



2017

Annual Report

PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

20 January 2017 to 19 March 2017

Archibald Prize 2016 Regional Tour

An Art Gallery of NSW touring exhibition



Visitors at the 2016 Archibald Prize. Photo: Jacque Perry

Prestigious and controversial, the Archibald Prize is Australia's foremost portraiture prize. It is awarded to the best painting of a notable Australian and is a veritable who's who of Australian culture, from politicians and celebrities to sporting heroes and artists.

In accordance with the bequest established in 1919 by Jules François Archibald (1856–1919) the founding editor of *The Bulletin* the Archibald Prize was first awarded in 1921. The Archibald Prize is a non-acquisitive competition and aims to foster portraiture, support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians.

Public Programs

An exhibition opening with Guest Speakers included: Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra; on behalf of principal sponsor ANZ Bank, Mr Craig Clarke ANZ District Manager - Central West and Riverina; an informative talk by Natalie Wilson, Curator, Australian and Pacific Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW); Archibald finalist and Packing Room Prize winner Betina Fauvel-Ogden; and an impromptu speech from Archibald finalist Zoe Young.



L-R: Mr Craig Clarke, ANZ District Manager, Riverina & Central West; Archibald Prize finalist and Winner of the Packing Room Prize Betina Fauvel-Ogden; and Natalie Wilson, Curator Australian & Pacific Art, AGNSW. Artwork: *George Calombaris, masterchef*, oil on linen
Photo: Jacque Perry



Archibald finalist Zoe Young with Mr Craig Clarke, ANZ District Manager, Riverina & Central West pictured in front of Young's painting of Sam Harris. Photo: Jacque Perry

An Artist's floor talk took place Saturday, 21 January by Betina Fauvel – Ogden, Archibald Prize finalist and Packing Room Prize winner.

Portrait painting workshops were also held for both children and adults with local artist Ann Morton. Archibald entrant Lucy Culliton conducted a one-day Still Life Painting Workshop for adults. Lucy Culliton also gave an artist's floor talk to coincide with her workshop on 21 January and local artist (and past Archibald Prize finalist) Ann Morton conducted a special one-day Portrait Painting from Life with a model for adults on Saturday 28th January.



Above: Life Model Helen Daly posing for painters at the Portrait Painting from Life with Ann Morton. Below: Portrait Painting from a Picture Summer Children's Workshop Photos: Brian Langer





Adults "Still Life" painting workshop participants with Archibald Prize finalist Lucy Culliton and their artworks.



Works in progress – "Still Life" painting workshop held in the Multi Purpose Room with Archibald Prize finalist Lucy Culliton

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information and visitation schedule. Twenty-one school groups visited the Gallery during the Archibald Prize exhibition this includes 283 Students and 23 teachers.



Above: Students from Goodstart Early Learning, Cowra. Photos: Jacque Perry



Large Queanbeyan Probus Group travelled to view the 2016 Archibald Prize. Photo Jacque Perry

25 March to 30 April 2017

Colours of the Country III

An Artback NT touring exhibition

This collection of beanies encapsulates the whimsical essence of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival and demonstrates the growth of the Beanie as an art form as well as imagination, creativity and fine craftsmanship within each piece. *Colours of the Country III* showcases work produced by Indigenous artists from the Central Desert region in this cross-cultural event. This exhibition was embraced by a broad cross-section of the community and inspired audiences to laugh, don crazy head wear and bring out those knitting needles all over again.

Public Programs

An exhibition opening was held Saturday, 1 April 2017 which included a floor talk by Merran Hughes, Artistic Director of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival.

While this wonderful tour visited Cowra, a needle felting workshop and demonstration was held for adults by facilitator Merran Hughes. Merran also presented images of amazing needle felting from Indigenous artists of the central desert region to inspire participants.



Schools Program – Local schools received invitations and promotional information prior to the exhibition.



