

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

Victoria Park Centre for the Arts



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Chairperson's Foreword

Greg Mahney

I am delighted how the year has panned out for the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts. Not long after the last Annual General Meeting we had a Board that only had one member from its previous iteration. When I was elected as Chair I was worried that the organisation may lack momentum.

Fortunately my concerns were unfounded as the newly elected Board Members, to a person, are experienced, well qualified, pragmatic and wise. It has been wonderful being part of this year's Board. Each director is well prepared for meetings and discussions are robust. We share similar visions, a passion for the arts and a keenness to optimise the association.

Towards the end of the year we embarked upon strategic planning which crystallised our views on the future of the organisation. We are implementing a plan to achieve our vision to connect creatives and community. Our three strategic pillars are 'creativity and connection', 'revitalisation' and 'sustainability'. I encourage you to read the 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan, which you will find included in this report.

I also encourage you to read the rest of this Annual Report to see the wide range and staggering number of events, exhibitions, courses, workshops and other events that the Centre has hosted over the last year. We have only been able to achieve this through the dedicated and hard work of a very small group of paid staff and a larger number of volunteers. I thank you all for your imagination, enthusiasm and hard work.

Thanks too to my fellow Board members whose hard work has made my job as Chair easier and more rewarding.

I hope you are looking forward to the coming year at the VPCA as much as I am.

Greg Mahney
VPCA Chair

General Manager's Report

Jeremy Blank

The July 2022 to June 2023 year continued to see changes in VPCA's services, staffing and commitments. In 2023 the Centre welcomed back our Communications Officer, Jae Criddle from maternity leave.

The Centre was extremely busy, hosting 944 events, with 925 facilitators, from July 2022 to June 2023, attracting 8757 visitors, guests and participants. VPCA membership was 128 at the end of March 2023. VPCA achieved above projected numbers in 4 of our 6 projected measures for the 2022-23 year.

Our links with the Victoria Park Community Centre continued to develop from Siobhan O'Gara's work in our Empowering Communities Program of Cultural Sharing Events. These events have increased in popularity and now sell out before each event. They attract individuals and groups to work with us as staff, volunteers, and since February 2023, co-tenants of our new shared space at 10 Kent Street, with United in Diversity. This initiative and others provide immediate access and communication channels to support and encourage underrepresented groups and individuals from our local community. VPCA is seeking suitable projects and collaborations for 10 Kent Street to develop the profile of the space and our collaboration with United in Diversity.

The Centre continues to develop its commitment to the promotion and development of youth focused art engagement from our existing links with Early Learning Australia to new initiatives with Clontarf Aboriginal College for the 2023 NAIDOC exhibition and Como Secondary College for the later part of 2023.

Our Board has worked hard to address previously unresolved issues affecting the Centre's governance and culture. This includes attracting younger Board representation in an experienced and supportive governance framework. The 2023-26 Strategic Plan has been completed. A business plan, amended risk management plan and amended Rules of Association are being finalised for the second part of 2023, ahead of the Centre's reapplication for grant funding in 2024.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our volunteers including the invaluable contributions from long-term volunteer staff; Susan Mitchell for her administrative support, exhibition sales and Gift Shop coordination; and Rowena Skinner, whose work in supporting VPCA's financial needs has seen the Centre achieve positive balances to support important investments to improve the Centre's safety, sustainability and quality of provision. Jacqui Hills' ten-year volunteer commitment to the Vic Park Printmakers is supported by co-facilitator and volunteer Renee Parnell, continuing the popularity of the fortnightly printmakers' group at VPCA. Former staff member and volunteer Long Nguyen oversaw the rebranding of VPCA's signage and implemented a new weekend volunteer program. Local artist and VPCA member, Pam Nichols is assisting as volunteer exhibition installer.

In 2022-23 the Gift shop continued with steady sales for local artists and craft makers. In early 2023 Susan Mitchell and Matt Armenti moved the Gift Shop's stock online to support weekend opening and online sales. VPCA welcomes local makers of craft items and jewellery who are interested in selling their work through VPCA's gift shop.

Victoria Park Centre for the Arts is a unique and rare resource in Perth and is a testament to the strength of commitment from the Centre's membership over the 29 years of its existence. In 2024 the Centre will celebrate 30 years of serving the changing local community of Victoria Park as a welcoming place for members and the public to contribute and share their understanding and vision of art and cultural practice.

