

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

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**LAKE
MACQUARIE
CITY
ART
GALLERY**



WINTER 2015 – SUMMER 2016

18 JULY – 30 AUGUST

1233 ABC Newcastle Portrait Prize

24 JULY – 30 AUGUST

**After Your Collection: Hannah Batty, Aaron Belleste, Dale Collier, Rachel Milne
Lola Greeno: Cultural Jewels**

4 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER

**Your Collection: Lake Life
Lore & Order**

4 SEPTEMBER – 6 DECEMBER

CLICK: Schools in Focus

16 OCTOBER – 6 DECEMBER

**Your Collection: Dobell and his contemporaries
Painter in Paradise: William Dobell in New Guinea**

11 DECEMBER – 31 JANUARY 2016

**Newcastle Schools: Happy!
Happyness**

FROM THE GALLERY DIRECTOR

What a great year so far for the gallery, particularly in the areas of exhibition development, education and Aboriginal programming. We have welcomed over 15,000 visitors with more than 850 being school students and 3,000 participating in education and public programs.

The program has reflected the gallery's ongoing commitment to balance. Highlights included our annual *First Class* exhibition project celebrating the talent of young artists in the region through their HSC works as selected by Ann Caddey and Belinda Howden. Running concurrently to *First Class 14* was *Ben Quilty: a case study*, the third in our HSC case study series selected by Meryl Ryan with education resource material prepared by Kate Caddey.

In May the gallery and Stephen Goddard were presented with two more Museums Australia Multimedia & Publication Design Awards, in the highly commended category, for the catalogue/poster from *Wild Side: the animal in art*, a partnership project with Western Plains Cultural Centre curated by Meryl Ryan and Kent Buchanan.

One of our major projects of the year was *(in)visible: the First Peoples and War* curated by Yhonnie Scarce and Meryl Ryan, in consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group. This was more than a contribution to the Anzac commemorative year, it was also a clear acknowledgment of the significance of the frontier wars in our shared histories.

Our commitment to telling Aboriginal stories with the Aboriginal Reference Group will continue through the project *Lore & Order* – exploring the complex relationship between Birabahn and Reverend Thelkeld with the narrative extending to encompass mission life 'under the Act' across New South Wales.

This year we are the gallery partner for the 1233 Portrait Prize, kicking off with a live broadcast with 1233 ABC Newcastle on the afternoon of 17 July. Our other photographic projects will include two more exhibitions in our series *CLICK: Schools in Focus*.

We have also presented, throughout the exhibition program, new additions to the collection alongside those acquired over many years. This will continue during the year in various exhibitions including a companion project to the S.H. Ervin's touring exhibition *Painter in Paradise: William Dobell in New Guinea*.

The program will end with *Happyness*. Curated by Meryl Ryan and Stephen Goddard, this major exhibition looks at diverse aspects of our world in humorous, even playful ways. Alongside the latest Newcastle Schools' project, the holiday season promises to delight.

Of course, we will continue to present a raft of classes, events and forums around the exhibition program and community interests so whether you are with a school group, family, friends or just after some quiet time on your own, there will be something for you to enjoy in the second half of our 2015 program.

We look forward to seeing you at the gallery.

Debbie Abraham

Director, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery

www.artgallery.lakemac.com.au





GENERAL INFORMATION

Who we are

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery is an exceptional cultural and tourist destination, widely recognised for its exhibition program and work with the community.

Every visit is a visual treat. Touring shows alternate with gallery-curated exhibitions featuring nationally significant artists, many of whom share a connection with the Hunter. Contemporary art practice is the focus of many of our exhibitions and respectful Aboriginal projects are integral to the program.

The gallery site is welcoming with:

- state-of-the-art exhibition space
- helpful, knowledgeable and friendly staff
- free family activity area
- well-equipped seminar facilities for a wide range of purposes, from art classes, lectures and residencies by visiting artists, to community and corporate events
- retail outlet for contemporary craft and books
- easy ramp access to the gallery for wheelchairs and prams
- baby-changing facilities and disability access to toilets
- ample car parking, accessible jetty and bicycle path
- the historic Awaba House Restaurant Cafe
- extensive sculpture park.