Visitors enjoying Colours of Country III (aka 'The Beanie Show')

25 March to 30 April 2017

Collection in Focus: New Acquisitions

A Cowra Regional Art Gallery Exhibition



This exhibition was shown in conjunction with Colours of the Country III and brings together an exciting range of newly acquired artworks from 2013–2016. These works include recent winners of the Calleen Art Award, new works acquired through a private bequest, the Commonwealth Government's Cultural Gifts Program, artist donations and works purchased through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Gallery.

Public Program

An exhibition opening was held Saturday, 1 April 2017.



Gallery Director Brian Langer discussing New Acquisitions. Photo: Gwen Clark

7 May to 18 June 2017

2017 Calleen Art Award



Opening night Calleen art Award

The Calleen Art Award encourages originality, creativity and artistic excellence and is an acquisitive national painting prize in any subject and style established in 1977 by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. The winner of the 2017 Calleen Art Award received \$20,000 in prize money made possible by the generous support of the Calleen Trust and the winning painting Audery by Melbourne based artist Zai Kuang became part of the Calleen Collection at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.



Public Programs

An exhibition opening and preview took place Saturday, 6 May 2017 and included a floor talk and announcement of the winner by Mr Angus Trumble, Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

An ensemble of students from the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney performed whilst the very well-attended crowd mingled and enjoyed delicious catering by hospitality students from St Raphael's School before the announcement of the winner.





L-R: Judge Mr Angus Trumble, Patron Mrs Jenni Fagan Gallery Director, Brian Langer with winning painting *Audery*,
Photo: Gwen Clarke

Schools Program

Canowindra Public School enjoyed their visit to the Gallery.



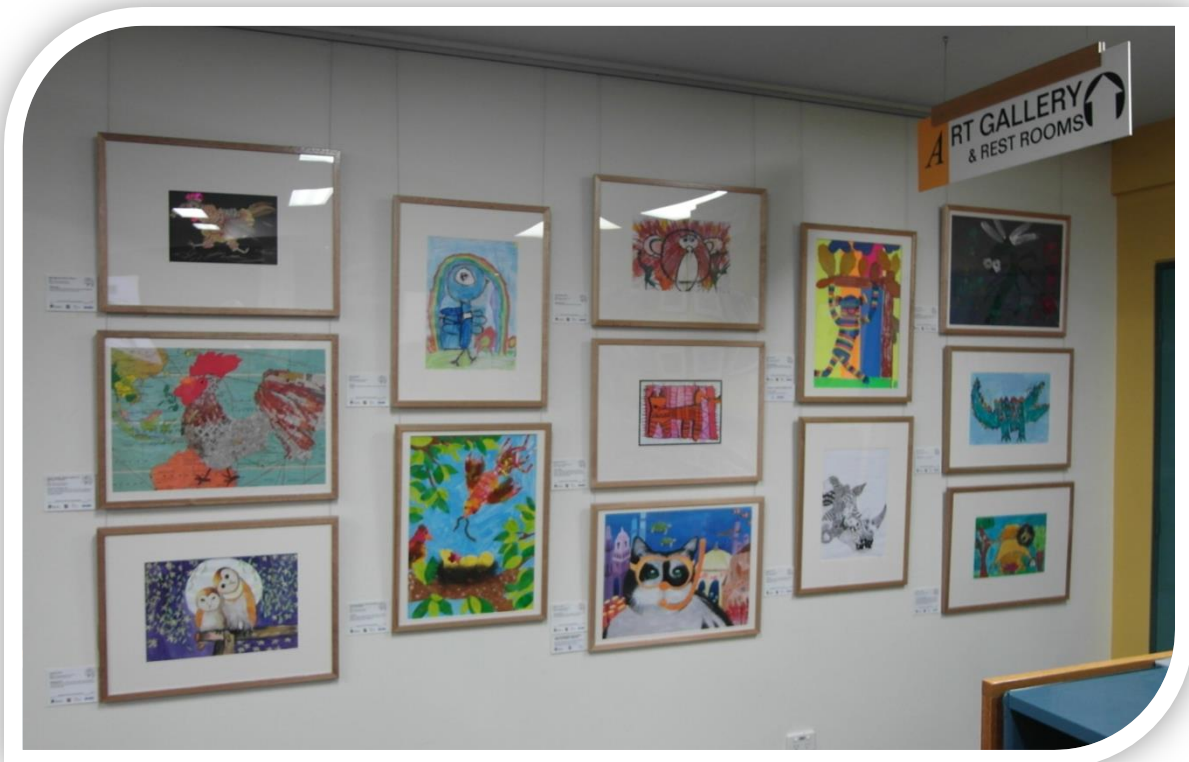
7 May to 18 June 2017

Operation Art

An Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education touring exhibition



