



KOORIE

HERITAGE TRUST INC

GNOKAN DANNA MURRA KOR-KI



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

THE KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST ACKNOWLEDGES AND PAYS RESPECT TO THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF MELBOURNE ON WHOSE LANDS WE ARE LOCATED.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this document may contain the names and/or images of people who have passed away.

The word Koorie is commonly used to describe Aboriginal people of south-eastern Australia. However, we recognise the diversity of Aboriginal people living throughout Victoria including Koories and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from around Australia. We have used the terms Aboriginal and Koorie in parts of the report to include all people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Cover Image: Donna Blackall (Yorta Yorta/Taungurung), *Shield E*, 2020.
My Cultural Journey – Incorporating Old and New, 29 February until 19 April, 2020.

Photo credit: Christian Capurro

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Image: Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Fed Square. Photo credit: Nicole Cleary

WOMINJEKA* VISION AND PURPOSE

OUR VISION

To live in a society where Aboriginal culture and history are a fundamental part of Victorian life.

OUR PURPOSE

To promote, support and celebrate the continuing journey of the Aboriginal people of south-eastern Australia.

OUR MOTTO

Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki.
(Give me your hand my friend.)

OUR VALUES

Respect. Honesty. Reciprocity. Curiosity.

OUR CENTRE

The Koorie Heritage Trust provides a unique environment, rich in culture, heritage, and history, which welcomes and encourages Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike, to come together in the spirit of learning and reconciliation.

OUR GOVERNANCE

We are a not-for-profit Incorporated Association governed by the Trust's Rules of Association and by a Board of Management.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

STRENGTHEN our relationships with Victorian Aboriginal Communities

PROMOTE and celebrate our continuing living Victorian Aboriginal culture

EXTEND our reach and enhance our visitors' experience

DEVELOP our people and capabilities

* *Wominjeka* or 'Womin Djeka' means 'to come with purpose' and is used as a form of greeting in the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung language of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

WOMINJEKA

I am pleased to present the Koorie Heritage Trust's Annual Report, which outlines our activities and operations in the 12 months from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

At the Koorie Heritage Trust, we support, promote and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal Victorian peoples and communities. Our vision is to live in a society where Aboriginal culture and history are a fundamental part of Victorian life. Our values are Respect, Honesty, Reciprocity and Curiosity.

We provide a unique environment rich in culture, heritage and history, which welcomes and encourages all people to come together in the spirit of learning and reconciliation. I wish to especially acknowledge the support of all members of the Koorie and broader Indigenous communities in Victoria who have visited the Trust or attended one of our many programs during the year. You are crucial to our future success.

I acknowledge the advent of COVID-19 in 2020 presented particular challenges for the delivery of our programs and services. The state-wide restrictions on movement in Victoria and subsequent lockdown in Melbourne also presented challenges and opportunities for our staff and artist community. However, I am pleased to report that the Koorie Heritage Trust has responded well to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the Trust was forced to close its doors to the public in March 2020, it quickly responded and adapted by shifting many of its current programs and exhibitions to an online platform and in doing so added several new activities for online visitors. In addition, the Trust is documenting and preserving interviews of Elders and others during COVID-19 for future generations.

Our activities in 2019-2020 would not have been possible without the support of the Victorian Government: The Hon. Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries; The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (from March 2020); and, The Hon Gavin Jennings MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (until March 2020).

I also acknowledge the funding support from Creative Victoria's Organisational Investment Program, which funds the Trust's exhibitions program, and Aboriginal Victoria's Community Support Fund, which fund the Koorie Family History Service, the Oral History Program and our operational activities. I also wish to acknowledge the support we receive from the

Federal Office for the Arts' Indigenous Visuals Arts Industry Support Program and the City of Melbourne's Triennial Arts Grants Program. I also acknowledge the invaluable support received from our generous sponsors: Gandel Philanthropy, Ian Potter Foundation, Metro Tunnel Creative Program, Viva Energy Australia, RMIT University, Lendlease, Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and Family, and the Jon Faine Farewell Broadcast Appeal.