I would like to thank Leona Kuan, Siobhan O'Gara, Jae Criddle, Phung Nguyen, Long Nguyen and Matt Armenti, for their work in operations. Volunteers Susan Mitchell, Rowena Skinner, Pam Nichols, Greg Mahney, Leanne Linehan, Clare Szmekura, Shona Zulsdorf, Paul Trinidad and Sophie Smith for their work in supporting VPCA's governance and Teresa Blanc, Sete Tele, Jane Davis and Sue, for supporting our gardening needs.

Next year is a year of significant challenge for the Centre. We will be reapplying for funding from our key funding bodies and renegotiating the lease for 12 Kent Street.

Jeremy Blank

Director/General Manager Victoria Park Centre for the Arts

Strategic Direction

Vision: To connect creatives and community.

Purpose: We are a space for creatives and community to come together to participate in artistic and cultural experiences.

The 2023-26 Strategic Plan simplifies Victoria Park Centre for the Arts' imperatives acknowledging the current workload of staff and the growth already achieved in developing the profile of VPCA as an accessible and supportive community space for creative and cultural expression for everyone in our community. The Strategic Plan has been reduced to three priority areas of focus:

- **Creativity and connection**
- **Revitalisation**
- **Sustainability**



Pictured: Friends of Jirdarup Bushland Photography Competition and Exhibition 2022, held at Kent Street Gallery.

The Victoria Park Centre for the Arts facilitates and nurtures creative and cultural growth. We are a meeting place for artists and those interested in the arts. We showcase the work of local creatives and we advocate for the arts. We work in partnership with the Town of Victoria Park and the Department of Communities to positively contribute to the cultural development of the community.

VPCA provides:

- Exhibition and gallery space
- Workshop programs
- Community outreach projects and cultural awareness events
- Community meeting space and venue hire
- Promotion of local arts and crafts and gift shop
- Community support, advocacy and learning
- Association membership and services
- Artist support and development
- Events and arts-based community activities
- Centrelink registered volunteer organization

Our Principles

We encourage creativity and innovation and support the development of our Community. We value teamwork and collaboration.

We will be guided by principles of social justice, access and equity including:

- Respect for people's rights and choices
- Fairness
- Trust
- Community development
- Self-help
- Human rights and non-discrimination

Strategy	Activity	Deliverables and Measures
Creativity and connection	Deliver quality core services to members and the community Delivery of services to diverse groups Maximise the utilisation of infrastructure assets	Business plan measures have been successfully reported Meet inclusion and diversity targets Maximise utilisation of gallery and 10 Kent Street
Revitalisation	Increase profile and engagement with members, stakeholders and community New initiatives facilitated by changes in technology	Develop strategy to build attendance at exhibitions Review marketing strategies Digital technology plan
Sustainability	Create a robust governance framework Effectively manage risk Invest in capacity building for Board and members Embed a sustainable business model Core business is managed well	Complete a review of the Rules of Association Update operational policies (Inclusion and Diversity, Social Media, Communications and Publications accessibility, cyber-security) Conduct a review of physical IT and cyber-security systems Board members have competencies in governance, financial literacy, risk, strategic planning and monitoring performance Training for members in governance Maintain 30% or above centre generated funding Retain funding from ToVP and DoC Maintain an FTE >2.5 Oversight of operational performance



Pictured: Create Connect Artists celebrating their works from 2022-23 in exhibition 'Paper Royale'.

Our Board

Greg Mahney, Chairperson

Greg Mahney joined the Board at the end of 2022. He has been on not-for-profit boards for most of his adult life, often in executive positions. He was the CEO of Advocare, an aged care advocacy agency, General Manager of the Murdoch University Guild of Students, a university administrator and even spent six frustrating months working for the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Now retired from the paid workforce Greg volunteers as a Justice of the Peace, resolves disputes as a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Chairs the VPCA Board. He has a Bachelor's degree in politics and sociology, a Master's in public policy, is a graduate of the AICD company directors course and has been a Fellow of two management institutes.

Leanne Linehan, Deputy Chair

Leanne is a compliance specialist, with an extensive compliance, assurance and risk assessment background within the financial services and mining resources industries. Leanne brings excellent interpersonal skills combined with professional, personable and leadership qualities. Leanne's positive approach and skills in key areas of VPCA's Strategic Plan are a welcome addition to the board. Leanne is an active VPCA member who attends and supports our events.

