

The Native Flora of Tamborine Mountain

If you are interested in the native flora of Australia, our current exhibition, opened on 9th March, 2014, will intrigue you. Called "The Native Flora of Tamborine Mountain", it features around 300 exquisite watercolours by Redland artist Adele Price. 36 of these are on display on the walls and in glass cabinets, the other 264 are in large folders available on request.

Mrs. Price and her husband, Harmon, moved to Tamborine Mountain in 1981 and lived there for 17 years. It was there that Mrs. Price met Joy Guyatt, who was involved in pressing leaves. Adele volunteered to paint the leaves, which proved a challenge. From this Adele extended her talents to the flowers, buds, berries and pods which accompanied many of the leaves!

Here is a photo of the artist, taken on 11th March, 2014. Behind her, on the left we see the shining burrawong male cone and the female cone. To the right of Mrs Price is the red mistletoe.



All 300 depict the native plants and flowers of the Mt Tamborine region. Their vital features are pointed out very clearly, whether these be intricate leaves, delicate blooms, trailing tendrils...

Included in the collection are the scarlet native holly, the red rusty kurrajong, brown beech, purple black apple, leafy white bolly-gum, the purple native wisteria, the golden orange rosewood and the yellow groundsel, to mention but eight.

Also on display in glass cabinets are cunjevoi and native tamarind. As you can see by these images, which are typical of all 300 of Mrs. Price's watercolours, all are very large and detailed, depicting the vast variety of flora which embellish the Mount Tamborine region and make it a delight to visit.

On the right we see the cunjevoi with its large green leaves and brown tendrils. Below is the native tamarind, which also, like the cunjevoi has decorative leaves, but this time complemented by bright orange pods.



A third example of Adele's artwork is the foambark tree. This watercolour is not on display on the walls, but is in one of the folders on the table. Here it is below:



Another watercolour in the collection is the groundsel, whose flowers resemble tiny daisies and which make a lovely display in their native habitat. Here is the groundsel below:



In her artist's statement on the wall of the exhibition area, Adele has written: "I met so many interesting and knowledgeable people. It was fascinating discovering the secrets of nature, cutting fruit open, seeing the wonder of a minute flower when magnified..."

Our native flora is so well worth discovering."

Adele's exhibition certainly demonstrates this fascination.

SANDRA DAVIS.