During May/June, the Gallery presented the regional tour, *Operation Art* in the Cowra Library. This exhibition showcased artworks created by children from Kindergarten to Year 10 from across NSW for sick children in hospital. It was an important state-wide visual arts initiative that recognised creative talent and community spirit of young students.



Some of the works on show in the Cowra Library during *Operation Art*

Public Program

The Gallery facilitated a special handover of ten Operation Art children's artworks to the Cowra Hospital.



Works to be donated to the Cowra Hospital



24 June to 30 July 2017

Stephen Bird: From Painter to Bastard Son of Royal Doulton

A Wollongong Art Gallery touring exhibition



An enticing exhibition, from its evocative and amusingly irreverent title to its bizarre and often comically hybrid forms and colourful images, this survey of ceramics; objects and works on paper uncovered Stephen Bird's diverse art practice over 20 years and its influence on his well-known ceramic works.

These works, including paper constructions; watercolours; ceramics and mosaics have not previously been shown in Australia and includes commemorative plates and Toby-style jugs which meld an Australian sardonic humour with traditional English Industrial pottery forms.

Public Program

An exhibition opening took place on Saturday 24th June with guest speaker Grace Cochrane OAM.

Schools Program – Local schools received invitations and promotional information prior to the exhibition. Holman Place School visited the exhibition.

5 August to 13 August 2017

Behind the Wire – Cowra Breakout/Cowra POW Camp

From 5 August each year, for over 50 years, Japanese and Australian survivors and descendants have gathered in Cowra to commemorate, through memorial services and special events the “Cowra Breakout” which took place on 5 August 1944. On that day more than 1,100 Japanese Prisoners of War attempted a mass escape from the Cowra POW camp. A total of 334 Japanese POWs made it out of the camp, while 231 Japanese and four Australian servicemen were killed in the Breakout attempt and subsequent round-up.

The exhibition *Our History Our Heritage* displayed a diverse collection of precious Cowra POW camp artefacts and objects including memorabilia and photographs. Restored altar panels created by Italian Prisoners of War and which were originally housed in the Italian Chapel at the Camp were also showcased.

Public Program

The exhibition opening night took place Friday, 4 August 2017 and was opened by Cr Bill West, Mayor Cowra Shire Council and Stephen Copland installation artist. Guest speaker was Dr Roslyn Russell, Historian, writer, Museum Curator and Chair of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee. Over 60 people attended the opening.



Opening night images

Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of exhibition invitations and promotional information to local schools

5 August to 13 August 2017

Dream of Ghosts – An Installation by Stephen Copland

Artist Stephen Copland worked with the Cowra Breakout Committee and Cowra Regional Art Gallery as artist-in-residence to produce a video installation and series of works on paper which was presented at the exhibition. Stephen also donated the installation piece, together with his drawings and cut-out images created during the residency to Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

Public Program

Exhibition opening night took place Friday, 4 August 2017 and was opened by Dr Roslyn Russell; historian, writer, museum curator and Chair of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee.

Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of exhibition invitations and promotional information to local schools



26 August to 8 October 2017

Soft Core

A Museums and Galleries NSW touring exhibition

This exhibition presented a diverse range of artistic practices that explore the many facets of 'softness'. The exhibition contained works that not only utilise tactile materials, co-opted for their versatility and their mutability between function and emotion, but also works that require activation – such as electricity or inflation to become whole while others inhabit their softness quietly.

