

**BR
AG**

**BUNBURY
REGIONAL
ART
GALLERY**

WILGER
MIA

BUNBURY ART GALLERIES

**ANNUAL REPORT
2022/23**

**FREE
ENTRY**

KAYA WANJU

HELLO WELCOME



BRAG acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar Wardandi people and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

CONTENTS

Brunch @ BRAG December 2022 (cover)
Noongar Country 2022 (previous page)
Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture|Nature (last page)

INTRODUCTION	5
OVERVIEW	6
BRAG TEAM	9
OUR VISION AND MISSION	12
BRAG EXHIBITIONS	
Exhibition Overview	14
Exhibition Highlights	15
Other Notable Exhibitions	17
ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS	
Education / Creative Schools Program	18
Exhibition Specific Programs	19
Public Programs + Community Events	21
Noongar Arts Program	22
OUR AUDIENCE AND VISITORS	
By Attendance	24
By Location	25
THE CITY OF BUNBURY ART COLLECTION	27
Donations	28
New Works Acquired	29
FINANCE REPORT	30
SUPPORTS	31



BRAG exterior / DISCussions - Donna Fortescue

LOCATION + CONTACT

64 Wittenoom Street, Bunbury WA 6230
Postal Address & Contact: PO Box 21, Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone: 08 9721 7323
artgallery@bunbury.wa.gov.au | bunbury.wa.gov.au/brag

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm
Closed Mondays, Tuesdays (with exception of Public Holidays, or by appointment), Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Years Day

ADMISSION

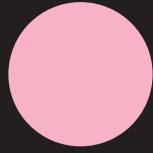
General admission to the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery is free, although donations are encouraged. Admission fees apply for most public education programs.

DONATIONS AND CULTURAL GIFTS

BRAG is registered under the Cultural Gifts Program. Information on donations to the Gallery is available on request by contacting us via the addresses above.

SPONSORSHIP

For information on becoming a Gallery program or exhibition sponsor, please contact the Director / Senior Operations Officer via email contact above.



INTRODUCTION

Housed in a distinctive pink, former convent, the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) is situated in the city centre of Bunbury, a two-minute stroll to the CBD to the east and the sparkling Indian Ocean to the west.

BRAG is the premier public art gallery in the South West of Western Australia. Boasting six formal exhibition spaces as well as community exhibition facilities, BRAG offers a diverse and stimulating program of exhibitions from regional, State and National sources.

The exhibition schedule is complemented by an extensive range of public programs, events,

functions, classes and workshops. In addition to the gallery, the BRAG building is home to a purpose-built art studio, a dance studio and an exciting artist-in-residence studio that is to be launched later this year. These spaces ensure that BRAG plays host to a wide range of activities and events ranging from art and dance classes, and social events to seminars, and professional development workshops.

BRAG is an icon in the South West community with its federation gothic architecture and distinctive pink render. The original convent and its adjacent boarding and day school was designed by M.F and J.C Cavanagh and completed

in 1898. In 1924 the Convent Chapel designed by F.W Steere was erected on the south side of the convent, in a design that was intended to complement rather than match. Over the years, a number of other buildings were constructed around these two buildings to accommodate the growing school and the nuns, but they were demolished when the city purchased the site in 1981. The remaining two buildings were redeveloped into the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery to a design by Ian Molyneux. As part of the adaptation a link was constructed between the two buildings, creating lobbies and a staircase. The gallery opened to the public in 1987 with a grand gala opening. In 2011 a rear addition,

comprising a lift, storerooms and lift lobby was completed, making the building accessible to all.

BRAG is a much loved and well used facility in Bunbury, representing art and artists in the south west. BRAG's programming supports and presents a wide range of high-quality visual art practice that includes digital, multimedia, installation, dance, music and theatre as well as traditional painting, printmaking, ceramics and drawing. The gallery's broad range reflects the diversity of this region's identity and supports its cultural and creative practices.

OVERVIEW

19,213
GALLERY
ATTENDEES

VISITORS
FROM
27
COUNTRIES

21
EXHIBITIONS

30
CREATIVES
EMPLOYED AS
FACILITATORS OR
PRESENTERS

350+
ARTISTS
EXHIBITED

\$46,716
IN GALLERY
SALES



Brunch @ BRAG | December 2022 - exterior

"It's great to see that the future of art in WA is so extraordinary"
- gallery visitor Bunbury resident

Brunch @ BRAG December 2022 | Robyn Bischoff - A Colourful Life





The City of Bunbury is incredibly lucky to have the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery as a significant asset in our City. BRAG continues to provide us with spectacular exhibitions, while providing the community with a place to learn, engage and come together. I would like to congratulate Dr. Michael Bianco and his wonderful team on their successful year, with many more exciting years to come.

Jayson Miguel
Mayor City of Bunbury



I am truly inspired by the ongoing dedication and creativity demonstrated by the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery team. Their commitment to curating thought-provoking exhibitions, fostering educational engagement, and cultivating a vibrant arts community is commendable. BRAG's role as a cultural hub not only enriches the lives of individuals but also contributes significantly to the broader arts landscape. I applaud the gallery for its role in creating our community, the many achievements to be celebrated and its ongoing efforts to connect art with people, making creativity accessible to all.

Mal Osborne
CEO City of Bunbury

BRAG

TEAM



Dr. Michael Bianco

BRAG Director

Dr. Bianco brings a wealth of qualifications and expertise to his role as the Director of the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery. With a Ph.D. from The University of Western Australia, an MFA in Art & Design from the University of Michigan, an MA in Curatorial Practice from the California College of the Arts, and nearly two decades of international arts industry experience, Dr. Bianco's achievements position him as a strong leader in the arts.

