



Museums & Galleries of NSW Annual Review 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

Museums & Galleries of NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and all the other Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respect to them as First Nations people with continuing connection to land, place, waters and community

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Front cover image: Installation view of M&G NSW's touring exhibition *Material Sound* at NorthSite Contemporary Arts in 2022. Photo by Cristina Bevilacqua

CEO & Chair's Report

As we emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we were met with a new set of challenges with record breaking flooding across the state. Our organisation worked closely with the sector, Create NSW and private business (in particular with International Conservation Services and other expert conservators) to provide support for flood affected organisations. We were also able to draw on the skills and experience of our M&G NSW Museum Advisors to provide expert on the ground assistance, which continued in the Central West of NSW in late 2022. We continue to learn from this experience, and in 2023 will commence a series of workshops for organisations and communities to prepare for increased climate threats.

Our annual board trip in August this year took in a visit to the Northern Rivers, where board members experienced the flood impacts first hand, and met with affected organisations.

Notwithstanding this activity, M&G NSW continued with its program of touring, sector support, research and advocacy.

In 2022 we conducted our Sector Census, which provides an understanding of sector challenges,

benchmarking and impact. Key among the findings were 45% of organisations have urgent and/or long-term building maintenance issues impacting the safer storage of their collections; while over half have commenced environmental sustainability initiatives. We released preliminary findings in November and will follow up in 2023 with a detailed report, alongside focused factsheets on a range of topics.

In May, Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Ben Franklin, launched the long awaited Storyplace website, a major new platform supporting the digitisation of collections across the state. Storyplace tells and advocates for the importance of local and regional stories.

None of this work would be possible if not for the expertise and dedication of our staff and Board. We acknowledge the many pressures the sector is under and thank staff for their commitment and professionalism.

Ray Christison
Chair, M&G NSW

Brett Adlington
CEO, M&G NSW



Above: M&G NSW Board Members on the annual board trip in Lismore. From left to right: Kylie Tung, Susi Muddiman OAM, Judy Jaeger, Frank Zaknich, Tamara Hynd, John Thompson (M&G NSW Finance Manager), Ray Christison, Phil Gordon.

What We Do

Museums & Galleries of NSW advocates for and supports small to medium public museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres and keeping places in NSW.

Our Purpose

To support small to medium galleries, museums and Aboriginal cultural centres in NSW to maximise their impact and help create strong and thriving local communities.

Our Values

- **Respect:** For Aboriginal people and their right to cultural ownership and more generally for their diversity of opinion and knowledge.
- **Relevance:** To contemporary cultures, government policy, industry, community and sector needs
- **Collaboration:** To develop and deliver services
- **Inclusivity:** Of diversity of practices, range of knowledge, access, disability and special needs
- **Integrity:** Be trustworthy, accountable and transparent.

Our Methods and Outputs

M&G NSW uses four key methods to assist museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres and keeping places to maximise their cultural impact within communities and across the State.

The four methods used are:

1. Services – providing programs and support

These include the promotion of sector organisations and activities, touring exhibitions, capacity building programs, formal and informal learning opportunities, skill development workshops, seminars and events.

2. Resources – advice, fact sheets and grant funding

These include a range of alternative and targeted funding opportunities, for small and large projects, and widely used ‘on-demand’ text and media-rich

practical guides, discussion papers, case studies and research reports are undertaken for and about the sector.

3. Connections – enhancing direct and social media communication

Our programs create and provide opportunities for people to connect face to face and remotely. We provide contacts and facilitate connections across the state.

4. Governance – promoting transparency, accountability and integrity

We observe strong governance to ensure stability, sustainability, transparency and accountability. This keeps the organisation connected to its agreed KPIs, with purposeful Board engagement, managed risk and financial health.

Diversity

The organisation’s adopted Diversity Statement acknowledges that M&G NSW’s reflection of diversity begins with Board membership maintaining gender balance and an engagement with contemporary Australian identity. We also ensure that our operations maintain deep sector knowledge of volunteer and professionally run organisations across NSW.

During 2022, our Board consisted of just under half female representation, with more than half coming from regional areas. In 2023, over half of the Board members will be female. There is an ongoing commitment to ensure Aboriginal representation on the Board. Throughout 2022, 35% of permanent and contract staff lived outside metropolitan Sydney, including a regionally-based CEO.

In 2022, 5 of our 8 touring exhibitions were 100% female identifying artists, and of projects in development, 3 of 5 present First Nations artists.

We also engaged Arts Law/Artists in the Black to review exhibition touring contracts to ensure First Nations principles as related to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocols are adhered to.

Sector Advice Service

M&G NSW provides a range of advice for both the sector and the general public. This advice includes providing information on grants, governance, contact details, facilities development, touring exhibitions and formal consultations.

In 2022, the Sector Advice Service handled **549 enquiries** amounting to **219 hours**.

Type of Organisation Seeking Advice	
Museum	38.1%
Gallery	20.4%
Aboriginal cultural centre	3.3%
Individual/Other	31.6%
Museum & Gallery	6.6%

Type of Information Provided	
Grants	18.8%
Technical Information	19.4%
Governance Information	5.1%
General/Other	35%
Contact Information & Directions	21.1%
Covid Related	0.4%

Location	
Regional NSW	60%
Western Sydney	7.1%
Metropolitan	25%
Interstate/Overseas	7.8%

Site Visits

As travel became easier throughout 2022, our staff started to engage more directly with the sector with visits to museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres across the state with **88 total site visits**. Having a more regionally dispersed staff also expands our ability to reach across the state.

While site visits provide an opportunity to get a more rounded understanding of who it is we work with, online meetings have allowed for an enhanced ability to meet with colleagues across the state, and the country.

Site Visit Location	
Regional NSW	46
Western Sydney	10
Metropolitan	21
Interstate	10

Type of Organisation	
Museum	32
Gallery	48
Other	7



Above: M&G NSW Staff visit Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest to see touring exhibition **52 ACTIONS**, developed and curated by Artspace, Sydney, photo by Jason Gee.

Staff & Board 2022

Museums & Galleries of NSW Board:

Ray Christison (Chair)
Michael P Braybrooks OAM
Phil Gordon
Tamara Hynd
Judy Jaeger
Susi Muddiman OAM
Kevin Sumption (to March)
Kylie Tung
Frank Zaknich

Museums & Galleries of NSW Staff:

Chief Executive Officer

Brett Adlington

Administration and Finance

John Thompson

Exhibitions and Programs

Olivia Welch
Susan Wachter
Ashleigh Reardon

Museum Programs and Collections

Emily Cullen
Alice Norwood
Bren Donnellan (parental leave cover May to November)

Aboriginal Sector Programs

Steve Miller
Melissa Abraham

Communications

Jason Gee
Victoria Cleland

Training and Engagement

Dale Maxwell-Smith

Project Staff 2022

Storyplace

Kate Gahan
Gary Crocket (to December)

Let's Get Digital

Zanny Begg (to April)



Above: M&G NSW Staff and Board Members at the 2022 IMAGinE Awards at Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney. From left to right: Ray Christison, Dana Guarnaschelli, Alice Norwood, Jason Gee, John Thompson, Victoria Cleland, Olivia Welch, Kate Gahan, Bren Donnellan, Emily Cullen, Dale Maxwell-Smith, Susan Wachter, Brett Adlington, Ashleigh Reardon, Steve Miller and Melissa Abraham. Photo by Lucy Parakhina.

Highlights in 2022

Launch of collections digitisation website, **Storyplace**. Involving 63 collections, including regional and volunteer run museums and galleries, by the end of 2022 the site contained 620 digitised objects and 505 associated stories and had received 26,313 page views.

Implemented the **2022 Sector Census**. This four-yearly pulse check of the sector provides much needed data that can help inform M&G NSW as well as government support. For the first time, findings from the Census will be delivered through the usual major report, as well as subsequent fact sheets and case studies on specific topics over the next three years.

Provided a key support in **flood response** to a number of organisations in NSW including Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore Regional Museum and towards the end of the year with Eugowra Museum and Bushranger Centre. This involved working closely with the affected organisations, Create NSW, International Conservation Services, independent conservators, Orange Regional Museum and a range of other sector bodies to provide assistance in initial clean up, supporting conservator response, leveraging additional funding and other ongoing support as needed. We also implemented the **NSW Cultural Sector Disaster Support Network** to support the sector and communities in time of need.



Produced and partnered on a number of **government submissions** including NETS Australia Budget Submission; NSW Flood Inquiry; National Cultural Policy; and NSW Volunteering Taskforce.

Provided **targeted consultation** on the development of the NSW Museum Strategy; NAVA's revised Code of Practice; National Gallery of Australia 'National Engagement Plan'; NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030; and review of NSW Heritage Legislation.



Touring of **9 exhibitions to 24 venues**, across **5 states**, and seen by **audiences numbering 118,287**. We also launched three new projects: *Zanny Begg | These Stories Will Be Different*; *Suspended Moment*; and partnered with Artspace on providing touring support for **52 ACTIONS**.

The 15th Annual IMAGInE Awards were held in person at Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney. Delivered with the support of the venue, AMaGA (NSW) and RPG NSW, 170 people gathered at the Awards for the first time since 2019. Sponsorship from International

Conservation Services enabled travel support for a number of recipients of the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Volunteer. The Awards continue to highlight the importance of gathering as a sector and acknowledge the huge collective impact our organisations make in their communities.

Continued our **Reconciliation Action Plan** by engaging staff and Board with relevant news and issues fortnightly and commenced work on our **new RAP** to be finalised in 2023.

Sector Development Manager, Emily Cullen, represented the organisation in the national working party to update **The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries** and spoke on the Standards at the **Australian Museums and Galleries Association** conference in Perth.



Supporting 84 museums/collecting organisations in 20 local government areas, the **Museum Advisor Program** continued to assist the work of over 1,000 volunteers through the provision of advice and specialist skills.

Resourced by the M&G NSW Aboriginal Sector Programs Team, the **NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA)** held 2 conferences across 3 venues: the Museum of Contemporary Art and Monaro Bobberrer Gudu Cultural Centre on the far south coast in April and the Wiradjuri Study Centre Condobolin in September with a combined total of 75 delegates. The gatherings were supported by Create NSW and for the first time, the Australia Council for the Arts and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

Managed 3 **Devolved Funding Programs** on behalf of Create NSW - the **Audience Development Fund (ADF)**, **Placement Program** and the **Volunteer Museum Grants**, as well as the **Dobell Exhibition Grant** supported by The Sir William Dobell Art Foundation.

