



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



VISION

Grafton Regional Gallery's vision is to be an imaginative, ingenious gallery; a place for everyone. We want to challenge perceptions with innovation to deliver unexpectedly global experiences in our region. Our aim is to connect people and ideas to arts, culture and creativity. 'WOWing' audiences every day is our mission and our passion.



OBJECTIVES

Grafton Regional Gallery presents an annual visual arts program – both on and off site – that engages and appeals to diverse audiences and holds and interprets the largest collection of artworks on the North Coast of New South Wales. The gallery's key focus areas are to:

- Activate arts, creativity and culture

Deliver metropolitan-like, immersive experiences in our region. Every visitor should create a great memory and share it

- Tell our story

Celebrate the gallery story, amplify our reputation, and connect the significance of culture to everyday Clarence Valley living

- Be dynamic and sustainable

Revenue streams are diversified: we help partners, funders, agencies and communities choose our Gallery because it meets their needs

- Create capacity

Skilled and nimble, the Gallery team, volunteers, interns and technology systems power our productivity

Top left: Grafton Regional Gallery, entrance. Top right: Bundjalung dancers, gallery courtyard

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Niomi Sands



2020 was an extraordinary year by all accounts. It was a year of change, learning, innovation and resilience for the Grafton Regional Gallery. In 2020 the gallery operated out of Prentice House until December as construction for the new facility started in February and continued throughout the year.

The exciting new facility will allow the gallery to care for our community's significant art collections and ensure that it can be enjoyed by future generations. It will also allow the Grafton Regional Gallery to create partnerships with significant arts and cultural organisations to present outstanding experiences otherwise not available within this region. The redevelopment provides a sustainable platform for the gallery to operate successfully in the future across all aspects of its business.

The gallery was able to present a stimulating program of creative activity that celebrated the amazing talent found throughout the Clarence during 2020. Due to COVID-19 many of the Gallery's public programs and events were presented in a digital format which offered an exciting opportunity to reach new audiences from a wider footprint across Australia. During the mandatory shut down the gallery was able to refocus energy into developing a variety of online creative resources to suit all ages.



Above: Artist impression, gallery redevelopment

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The construction for the gallery redevelopment project ramped up from the start of 2020 and continued at a steady pace throughout the year; COVID 19 had a minimal impact on works throughout the year. The occupational certificate was awarded in late December and minor ground and public artwork installation continued in the first few months of 2021. During this period minor renovations were also undertaken in Prentice House to refresh and update the level one offices, the exterior was painted and the veranda decking was replaced.

In 2020 the gallery commissioned an Audience Development research project with the assistance of Nine Creative's Kerryn Law. This research project has provided an in-depth overview of our current audiences and insights into new audiences. The research data will be utilised in conjunction with the strategic plan to grow the audience reach and visitation to the renewed site, allowing the gallery to achieve its strategic direction.

2020 was a year of great success against the adversity presented by COVID for the Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA), with record entries of 659, the prize was well received by artists across the country. The virtual opening was hosted by renowned TV presenter Rove McManus reaching a wide audience, with over 200 people watching the broadcast. Teo Treloar won the prize with his drawing *This is Impermanence* which was judged by Peter McKay from the Art Gallery of Queensland.

The gallery's public and education programs were delivered in a digital capacity throughout 2020 due to COVID. This included online versions of Art After School, Artists Unpacked, Instagram Live artist talks and an online workshop series for adults with Goldberg Aberline Studios. All programs were well attended, and in some cases audience numbers doubled. The feedback was extremely positive, with audiences appreciating the opportunities to learn and develop their creativity in a time of adversity and disruption.



Above: 2020 JADA Online Opening. Top L-R: 2018 JADA winner Todd Fuller, FoGG President Heather Brown, Gallery Director Niomi Sands, 2020 JADA Judge Peter McKay (QAG GoMA)

EXHIBITIONS

On-site Exhibitions

12 December 2019 - 2 February 2020

Summer Sensations

7 February - 29 March

Andrew Shillam and Rindi Salomon: Geometrica

Harry Westera: About Grafton

3 April - 31 May

Kade Valja: Soul Ties

Sue Bell: Young At Heart

5 June - 2 August

Kylie Caldwell: Woven Dreams

Crossing the Clarence

7 August - 27 September

Operation Art

Pat Jenkins: Now and Then

Outreach Exhibitions

Gladys O'Grady: Birds of the Clarence

Yamba Museum, The Old Kirk, 12 Dec 2019 - 2 Feb

HSC Visual Arts Students from Maclean, Grafton and South Grafton

Grafton Library, 12 Dec 2019 - 2 Feb

Collection: Ken Done

Yamba Museum, The Old Kirk, 11 Feb - 8 March

Collection

Grafton Library, 7 August - 27 September

Our Collection in the Community

Dougherty Villa, Country University Centre

Grafton Base Hospital, Grafton and Maclean Library



2020 JADA 2 October - 22 November: 2020 Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award

Major publication: 2020 Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award