As Director, Dr. Bianco leverages his academic research skills, industry experience, and artistic talents to guide the vision and direction of the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery. His knowledge in governance, resource management, risk mitigation, and sustainability contribute to the gallery's success as a socially, economically, and environmentally responsive institution.

With a steadfast dedication to creating spaces that encourage creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity, Dr. Bianco utilises his qualifications and passion to shape the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery as a vibrant hub for artistic expression and community engagement, and as one of the major regional art galleries in Australia.



Anna Edmundson

Operations & Administration Officer

A Berlin native, Anna is a passionate individual with a deep-rooted fascination for arts and culture. From an early age, she found herself captivated by the world of ballet, which shaped her artistic sensibilities and instilled in her a profound appreciation for creativity and expression. After emigrating to Australia, Anna's love for the arts led her to pursue a career that allowed her to immerse herself in the growing cultural scene of Bunbury.

As the Operations & Administration Officer at BRAG, Anna's role encompasses a diverse range of responsibilities, including organising exhibitions, coordinating logistics, and ensuring the smooth functioning of the gallery's day-to-day operations.

With her commitment to fostering a deeper connection between art and the community and her astute coordination skills, Anna is a driving force behind the gallery's success, continually striving to create an inclusive and enriching space that celebrates the transformative power of artistic expression.



Caroline Lunel

City of Bunbury Art Collection
Curator / Registrar

As the Curator and Registrar of the City of Bunbury Art Collection, Caroline Lunel serves as the eminent carer of the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery's cherished treasures. With an unwavering commitment spanning for more than a decade, Caroline's passion for preserving and illuminating creativity stands as a testament to her distinguished career. Known for her extensive knowledge of regional practices, Caroline meticulously crafts the narrative for each brushstroke, sculpture, and installation within the gallery's hallowed halls. Her gentle and dynamic energy infuses vitality into her exhibitions, effectively metamorphosing the gallery into a thriving crucible of artistic exploration for the community.



Molly Werner
she/her
Education Officer

Molly is an artist, theatre designer, and educator. She graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Design (Fine Art) and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) project focusing on Robert Smithson's gallery installations from 1968-69. Molly also holds an Advanced Diploma of Live Performance and Management Services (Costume) from The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

As an artist and designer Molly has developed a practice that is responsive to materials and their inherent qualities. Molly's recent credits include Mother of Compost (Blue Room Theatre, 2022), Petrushka (WA State Theatre Centre, 2022), Mama Stitch (Perth Festival, 2021), and Embedded (FLUX Gallery, 2020).

Molly believes in the arts' power to build communities and works closely with a number of communities in Bunbury to deliver public education programs at the gallery.



Karen Morgan
Noongar Arts Officer

Karen comes to BRAG from the Kimberley Region, with an extensive Art career spanning over 30 years. Formally a lecturer in the Creative and Cultural Industries at North West Regional TAFE for 18 years, having delivered accredited training in both local and remote Aboriginal communities. Moving to the South West has opened the opportunity to work in the Arts across Health, Education, and Community Development. Karen has her own art practice in ceramics, painting and drawing. Her skills are underpinned by a Bachelor of Visual Arts, Edith Cowan University; Associate Diploma of Fine Arts, Charles Darwin University; Diploma in Project Management, Kimberley Training Institute and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, South West Training Institute.

Karen believes working in the art industry lies in true connection with artists and the communities she engages with. Working on Wardandi land with local Aboriginal artists through the Noongar Arts Program (NAP), BRAG has seen the NAP grow in strength and direction: a role Karen is passionate about and believes that the artists she works with are making a real imprint on the arts industry in WA.



Dee Mosca
she/her
Gallery Officer

An accomplished creative from Bunbury, Dee combines a passion for the arts with a deep interest in emerging technologies. Her career focuses on bridging the gap between art and technology, with a particular emphasis on enhancing patron experiences in art galleries.

With extensive arts management experience, Dee possesses a unique skill set encompassing retail, creative learning, and professional artistry. Having worked as a practicing artist for nearly two decades, she understands the intricacies of the creative process while effectively managing the logistical and administrative aspects of the art world working as BRAG's Gallery Officer.

Dee's commitment to improving patron experiences and exploring the potential of technologies has earned her a reputation as an innovative and forward-thinking arts professional. She actively seeks opportunities to merge art with technology, enriching engagement, and accessibility for audiences. Dee's unwavering dedication to the arts, coupled with her deep community ties in Bunbury, positions her as an asset in the realms of arts administration and innovation.



Simon Long
Exhibitions Officer

From once hiring the old library behind the school of the Old Convent, now Studio 2, as a rehearsal space for a punk rock band formed in the early '80's, Simon Long's professional trajectory encompasses a series of significant milestones. Following a brief interlude for academic pursuits in Fine Art at W.A.I.T, now Curtin University, Long's artistic pursuits matured with musical performances in and around the gallery, including the Gallery's first Birthday celebrations in 1988.

Simon then began with the then Town of Bunbury in a casual position as a Regional Attendant soon after that, to what now seems to him like almost a lifetime ago.

That would be because it is a lifetime, being as a life sentence is a minimum of 20 years, at the least, 35 years could be considered almost two life sentences, but nevertheless that is the duration of Simon Long's incarceration within the walls and nun's cells at the Bunbury Art Complex, now Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, and formerly a Convent of the Sisters of Mercy.