Above and left:
Visitors enjoying
events in the
gallery grounds.





18 JULY – 30 AUGUST

1233 ABC Newcastle Portrait Prize

The 1233 Portrait Prize continues to gain momentum with photographers vying for the recognition and great prizes. This year the final top 10 entries and a Listeners' Choice (identified by the number of 'likes' on 1233's photo gallery Facebook page) will be displayed once more at Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. Entrants were invited to take a portrait photograph with a local Hunter connection and describe what they had discovered about the subject of their portrait in 100 words or less. The major prize winner will receive a trip to the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. With the event attracting over 200 entries this year, the competition promises to be lively and the judges' job challenging! Come along for the announcement festivities at a live broadcast from 3pm 17 July.

A 1233 ABC Newcastle project in partnership with the gallery.

Above: Paul Bevan live on 1233 ABC in 2012 as judges Debbie Abraham and Allan Chawner discuss the exhibition of 1233 Portrait Prize entries in the gallery.

Left: Young visitors in the Sculpture park with *Tanifa O Tagaloa* (2003) by Fatu Feu'u. Australian red gum, steel, Cook Island black pearl shells, 309 x 103 x 50cm. Purchased by Lake Macquarie Art Gallery Society, supported by Arts NSW.



24 JULY – 30 AUGUST

After Your Collection

Throughout the previous exhibition *Your Collection: the extended version*, four Hunter-based artists in residence – Hannah Batty, Aaron Bellette, Dale Collier and Rachel Milne – worked alongside selected works from the collection within the gallery space. With materials ranging from oil paint to found objects, the artists responded with new bodies of work inspired by the context of the residency. This exhibition showcases those works.

A gallery project curated by Meryl Ryan and Rob Cleworth.

Clockwise, from top left to right
artist-in-residence gallery studios
of Hannah Batty, Dale Collier,
Aaron Bellette and Rachel Milne



24 JULY – 30 AUGUST

Lola Greeno: Cultural Jewels

This is the eighth exhibition in the ongoing series *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*, initiated by the Australian Design Centre to celebrate the achievements of the most influential and iconic figures within the Australian crafts movement. Lola Greeno, from Tasmania, is the first Aboriginal 'Living Treasure' to feature in the series. She has developed a major body of work specifically for this exhibition, supplementing fragile strings of coastal harvested shells, local to her Country, with other traditional materials and techniques – fibre weaving, kelp, quills, bones, and found objects. The exhibition presents surprising contemporary installations, referencing the culture and history of northern Tasmania and Bass Strait Islands Aboriginal women. The diversity of her work, the delicate nature of the threaded shell patterns, using luminous maireener, miniature rice, crow and shells from her Country, is counterpoised by more dramatic installations based on the body, not previously seen from this artist.

An Object: Australian Design Centre touring exhibition.

Lola Greeno
teunne (king maireener shell crown) (detail) 2013
king maireener shells,
cotton thread
diameter 25cm
© the artist
Photo: John Leeming QVMAG



4 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER

Your Collection: Lake Life

Over the years, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery has acquired many works relating to the lake and the local landscape. With this in mind, and in consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group, the works in this exhibition were selected from the gallery's collection to focus on this place and this Country alongside the concurrent exhibition project *Lore & Order*.

A gallery project curated by Meryl Ryan and Rob Cleworth, in consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group.

Kurra-kuran (men turned into rock) - petrified forest I (detail) 2004
from the collaborative series 'Passage' by Mervyn Bishop and Doug Archibald
digital photograph on paper
50 x 75cm
Donated by the artists, 2004
Collection Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery © the artists



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4 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER

Lore & Order

This exhibition explores the complex relationship between Birabahn and the Reverend Threlkeld, based around Ebenezer (now Toronto) as one of the first Christian missions in Lake Macquarie. The narrative extends to mission life and includes archival materials, contemporary artwork (both borrowed and commissioned) and local stories from Aboriginal Elders forced to live under the *Aborigines Protection Act* (1883–1969) in New South Wales.

A gallery project curated by Donna Biles Fernando with the Aboriginal Reference Group. Funded by the State Government through NSW Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund.