We continue to maintain our registration as a tax-deductible gift recipient. As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the wide network and generosity of our many friends and supporters to enable us to continue the important work we do to bridge the gap between Aboriginal Victoria and the wider community. Your ongoing engagement and support during the COVID-19 pandemic has enabled us to continue our work to support, promote and celebrate the journey of our Victorian Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members Dr Shannon Faulkhead (Deputy Chair), Peter Nash (Treasurer), Genevieve Grieves, Mick Harding and Indi Clarke. I wish to also acknowledge and thank Tom Mosby, our CEO, and his staff for their commitment and dedication in making the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square such a success, and whose hard work has contributed to the outstanding financial outcome for 2019-2020 particularly during these unprecedented times.

Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki (Give Me Your Hand My Friend), and let us celebrate together the history, culture and peoples of Aboriginal Victoria.



Ian Hamm
Chair

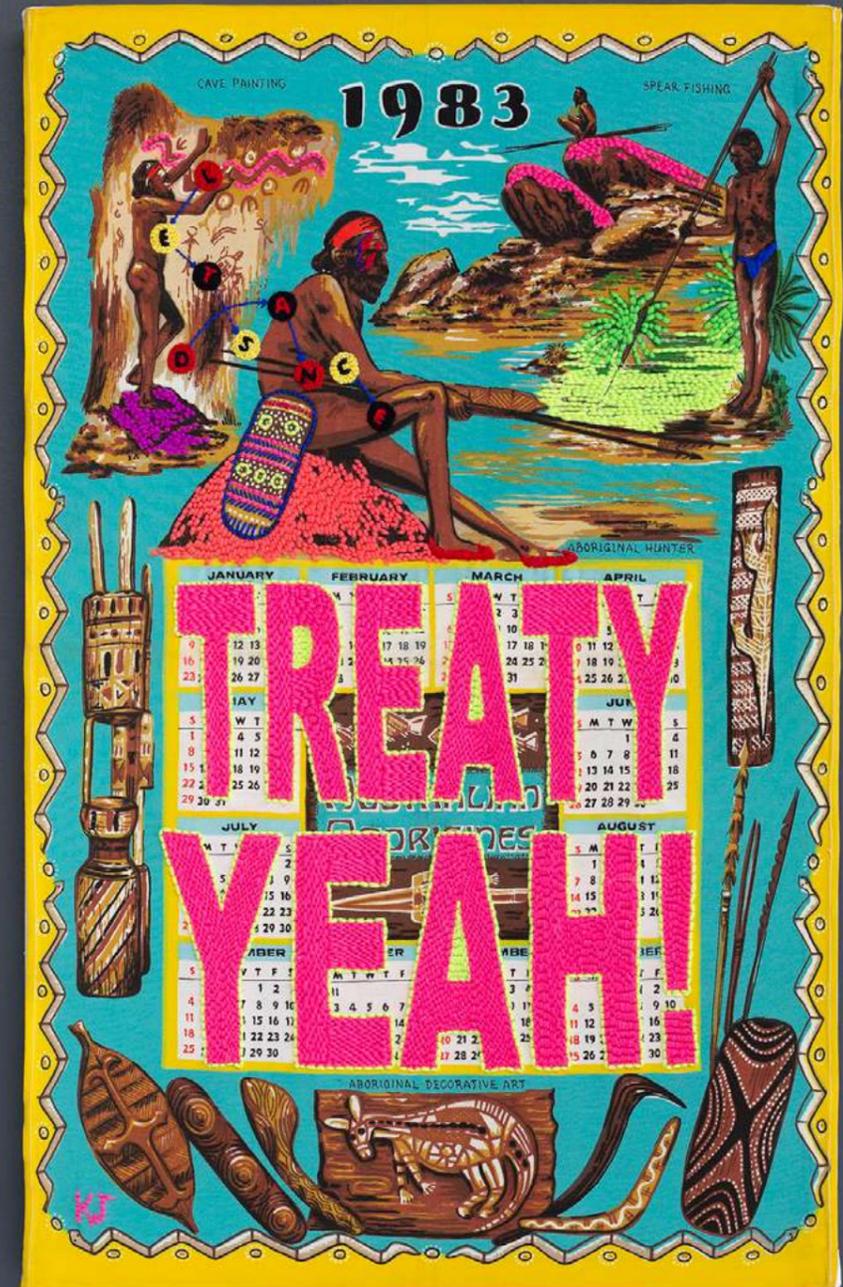


Image: Installation view, *Dry Your Dishes on My Culture, Let's Dance*, Kait James (Wadawurrung), 28 September until 24 November, 2019. Photo credit: Christian Capurro

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

WOMINJEKA – WELCOME

I am pleased to report on the operations of the Koorie Heritage Trust Inc for the 2019-20 financial year.