BRAG Casual Gallery Attendants:
Penelope Elliott, Josef Quinn, Dan Kus, Donna Greenwood,
(not pictured) Claudia Stigmayer, Katelyn Whitehurst

THANK YOU

TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF BRAG

**Helen Wildy, Maria Craddock,
Ann McLeod, Dianne Botcher,
Paul Kwiatkowski, and Elizabeth Norton**



OUR VISION

AND MISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

As the preeminent regional art gallery in Western Australia, dedicated to excellence in exhibitions, public programs, and collecting, The Bunbury Regional Art Gallery's mission is to enrich the lives of citizens through meaningful engagements with art, the environment, and Aboriginal culture, and to research, exhibit, and preserve the legacy of artists practicing in the South West of Australia.

Situated on Wardandi Noongar Boodja, one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots, BRAG places a focus on exhibiting and collecting Aboriginal, ecological, and West Australian art. Further, the gallery is dedicated to supporting community-oriented artists, and to cultivating public scholarship, intellectual curiosity, and a creative local economy. All of this situates BRAG as the central hub for visual arts and culture in the South West Australia, and as a driver for sustainable communities of the future.

OUR STRATEGIES

BRAG has five strategies that govern and guide our programs and services:

● AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Build new audiences and develop deeper connections with existing audiences in the regions through bold programming, new engagement strategies and new strategic partnerships.

● PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide professional development, training opportunities, and both residency and exhibition opportunities for regional artists, arts workers and volunteers.

● ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Make the gallery accessible to community members with special needs, and culturally safe for members of the community that identify as aboriginal and/or linguistically and culturally diverse.

● PARTNERSHIPS

Enable and build partnerships that support employment in the arts and creative industries in regional Western Australia and connect artists and artworkers to both a national and international network.

● COMMERCIAL VIABILITY

Increase the reach and efficiency of marketing through new and improved channels to ensure more promotion and sales opportunities for WA artists.



The Lester Prize: The Regional Tour



BRAG

EXHIBITIONS

*Noongar Country 2022 | Kaarla Koort-Ak: Woonya, Moort, Boodja
| Hearts on Fire: Love, Family, Country*

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

● REGULAR RECURRING EXHIBITIONS

Including South West Art Now, Noongar Country and Iluka Visions. Aimed at providing opportunities for a wide range of artists to submit one or a few new works for inclusion in large group exhibitions.

● TOURING EXHIBITIONS

WA, National and International touring exhibitions from various touring agencies. Exhibitions that bring to Bunbury the best of contemporary art, craft and design practice.

● COLLECTION EXHIBITIONS

These curated exhibitions explore the range and diversity of the City of Bunbury Art Collection through of a variety of curatorial approaches.

● MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

By established, senior South West artists. Aimed at acknowledging and celebrating sustained commitment to, and on-going development of, their arts practice and their major contribution to the visual culture of the State.

● NEW WORK EXHIBITIONS

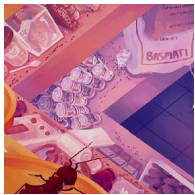
By established and mid-career South West artists. Aimed at providing artists with the opportunity to exhibit a body of new work.



WONDERS OF THE WORLD | TONY WINDBERG

11 June '22 - 21 August '22

Images of antiquity - Roman ruins, Greek temples, the Pyramids and Petra - are resurrected from black and white photographs of century old volumes of Wonders of the Past. These combine with scenes of a wild terrain of sand and stone, a new frontier, the pristine landscapes of Mars. Windberg's innovative use of materials and techniques connects the artworks to his subject through a mix of traditional and non-conventional art materials. Iron oxides reflect the rusty hues of Mars, chalk and marble dust the limestone temples and pyramids. Surfaces and textures are methodically built up then 'weathered' to suggest the passage of time. In this thought-provoking exhibition of contrasts and contradictions, the rise and fall of empires reveals our strengths and weaknesses, our achievements and vulnerabilities. Human civilisation has built great monuments and achieved extraordinary heights as we look to other worlds. Do we have the power to save our own?



WALKING WITH THE ANCESTORS | ELAINE CLOCHERTY & CO

10 September '22 - 13 November '22

Walking with the Ancestors comprises of three projects, for which the artist

worked with Wardandi matriarch Vivian Brockman and daughter Mitchella Hutchins, amongst others of the Margaret River community. Centred around site specific artworks, the work Acknowledgement, looks at the artist's journey into "knowing one's own ancestors and culture to know another's" (Brockman-Webb) looking at key sorry stories in her own family history; Honouring focuses on water for life and relating to country, whereas Sorry Water was created to acknowledge and heal from the sorry stories so "we can walk together in unity to take care of Wardandi Country together" (Brockman-Webb).

ILUKA VISIONS

17 September '22 - 27 November '22

Iluka Visions showcases artworks created by students in years 7-12 from high schools across the South West region and serves to underscore the important role of art education in a holistic learning experience. In September 2022, 19 schools were participating in this survey of arts high school curriculum studies from Mandurah to Manjimup. BRAG is proud to be presenting a version of Iluka Visions since 1991. This time, 60 selections were made in person from almost 700 submissions.

This exhibition would not be possible without the support of Iluka Resources.

A COLOURFUL LIFE ROBYN BISCHOFF

10 September '22 - 26 February '23

Robyn Bischoff has lived her life in full colour, with creative expression enabling her to navigate a lifetime of exploration, intuitiveness, and self-discovery. A delight in colour, line, space and texture is a common thread in her delicate, playful works, along with a deep love and concern for the environment. Robyn evokes the ancients, the solve et coagula of the alchemists, her paintings symbolically dissolve and recombine, transmitting their own consciousness to a higher state.