Clare Szmekura, Secretary

Clare is an innovative manager and artist with significant experience working in diverse business environments including Local Government, not-for-profit and commercial with a strong history of working in community, cultural and creative industries. Clare is skilled in Arts Administration, Budgeting, Event Management, Exhibition Management, Business Development, Change Management, Strategic Partnerships and Media Relations, and is passionate about developing opportunities to foster and grow cultural experience and community identity.

Rowena Skinner

Rowena is a life member of the VPCA and is the volunteer finance officer. She is not an artist, rather an art lover and committed to supporting inclusive and accessible community art spaces.

Rowena has long experience working with community organisations in the areas of compliance, risk management, financial management and governance. She is currently the chairperson of the Town of Victoria Park's Urban Forest Strategy working group, treasurer for the Victoria Park Community Garden and ordinary board member of the Victoria Park Primary School.

Previously, Rowena has been both treasurer and ordinary board member of the VPCA and is keen to contribute again to the medium- and long-term vision for the Centre and its ongoing sustainability.

Paul Trinidad

Paul is a professor in Fine Arts at the University of Western Australia. Paul's educational work focuses on immersive experiential education in the field of art and culture specializing in overseas study programs, predominantly in Indonesia. He works in diplomatic circles with the Australian Consulate General of Bali through DFAT, liaising with the Konsul Jenderal Republik of Indonesia in Perth, and the Rektor of Institute Seni Indonesia, in Denpasar. In 2023 Paul received the prestigious Maestro's Award, during the 2023 International Pembukaan Festival Bali Bhuwana Nata Kertih Nugraha by ISI Denpasar for his dedication and reputation in art and cultural activities in Indonesia. Paul is a practicing artist exhibiting in Indonesia and Australia with work in public and private collections.

Shona Zulsdorf

Shona has experience in leadership and executive management in the public and community sectors. Her skills include building robust governance frameworks, shaping and leading strategy, audit and risk oversight and delivering outcomes. Shona's recent Board positions include: Chair of the Plumbers Licensing Board, expert member of Audit and Risk Committees with the City of South Perth, Shire of York, and Chair Nominations Committee with Perth NRM. She was also Chair of the Patricia Giles Centre and Starick Services (providers of family and domestic violence services). Shona holds a Master of Communication, Graduate Certificate Commerce and Certificate in Board Governance.

Sophie Smith

Sophie is currently studying Arts Management at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts which has strong connections to arts and cultural initiatives across the City of South Perth and Vic Park. Through her studies she is developing skills in strategic management, financial reporting, arts law, marketing and producing. As a non-voting member, Sophie is looking to give her insight as an emerging creative and support the arts in Vic Park.

Community Events and Activities

The work of VPCA goes beyond art workshops, classes and exhibitions. VPCA staff develops our community-focused commitments, which are funded by the Department of Communities. Siobhan O’Gara, Leona Kuan and Long Nguyen worked across a broad range of areas raising awareness and developing new links with individuals, groups and organisations. Since February 2023 VPCA and United in Diversity, a multicultural not for profit organisation helping to create a platform for sharing and understanding culture, have achieved a co-tenancy from the Town of Victoria Park at 10 Kent Street property. 10 Kent Street is available for events such as group meetings, clean workshops or classes.

Create Connect Music and Art Workshops

VPCA’s reputation and commitment to the support and promotion of artists working with disability has been ongoing since 2004.

Workshops

The Centre’s long-standing Create Connect workshops in music and art have experienced differing outcomes in the 2022-23 year. The art workshops have returned to pre-pandemic levels with the addition of a Thursday morning group proposed for the second half of 2023 to accommodate additional participants. The music sessions have struggled to recover their numbers in 2022-23 financial year.

Exhibitions

VPCA’s annual Create Connect artists’ exhibition at the Kent Street Gallery ‘Open Sesame’ occurred in early July 2022. Curated by Create Connect Art facilitators Clare Wohlnick and Peter Carlino. In 2022-23 Create Connect artists also exhibited at All Saints’ College ‘Connected 7’ exhibition in June and the ‘As We Are’ Artists Awards and Exhibition at the Wilkinson Gallery, Claremont Showgrounds. Siobhan O’Gara’s work and commitment to raising the visibility and profile of our Create Connect artists has truly supported the empowerment of our Create Connect artists.

In 2023 two solo exhibitions by artists working with disabilities were included in the main exhibition program with Blaz Delic’s Main Gallery exhibition in February 2023 and Richie Jasper’s Front room exhibition in March/April 2023. It is exciting and important that artists working with disability are included and showcased inclusively, as with any other artist seeking to exhibit in our Kent Street Gallery program.