51% of NSW local government areas engaged with through visits, funding and programs.

Left to right: M&G NSW CEO Brett Adlington assists in the Lismore flood recovery, photo courtesy of Richmond River Historical Society. Artist Zanny Begg at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery as part of public programming for *These Stories Will Be Different*, courtesy of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. Sector Development Manager, Emily Cullen, presents The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries at the AMaGA Conference in Perth, alongside members of The National Standards Taskforce.

Partnerships in 2022

Partnerships are a key avenue for M&G NSW to diversify support for the sector and leverage skills and expertise to support sector work, and grow connections and opportunities. In 2022 we continued with maintaining many ongoing partnerships, while also introducing some new ones:

Established a new partnership with **NSW Health Infrastructure** to fund the delivery of the \$10,000 Arts and Health Award which in 2022 was won by **Gosford Regional Gallery**. Their project brings together a local Aboriginal Elder and a local fibre artist and an art therapist to hold weaving workshops at Gosford Hospital with patients and staff, with an exhibition to be held at the Gosford Hospital Exhibition Space at the end of 2023.



A new partnership with **Sydney Contemporary** supported regional galleries in NSW in being able to offer their own supporters complimentary VIP access to the art fair.

With **Parramatta Artists' Studios**, co-hosted a sector event at PAS Rydalmere with many of the M&G NSW Register of Peers in attendance. The day provided sector leaders with a networking opportunity with active resident artists at PAS

Rydalmere. Attendees representing 6 regional NSW locations met with industry leaders from Sydney and Western Sydney-based institutions.

Continued to partner with the **Powerhouse** to deliver the **Regional Stakeholders Forum**. Meeting in person for the first time since 2019, the Forum saw 107 attendees in person, and 36 online tickets. Updates on NSW Aboriginal, Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) and Storyplace, and impacts of flooding in northern NSW highlighted much M&G NSW activity.



Worked with 6 other state and territory-based **NETS** (National Exhibition Touring Support) agencies, sharing resources and knowledge around touring exhibitions, supporting Australian public galleries and advocating collectively to government and peak bodies to ensure high quality cultural programs are available to communities across the breadth of the nation.

Participated in sector networking with the **National Public Galleries Alliance** members and collaborated on the federal government budget submission.

The Sector Development Manager represented the organisation in the national working party to update **The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries**.

Partnered with **Local Government NSW** (LGNSW) for two roundtable meetings with museum staff employed by local government. The number of attendees across the three meetings was 52.

Continued to grow partnerships with local government with financial support provided for the **Standards Program** and the **Museum Advisor Program** enabling 21 local government areas to be involved.

Commenced working with **International Conservation Services** (ICS) to develop strategies to support the sector in implementing sustainability initiatives, to be rolled out in 2023 in partnership with **Australian Museum**. Also secured sponsor partnership with ICS supporting the 2022 IMAGInE Awards.

Sydney Living Museums (Museums of History NSW), **Australian Museum**, **Art Gallery of NSW**, **Powerhouse** and **NSW State Archives and Records** continue to support and work with M&G NSW in the delivery of professional development programs, provision of expertise and venues that in turn support the small to medium sector. Further, these Cultural Institutions were pivotal in supporting flood affected organisations.

Continued partnership with the **University of Queensland Art Museum** for trained mediators to accompany the tour of Mel O'Callaghan's *Centre of the Centre* exhibition. UQ Art Museum is providing training, interpretation material and learning resources to support host venue staff as well as a trained mediator on site or digitally at each host venue.

Supported regionally based cultural institutions, such as **Shoalhaven Regional Gallery**, **Wollongong Art Gallery**, **Wagga Wagga Art Gallery**, **Mildura Arts Centre**, **Hyphen Wodonga**, **The Condensery** in Toogoolawah, **Artspace Mackay**, **NorthSite Contemporary Arts** in Cairns and **Maitland Regional Art Gallery** with the delivery of touring exhibitions, associated engagement activities and training events for sector staff and volunteers.

The **Australian National Maritime Museum**, **Bathurst Regional Art Gallery**, **Broken Hill City Library**, **Chau Chak Wing Museum** and **Fairfield City Museum and Gallery** all partnered with M&G NSW to host and deliver professional development events.



A partnership with **Accessible Arts** was continued with the cross promotion of training and funding opportunities and consultation between organisations for the development of museum and gallery specific training modules.

From left to right: Emma Skulander, Chief Operating Officer, Health Infrastructure presents The Arts and Health Award at The 2022 IMAGInE Awards, photo by Lucy Parakhina. M&G NSW's Storyplace Project Manager Kate Gahan presents on Storyplace at the Regional Stakeholder Forum at the Powerhouse Museum. Eugenia Lim, *The People's Currency*, 2022, commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and presented in partnership with the Australian National Maritime Museum, photo by Dorcas Tang.

Overleaf: M&G NSW Peers at the In the Studio event at Parramatta Artists' Studios, photo by Jacquie Manning, courtesy of Parramatta Artists' Studios.



PARRAMATTA
ARTISTS'
STUDIOS

PARRAMATTA
ARTISTS'
STUDIOS

Advocacy & Ongoing Impact

M&G NSW plays an active role across many aspects of the NSW cultural sector. While many of our programs have an **immediate positive affect on the organisations** and communities we support, such as the Standards Program, touring exhibitions and skill development programs, others may **evolve over longer periods of time**, and be less visible.

Throughout 2022 we learnt:

Batemans Bay Heritage Museum identified their path to success in achieving substantial Create NSW funding commenced when they took place in our Standards Program.

Regional Arts Board, Arts Outwest, expanded on M&G NSW Let's Get Digital program to embed into part of their ongoing programming.

Two artworks were acquired into public collections as a result of their inclusion in the M&G NSW touring exhibition, *Void*.

Meaningful community relationships were formed or strengthened for institutions on the *Void* tour with local First Nations installers engaged for each iteration.

Newly established museum Qtopia established an educational partnership with the Sydney Jewish Museum based on M&G NSW recommendations.



Greater Hume Council leveraged their Let's Get Digital supported videos exploring the dynamic collections of 6 of their region's small museums into a further \$10,000 through Regional Arts Australia's Cultural Tourism Accelerator grant program resulting in a significant TV and social media marketing campaign.

Providing opportunities for curators to travel with touring exhibitions have led to new collaborations between curators and regional venues.



members throughout the year with their funding applications as well as providing valuable feedback to funding bodies on behalf of the sector regarding capacity and issues relating to funding processes and priorities.

Advocacy included:

Written submissions to

- Federal Government Budget Submission with NETS Australia
- NSW Flood Inquiry
- National Cultural Policy
- NSW Volunteering Taskforce

Targeted consultation on the development of:

- NSW Museum Strategy
- NAVA's revised Code of Practice
- National Gallery of Australia 'National Engagement Plan'
- NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030
- Review of NSW Heritage Legislation



'M&G NSW is a vital peak body for the NSW gallery and museum sector for advocacy, funding, professional development, exhibition development, communications, and sector support.'

'M&G NSW provides invaluable resources and services, that are significantly impactful on the ability of the Gallery to present and develop creative programming for our communities and regional audiences, particularly relevant in an increasingly fraught and complex professional/industry environment.'

'The professional advice available via M&G, to rural & regional collections/museums is invaluable.'

Comments from 2022 Sector Census

From left to right: Still from Culcairn Station House Museum's Revealing Histories video, courtesy of Greater Hume Council. Curator Daniel Mudie Cunningham and artist Frances Barrett in conversation at Redcliffe Art Gallery, QLD for *Suspended Moment*, photo by Louis Lim, courtesy Moreton Bay Regional Council, 2023. Curator Talk with Dr. Caleb Kelly at Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW for *Material Sound*, photo by Leighsa Cox, 2022. M&G NSW board members visit Ignite Studios in the aftermath of the Northern Rivers flooding.

Communications

Through sharing current, responsive and relevant information and highlighting best practice, the M&G NSW website provides support, resources and opportunities to the sector.

In 2022, it received 426,332 visits from 309,105 unique users, with visitors from NSW making up 55% of all traffic. In all, it had a total of 1,319,036 pages viewed. The website maintains a comprehensive listing of 505 museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres and keeping places across NSW. In many cases, these pages are the only web presence and contact point for many smaller organisations. The listings of organisations had 327,743 page views.

The website delivered 64,649 outbound links to external websites and 3,894 clickthroughs linked to an email address.

Online Resources

In 2022 M&G NSW published a variety of online resources including 11 video stories and interviews, 43 articles and 16 new and revised sector resources. The sector resources pages received 232,833 page views.

Publishing

Alert, our fortnightly e-newsletter published 24 editions. It featured sector news articles, jobs, resources, grant information and professional development opportunities. The sector news articles received 69,253 page views.

Alert - Enews	2022	2021
Number of subscribers	4,828	4,538
Number published	26	26

Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	LinkedIn
4,058 Fans	4,514 Followers	3,251 Followers	2,549 Followers

Storyplace Website (Launched May 2022)	
5,072 Users	26,313 Page Views

'M&G NSW staff have always been prompt, helpful and knowledgeable when responding to our enquiries.'

'We have used M&G NSW as a go to place when we needed advice and direction. Our security blanket!'

2022 Sector Census Participants

Right: Julian Bickersteth from International Conservation Services is interviewed for an M&G NSW resource video.



Aboriginal Programs

The Aboriginal Programs team continued throughout 2022 to build the strength of the **NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA)** towards its transition to standalone independence, which was recognised with the organisation being successful in joining the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations.

ACHAA was also successful in receiving funding both from Create NSW and IVAIS for consultant Donna Biles Fernando to visit ACHAA members to provide support on engaging with the new ACHAA website, and to conduct collection audits at member centres.

In April, ACHAA held its annual **Conference and Cultural Excursion** (delayed from 2021), with **40** member delegates attending in total. The first stage was a 2-day conference held at the Museum of Contemporary Art and a visit to the Biennale of Sydney, followed by ACHAA members travelling to Eden to attend the Giiyong Festival at a member venue at Jigamy Farm.



“Picking the best session at an ACHAA Conference would be like having a favourite child. Without this initiative, this important group would not get together with valued and knowledgeable colleagues.”