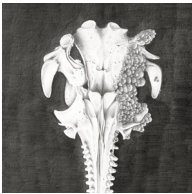
EPIC WORKS | SELECTIONS BY THE DIRECTOR FROM THE LIZ AND LLOYD HORN COLLECTION

20 December '22 - 6 March '23

Great art collectors are like master horticulturists, and a good art collection like a well-manicured garden. Since 1972, the Horns have been cultivating one of the most significant collections in Western Australia. While the quality of the work in the collection is outstanding, the collection is particularly notable for its focus: West Australian art. For this show, BRAG Director Michael Bianco has drawn on several themes he saw within the collection, namely abstraction, landscapes, and pop art.



Selected for their scale, technique, and quality, he sees all the works as “epic” in some nature, and part and parcel of the Horns’ heroic project of helping to establish a West Australian cannon.



THE LESTER PRIZE

25 March ‘23 - 28 May ‘23

Earlier this year, BRAG was delighted to host the renown Lester Prize for the first time. The Lester Prize for portraiture captures what it means to be ‘them’, to be ‘me’ and to be ‘us’. It exhibits all our traits, the heroic, the despicable, the humble, the deplorable, the principled and the fallen. When you look upon these portraits of others, you can’t help but see yourself reflected.



BUNBURY BIENNALE 2023 – CULTURE/NATURE

2 April ‘23 - 5 June ‘23

Since its inception in 1993, the Bunbury Biennale has grown into a major art event and become an open platform for artists to present the latest trends in cutting edge contemporary art, pushing



boundaries, exploring challenging concepts and stretching limits. The 2023 Bunbury Biennale was organised around the theme ‘Culture/Nature’, and a series of exhibitions invited the public to engage with a wide array of creative practitioners dedicated to critically engaging the environment in a myriad of ways.

NOONGAR COUNTRY 2023

17 June ‘23 - 24 September ‘23

Noongar Country, now in its 21st year, is an annual exhibition that celebrates culture by showcasing artwork made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists living on Noongar Boodja – spanning from Geraldton to Esperance and encompassing 14 different dialects. This year, artists were asked to respond to the NAIDOC week theme, ‘For Our Elders’. Exploring culture, the relationships between themselves and their community leaders, and stories that have been passed through moort for generations. This year saw 67 artists correspond to the theme, with a number of works

being chosen for acquisition for the City of Bunbury Art Collection. This exhibition would not be possible without the support of Alcoa.

GROUNDSWELL – ARTBACK NT

17 JUNE ‘23 - 20 AUGUST ‘23

Groundswell showcases a selection of powerful reactions with particular focus on the creeping changes to the Northern Territory’s water supply. The exhibition charts these changes by grouping artistic responses thematically into the prevailing resource issues of Access, Contamination, Scarcity and Culture. Curated by Carmen Ansaldo, exhibited works extend through vast geographies, perspectives and artistic mediums to stake their claim, spanning visualised data to ceramics, oil painting to recycled sculpture and printmaking to stand-up comedy. The commonality however, is their shared determination to bridge the message of each individual artist to the collective shared concerns of the Territory’s citizens.

“Thanks for preserving this unique pink place and for showcasing Aboriginal artworks”

- gallery visitor, Italy

OTHER NOTEABLE EXHIBITIONS

NOONGAR COUNTRY 2022 | KAARLA KOORT-AK: WOONYA, MOORT, BOODJA | HEARTS ON FIRE: LOVE, FAMILY, COUNTRY

Annual exhibition featuring artists living on Noongar Boodja.

PLAYING THE MAN | GRAHAM MILLER

Referencing bubble gum footy cards from the 1970's and 80's (and press images, including Rennie Ellis's iconic image of Robbie McGhie), Miller recreates himself as boyhood football heroes to explore issues of masculinity, identity and cultural difference.

MOTHERHOOD | SHEREE DOHNT

An exhibition featuring small-scale watercolour portraits of mothers from all over Australia, depicting the relationships of mother and child, and the joys, tensions, sadness and loss within those lifetimes of experience.

"Loved it! Learned alot about the country and arts. Thank you for keeping art accessible to the public 10/10"

- gallery visitor, Ecuador

YIMARDOOWARRA | ARTIST OF THE RIVER, THE ART OF LOONGKONAN

Paintings by one of Australia's oldest contemporary artists that are intricate depictions of her homeland in remote Western Australia.

COMPOUND EYES | MOLLY COY, ELEANOR DAVIES, RONA MIRTLE

A manifest of the artists' individual and combined interests, research and existing work relating to moths, bees & beetles, both real and imagined, to evoke interest, emotion and influence, by creating a range of thought provoking works.

COLLABORATIONS | COLLABORATION WA

Collaboration WA Inc. presents a collaborative exhibition featuring wood turners from all over Australia.

AND THERE WAS LIGHT

A City of Bunbury Art Collection exhibition focusing on the artists' use of light in their works.

BLOOMING ART

An annual exhibition presented by the Floral Designers' Club comprising of the South West Floral Championships and a number of floral masterpieces made by local celebrities in response to works from the City of Bunbury Art Collection.

IN PLACE | SOUTHWEST PRINTMAKERS

An exhibition about personal interpretations of the state of being In Place, creating conversation about it being an actual place, or the certainty of outcome.