Lewis John Knox
People Praying Together
(detail) 2014
acrylic on canvas
61 x 45cm
private collection
© the artist

A photograph showing three women from behind, looking at a gallery exhibit. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a black top and patterned pants. The woman in the middle has dark hair and is wearing a black and white striped shirt. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a black top and a long black skirt. They are standing in front of a dark wall with several framed photographs. To the right, a sign reads "CLICK" in large yellow letters, with "schools in focus" in smaller yellow letters below it. The floor is a light-colored, polished surface.

CLICK
schools in focus



4 SEPTEMBER – 6 DECEMBER

CLICK: Schools in Focus

CLICK is now an established gallery initiative designed to showcase secondary school photographic projects from across the Hunter and Central Coast region. This is the sixth exhibition in the popular series. Each year, three exhibitions of work are selected and proudly displayed in the education room. The gallery invites expressions of interest from secondary school teachers wishing to submit student work for consideration in the program of mini-showcase photomedia exhibitions.

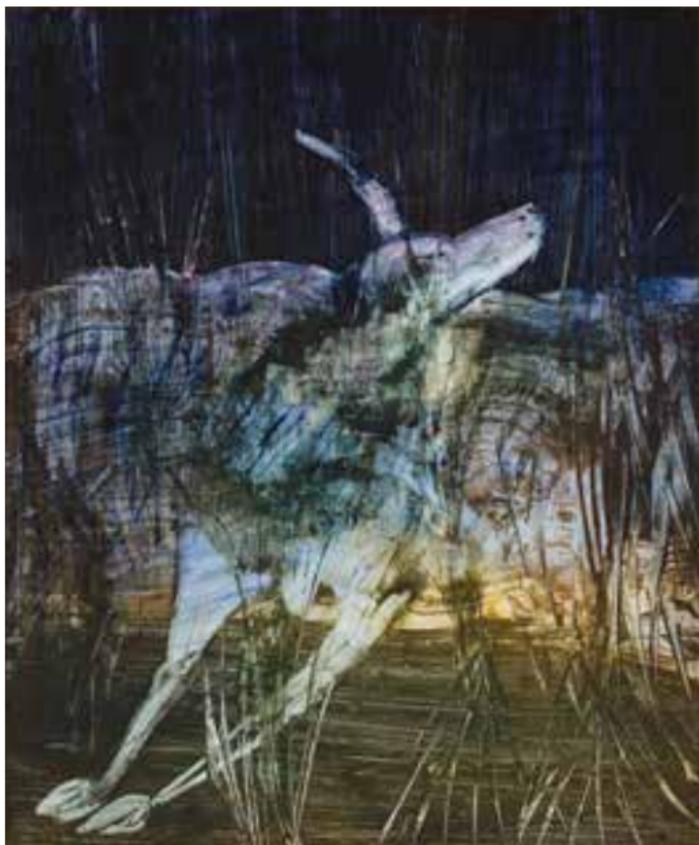
4 September–11 October: Terrigal High School

16 October–6 December: Expressions of interest are invited from schools. Please consult our website or telephone the gallery on 49658260 to obtain the Expression of Interest form.

A gallery project coordinated by Jo Davies and Rob Cleworth in consultation with Debbie Abraham.

Above: Morgan Laird
from year 9, Terrigal High School
Water Spirit (detail) 2015

Left: Visitors enjoying the CLICK
exhibition of works by students
from Newcastle High School in
June 2015.



16 OCTOBER – 6 DECEMBER

Your Collection: Dobell and his contemporaries

This exhibition features key works by William Dobell and his contemporaries from the gallery's collection. These works are supplemented by loans from the Art Gallery of New South Wales and a selection of holdings promised to the gallery as part of a bequest from local collector Dr Caleb Firkin and his late wife Shirley Firkin. Alongside Dobell, artists include Joshua Smith, Irvine Homer, Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd.

A gallery project curated by Rob Cleworth and Meryl Ryan.