Alan Guihot,
Dunghutti-Ngaku Aboriginal Art Gallery Co ordinator

In August, Aboriginal Programs Manager/ACHAA General Manager Steve Miller and 3 ACHAA members attended the **Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair** which was partly sponsored by DAAF through IVAIS in support of increasing NSW representation.

ACHAA's next gathering was held in September at the **Wiradjuri Study Centre, Condobolin** which also linked with the Centre's SkyFest, with 35 delegates including representatives from Create NSW and the Aboriginal Languages Trust. An adjunct to this event was a Digitisation Workshop held by Create NSW Infrastructure team with the 4 ACHAA members involved in the pilot digitisation program: Yarkuwa, Yarrowarra, Armidale and Wungunja Centre.

In October/November was the major national gathering and celebration of First Nations arts and culture, **Purrumpa**, held by The Australia Council, with the First Nations Strategy Panel. Steve Miller spoke at 2 sessions ('Role of First Nations Visual Arts Peak Organisations' and 'Art and Culture and Community: How Aboriginal cultural centres in NSW are doing things differently' with 3 ACHAA Members). Miller was also given the honour of writing the Purrumpa Statement on the last day of the conference.



In November Steve Miller presented on the future of ACHAA at the Regional Stakeholders Forum at the Powerhouse. This provided an important opportunity to highlight the importance of ACHAA to the sector, and in particular the journey ahead to ensure NSW Aboriginal organisations and artists are supported in a national context.

The Aboriginal Programs team also spent time contributing to sector consultations including on the NSW Museum Strategic Roadmap; the National Cultural Policy and to the Productivity Commission's Report into the Indigenous Visual Arts and Craft Industries.

More broadly for the organisation, M&G NSW continued developing a new Reconciliation Action Plan, while continuing to carry out the previous RAP. This included engaging staff and Board with relevant news and issues fortnightly and a cultural excursion during Reconciliation Week to Billongolola (Clark Island) aboard the Tribal Warrior's Mari Nawi (Big Canoe).

In 2022 M&G NSW received funding from Create NSW to develop a tour of work by artists from ACHAA member organisations; while also developing the tours of First Nations exhibitions, **OCCURRENT AFFAIR**, a major exhibition featuring new and recent works by Brisbane-established Aboriginal artist collective proppaNOW and **POWER – The Future is Here**, an exhibition of work by Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist Dennis Golding, curated by Malera Bandjalan, Mitakoodi curator Kyra Kum-Sing.



From left to right: M&G NSW Aboriginal Sector Programs Manager Steve Miller addresses members gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney for ACHAA's Conference and Cultural Excursion in April. Photo by Victoria Cleland. Kyra Kum-Sing, Steve Miller and Nardi Simpson at the Australia Council for the Art's First Nations Arts & Cultural Gathering, Purrumpa in Adelaide. Members of the NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association in the central courtyard of the Wiradjuri Study Centre, Condobolin in September during SkyFest.

Overleaf: Aunty Glennys Briggs from Albury with Steve Miller in front of Ana Barboza and Rafael Freyre's *Water ecosystem*, 2019-2022 (detail). Courtesy the artists & Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Lima. Installation view, 23rd Biennale of Sydney, *rivus*, 2022, The Cutaway at Barangaroo. ACHAA members visited The Cutaway Art After Dark as part of ACHAA's Conference at the Museum of Contemporary Art in April 2022. Photo by Jason Gee, reproduced with permission of the Sydney Biennale.



Professional Development Program

In 2022 the professional development program encompassed the delivery of the Sector Census as well as several professional development initiatives throughout the year including 3 industry events in Metro Sydney, one workshop in Western Sydney and 3 Lets Get Digital workshops in regional NSW. M&G NSW also hosted a University of Sydney Museum & Heritage Studies Intern focused on reviewing and improving disaster preparedness across the sector.

SPARK

SPARK is an initiative from M&G NSW to bring together the next generation of cultural leaders from the GLAM sector (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums). With funding through the City of Sydney Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship grants, two events were delivered:

1. July. This edition of SPARK featured a curated evening of provocative talks tackling the theme *Taking up the Challenge: Culture in the face of climate change* on 19 July 2022 at the Australian National Maritime Museum.
2. September. This program explored curating collections, curating experiences, curating for diverse audiences and curating for different platforms from a range of freelance curators and program producers working across museum and gallery practices. Held at the Art Gallery of NSW, Centenary Auditorium, followed by an intimate networking experience in the newly opened Art Gallery Society of NSW Members Lounge.



Let's Get Digital Workshops

- Video Projection Mapping at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery

Led by Dara Gill, founder of Lupa, and projection artists Craig Walsh and Steven Thomasson, this video projection mapping workshop gave participants the skills to get the most from a projector and the fundamentals of creating a projection mapping project.

Projection mapping allows artists and audiences to engage with culture beyond the confines of traditional gallery spaces and has been used by artists to continue to connect with their audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- Broken Hill audio workshop

In partnership with Broken Hill City Library, hosted oral history workshops across 2 days with Bundjalung and Kullilli man and host of Radio National's The Art Show, Daniel Browning. The first consisted of local Wilyakali community members exploring stories with Daniel and discussing the ethics and logistics of recording First Nations oral histories. On day 2, an open workshop to community members and local historians focused on the importance of oral histories, interviewing techniques, and the practical requirements of recording, editing, and storing sound.



Mediation in the Museum at Fairfield City Museum & Gallery

Aimed at audience facing staff such as front of house, education and volunteer staff members, this workshop included accessibility training developed in partnership with Accessible Arts, group discussions and practical activities based on the guiding principles of Mediation as developed by M&GNSW and UQ Art Museum with a focus on what these practices can bring to a museum setting. The workshop drew on Fairfield City Museum & Gallery's exhibition, Extra/Ordinary which presents a creative response to the museum collection through art installations and prose.

THE IMAGInE AWARDS

The **15th Annual IMAGInE Awards** were held in person at Chau Chak Wing Museum, The

University of Sydney. Delivered with the support of the venue, AMaGA (NSW) and RPG NSW, 170 people gathered in person for the first time since 2019. Sponsorship from International Conservation Services enabled travel support for a number of recipients of the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Volunteer. These individuals were: Maureen Kingston (Dungog Historical Society and current President of AMaGA Hunter Chapter); Harlan Hall (Berrima District Museum); Roz Jones (Lawrence Museum); Garry White (Goulburn & District Historical & Genealogical Society Inc); and Bobby Shamroze (Broken Hill Mosque Museum).

The ACHAA award for Excellence by an Aboriginal Curator, assessed by the ACHAA committee, selected Dr Bronwyn Bancroft for *Made with Love* at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative. They also recognised Uncle Clem Dodd and the Dharriwaa Elders Group for the ACHAA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage and Arts.

The 2022 Assessment Panel were:

- Brett Adlington M&G NSW Representative
- Rachel Parsons, RPG NSW Representative, Director, New England Regional Art Museum
- Diana Lorentz, Museum Director, Jervis Bay Maritime Museum & Gallery, AMAGA Representative
- Brittany Nguyen, Engagement Coordinator, Penrith Regional Gallery
- Julie Baird, Director, Newcastle Regional

Left to right: SPARK at The Art Gallery of NSW, photo by Vanessa Low for AGNSW Members. Participants at the Let's Get Digital Video Projection Mapping workshop at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, photo by Jason Gee. Training and Engagement Manager Dale Maxwell-Smith leads an exercise during Mediation in the Museum at Fairfield City Museum & Gallery.

Overleaf: Dr Bronwyn Bancroft, winner of The ACHAA Award for Excellence by a NSW Aboriginal Curator, with Aunty Euphemia Bostock at The 2022 IMAGInE Awards. Photo by Lucy Parakhina.



Regional Museum Advisors Program

Supporting 84 museums/collecting organisations in 20 local government areas, the Museum Advisor program continued to support and assist the work of around 1000 volunteers through the provision of advice and specialist skills.

Significant outcomes from the 2022 program included future planning, collection management, exhibition development and interpretation projects, grant writing workshops, object conservation, disaster and flood recovery, development and review of strategic plans, cataloguing and deaccessioning projects, significance assessment and reorganisation of displays and storage areas.

In 2022, the program ran in the following local government areas:

- Albury City Council & Greater Hume Shire
- Bega Valley Council
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Broken Hill City Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Gilgandra Shire Council
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- Hay Shire Council
- Lithgow City Council
- Lockhart Shire Council
- Murray River Council
- Nambucca Shire Council
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Shoalhaven City Council
- Snowy Valleys Council
- Tamworth Regional Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Walgett Shire Council

Right: Museum Advisor Margot Jolly presents at the Museum Advisor meeting at Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, photo by Jason Gee.

'As Museum Advisor working with Moruya Historical Society, Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society and other heritage groups, the last few years have included work towards more strategic approaches distinguishing museum catchment areas and moving away from competing generalist museums.

It has been a joy to witness Batemans Bay Heritage Museum's ambitious plans come to fruition with the launch in November 2022 of their permanent presentation, *Crossing The Clyde*, an innovative display associated with a new 6-lane highway span and covering various means of traversing the Clyde River, from First Nations stories through punts and a beloved 50s bridge that quickened the pace on the south-coast.

This exhibition marked a new direction for the Museum, transitioning towards a more distinctive, specialised tourist destination and community resource. Securing construction relics, Honorary-Curator, Myf Thompson AMA, worked productively and persuasively with State and corporate agencies involved in erecting the new bridge, as well as securing NSW Government grants to pursue local maritime themes.

Moruya Museum, likewise, is being transformed most creatively, offering colourful regional exposes within a modest, historic dwelling, and on-line. Even more satisfying has been the collegiate activities of the groups that gather regularly and jointly engage in heritage projects, reaching out beyond the shire. '

**Lynn Collins, Museum Advisor,
Eurobodalla Shire**



Standards Program

Throughout 2022, the Sector Development Manager, Emily Cullen, participated in the National Standards Taskforce to implement the new National Standards for Museums and Galleries 2.0 (launched March 2023). This also involved attending the Australian Museums and Galleries Association conference in Perth to speak on the development of the Standards.

The release of a new set of standards and benchmarks for the sector will inform M&G NSW's Standards Review Program. This 9-month program runs each year to assist museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres in benchmarking themselves against the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. Participants are given access to expert advice and mentorship from our specially appointed Standards Reviewers who provide organisations with pathways for improvement.