FRIGHTFULLY FUNNY | CLAIRE WOOLHOUSE

A whimsical, quirky, self-exploration into anthropomorphic characters, dealing with mental health issues via storytelling and symbolism.

THE ART OF SLOW LOOKING

A City of Bunbury Collection exhibition to allow yourself time to make your own discoveries and form a more personal connection with the artwork.

OCEANIA: DISTANCE AND DIVERSITY | STUDIO ART QUILT ASSOCIATES

An exhibition exploring the interpretations of distance and or diversity through quilting.

BRAG produced three printed catalogues as part of exhibition programming:

Noongar Country 2023

Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture|Nature

Noongar Country 2022



ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Brunch @ BRAG December 2022 | Kids activity table

Education / Creative Schools Program

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- **Creative Connections**

Creative Connections offers a supported, inspired environment for artists of all abilities. This weekly class facilitated by Nathan Gardiner is focused on extending cognitive and social connections through the arts and creating a safe space to support social interaction and camaraderie.
- **Creative Kids and Young Visions**

With eight sessions per term, Creative Kids is BRAG's after school art classes for 6-8 year olds. Young Visions is BRAG's after school art classes for 9-11 year olds. Classes are taught by professional artist, Charlotte White, and each term includes a gallery tour and end of term exhibition. Each term focusses on a different theme and focus medium.
- **School Holiday Workshops**

A variety of holiday workshops for school aged children, focussing on different skills and techniques.
- **Education Tours**

BRAG provides guided and self-guided exhibition tours to all educational institutions and community groups.
- **Workshop Program**

BRAG provides a service of bookable tutors for workshops that can be hosted at the gallery studio, or at a suitable premises. Tutors are all professional artists.

EXHIBITION SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Workshop | From Drawing to Painting with Tony Windberg | 30 and 31 July 2022

In this unique two day workshop exhibiting artist, Tony Windberg, guided participants through his personal approach to turn a drawing into a painting.

Cinefest Oz Talk | Grace Slaven on Del Kathryn Barton's Australian Feminine Gothic | 27 August 2022

Following the launch of Del Kathryn Barton's feature film directorial debut, Blaze, this educational talk examined readings on Australian Feminine Gothic landscapes, the presence of ornamentation, and subsequent evocation of horror vacui (fear of empty space) within Barton's painting practice. *(pictured top right)*

Workshop Series | Watercolour Portraits with Sheree Dohnt | 8 and 15 August 2022

Sheree Dohnt conducted a watercolour portrait workshop series in conjunction with her solo exhibition Motherhood.

Professional Development | Arts Educators: Best Practice in the Arts Industry | 10 November 2022

BRAG's annual professional development morning program highlighted talks from industry professionals, with an afternoon workshop led by Ron Bradfield Jnr about a self-reflective practice and cultural mark-making.

Workshop Series | South West Printmakers: In Place | 26 November and 3 December 2022

Exhibiting members of the South West Printmakers, Christine Latham and Yvonne Dorricott, hosted workshops on the topics of monotype printmaking and drypoint etching. *(pictured middle right)*

Workshop | Free Expression in Acrylics with Robyn Bischoff | 28 January and 25 February 2023

In these popular workshops, Robyn encouraged participants to create an intuitive artwork using a combination of painting with acrylic and collage.

Art Teacher Sundowner | BRAG Education | 2 February 2023

Aimed at marking the start of the school year, BRAG hosted art teachers in the South West to launch the new bookable workshop program.

Tour | Tactile Tour with Robyn Bischoff | 15 February 2023

Hosted for the Short on Sight group at VisAbility, this tactile tour was aimed at giving people who are blind, or vision impaired, an opportunity to access visual art. *(pictured bottom right)*

School Workshop | Concept development with Tony Windberg | 24 February and 27 March 2023

Aimed at students studying ATAR level Visual Arts courses, this workshop focused on how to link concepts and ideas with materials used in the process of making artworks.



EXHIBITION SPECIFIC PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Workshop Series | Art of Textiles 4 and 11 March 2023

BRAG presented the Art of Textiles, a series of workshops in celebration of the Studio Art Quilt Association Oceania: Distance and Diversity exhibition touring to BRAG.

Talk | Bunbury Biennale: Erin Coates on the Dolphin Discovery Boat | 1 April 2023

This special event artist talk took place on the water in Koombana Bay with artist Erin Coates talking about her practice that is deeply tied to the ocean and its inhabitant creatures.

(pictured top right)

Film Screening | Bunbury Biennale: Scenes from the Cthulucene | 1 April 2023

In celebration of the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre hosted a screening of two documentaries that explore approaches to making kin with our non-human earthlings.

Panel Discussion | After the Anthropocene: Climate Activism in South West | 22 April 2023

Hosted by the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre, this panel discussion, facilitated by Dr. Michael Bianco, explored themes emerging from the exhibition It Woke the Town Up.

(pictured middle right)

Reading Group | Bunbury Biennale: Making Kin | April and May 2023

This informal reading group engaged in ideas explored in the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature program such as art, aesthetics, philosophy, and ecology.

Workshop Series | Earth Sculpting Ceramics with Holly O'Meehan | 13 May and 3 June 2023

Ceramicist and artist, Holly O'Meehan guided participants through her process of making pots that are inspired by naturally occurring forms and the resilience of the landscape.

Workshop | Drawing Fundamentals with Andy Quilty 20 May 2023

Led by Lester Prize finalist, Andy Quilty, this workshop presented drawing as an efficient, economical, and powerful tool for developing ideas and experimenting with process.