Sidney Nolan
Animal in swamp 1958
polyvinyl acetate on hardboard,
151.5 x 124cm
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Anonymous gift 2013
Photo: Christopher Snee/AGNSW
© Trustees of the
Sydney Nolan Trust
Bridgeman Art Library 93.2013



16 OCTOBER – 6 DECEMBER

Painter in Paradise: William Dobell in New Guinea

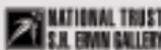
This major exhibition, conceived by guest curator Natalie Wilson, focuses on the work produced by William Dobell following two journeys made to the Papua and New Guinea in 1949 and 1950. Through an extraordinary group of drawings, paintings, watercolours, and photographs from private and public collections the exhibition explores the artist's engagement with the landscapes and people he encountered on his journeys.

An exhibition organised by S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. The S.H Ervin Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Gordon Darling Foundation and the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation with the exhibition.

William Dobell
*Mahme and the
tamba player* c.1952
oil and gouache on board
16.1 x 20.2cm
Bequest from the
Estate of Ruth Spenser
Komon, 2002
Collection Lake Macquarie
City Art Gallery
© courtesy Sir William
Dobell Art Foundation



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11 DECEMBER 2015 – 31 JANUARY 2016

Newcastle Schools: Happy!

Newcastle Junior, Middle and Senior Schools cater to the needs of local primary students with a moderate or severe intellectual disability. The school believes in a quality art education program to develop students' skills. This exhibition will be selected from works the students have created around ideas invoked by the concept of happiness.

A gallery project coordinated by Rob Cleworth.

A detail of works produced by Newcastle Schools for their exhibition *Animal Sanctuary* in 2014



11 DECEMBER 2015 – 31 JANUARY 2016

Happyness

Since time immemorial, artists have produced work that scrutinises and interprets aspects of our lives – political, social and personal. In the 21st century, with the increasing pressures brought on by issues such as the global financial crisis, climate change, terrorism and more, these responses are often appropriately provocative and challenging. No less insightful and complex, the works for this exhibition focus on aspects of our world and the human condition in such a way as to generate awareness through wit, playfulness and enchantment. We could not think of a better way to mark the season.

A gallery project curated by Meryl Ryan and Stephen Goddard.

TextaQueen
*Self portrait in Texas
Rainbow (detail) 2011*
felt tip marker on paper,
112 x 77cm
courtesy the artist and
Sullivan & Strumpf, Sydney
© the artist



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Where we are

The gallery is located at the north-west end of Lake Macquarie amidst five hectares of lakefront grounds and sculpture park overlooking Marmong Marina. The gallery has a carpark adjacent to Hunter Rowing Club, but can be reached via the cycleway, the lake or public transport. Catch a train to Booragul Station and enjoy a 15-minute walk down Fourth Street into First Street and along the waterfront; or alight at Fassifern or Teralba Stations and catch a bus or taxi/hire car. If driving from Sydney, take the Toronto exit on the M1 Pacific Motorway. Turn left at Toronto Road (signposted Newcastle) and turn right at the roundabout at Booragul. Continue along First Street to the end.

Google Maps: search for 'Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery'.

Taxi Services Co-op 133 300

Toronto Hire Cars (02) 4950 4111

Toronto Bus Services (02) 4959 1233

Newcastle Bus Service 131 500

CityRail Trains 131 500

Gallery Director Debbie Abraham

Curator Meryl Ryan

Education & Public Programs Officer Joanna Davies

Exhibitions & Collection Officer Rob Cleworth

Marketing & Audience Engagement Officer Laura Wilson

Visitor Services Emily Roberts

Administration Officer Nada Artym

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Left: Aerial view of the gallery and sculpture park featuring Richard Tipping's *Hear the art* 1996 brick, native trees, 2646cm radius, supported by EnergyAustralia and Arts NSW, Collection Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery

LAKE MACQUARIE CITY ART GALLERY
OPEN TUESDAY TO SUNDAY 10AM – 5PM
& SELECTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 11AM – 4PM
(TELEPHONE FOR DETAILS)
ADMISSION IS FREE

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AWABA HOUSE CAFE RESTAURANT
CAFE OPEN TUESDAY TO SUNDAY 10AM – 4PM
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Front cover: *From Your Collection: Dobell and his contemporaries*
16 October–6 December 2015
William Dobell, *Self portrait* (detail) c.1970
mixed media on board, 29.6 x 24cm
Bequest from the Estate of Ruth Spenser Komon, 2002
Collection Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery
© courtesy Sir William Dobell Art Foundation