The following museums participated in the 2022 Standards Review Program:

- Dunlea Centre Chapel Museum & Memorial Garden
- Wollondilly Heritage Centre
- The Royal Flying Doctor Service Outback Experience, Broken Hill
- Emmaville Mining Museum

In 2023, the Standards Program will be placed on hold while revised delivery methods are explored, and an updated National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries 2.0 is introduced.



'The M&G NSW Standards Program gave The Dunlea Centre Chapel Museum & Memorial Garden focus. As the only curator/steward/tour guide at Dunlea Centre, I struggled to prioritise needs. I'd focus on what seemed to be most pressing, but I was only putting out spot fires. Working through the Standards Program's tasks I was able to see just where the museum was at, what was working and what wasn't and what needed my attention.'

**Dana Scully, Curator
Dunlea Centre Chapel Museum**

'Our participation in the Standards Program came at an ideal time after recovering from closures due to the pandemic. The process allowed us to assess where we are at with our museum procedures and what we were doing well and to look at what we could do better. The reviewers from M&G NSW were very supportive and put everyone at ease.'

**Sue Davis, Secretary
The Oaks Historical Society Inc
Wollondilly Heritage Centre**

Right: Volunteers at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre with Standard Program assessor Tamara Lavrencic.



Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions Touring Nationally in 2022

Our comprehensive **touring exhibition program** and associated programs have an impressive reach across the country and present a varying view of contemporary arts practices. The program is diverse in its offerings, making tech-heavy exhibitions accessible, using live performance and dance to activate audiences and spaces, presenting projects that are driven by women, First Nations peoples and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and ensuring that the content of our exhibitions reflects contemporary interests and concerns.

In 2022 M&G NSW toured **9 exhibitions** to **11 NSW venues**, and **13 further venues across 5 states**, including a durational performance, with audiences numbering **118,287**.



Eugenia Lim | The Ambassador

This 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and M&G NSW touring project presents Eugenia Lim's most recent body of work, *The Ambassador* series. During the tour, Covid restrictions made artist Eugenia Lim's participatory performance *The People's Currency* unachievable at a number of NSW venues. In partnership with 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and the Australian National Maritime Museum, Lim reprised this durational performance for the 2022 Lunar New Year, with regional gallery delegates supported to attend. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program, and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Material Sound

This exhibition brings together six contemporary artists who each create an experience of sound within installations and apparatus constructed from everyday materials. Curated by Dr Caleb Kelly and developed by the Murray Art Museum Albury, *Material Sound* features newly commissioned work by artists Vicky Browne, Pia van Gelder, Caitlin Franzmann, Peter Blamey, Ross Manning, and Vincent and Vaughan Wozniak-O'Connor, whose work and practice investigates sound and materials within art and performance. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program, and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



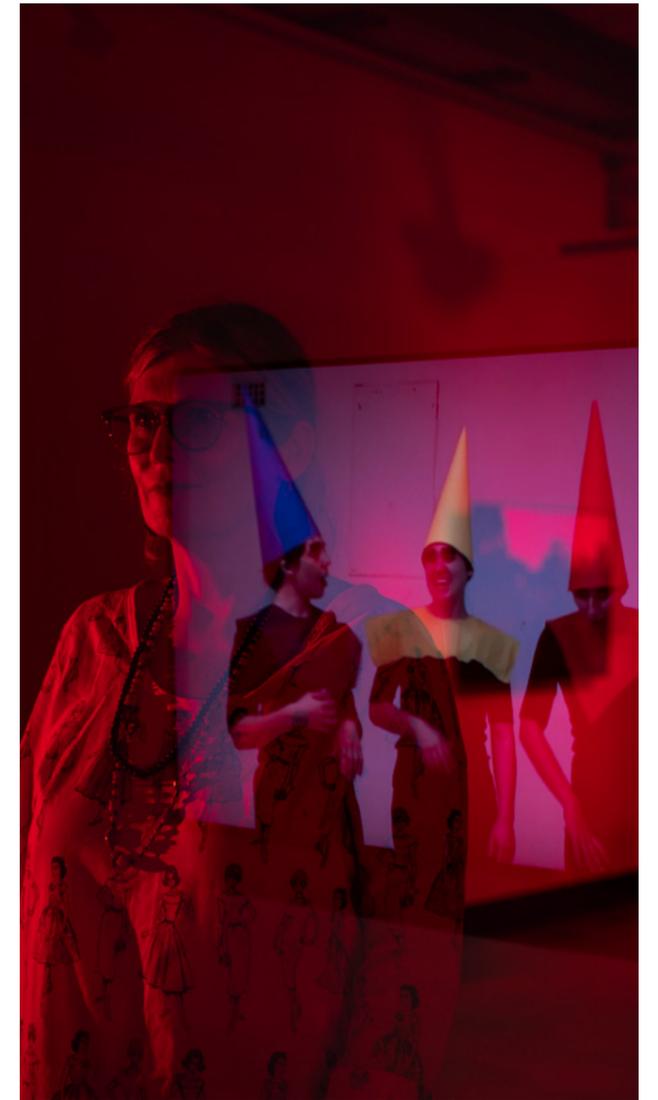
Just Not Australian

This exhibition brings together a group of 20 living Australian artists across generations and mediums to deal broadly with the origins and implications of contemporary Australian nationhood. This timely thematic exhibition showcases the common sensibilities of satire, larrikinism and resistance, examining what constitutes Australian identity today. Curated and developed by Artspace, Sydney, the Sydney Festival and M&G NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Mel O'Callaghan | Centre of the Centre

Centre of the Centre is a major new commission by Australian-born, Paris-based contemporary artist Mel O'Callaghan that traces the origins of life and its regenerative forces, iterated through video, performance and sculpture. In partnership with the University of Queensland Art Museum, M&G NSW has implemented Mediation as an engagement model alongside the tour, aimed at staff and volunteers. Performers are sent to each venue to activate the glass sculptures through exaggerated breathing techniques. Curated and developed by Artspace and co-commissioned by Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers; Artspace, Sydney; and The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Barbara Cleveland | Thinking Business

Thinking Business is a survey exhibition of the Australian art collective Barbara Cleveland. Working together for over 15 years, Barbara Cleveland's practice draws on the historical lineages of both the visual and performing arts. *Thinking Business* presents a suite of videos, photographs and prints from Barbara Cleveland's archive. Curated and developed by Goulburn Regional Art Gallery. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. Supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.

Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions Touring Nationally in 2022

Suspended Moment

Suspended Moment brings together new works by artists Frances Barrett, Sally Rees and Giselle Stanborough – the three recipients of Suspended Moment: The Kathy Cavaliere Fellowship. Established in the name of Italian-born, Australian artist Kathy Cavaliere (1972–2012), the fellowship was a one-off opportunity that provided support to Australian women artists working at the nexus of performance and installation. Curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, *Suspended Moment* contextualises key works by Cavaliere alongside the fellowship artists who benefited from her enduring legacy. A Carriageworks and M&G NSW touring exhibition developed in partnership with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne and the Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart. This project is assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Zanny Begg | These Stories Will be Different

Once described as an advocate for women and marginalised communities, Zanny Begg's work incorporates film, drawing and installation and is highly collaborative. Begg explores themes of gender, activism and migration and the ways in which we can live and be in the world differently. This exhibition, curated by UNSW Galleries and designed for tour, brings together the artist's most significant works to date including *The Beehive* (2018), *City of Ladies* (2017) and a new work *Stories of Kannagi* (2019). This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

52 ACTIONS

This exhibition brings together 52 leading Australian artists from across the country to present the diversity, complexity and dynamism of contemporary Australian art now. This exhibition has evolved from Artspace's online commissioning platform of the same name. The *52 ACTIONS* tour will transform these works across physical and digital spaces through a nationally touring exhibition and public program series. *52 ACTIONS* was curated by Artspace, Sydney who are touring

this exhibition nationally with development support from M&G NSW. This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW. It has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Visions of Australia program and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. It is also supported by the City of Sydney and by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.



Void

Void explores the multiple ways in which artists visually articulate the unknown as space, time and landscape. The works included do not simply define the void as presence and comparative absence, but rather they utilise form to represent the formless. An exhibition curated by Emily McDaniel, in conjunction with UTS Gallery and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, presented nationally by M&G NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program, and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

