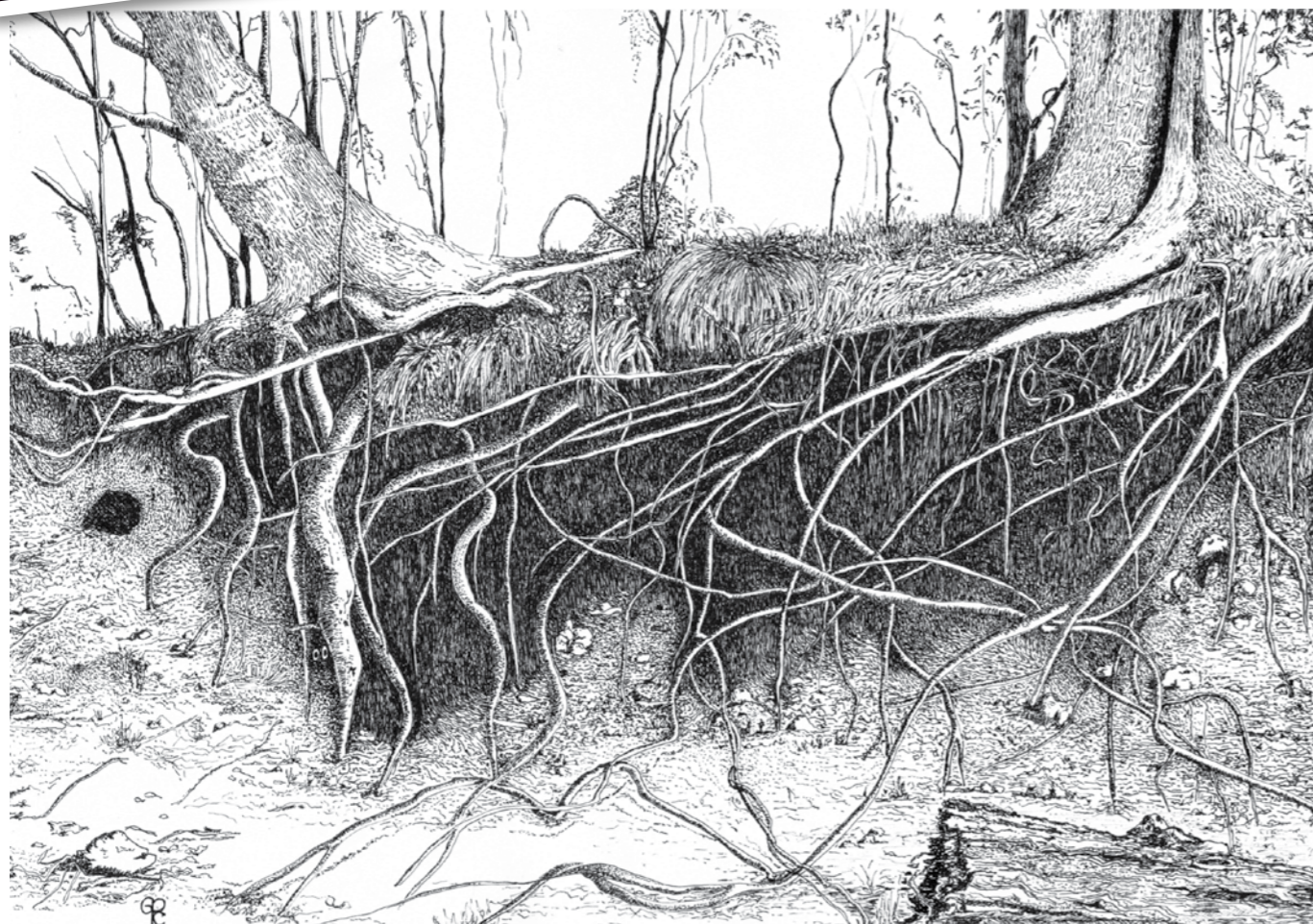


# Nature Study

Contributed by Gail P. Croome



A self-taught Queensland artist describes her painstaking technique for rendering clear and intricate images of natural subjects using an Artline ink pen.



I was born, raised and educated in Mudgee, New South Wales. After marrying at the age of 19, I moved to Gladstone in Queensland and I have resided in this area for more than 35 years.

My only 'formal art skills' were acquired at high school ... I guess you could say I've been self-taught and I have developed

my own style from what I've observed in art reference books. One artist who I greatly admire is Claudia Nice, an American.

I enjoy drawing specific aspects of the landscape, as opposed to panoramic views favoured by most artists. My inspiration to start drawing again (following a 30-year break) came after I visited a local

farm hosting an abundance of subject matter. I began by taking photographs of old wrecked cars scattered about the property; then moved on to old trees and exposed tree roots in the banks of a local creek.

I am a member of the Miriam Vale Art Group comprising seven local artists. We meet fortnightly and enjoy a range of painting styles and mediums.



## MATERIALS

- Artline ink pen – 0.1.
- 300gsm A3 acid free paper.

## STEP ONE

I draw the basic outline of trees and tree roots. I always draw directly with ink pen on paper. Usually, I prefer Artline pens (0.1 to 0.8), or Rotring pens.

## STEP TWO

I start adding more detail to the tree trunks and the creek bank.

I also begin to darken the hollow in the creek bank.





### STEP THREE

I continue with the creek bank shading, adding rocks as I progress; and drawing varying lines to give the effect of soil.

### STEP FOUR

I render the shading of the root system and finish the foreground detail. Eyes are added in the shadowed area within the root system, as a signature quirk. ■

## MASTER HINTS AND TIPS

- As a matter of interest, I recorded the time it took to complete this picture. I was surprised that it totalled 50 hours.
- Ink pens are a great medium to use when travelling as there isn't a lot of equipment to pack – just the pens and a good quality drawing pad.
- Photographs of my subjects are essential for this type of work, because of the detail and the time factor involved in achieving a finished drawing.
- I always take a camera with me on holidays and excursions.