(pictured bottom right)

"Attending Holly O'Meehan's workshop was an enriching experience. Her expertise and guidance allowed me to explore my creativity while learning valuable techniques. The hands-on approach and supportive environment fostered a sense of accomplishment. Overall, it was a fulfilling and enjoyable journey into the art of pottery."

*Jenny, workshop participant
Earth Sculpting Ceramics*





Public Programs

Brunch @ BRAG | September '22, December '22, April '23

Aimed at creating a more family friendly vibe for public events, BRAG held combination openings every two to three months. *(pictured top left)*

BRAG's 36th Birthday | 18 February 2023

In 2023 for BRAG's birthday, we decided to hold a cake-making competition. The event collaborated with the South West Multicultural Festival held on the same weekend, inviting cake makers to get creative exploring a particular culture special to them.

Biennale Closing | 27 May 2023

As a thank you to artists, BRAG held a special evening welcoming artists and local community to wrap up the Bunbury Biennale for 2023. *(pictured bottom left)*

Community Events

Perth International Jazz Festival

Held over an intimate night in May, BRAG hosted a Jo Lowry and friends in the Lower Gallery as a free community event.

Headspace: Youth Pride

During Pride month in November, BRAG became a pop-up gallery space in the courtyard and Studio 2 celebrating youth pride, showcasing works that students had been workshoping all year.

South West Japan Fest

Once again, BRAG welcomed hundreds of people through its doors for the annual SWJF, with live events, workshops, markets and more, all celebrating Japanese culture.

"The most beautiful gallery ever, and amazingly helpful and friendly service!"
- gallery visitor, Finland



Noongar Arts Program Artist Rhonda Norman painting a large silk

NOONGAR ARTS PROGRAM

With the facilitation of two artist workshops per week, the Noongar Arts Program local artists that we work with here at BRAG, saw some outstanding achievements.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RETAIL SHOP

The opening of the new Noongar Arts Program BRAG retail space in January 2023, has seen NAP artists sales triple in a comparison of sales Jan to April 2023 with sales of the same time period in 2022.

MARKETS AND OTHER SALES

Externally to sales through BRAG, the successful facilitation of artists' markets at the Tree Street Art Safari, Stirling Street Art Market and the World Tourist Summit, Crown Casino, Perth saw NAP artists make sales from new products in silk, glass, paint, and print. The sale of art images for the City of Bunbury marketing banner project was a beautiful visual outcome for our program. The sale of published books to Wardandi Miya-K Kaadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation created an artist income we hadn't explored before in our products. The NAP Coordinator also worked with

artists and external local businesses on four public art commissions, and individual artist entries into external exhibitions in Perth and the South West of WA.

EXHIBITIONS

Four new emerging artists participated in the annual REVEALED Exhibition at Fremantle Art Centre.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ten artists travelled to Geraldton in October, to participate in a statewide Arts Forum facilitated by the Aboriginal Art Centre WA. The collaboration, networking and professional development opportunities was outstanding.

Arts Law facilitated a legal workshop to upskill artists to navigate the contracts and language around the arts industry we are immersed in.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

MEETING PLACES

With a project lead position created through NAP, Artist Dellas Bennell directed four films in partnership with LOMAX media, *Meeting Places Our Stories in Art*, a collection of short films telling the stories behind four Aboriginal women working within the arts on Wardandi Country. The premiere night was held at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, with the 240 seat cube theatre booking out immediately, which created an incredible stand out highlight for the year.

DJOOROODIBINY

The Noongar Arts Program facilitated well-being workshops with the South West Aboriginal Medical Services, Djooroodibiny (Go along happily). These were well received and rich in enjoyment.

NGANLANG BIBOOL | LANGUAGE BOOKS

It was exciting and fruitful to work collaboratively with Charmaine Councillor, Noongar language linguist of Wardandi Miya-K Kaadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation, to publish four local Wardandi written and illustrated children's books. NAP facilitated writing and illustration workshops to NAP artists and from these, four artists launched their books in early 2023. These books are now for sale in the Noongar Arts Program retail space at BRAG.



*Meeting Places premier, Q&A panel (top)
NAP at the Tree Street Art Safari (bottom)*

