with information on the accompanying texts which, for me, is an important element to appreciation of the art.

The works are all essentially pastels and inks on grey or tan paper either A3 or 30x30. All are for sale, with pick up after the closure of the exhibition on 22nd of September. The calendar itself, with a somewhat different layout this year, will be available and of course there will be cards.

The artist: Steve Mars has lived in Triabunna since 2014, returning to Tassie after 16 years on the big island where he and Maggie mainly lived in Wentworth at the junction of the Darling and Murray Rivers.

I completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts Honours Degree at the Mildura Campus of La Trobe Uni, graduating in 2014. I also have a Bachelor of Arts (history and geography) from UTas from the late 1960's and post graduate qualifications in Urban and Regional Planning from UNE from the late 1970's. I am also a Third Dan Martial Arts Master from the Utas Viet Vo Dao/Viet Vo school from the 1980's and 90's.

If I am still remembered at all in Tassie from the period from the '60's to the 90's it is probably as a town planner, possibly a drummer, perhaps a martial arts instructor/participant or even a high school teacher. I really have only seriously come to art since the late 2000's.

As with all my exhibitions I would particularly like to invite those stroke survivors out there to come along. I am a very fortunate stroke survivor, having had my major event in 2000. It was effectively seven years before I was game enough to have a go at drawing again and now, as it comes up to 20 years, I am still seeing improvements, however small and not only with my art. For us stroke survivors a reminder that while impossible may take a little longer, let's never stop trying.

Anyway, hope to see you at the opening, or failing that sometime during the subsequent month. If you are visiting Triabunna give me a ring on 0400447545 and hopefully I can make sure the exhibition is open.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Steve Mars

Triabunna