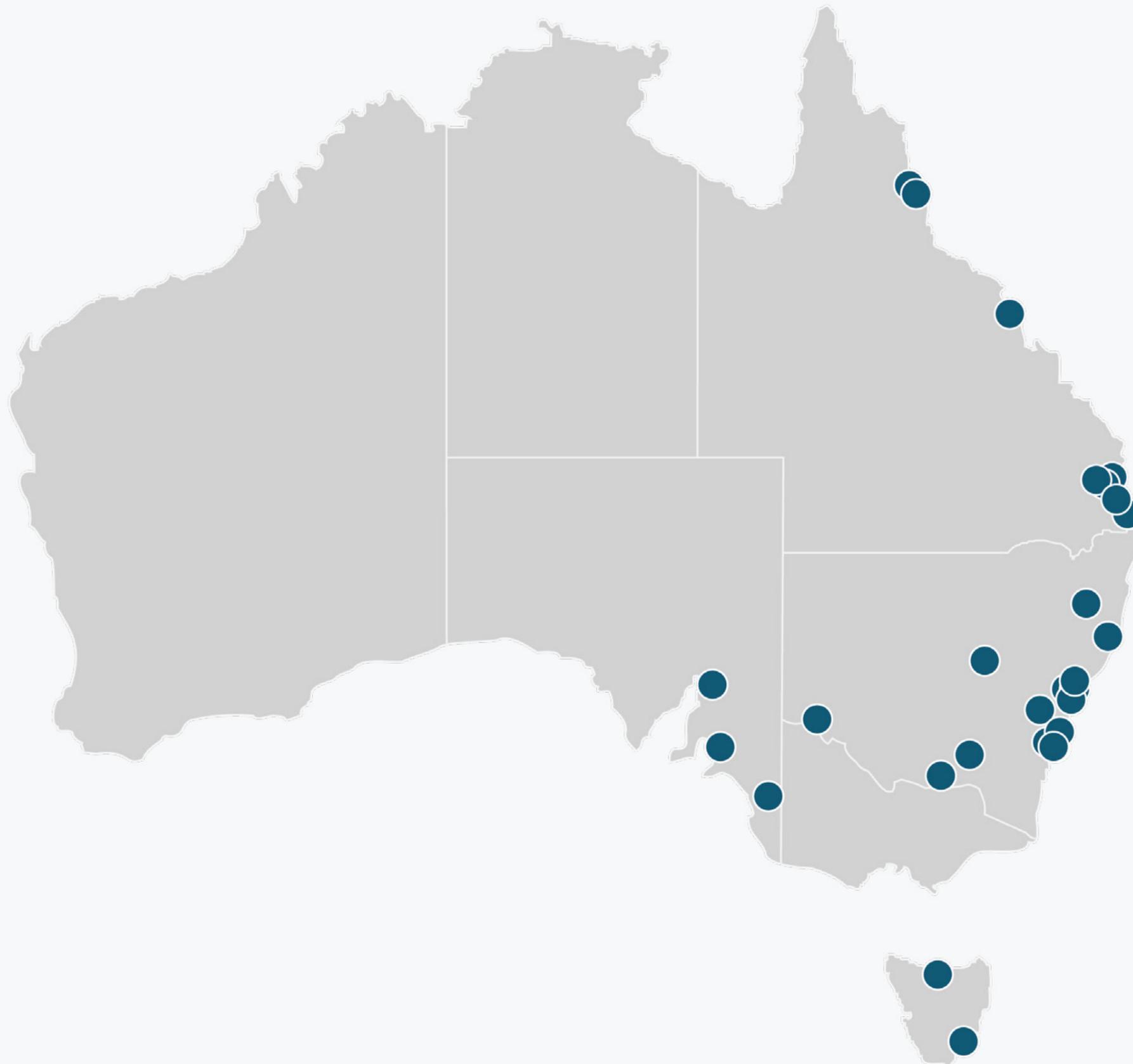
Previous page, left to right: Eugenia Lim, *The People's Currency*, 2017, performance, dimensions variable, photo by Zan Wimberley. Courtesy of the artist. Caitlin Franzmann, *Drawn Together, Held Apart*, 2017, *Material Sound*, opening event at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns, QLD, 2022. Photo by Cristina Bevilacqua. *Just Not Australian* installed at Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD, featuring work by Eric Bridgeman, 2022. Photo by Louis Lim, courtesy of Moreton Bay Regional Council. Mel O'Callaghan, *Respire, respire*, performance and installation at Hyphen, Wodonga, VIC, 2022 23. Photo courtesy Wodonga Council, 2023. *Barbara Cleveland | Thinking Business*, installation view at Pine Rivers Art Gallery, QLD, 2022. Photo by Simon Woods. Giselle Stanborough, *Cinopticon*, 2020. Installation view of *Suspended Moment* at Wollongong Art Gallery, 2022. Photo by Zan Wimberley. Zanny Begg, framed photograph and designed photograph as part of *The Beehive* installation at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, 2022. Photo by Document Photography. Patricia Piccinini, *Is technology the problem or the solution?*, *Is there room in our hearts?*, *When do we reconnect?*, *How will we look our children in the eye?*, 2020, installed as a part of *52 ACTIONS* at Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest, 2022.

Overleaf: Zanny Begg | *These Stories Will be Different*, installation view at Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, 2022. Photo by Collings Creative.



Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions Touring Nationally in 2022



Touring Exhibition	Venues	Audience Numbers
<i>Barbara Cleveland / Thinking Business</i>	2 venues	7,400 Audiences NSW 7,889 Nationally (total)
<i>Eugenia Lim / The People's Currency</i>	1 performance	769 audiences NSW
<i>Just Not Australia</i>	4 venues	2,359 audiences NSW 9,261 audiences Nationally
<i>Material Sound</i>	4 venues	12,719 audiences NSW 19,683 audiences Nationally
<i>Mel O'Callaghan / Centre of the Centre</i>	2 venues	29,430 Nationally
<i>Suspended Moment</i>	4 venues	10,932 Audiences NSW 14,872 Nationally
<i>Void</i>	1 venue	2,376 audiences NSW
<i>Zanny Begg / These Stories Will be Different</i>	5 venues	5,218 Audiences NSW 8,948 Nationally (total)
<i>52 ACTIONS</i>	1 venue	25,059 Audiences NSW

Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions in Development in 2022

Aiming to push the boundaries with new ideas, unconventional mediums, critical concepts, and captivating installations, M&G NSW **develop new exhibitions** for tour with both NSW based and national partners.

OCCURRENT AFFAIR

This is a major exhibition featuring new and recent works by Brisbane-established Aboriginal artist collective proppaNOW, who have had a five-year hiatus to focus on their individual careers. Conceived as a collaborative activist gesture, *OCCURRENT AFFAIR* addresses current socio-political, economic and environmental issues, while celebrating the strength, resilience and continuity of Aboriginal culture. An exhibition from The University of Queensland Art Museum touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. This project is assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Dennis Golding | POWER – The Future is Here

POWER – The Future is Here is the result of a collaboration between artist Dennis Golding and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Alexandria Park Community School. The superhero capes were created during a workshop in 2020, led by Golding who was an artist in residence at the school through Solid Ground. Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 designed their capes with iconography informed by their lived experiences and cultural identity. As superheroes, Golding and his young collaborators are empowered and reminded of the strength of their culture in forming their identity and connection to Country. Individually and together, the capes critique social, political and cultural representations of contemporary First Nations experience. This series of capes were first presented in *POWER* at Blacktown Arts Centre (2021) and then at Carriageworks in *The Future is Here* (2021). A Solid Ground project with Dennis Golding and Alexandria Park Community School, curated by Kyra Kum-Sing, presented by Carriageworks and Blacktown Arts, and touring with M&G NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.

Storyplace Roadshow

Through a series of touring education engagements and professional development workshops, this tour will build on relationships with existing Storyplace project partners. A series of school-curriculum focused stories and supporting resources will be developed in close consultation with each hub and spoke area to build the capacity for regional and remote museums of any size and structure, as well as local educators and schools, to facilitate learning engagements with museum collection objects for young people.

ACHAA Tour

In partnership with the Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association Inc (ACHAA), this tour is being developed to promote the value of NSW Aboriginal culture, heritage, arts and artists to the wider NSW community. It will bring a focus to narratives, expertise and significant talents within Aboriginal cultural centres across regional, remote and metropolitan NSW.

Anna Louise Richardson | The Good

The Good is a major new solo exhibition by artist Anna Louise Richardson whose practice is centred around rural life, embedded in the experience and drama of everyday reality. Working primarily in charcoal and graphite, Richardson's work explores ideas of intergenerational exchange, parenthood and identity based on her experiences of living and working on a multi-generation beef cattle farm in rural Australia. Curated by Rachel Arndt & Dr Lee-Anne Hall. A Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, The Condensery and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project is made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.

Left to right: Richard Bell, *Embassy*, 2013 - ongoing, installation view, *OCCURRENT AFFAIR*, UQ Art Museum, 2021. Reproduced courtesy of the Artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane. Photo by Carl Warner. Dennis Golding, *The Future is Here*, 2021, Carriageworks, curated by Kyra Kum-Sing. Photo: Zan Wimberley

'[The M&G NSW] service provided regional communities with access to an exhibition of excellence and created pathways for people to engage in high quality visual arts experiences through the artwork, exhibition text and supporting education/public programming resources provided. Our team would not have had the capacity to develop such extensive education and engagement resources linked to the exhibition so having access early to these enabled us to strengthen our engagement with local art teachers, schools and general visitors to the gallery.'

Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD on *Just Not Australian*

'This service allowed access to world-class artists, curators and ideas in specialised areas, thus broadening the scope of what WAG is able to deliver to its audiences.'

Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria

'An opportunity to present to the community a challenging experience but one which was very much appreciated overall from the visiting public. The ideas in this exhibition provided an ideal spring board into interesting and diverse programming for our community.'

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW on *Material Sound*

Let's Get Digital

Launched in 2021, **Let's Get Digital** was made possible through funding from the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart. The program of grants and professional development programs were designed to build digital literacy and develop new strategies for digital engagement across the sector.

Funded projects completed in 2022 include:

Supported by M&G NSW's Museum Advisor Program, Greater Hume Council developed 6 short films exploring the dynamic collections and stories from six local museums; Culcairn Station House; Holbrook Woolpack Inn; Headlie Taylor Header Museum Henty, Holbrook Submarine Museum, Jindera Pioneer Museum and Wymah Museum.

In October Brett Adlington joined Minister Ben Franklin for Alstonville Plateau Historical Society's 21st birthday and launch of their ambitious virtual tour of Crawford House Museum made possible by Let's Get Digital support. This volunteer run museum worked with local volunteers and digital producer Ondrej Koucky to develop this online tour and marketing tool that will increase access to the museum digitally, reaching a diversity of audiences and enticing new visitors to the heritage town of Alstonville in northern NSW.



Let's Get Digital funded the digital component to the Wiradjuri Ngurambang Exhibition in the Parkes Shire Library & Cultural Centre, highlighting the importance of looking closely at and listening carefully to nature, Elders and each other. The Wiradjuri Ngurambang Exhibition curatorium members included Robert Clegg, Geoff Anderson, Ronda Sharpe and Irene Ridgeway along with guidance from Elders Advisory Group and Parkes First Nations Community Working Party.



The Lock-Up completed its project to redevelop their website to better enhance their engagement with audiences, and since launching in November 2021 it attracted over 57,000 visits. They also commissioned artist Richard Lewer to create a digital artwork to re-present the history of the site.

Workshops and Training

In February, Museums & Galleries of NSW (M&G NSW) and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) hosted a Video Projection Mapping Workshop for artists and arts professionals. The presenters were Dara Gill, founder of Lupa, and projection artists Craig Walsh and Steven Thomasson. Participants learnt how to get the most from a projector and the fundamentals of creating a projection mapping project. This event attracted 20 participants from Bathurst and the region, including Orange, Cowra and Mudgee.



In June M&G NSW delivered Let's Get Digital: Capturing and Editing Podcasts and Oral Histories, in partnership with Broken Hill City Council and Broken Hill Art Gallery. Led by Daniel Browning, renowned First Nations journalist, radio broadcaster, documentary maker and writer, this workshop introduced participants to the ethics and subtleties of audio storytelling and covered hands-on interviewing and recording techniques. This was followed by a special mentoring day with young Indigenous sound recordists from the region.



"The virtual tour will make the Museum's collection more accessible to people interested in local history, such as schoolchildren, researchers, people with mobility needs, or those who live far away...It is wonderful that this platform will increase access to the museum digitally, reaching a diverse audience to learn the history of Alstonville."