Through our Empowering Communities Program VPCA supports Create Connect, NAIDOC, and multicultural exhibition initiatives and workshops. In the 2022-23 year VPCA’s sponsorship arrangement with local business Monadelphous Group continued, providing funding to compliment and enrich VPCA’s NAIDOC program.

Community collaborations

Create Connect artist David Brandstater’s work was included by the Vic Park Writer’s group as the cover design for their 2022 journal, Notes from the Park. The well-attended publication launch was in October 2022 at VPCA.

VPCA collaborated with the Town of Victoria Park, Victoria Park Community Centre and GROW WA for a joint project for 3rd December 2022 International Day of People with

Disability. GROW WA for Mental Health & Wellbeing workshop at VPCA as part of GROW WA's 2022 Mental Health Week celebrations (Movement & Drumming workshop).

Cultural Sharing Events

This Empowering Communities Program funded initiative developed considerably in 2022-23. Through perseverance and community engagement Siobhan O'Gara and Leona Kuan coordinated and promoted the Centre's commitment to realising a popular and attractive event program for our local community. The collaboration with the Victoria Park Community Centre has grown, establishing the dinners as a regular and enjoyable community event where people meet and learn about another culture through the preparation of food and entertainment. In the 2022-23 financial year VPCA and Victoria Park Community Centre hosted the following Cultural Sharing dinners: Somalian, Pakistani, French, Nigerian, Vietnamese, Goan and their connected organisations in the SE Metro area. Additionally native bush tucker catering was provided by Creative Culture for the opening event of the July 2022 NAIDOC exhibition.

Satisfaction surveys from attendees to the Cultural Sharing Events achieved 90% response rates from guests with most responses in top 5% as positive.

Unsolicited feedback and comments from guests:

"I have never been to a community event before and I am new to the area. I cannot believe how welcoming and friendly everybody is. I will come to the next event."

"Travelled from Wellard. I think every community should have sharing events like this and it should be written up in the Community News."

"Did not expect a sit-down dinner. So fantastic to walk in and see tables and table cloths set up. A relaxed, fun event done with professionalism where people were mixing, chatting and interacting."

Rainbow Family Events

VPCA's work with Vic Park Pride and GRAI (GLBT Rights in Ageing) continued in 2022-23. VPCA's support for key annual events included a Christmas in July event at the Hub in Mackie Street, the annual Barn Dance held at City Farm attracting 700 guests and an Open Mic Night with Cabaret in Victoria Park with 60 guests and a two night Cabaret performance in 2023 at Old Mill Theatre, South Perth to full houses of a total of 220 guests. Vic Park Pride is now an incorporated association and has grown to become a large-scale event organiser with positive collaborations with many partner groups and organisations.



Pictured: Two of our Cultural Sharing Dinners – Somali dinner hosted by Alia and Deqa (top image) and Nigerian dinner and dance lesson hosted by Victor (bottom image), held in partnership with the Victoria Park Community Centre.

Collaborators, Partners & Supporters

To deliver its services and ensure its programs are supported, VPCA supports many community groups, artist groups, local associations and not-for-profit organisations, providing venue hire facilities, administrative support, booking and promotional assistance.

In 2020-2021 VPCA worked with the following:

- Town of Victoria Park
- People Kind, formerly Nulsen Disability Services
- Department of Communities
- Monadelphous Group
- John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University
- United in Diversity
- Victoria Park Community Centre
- Bush Blossom Art Gallery
- World Federation of Arab Fine Arts
- Perth to Laverton Day (Art Exhibition, Youth Awards, Youth Design Awards)
- Lea Taylor at Creative Culture
- As We Are Artists
- Vic Park Printmakers Group
- WA Mosaic Society
- Muses on Swan
- Vic Park Writers Group
- Friends of Jirdarup Bushland
- Young Onset Dementia (YODs)
- Vic Park Pride
- Pride WA
- Perth Transport Authority
- Creative Kids
- Vic Park Community Events Forum
- GROW WA
- Bubbly Perth
- Bloom painting workshops
- South Perth Learning Centre
- The Colour Society of Australia
- Carers WA
- GRAI
- WWLAC
- Irish Music group classes/rehearsals
- Celebrated local WA Portrait Artist Jill Ansell running painting classes and students' art exhibition



Exhibition Program

The Centre's Kent Street Gallery exhibition program was full for the year, attracting quality exhibitions from local individuals, groups and VPCA supported shows. Throughout the year, we experienced successful exhibition openings with numbers as high as 150 for the Vic Park Printmakers exhibition. Three exhibitions were affected by the pandemic where artists were unable to complete their proposed work. In the 2022 -23 financial year Kent Street Gallery hosted 28 exhibitions in the Main Gallery and Front Room including 222 artists across the exhibition program. VPCA's Kent Street Gallery program has the shortest exhibition turnaround and largest number of exhibitions for any comparable gallery space in the Perth metropolitan region.