2018 JADA TOUR

- ☐ Latrobe Regional Gallery | 28 October 2019 – 5 January 2020
- ☐ Griffith Regional Art Gallery | 17 January – 17 February 2020
- ☐ *Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and Tamworth Regional Gallery cancelled due to COVID-19*

Top Left: Exhibition installation, Kylie Caldwell 'Woven Dreams' Centre: 2018 JADA Winner Todd Fuller *Ode to Clarence* 2016/7. Right: Exhibition installation, 2020 JADA

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The gallery continued a vibrant series of workshops, artist talks and public programs throughout the year. To accommodate the gallery expansion, workshops were held at an off site hub in Vines Cafe.

The restrictions imposed by COVID-19 meant that our workshop program was disrupted over the winter months, however a shift to online programming meant that talks and tours were able to continue.

Exhibition Openings

8 February | About Grafton and Geometrica
2 October | Online JADA Opening
Instagram Live Q&A with Niomi Sands

Artist Talks

14 March | Andrew Shillam and Rindi Salomon
19 March | Jaz Grady from Berlin (Instagram Live)
4 April | Kade Valja (Instagram Live)
7 August | Kylie Caldwell (Instagram Live)
16 September | Pat Jenkins (IGTV)
28 October | Goldberg Aberline (Instagram Live)

Gallery Tours

12 September | 11 June with Niomi Sands
12 November | Grafton TAFE Tour
27 November | McAuley Catholic College Tour



Above: Exhibition Opening, February. Right: Little SmARTies

Workshops

18 February | Feathers & Fur with Julianne Gosper
15 December | Watercolour Julianne Gosper

Artists Unpacked

20 April | Christina Giorgio Arts Business (online)
22 April | Diversify Your Income (online)
with Creative Plus Business

Arts in Mind

20 February

Little SmARTies

Art After Dark

5 March | Clay garden pods

9 March Grafton Playgroup Day



EDUCATION

School Holiday Workshops

- 20 January | Stencil Art with Kade Valja
- 21 January | Clay Masks
- 22 January | Screen printing with Malcolm King
- 23 January | Skateboard Art with Jimmy Wags
- 24 January | Stencil cut and paste with Jaz Grady

14 February | Hillcrest Kids Art Workshop

Art After School

- 11 February – April | Create Monster Heads (yr 5+)
- 13 February - April | Create Monster Heads (yr K-5)

Term 2: 6 x Online Lessons

The Elements of Art with Cass Lyn Palmer

Term 3: 6 x Online Lessons

Make and Draw Creative Kids with Kerrie Howland



Artist Workshops ONLINE

Drawing Differently with Todd Fuller |
1 x hour workshop

Drawing Project Series with Jody Graham
6 x workshops

Make a sparkle Snow Dome with Cass Samms
Learn how to weave with Kerrie Bowles
Draw Birds with Julianne Gosper



Artist Activities ONLINE

Artist Book by Jaz Grady
Chatterbox by Jaz Grady
Artist Chatterbox by Jaz Grady
Design a Dingo by Jaz Grady
Smooched Flower Printing by Cassandra-Lyn Palmer
Colour Fun Find a Word
Islands Colouring Sheet by Frances Belle Parker
Squiggle Game by Jaz Grady
Art History Word Search
Creature Features by Kerrie Howland

Shape Fun Find a Word

Zentangles by Julianne Gosper

Above Right: Skateboard workshop with Jimmy Wags. Above Left: Online workshop with Jody Graham