Former Arts Minister and MLC Ben Franklin on the launch of Alstonville Plateau Historical Society's virtual tour of Crawford House Museum, created by local volunteers with digital producer Ondrej Koucky.

Left to right: The launch of Crawford House Museum's virtual tour, photo courtesy of Rapturous Media. Screen capture of Gugaa on Bushmans Hill from the Wiradjuri Ngurambang Exhibition, courtesy of the Parkes Shire Library & Cultural Centre. Participants at the Let's Get Digital Video Projection Mapping workshop at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, photo by Jason Gee. Participants with Daniel Browning at the Capturing and Editing Oral Histories workshop in Broken Hill, photo by Victoria Cleland.

Storyplace

After many years in development, our major digitisation project, Storyplace, was launched in 2022 by Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC at the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame in Tamworth.

Involving 63 collections, including regional and volunteer run museums and galleries, by the end of 2022 620 digitised objects and 505 associated stories were published, and the site had received 26,313 page views. Over 100 volunteers and project partner staff members worked on the project, along with 13 storytellers who each brought a unique voice to piecing together the stories about the digitised objects.

Importantly Storyplace provides smaller, often volunteer run organisations, a major platform to have their significant objects seen and used by locals, visitors, students and researchers. The digitisation process behind Storyplace also gives greater attention to significant objects in a collection through significance research, cleaning and conservation, and enhanced record keeping and cataloguing.

With continued Create NSW funding in 2023, M&G NSW will expand the reach of Storyplace through a range of initiatives that will continue to enhance digitisation skills, collection management procedures and display methods for the community museum sector. This phase will also see school curriculum focused stories, and associated resources, developed for the Storyplace website.

“Storyplace is a great project that offers a professional voice, and often different perspectives, to regional collection items. Moving forward, Storyplace will probably inform the way regional historical societies approach their own objects and histories too!”

Maitland Libraries

“Storyplace has been great for the museum. It has brought the volunteers’ attention to the collection. It’s disciplined us into taking notice of our important artefacts. We have found out so much about our artefacts through the stories. The stories bring the artefacts to life.”

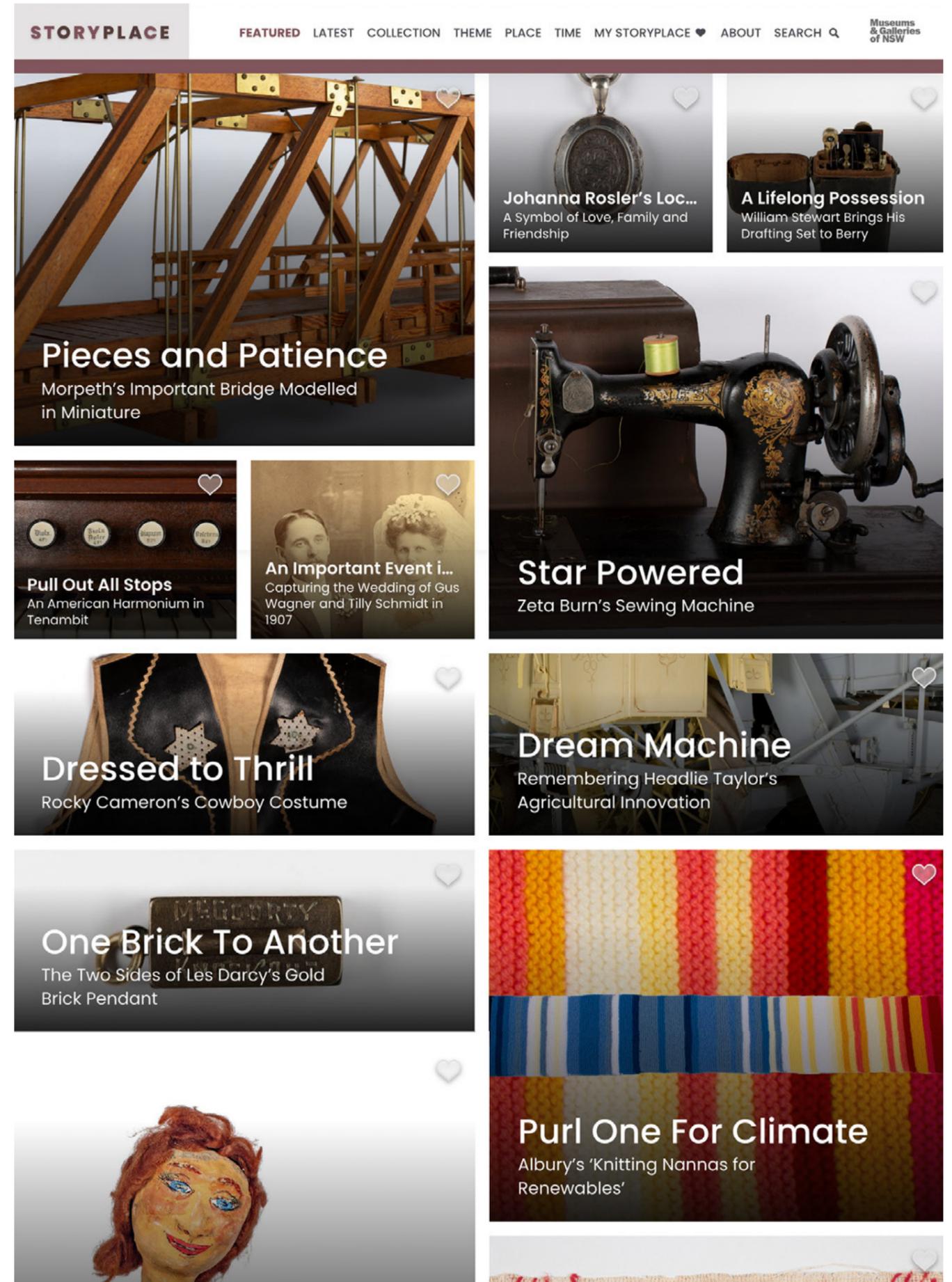
Allan Todd, Morpeth Museum

Many of the Storyplace stories I have written begin with scene-setting. I think this places the object in a moment in time and makes the story immediately engaging. That way, readers are actually interested in finding out the historical details that follow.

Fiona Starr, Storyplace Storyteller

Right: Storyplace website, featured page.

Overleaf: M&G NSW CEO Brett Adlington, former Arts Minister Ben Franklin and Storyplace Project Manager Kate Gahan at the Storyplace Launch at The Australian Country Music Hall of Fame in Tamworth, photo by Steve Gonsalves.





2022 Sector Census

2022 marked the year of delivery of our four-yearly Sector Census. This pulse check of the sector provides much needed data to assist in informing M&G NSW program delivery, as well as being as useful advocacy tool.

The Census was sent to 508 organisations which covered 319 community run and managed museums, 57 public and regional museums, 39 public and regional galleries, 46 community managed galleries and artist run initiatives, 8 Artspace's, 14 University Galleries and 25 Aboriginal cultural centres. We had responses from 68% of organisations.

Responses track changes from previous Census reports, as well as highlight new trends affecting the sector.

For the first time, findings from the Census will be delivered through the usual major report, as well as subsequent factsheets and case studies on specific topics over the next three years.

A [Preliminary Report](#) released in November, highlighted some key findings.

Right: Moonbi Museum's Bill Humphrys with Naomi Blakey at The Tamworth Powerstation Museum, Tamworth. Photo by Jason Gee.

45%

of the sector have urgent or long-term building maintenance issues

95%

of respondents identified at least one threat to their collection

73%

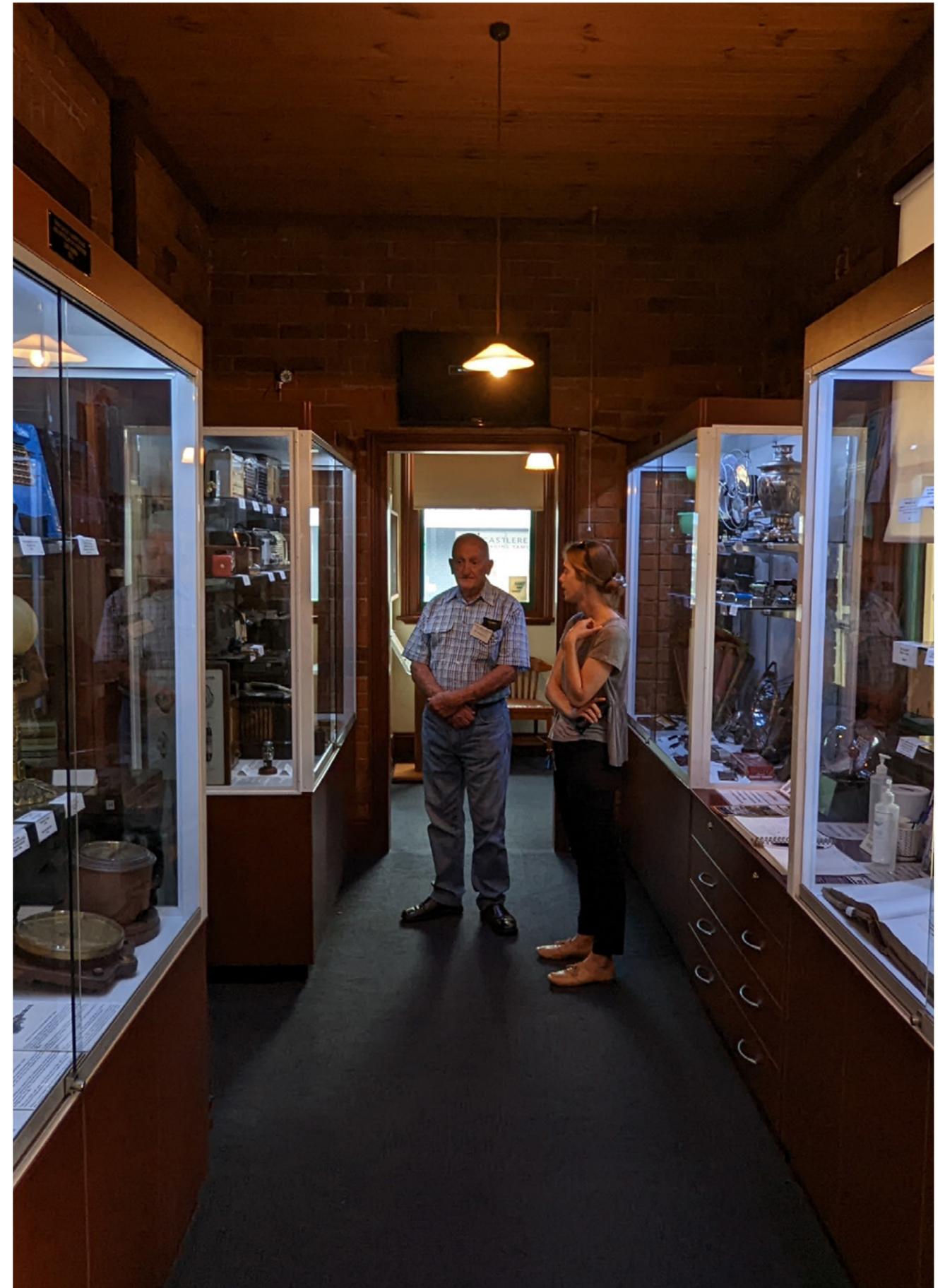
of organisations with collections have digitised or partially digitised

49%

see a fall in retaining volunteers as a risk to their collection

>50%

are currently pursuing environmental sustainability initiatives



Grants & Funding

Audience Development Fund (ADF)

In its 7th year, the ADF Grant Program devolved \$45,000 across 5 galleries in NSW, 3 of which were regional, 1 from Western Sydney and 1 from metropolitan Sydney. This program provides assistance to galleries to trial new models for engaging audiences, creating innovative public programs that engage artists and the community, increasing access and participation.

In 2022 grants were awarded to:

- Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
- Gosford Regional Gallery
- Granville Centre Art Gallery
- Newcastle Historic Reserve Land Manager (The Lock-Up)
- UNSW Galleries, University of New South Wales



The Dobell Exhibition Grant

In 2022 the Dobell Exhibition Grant delivered in partnership with the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation tested splitting the \$40,000 grant across 2 projects of \$30,000 and \$10,000. Respective recipients were:

• Blue Mountains City Art Gallery (\$30,000)

For *Sensorial*, an exhibition embracing all our senses: moving beyond the dominance of sight within the gallery space. Hearing and the sensation of touch will be given equal priority for experiencing these works. A diverse selection of artists will create immersive environments to be experienced through a variety of senses. Taking the lead from the neurodivergent community who often have a unique range of senses and can feel, hear, smell and sense things others don't notice, this exhibition aims to be an inclusive space for those who are often overwhelmed by bright lights and loud noises.

• Wagga Wagga Art Gallery (\$10,000)

For a solo exhibition by Australian artist Sarah Goffman who will utilise her practice of exploring the aesthetics of plastic to reimagine and recreate works from the National Art Glass Collection. A commentary on the beauty and preciousness of plastic and the vandalism of pollution, the works will be exhibited in the National Art Glass Gallery in 2023.

Fellowships, Mentorships and Volunteer Placements

The delayed 2021 Fellowships, Mentorships and Volunteer placements were announced in December 2022 with funding to support 2 fellowships, fully fund 5 mentorships, partially fund 2 mentorships and fully fund 6 volunteer placements making a total of \$40,000 to be shared among 15 placements to take place in 2023.

Fellowship Program

(up to \$6,000 per placement)

The Fellowship program is a professional development program to develop skills and cultivate networks through access to the expertise and resources of national and international cultural organisations.

- Rachael Parsons, New England Regional Art Museum
- Dr Amir Rezapourmoghadammiyandabi, University of Newcastle Museum/Gallery

Mentorship Program

(up \$3,000 per placement)

A professional development program to develop skills and cultivate networks through access to the expertise and resources of larger or specialised organisations.

- Mariam Abboud, Dubbo Regional Council
- Alinde Bierhuizen, Fairfield Museum & Gallery
- Naomi Blakey, Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums
- Jia Ying Dorcas Tang, Artspace, Sydney
- Samantha Moody, The University of Newcastle
- Alexis Rickards, New England Regional Art Museum
- Maree Skene, Maitland Regional Gallery

Volunteer Placement Program

(up to \$1,500 per placement)

The Volunteer placement program is a professional development program for volunteer staff of volunteer managed/small organisations to develop skills that meet a need within their museum or gallery and that they can share with their colleagues.

- Wendy Agzarian, Kogarah Historical Society
- Hayley Lavers, Millthorpe & District Historical Society
- Sharon Nott, Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum
- Andre Shannon, Pari Ari
- Howard Sinclair, Bathurst District Historical Society Inc.
- Meaghan "May" Zarb, UNE Museum of Antiquities

The 2022 Fellowships, Mentorships and Volunteer Placements received 9 high quality applications in the Mentorship and Volunteers Placement categories with successful recipients to be announced in 2023.

Left to right: *Take One*, Upstage planning session 1, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 2022. Photo by Floyd Mallon. *Sensorial*, Blue Mountains City Art Gallery. Facilitator Clare Delaney with *Inspired by Art* participants in their exhibition at Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, who will also be exhibiting in *Sensorial* in 2023, supported by the Dobell Exhibition Grant.

Grants & Funding

Volunteer Museum Grants

Through funding devolved by Create NSW, M&G NSW manages 4 funding programs for the community museum sector.

In 2022 the Volunteer Museum Grant Program received 36 applications and awarded \$74,721 to 27 museums in 25 local government areas.

Small Grants

The small grants program in 2022 funded a wide range of projects. These projects included website design, signage design and printing, education resources and flood recovery. 21 applications for Small Grants were successful.

Project Development Grants

In 2022, the Project Development Grants program funded a range of long-term strategic projects. These projects included QR integration, strategic plans, significance assessments and disaster recovery. 6 applications for the Project Grants were successful.



Skills Development Grants

In 2022, the Skills Development Grants program allowed volunteer museums and museum networks to run a wide range of skills development training

“The grants available from Museums & Galleries give small Museums like Iluka support in being able to improve, display and promote the Museum. The grant application process is easy to work through and staff contacts are very supportive when help is required.”

Small Grant 2022
Ruth Dawson Secretary,
Iluka History Group Inc

“The grant program is so invaluable to the National Trust. We do not have the financial resources to train the volunteers we have in skill based training. Yet it is the skilled based training that will ensure the sustainability of the organisation as well as help recruit and retain volunteers.”

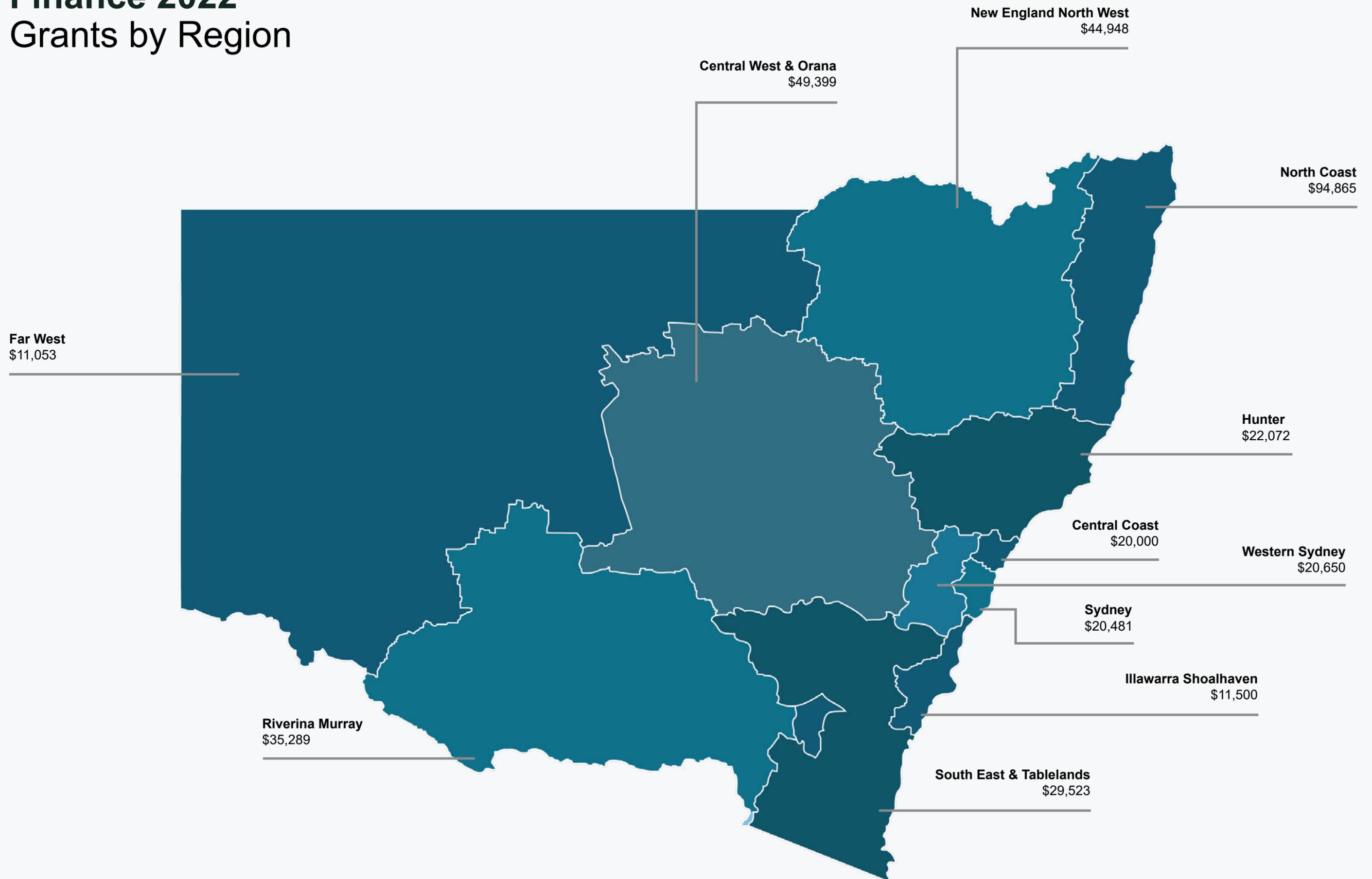
Skills Development Grant 2022
Melissa Green, Volunteer

Left to right: Dealing with Mould workshop with conservator Tegan Anthes, AMAGA Far North Coast Chapter, Skills Development Grant 2022. Information signage on museum grounds at Wymah School Museum, Small Grant Round 1 2022 Recipient.