Our NAIDOC program, which has run for three years consecutively, included the support of local business Monadelphous for a second year. As part of our NAIDOC program artists from the exhibition are featured at Monadelphous HQ in Victoria Park.

VPCA continued its engagement of local business, Spacescan to produce virtual tours of exhibitions as additional options for exhibiting artists to invest in.

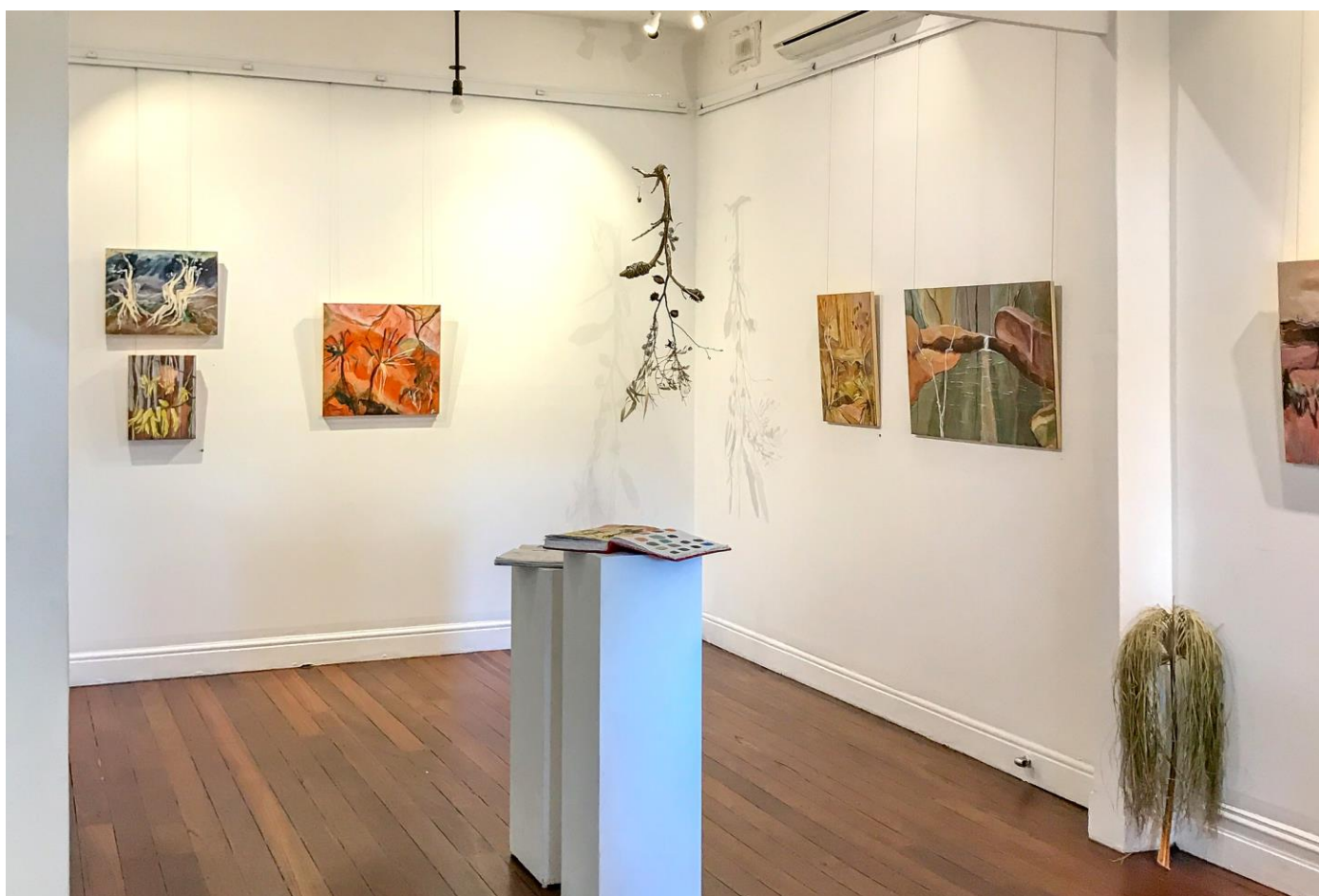
The exhibition program included 28 onsite exhibitions at 12 Kent Street in our Main Gallery and Front Room spaces. 4 external exhibitions featured works produced by artists from VPCA groups or curated aspects from Kent Street Gallery exhibitions. More than 222 artists exhibited within the exhibition program.