OUR VISITORS - BY ATTENDANCE



Noongar Country 2023: For Our Elders

2498
visited BRAG
through room and
venue hire

1089
visited BRAG
during events

527
attended
the Noongar Arts
Program

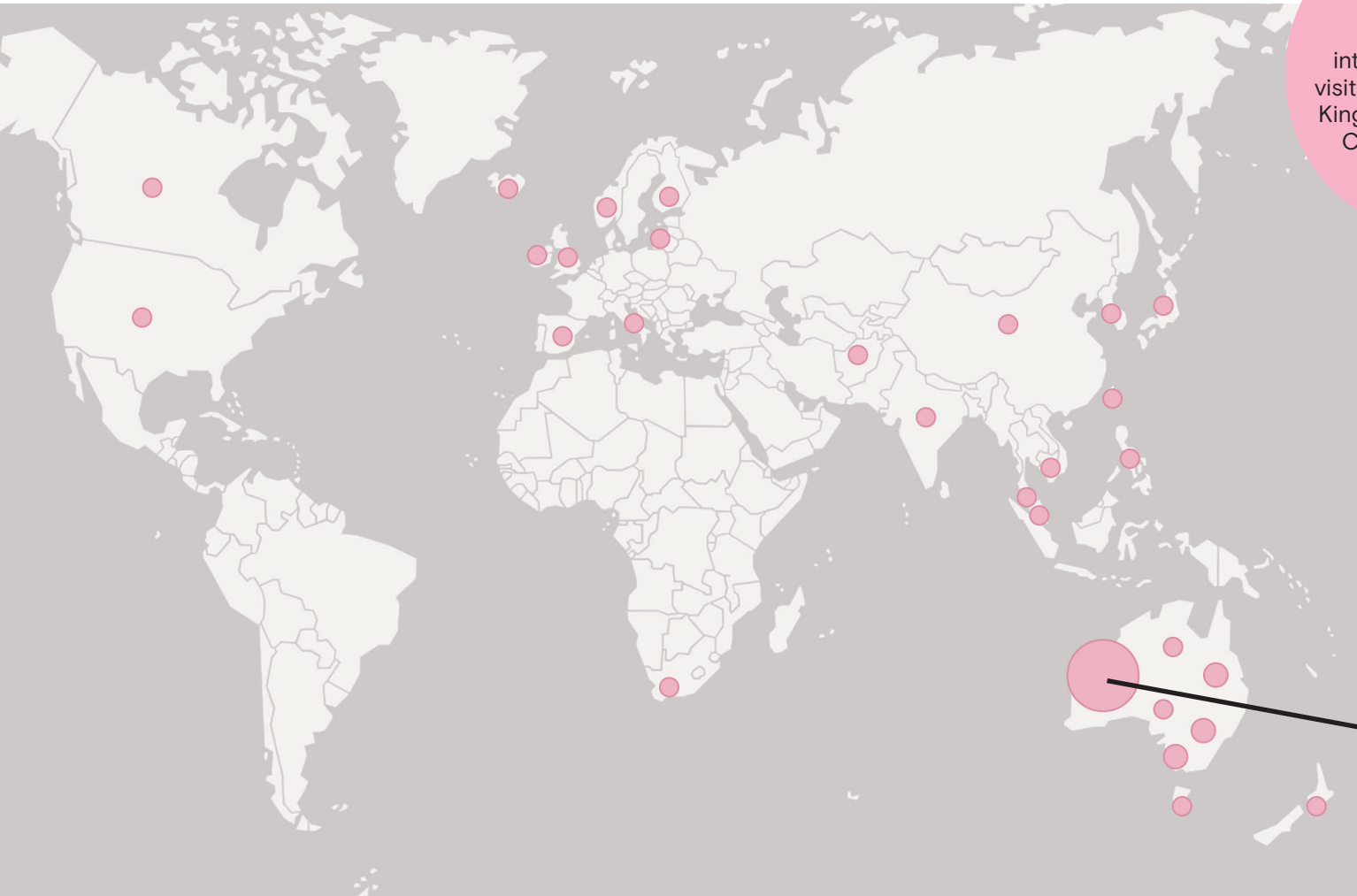
537
students visited
in school
groups

186
other visitors
for talks and
tours

200
as other
attendees or
misc.

1021
attended workshops
and classes

OUR VISITORS - BY LOCATION

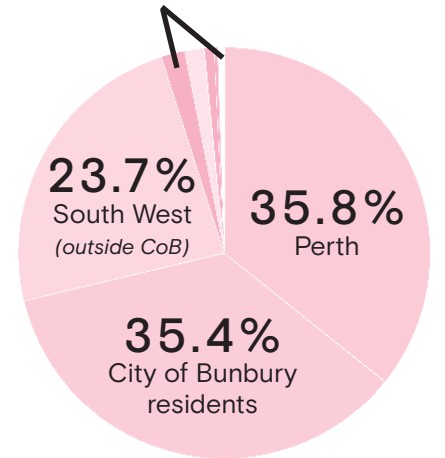


517 survey respondents

11.8%
of visitors are international. Highest visiting countries: United Kingdom, United States, China, Canada, and Philippines

13.3%
of Australian visitors are from outside WA
VIC - 4.8%
NSW - 3.9%
QLD - 2.6%

Peel - 1.8%
Great Southern - 1.6%
Pilbara - 0.8%
Wheatbelt - 0.3%
Midwest - 0.3%
Goldfields-Esperance - 0.3%





*Brunch @ BRAG December 2022
Epic Works: Selections by the Director
from the Liz and Lloyd Horne Collection*

THE CITY OF BUNBURY

ART COLLECTION



Kathleen O'Connor 1876 - 1968
The Welsh Woman
Oil on board

In the late 1940s, the West Australian philanthropist, Sir Claude Hotchin donated significant artworks to towns across Regional Western Australia. His aim was to bring art to the people of the South West region and to encourage local artists.

In 1948, the then Town of Bunbury received the first of 22 works donated by Sir Claude Hotchin. This donation became the start of the Bunbury Art Collection and a committee was established to manage the Collection. From 1948 until the early 1950s, the Society of Artists managed and acquired works for the Collection, until the Collection Committee was established under the Local Government Act. From then until they disbanded in 2009, the Society of Artists had been represented on the Committee.

In 1979, the City of Bunbury purchased the old Convent of Mercy to permanently house and exhibit the Collection and to provide the community with an 'A' Class Gallery that became the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries.

In 2008 the City of Bunbury Art Collection Committee accepted a generous gift of 21 artworks donated by Alcoa of Australia. Many of Australia's most prominent artists are represented in the Alcoa Gift.