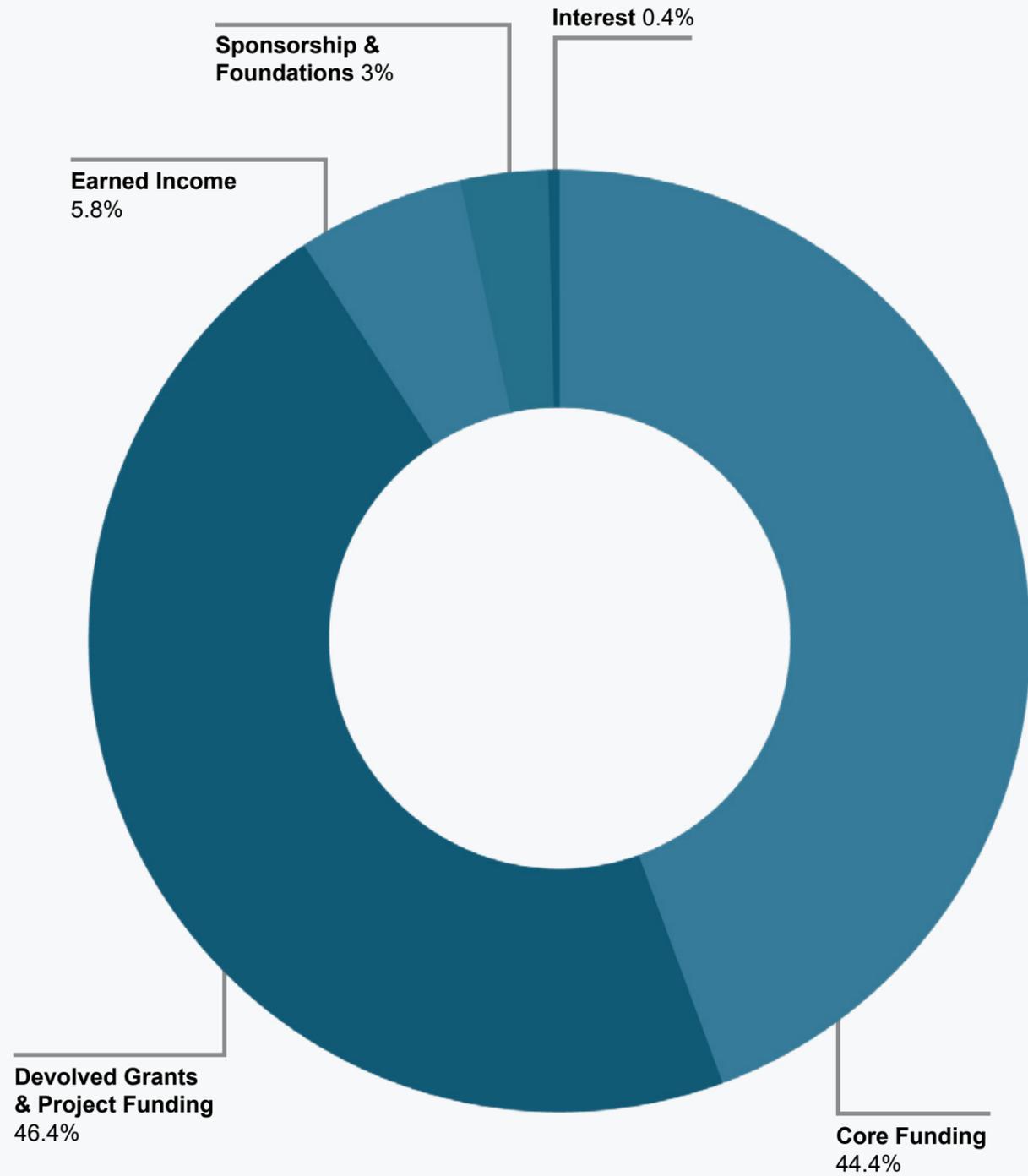
Finance 2022

Grants by Region

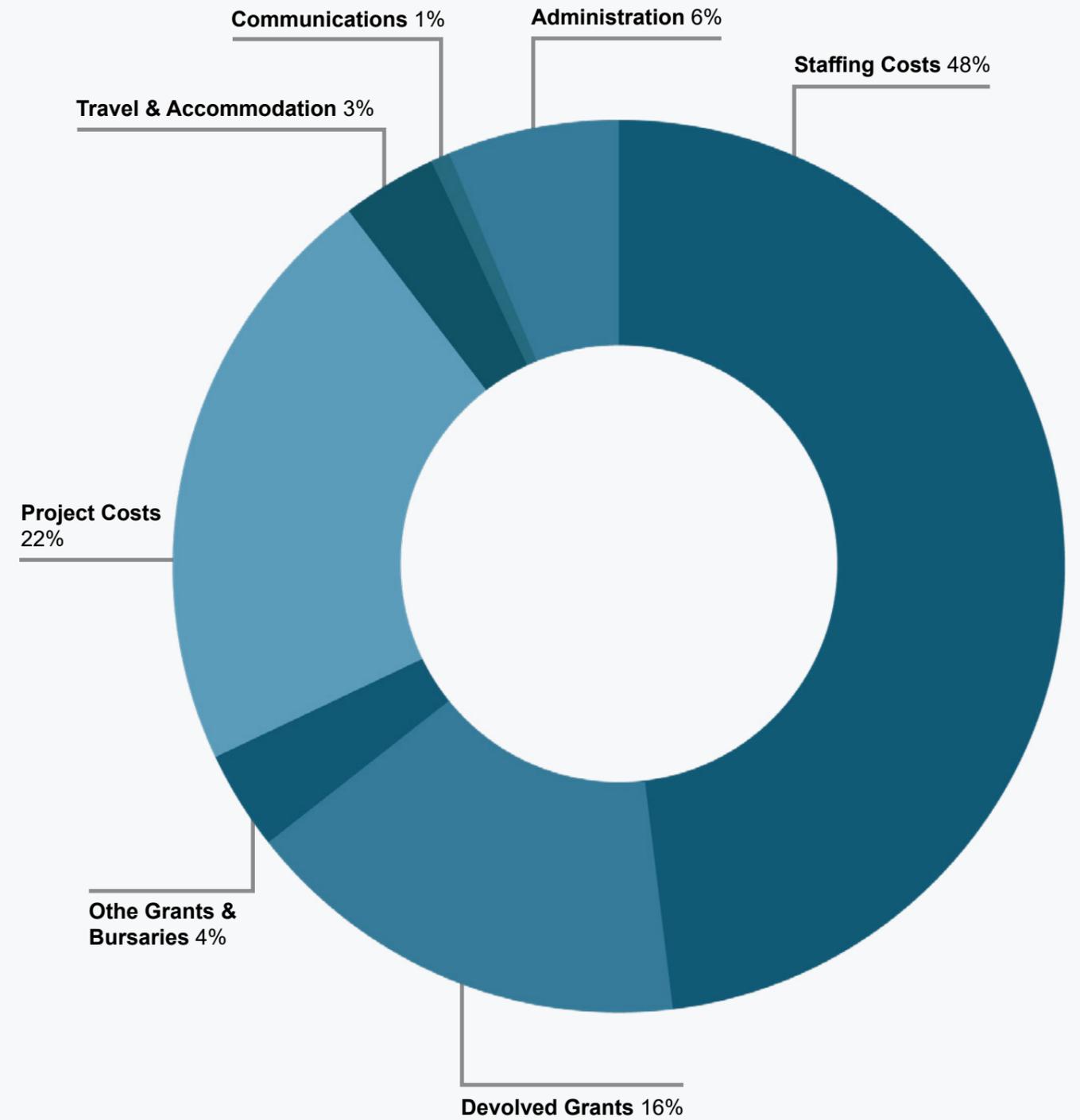


Finance 2022

Income



Expenses



Additional Acknowledgements

Museums & Galleries of NSW, including our **Placement Programs, Gallery and Volunteer Museum Grants** are supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



Storyplace is proudly funded by the NSW Government.



The IMAGInE Awards are developed with support from Australian Museums and Galleries Association NSW, Regional and Public Galleries of NSW and NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) with sponsorship from International Conservation Services, and event partnership from Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney.

The Arts and Health Award is proudly supported by the NSW Government through Health Infrastructure.



The **Regional Stakeholder Forum** is presented in partnership with Regional Arts NSW and The Powerhouse Museum.



ACHAA and its 2022 program was supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program and with travel support from Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair.



Let's Get Digital is proudly supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart.



The **Dobell Exhibition Grant Program** is supported by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and managed by Museums & Galleries of NSW.



SPARK 2022 is made possible through the City of Sydney Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship grants, with support from venue partners the Art Gallery Society of NSW and Australian National Maritime Museum



Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions touring nationally and in development in 2022

Eugenia Lim | *The Ambassador*

A 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program, and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Material Sound

A Murray Art Museum Albury exhibition, curated by Caleb Kelly and presented nationally by Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Just Not Australian

Just Not Australian was curated by Artspace and developed in partnership with Sydney Festival and Museums & Galleries of NSW. The exhibition is touring nationally with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Mel O'Callaghan | *Centre of the Centre*

Mel O'Callaghan's Centre of the Centre was curated and developed by Artspace and is touring nationally with Museums & Galleries of NSW. Centre of the Centre is co-commissioned by Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers; Artspace, Sydney; and The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane. With Commissioning Partners Andrew Cameron AM & Cathy Cameron and Peter Wilson & James Emmett; and Lead Supporter, Kronenberg Mais Wright. The development and presentation of Centre of the Centre is supported by the Fondation des Artistes, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the US National Science Foundation. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Barbara Cleveland | *Thinking Business*

A Goulburn Regional Art Gallery and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. Supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.



Suspended Moment

A Carriageworks and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, developed in partnership with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne and the Museum of Old and New Art (Mona), Hobart. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. This project is assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Zanny Begg | *These Stories Will be Different*

A UNSW Galleries and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



52 ACTIONS

52 ACTIONS was developed and curated by Artspace, Sydney. The exhibition is touring nationally with Artspace, Sydney, with support from Museums & Galleries of NSW. It has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Visions of Australia program and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. It is also supported by the City of Sydney and by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.



Void

An exhibition curated by Emily McDaniel, in conjunction with UTS Gallery and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, presented nationally by Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program, and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**

Level 1, The Arts Exchange, 10 Hickson Rd, The Rocks NSW 2000
W: mgnsw.org.au | T: 02 9252 8300 | E: comms@mgnsw.org.au