Public Program

This exciting touring exhibition opened Saturday, 26 August 2017. Guest speaker, exhibition curator, Michael Do



Curator Micheal Do (Top right & bottom Centre) with visitors at the exhibition opening



Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of information to local schools with Mulyan Public School (left) and St Raphael's Catholic School (right) attending.

14 October to 29 October 2017

Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards

This popular regional annual event was presented by the Cowra Art Group and featured works by artists living within a 100 km radius of Cowra. Entries included categories of traditional and contemporary art with mediums ranging from painting, drawing, collage, watercolour, pastel and mixed media.



Visitors at the opening



Awards judge, Bradley Hammer (left), Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West (centre) and Brian Langer, Director Cowra Regional Art gallery (right).

Public Program

An exhibition opening and took place Friday, 13 October 2017 with an opening address by Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West. Announcement of the winners was made by Awards judge, Bradley Hammer who is the Director of Orange Regional Gallery and Orange Regional Museum.



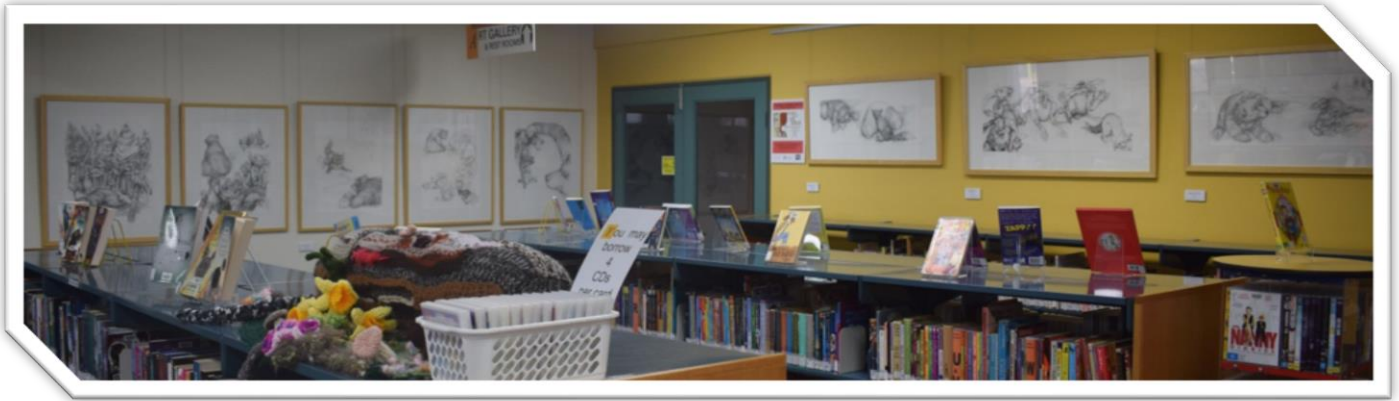
Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of exhibition invitations and promotional information to local schools

16 October to 11 November 2017

The Sorry Tale of the Fox & the Bear – Cowra Library

Original illustrations of *The Sorry Tale of the Fox & the Bear* by Heather Vallance were on display at Cowra Library.



25 November to 10 December 2017

UpstART 2017

This annual exhibition showcased over 75 works of art from regional students in year 10, 11 and 12. Nine high schools from the region participated and mediums included painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, mixed media and photography.



Visitors at the exhibition opening

Public Program

The exhibition opening and preview was well attended on Saturday, 25 November 2017 with Cr Bill West, Cowra Shire Council Mayor as guest speaker Awards Judge, Michelle Coombes; BA (Vis Arts Ed) - Artist, Designer and Teacher presented the awards.

Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of exhibition invitations and promotional information to local schools

16 December 2017 to 4 February 2018

Calleen Collection: 40 Year Anniversary

The Calleen Collection 1977–2009 consists of 35 works and is the legacy of Cowra resident and arts patron, Mrs Patricia Fagan, OAM. In 1976, the Calleen Trust made its first donation of prize money for an acquisitive painting award which is now known as the Calleen Art Award. This award has grown to be a substantial annual art prize, open to artists across Australia. The first winning work was displayed in the then Council Chambers. Highlights of the collection are works that reflect predominant painting styles in Australia during the past 20 years, together with a strong regional flavour.