Pictured: 'Goolugatup' by Zali Morgan

Partnerships with VPCA groups and local community individuals represented 7 of the total exhibitions. Two exhibitions were hosted at our galleries from the Town of Victoria Park including the Town's biannual Local History Awards, and a selection of works from the Town of Victoria Park's Art Collection, in the 2023 exhibition program. Our 2022 exhibition program included two exhibitions featuring First Nation artists. 'Danjoo Koodjool Boodja' Two Countries Together showcased works from Kalgoorlie based Bush Blossom Gallery and local Wadandi/Minang/Koreng Bibbulmun woman Lea Taylor. In late 2022 the proposed exhibition featuring work from the Laverton community celebrating the Perth to Laverton annual cycle ride was compromised by COVID 19 infections in the local community. An amended exhibition featuring works from several local community groups entitled 'Badimia Country' from Wirnda Barna Art Centre produced a stunning group exhibition at short notice.

Emerging artists were represented in group exhibitions including the highly successful 2022 Vic Park Printmaking Group's exhibition 'Moths to the Flame', Jill Ansell's Evening Acrylic Class Exhibition, 'Return Journey' Jade Roycroft's ambitious exhibition 'Unveiling the Land', and Front Room exhibitions by VPCA 'Wednesday Oil Painting Group, 'Dreams of Colour', and Luke Morgan's exhibition of prints 'Occupy the Spaces Between'. Artists working with disabilities were represented in three solo exhibitions, David Brandstater and Richie Jasper in Front Room exhibitions and Blaz Delic's wonderful 2023, Main Gallery exhibition. Two Main Gallery group exhibitions featured our Create Connect artists and students from the Early Start Australia program.

The 2022 exhibition program emphasised the rich mix of VPCA's Kent Street Gallery exhibition program from introductory and community levels, to professional artists identifying the galleries as affordable spaces for experimental, exploratory or small-scale reviews of works in progress or thematic/conceptual approaches. The Front Room provides the most affordable option for artists to gain valuable exhibition experience in a supportive and safe environment.



Pictured top: Exhibition 'My Shadows Keep' by Paul Trinidad. Left to right: Jeremy Blank, Paul Trinidad and Ibu Listiana Operananta (Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia). Pictured bottom: Exhibition 'Unveiling the Land' by Jade Roycroft.



Pictured top: 'Remember a Friend' by Louise Grimshaw (top), from exhibition 'Tracing Absence' with Robyn Bernadt, Natalie Blomfield, Chris de Sira, Shanti Gelmi, Louise Grimshaw. Pictured bottom: Weaving and clay work from students at Clontarf Aboriginal College from workshops with Creative Culture's Lea Taylor.

Other exhibitions of note were:

- VPCA Members' Exhibition 2022
- 'My Shadow's Keep' Paul Trinidad
- 'Transformation' Pam Nichols
- 'Connections' Adrianna Wasinska Fabian
- 'the ocean and me—finding serenity in uncertainty' Robbie Roper
- 'Our Rock Never Dies', & 'Those Tarps' Sete Tele
- 'Our Second Home' Joshua Go and Shengxi Li
- 'Tracing Absence' Robyn Bernadt, Natalie Blomfield, Chris de Sira, Shanti Gelmi, Louise Grimshaw and Laura Sikes
- 'Embodied' Louis Overall, Luka Buchanan, Martin Cahill

Our Media Officer, Long Nguyen, supported the 2022-23 exhibition installs. Pam Nichols, whose popular Front Room exhibition and workshop space received positive results in sales and attendance, also assists with the Kent Street Gallery exhibition installs.

Victoria Park Centre for the Arts and Kent Street Gallery
12 Kent Street, East Victoria Park
www.vicparkarts.org.au | (08) 6454 1803

Gallery and Office open hours:
Monday 10.00am – 2.30pm, Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm