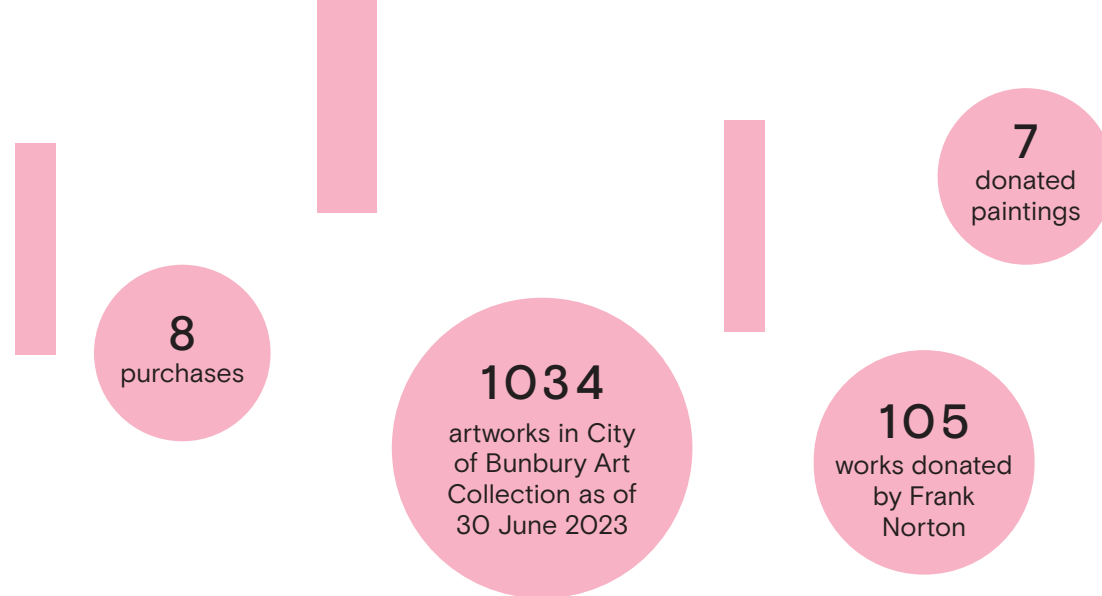
A collection of 330 botanical watercolour paintings by Bunbury artist Rosetta Kelly (1861-1961) were purchased in 2010. The works were painted between 1916 and 1940 and are of significant local historical interest.

From those 22 works donated in 1948, the Collection has since grown to over a thousand pieces. The estimated value of the collection is in excess of \$2 million.

NEW ARTWORKS ACQUIRED IN 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR



Charles (Frank) Norton 1916 – 1983
Koombana Bay Scene (1973)
Watercolour on paper
20.5 x 28.7cm



DONATIONS

Frank Norton - 105 works (pictured left)

All purchases are approved by the Gallery's Acquisition Panel, consisting of:

- Dr. Michael Bianco - *Gallery Director*
- Caroline Lunel - *City of Bunbury Collection Curator*
- Cheryl Kozisek - *City of Bunbury Council Elected Member*
- Dr. Donna Mazza - *community industry representative*

ACQUISITIONS

Rob Kettels

Time Machine (2023)

Electronic motor, gears, pulley, ball bearing, acrylic, stainless steel and aluminium components, archival ink jet images printed on water colour paper.

Purchased from the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature exhibition.

Jillian Green

SOFT TACK (2023)

Mixed - wool, cotton, wood

Purchased from the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature exhibition.

Erin Coates

Heavy Metal Skull (inferior view) from the series Swan River Dolphin Bones (2021)

Graphite on paper

Purchased from the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature exhibition.

STELARC

- *Prepared Tree Suspension -*

Obsolete Body nr.6 (1982)

- *Seaside Suspension - Event for Wind and Waves - Japan* (1981)

(image detail)

- *Sitting Swaying - Event for Rock Suspension* (1980)

Purchased from the Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture/Nature exhibition.

Stephen Taylor

In the Moment (image from Blak Lives matter protest: Common Grace)

Acrylic on Canvas

Purchased from the Noongar Country 2023 For Our Elders.

Amanda Bell

Your Blood, My Blood, our Blood

White Neon

Purchased from the Noongar Country 2023 For Our Elders.

Menang person (artist entered via the Department of Justice)

Boola Miyel

Acrylic on Canvas

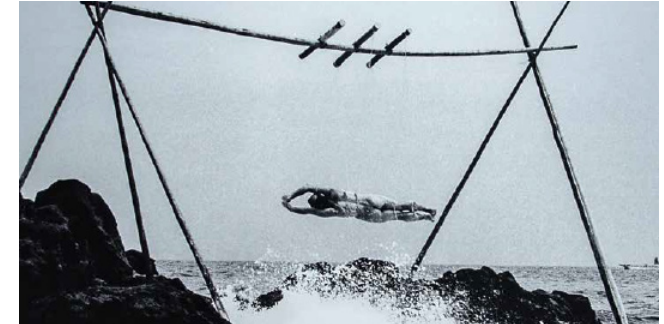
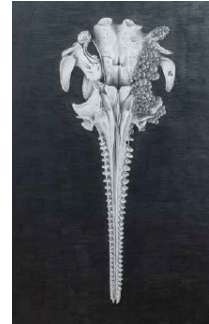
Purchased from the Noongar Country 2023 For Our Elders.

Denise and Patrick Jetta

Waarna (sticks)

Wood (found materials)

Purchased from the Noongar Country 2023 - For Our Elders.



FINANCE REPORT

As the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery is owned and operated by the City of Bunbury, a full financial report can be viewed via the [City's website](#).



Bunbury Biennale 2023 Culture|Nature closing event

BRAG IS SUPPORTED BY



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support