Exhibition opening with Angus Trumble, Director, National Portrait Gallery, Jenni Fagan, Calleen Trust, Brian Langer Director, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Steph Cooke, MP, Member for Cootamundra, Bill West, Mayor Cowra Shire Council and Peter Fagan Calleen Trust.

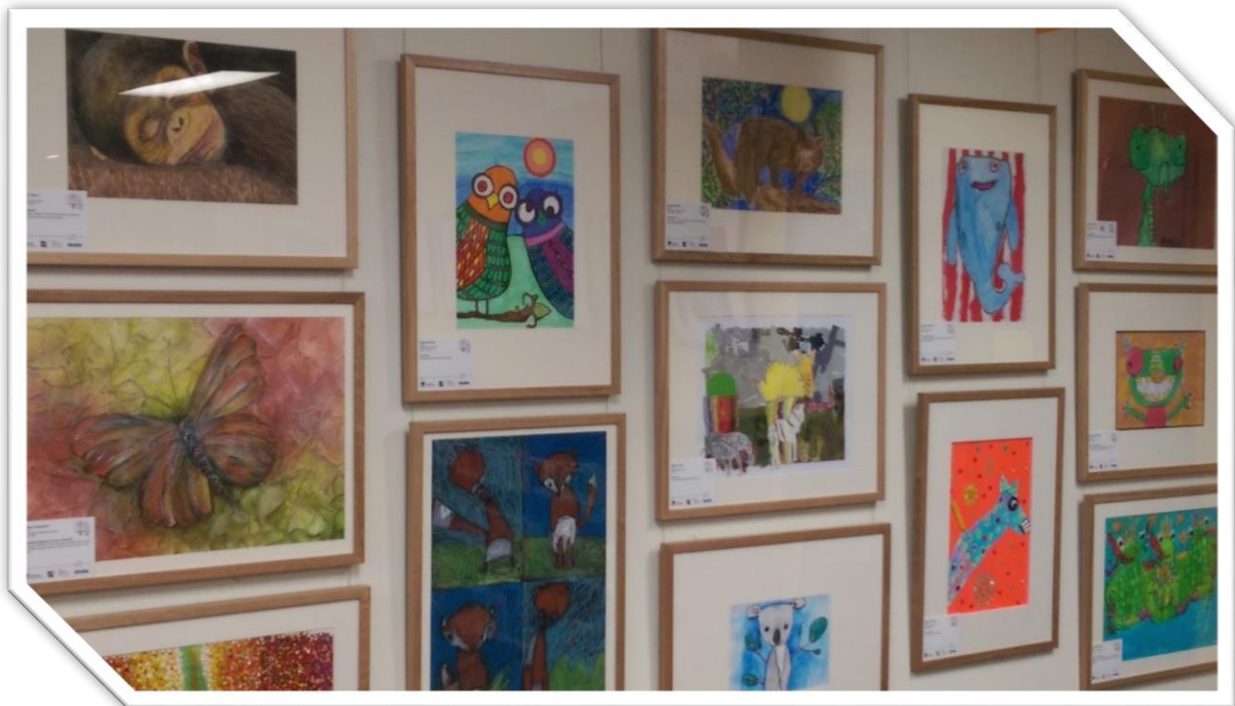
Public Program

An exhibition opening and preview took place Saturday, 16 December 2017 and was opened by guest speaker Angus Trumble, Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

20 December 2017 to 24 February 2018

2017 Operation Art – Cowra Library

Operation Art is an initiative of the Children's Hospital at Westmead in collaboration with the Department of Education and Communities. This program encourages students from Kindergarten to Year 10 in schools across NSW to create artworks for children in hospital. It is an important state-wide visual arts exhibition that focuses on creating a positive environment to aid the healing and recovery process of young patients. The touring exhibition is comprised of 50 colourful artworks using mediums including painting, drawing, collage and photography.



Please Note: Cowra Library exhibitions are a Gallery partnership program developed in association with the availability of the Library.