SPECIAL PROJECTS

GOLDLINE ABERLINE STUDIO



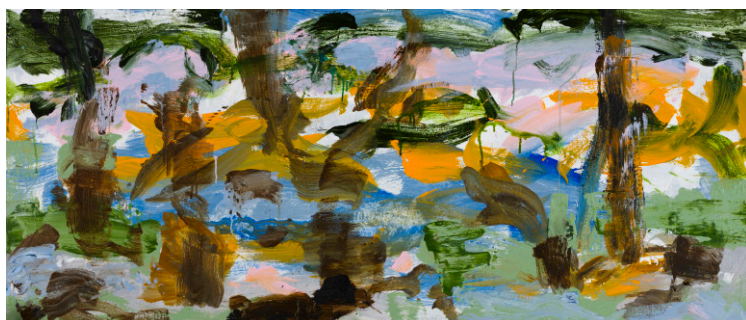
Sydney-based public art duo Goldberg Aberline Studio worked to create a sculptural 'wave of change' out of single use plastics. This community project used creativity to give voice to environmental concerns and issues. While some in-person workshops did not take place as planned due to COVID-19 restrictions, online workshops took their place and participation was still widely enjoyed. The sculpture was set to be part of the newly opened gallery's debut exhibition program in 2021.

Adaptation Workshops (Online)
8 September | 15 September
15 October | 24 October
27 November | Cowper Studio

RIVER TO THE SEA

This project and resulting exhibition pays homage to the opening program of the Gallery in 1988, curated by then Director Julian Faigan, which responded to the Clarence Valley by continuing a tradition of 'en plein air' painting. In site visits paid to incredible places in the Clarence Valley, the exhibiting artists responded to the landscape and atmosphere of the natural environment in a day of painting and conversing.

This beguiling exhibition - programmed for 2021 - celebrates the magnificent Clarence River and surrounding landscape through the eyes of renowned artists: Sophie Cape, Amanda Penrose Hart, Steve Lopes, Euan Macleod, Robert Moore, Frances Belle Parker, Deborah Taylor and Ann Thomson. The project explores connection to place and the natural environment, as well as providing a new perspective of the Clarence, with each artist having captured their unique experiences of the valley through their body of work.



Top Left: Maurice Goldberg of Goldberg Aberline Studios

Bottom Left to Right: River to Sea artists Amanda Penrose Hart, Euan McLeod, Anne Thomson *Minnie Water* 2020

FUNDRAISING & SUPPORT



Friends of Grafton Regional Gallery



Friends of the Gallery

Since 1992, the Friends of the Gallery have supported the gallery in many capacities, most notably as the major fundraisers for the JADA. The Friends contribute \$20,000 of the first prize money. In 2020, the Friends continued their important work supporting the gallery, holding meetings and planning for fundraisers and events. Understandably, gathering restrictions due to COVID-19 did put many of their plans on hold.

The Gallery Foundation

Established in 2005, The Gallery Foundation fundraises for the gallery's collection and facilities. The Gallery Foundation has contributed substantially to the extension and redevelopment of the Grafton Regional Gallery. While 2020 saw the Foundation's events postponed, they continue their plans for the future including Art in the Paddock 2021.

Volunteers

The gallery has the support of many volunteers who provide vital work in areas such as the garden and public programs.



Above: Grafton Regional Gallery volunteers

FUNDING PARTNERS

Create NSW Regional Cultural Fund

The gallery's 2020 expansion and redevelopment is supported by the NSW Regional Cultural Fund. The Regional Cultural Fund was established by the NSW Government to support the development of cultural infrastructure in regional NSW that enables bold, exciting and diverse arts and cultural activities. Through investment, the Regional Cultural Fund aims to strengthen regional arts, screen, culture and heritage, and revitalise local communities through strategic investment.



Create New South Wales

Each year the gallery receives program funding through Create NSW. Create NSW enables a diverse range of gallery programming through exhibitions, events, public programs and artists in residence.

Yulgilbar Foundation

The Yulgilbar Foundation was established in 2001 by Baillieu and Sarah Myer and focuses on rural, regional and remote Australia and more specifically, on education, environment and capacity building in this regions. The Yulgilbar Foundation supports the gallery in many ways, most specifically through funding the Yulgilbar Travelling Fellowship, as well as other programming aimed at supporting and expanding arts and culture in the Clarence Valley.



PARTNERSHIPS

Cranes – Arts in Mind program, for people living with dementia

Clarence Valley Conservatorium – Little SmARTies, creative fun for under 5s with art and music

Dougherty Villa – collection display

Country Universities – collection display

Museums and Galleries NSW – peak body for New South Wales

Arts Northern Rivers – peak body for arts and culture in our region

My Clarence Valley – tourism hub and visitor information

COLLECTION

New Acquisitions - Purchased

Ulan MURRAY and Rachel BURNS

Spiral Tree, 2020
Copper, stainless steel and corten steel sculpture

Kylie CALDWELL

BEENG 2, 2016
Buchie rush

Kylie CALDWELL

I'm still standing, 2020
Buchie rush

Kylie CALDWELL

Our mountains have a story, 2020
Buchie rush, pandanus, lomandra, dyed with native plants

Teo TRELOAR

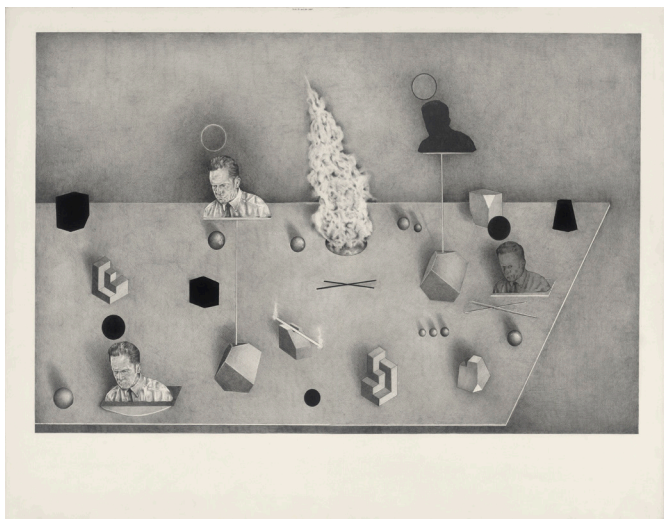
This is impermanence, 2020
Graphite pencil on paper
JADA Acquisition

Sarah TOMASETTI

Kailash North Face IV, 2020
Oil, graphite and incision on fresco plaster
JADA Acquisition

Noel MCKENNA

Hamlet, 2020
Ink on paper
JADA Acquisition



Above: 2020 JADA Winner, Teo Treloar *This is Impermanence* 2020

Donations

John WITZIG

Cactus House 2, 1975
Digital print on archival paper

Micky ALLAN

Untitled, 1987
Colour photo screenprint on paper

Raymond ARNOLD

A Fiction? 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Brian BLANCHFLOWER

Skyboats, 1987
Colour lithograph on paper

Robert CAMPBELL (Junior)

Spearing Roo, 1988
Colour screenprint on paper

Tony Coleing

Untitled, 1987
Colour lithograph on paper

Bonita Ely

Warrior: scenes from the appropriation of Wiradjuri
1987
Etching on paper

Barbara Hanrahan

Boy and Girl, 1987
Linocut on paper

Tim JOHNSON

Three Worlds, 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Maria KOZIC

Self Portrait, 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Kate LOHSE

Untitled, 1988
Etching, drypoint, on paper

Geoff LOWE

Plate, 1988
Colour photo screenprint on paper

Banduk MARIKA

Yalambara, 1988
Colour linocut on paper

Marie McMahon

The two Walyers, 1988
Colour lithograph on paper

Sally MORGAN

Taken away, 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Nicholas NEDELKOPOUOS

Dark Lands, 1987
Colour lithograph on paper

Ann NEWMARCH

200 years: Willy Willy, 1988
Colour screenprint on paper

Susan NORRIE

Untitled, 1988
Etching, printed intaglio and relief on paper

Robert OWEN

Re-vision, 1988
Embossing on paper

Mike PARR

The Map, 1987
Etching on paper

Robert ROONEY

Beans and banzai, 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Peter TYNDALL

A Person Looks At A Work Of Art
/someone looks at something, 1987
Colour screenprint on paper

Ken UNSWORTH

The disappeared, 1988
Transfer lithograph on paper

Hossein VALAMANESH

Recent arrival, 1988
Colour lithograph on paper

Vicki VARVARESSOS

Sepik man with gardenia, 1987
Colour linocut on paper

Jenny WATSON

Australian artists of the 80s, 1987
Offset colour linocut on paper

Todd FULLER

Ode to Clarence 1 - 9, 2016/7
Mixed media on paper

Kendal MURRAY

Objection, Reflection, Correction, 2014
Mixed media assemblage

Kendal MURRAY

Delight! Take Flight?, 2016
Mixed media assemblage

Kendal MURRAY

Come Around, Lost or Found, 2014
Mixed media assemblage



Above: Kylie Caldwell *Our Mountains Have a Story* 2020

FINANCES

Clarence Valley Council



2020/21 Budgeted Sub-Service Income Statement for
945 - Gallery and Museums
Service: Galleries & Museums

| Description | Current Financial | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Original Budget 2019/20 | Budget 2019/20 | Budget 2020/21 |
| Income | | | |
| Rates Income | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual Charges | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| User Charges | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Statutory & Regulatory User Charges | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General User Fees | (59,840) | (70,840) | (81,174) |
| Interest Income | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Operative Grants & Contributions | (27,990) | 1104,000 | (29,000) |
| Other Revenue | (3,400) | (1,600) | (1,246) |
| Net Gains from Disposal of Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Internal Income | 0 | 0 | (2,352) |
| AAC Recovers | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Internal Plant Hire | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | (80,990) | (148,599) | (129,872) |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Salaries, Wages & On-costs | 817,890 | 108,700 | 351,847 |
| Other Employee Costs | 8,688 | 4,168 | 378 |
| Renewing Costs | 18,867 | 20,467 | 8,341 |
| Materials | 46,940 | 46,940 | 81,400 |
| Contracts | 115,668 | 145,170 | 151,688 |
| Consultancies | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation | 11,512 | 11,512 | 11,722 |
| Insurance Expenses | 18,806 | 20,006 | 18,080 |
| Donations, Contributions & Taxes | 24,766 | 24,766 | 26,000 |
| Administration Expenses | 44,844 | 49,160 | 43,490 |
| Other Operating Expenses | 11,704 | 10,840 | 12,082 |
| Subscriptions & Memberships | 1,824 | 3,024 | 1,904 |
| Internal Expenses | 15,608 | 15,608 | 15,474 |
| AAC Distribution | 65,811 | 65,811 | 81,346 |
| Internal Plant Hire | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 119,188 | 886,167 | 888,874 |
| Net Operating Result for the year before Grants & Contributions provided for capital purposes | | | |
| | 628,192 | 645,568 | 709,002 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions | (4,000,000) | (4,500,000) | (5,000,000) |
| Operating Result for the Year | (3,871,808) | (3,854,432) | (5,290,997) |
| Balance Sheet Movements / Non-Cash Adjustments | | | |
| Capital Works - New | 24,768 | 24,768 | 24,000 |
| Capital Works - Upgrade | 4,001,000 | 7,194,140 | 6,000,000 |
| Capital Works - Expansion | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Capital Works - Renewal | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation | (11,512) | (11,512) | (11,722) |
| Employee Leave Accruals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Employee Leave Paid | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loan Funds Received | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loan Repayments (Principal Only) | 14,096 | 14,096 | 16,817 |
| Long Term Debtor Repayments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Balance Sheet Movements / Non-Cash Adjustments | 4,971,162 | 7,888,322 | 6,068,984 |
| Adjust for Transfers to/from Reserves | | | |
| Internal Reserves | 0 | (9,171) | 0 |
| External Reserves | 0 | (14,265) | (11,145) |
| Unspent Loans | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unexpended Grant Reserves | (1,424,000) | (1,880,611) | 0 |
| Site / Site Contribution Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Transfers to/from Reserves | (1,424,000) | (1,899,846) | (11,145) |
| NET RESULT | 675,323 | 689,886 | 755,452 |

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MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

| 2020 ATTENDANCE AND VISITATION | |
|---|------------------|
| General attendance | 4,331 |
| Public programs and events attendance (including online events/programs) | 2,368 |
| Meeting/group attendance | 105 |
| <i>Total Site Attendance</i> | <i>6,804*</i> |
| Outreach program attendance | 7,626 |
| Tour exhibition attendance | 366 [^] |
| TOTAL ATTENDANCE | 14,796 |
| OUR PROGRAMS | |
| Number of exhibitions | 19 |
| Public/education programs and events | 99 |
| Local artists involved in exhibitions | 24 |
| ONLINE PRESENCE | |
| Website page views | 43,950 |
| Facebook page reach | 168,010 |

Factors influencing 2020 attendance:

* The gallery was closed between April to June due to COVID-19 lockdowns and operating restrictions. This significantly affected general visitation, as well as public programs and events. In addition to COVID-19, the gallery was closed for the month of December due to the major redevelopment.

[^] Our touring exhibition, the 2018 JADA, also had two venues cancelled due to COVID-19.



Front: 'Geometrica: Andrew Shillam and Rindi Salomon' exhibition installation. Courtesy of the artists.