Despite the many challenges of COVID-19 in the second half of the financial year, most notably the closure of our Federation Square premises in March 2020, we enjoyed tremendous success in delivering our programs and services. We also witnessed a significant increase in visitor attendance prior to our closure.

In 2019-20, we presented 15 individual and group exhibitions that celebrated the unique and creative talent of Victorian Aboriginal artists. We are particularly proud to have presented the first solo exhibitions of artists Donna Blackall (Yorta Yorta) and Uncle Greg Muir (Yorta Yorta). In response to closing our exhibition space as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, we installed and launched our first online exhibition, *Affirmation*, which incorporated a virtual gallery and exhibition tour, and a free online catalogue.

Our exhibitions program is supported by an innovative series of public programs, consisting of workshops, artist talks and symposiums. During our closure, we launched KHT Online to enable the continued sharing of our unique programs and services while ensuring the health and safety of our community remained our first priority. Our curated online platform, KHT Online, included KHT Voices and First Nations Voices which capture the voices of our people during the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of short one-minute reads. In addition, we launched the KHT Kids' Club as part of KHT Online, and Trails of Feeling, an interactive walking trail of Melbourne developed in collaboration with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.

We also continued to acquire artwork for our already unique collection of Victorian Aboriginal art and cultural objects. We particularly acknowledge Gandel Philanthropy whose generosity enables us to continue to acquire artworks for our Collection.

Our Koorie Family History Service continued their invaluable work. Knowing who you are and where you come from is an essential part of identity and pride for Koorie people. Many, however, were dispossessed of this knowledge due to the policies and practices of past governments, including the

removal of children from family and Community. Our Koorie Family History Service provides members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants with knowledge of their family tree, family history, culture and Community, which builds pride and creates a sense of well-being in the Koorie Community.

Our Education team continued to deliver outstanding cultural educational experiences and services to schools, corporates, the public sector, and not-for-profit organisations, as well as the general public. In 2019-20, we experienced strong growth in our cultural awareness training program and guided tours, and we are particularly proud to be a registered Aboriginal Experience for Victoria as part of Tourism Australia Discover Aboriginal Experiences. During our COVID-19 closure, the Education team successfully pivoted their program to an online platform, delivering a cultural awareness webinar for organisations, small groups and individuals.

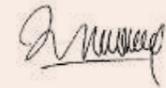
Our retail outlet, shopKOOORIE, sells products that are designed and/or crafted by Victorian Aboriginal artists and craftspeople. shopKOOORIE's retail model enables a financial return to creative practitioners, providing a direct benefit to the south-eastern Australian Aboriginal community. All profits from the shop are used to support the Trust, particularly our core programs and services. In light of the COVID-19 lockdown, we continued to acquire stock to support community suppliers.

In November 2019, we launched a new website, which has proved an important platform during our COVID-19 closure for the continued delivery of our programs and services. In addition, we invested a considerable amount of time and energy into updating our Customer Relationship Management system. On completion, the improved system will enable us to better control our business in terms of keeping track of our interactions and relationships with our many friends, supporters, customers and suppliers. I wish to particularly acknowledge the invaluable work and support provided to the Koorie Heritage Trust by PwC.

I wish to also acknowledge the support I have received from the Board of the Koorie Heritage Trust especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as from the Audit & Risk Committee of the Board.

Finally, despite the trials the organisation has had to face during this time, we have continued to deliver our unique programs and services, and I cannot commend and thank enough the outstanding work of all Koorie Heritage Trust staff, particularly the executive team: Michael Kane (Business Manager), Rob Hyatt (Visitor Services and Education Manager), Jenny Bates (Koorie Family History Service Manager), Gail Harradine (Curatorial Manager) and Judy Allsop (Retail and Front of House Manager).

Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-Ki – Give Me Your Hand My Friend.



Tom Mosby
CEO





Image: Launch Donna Blackall's *My Cultural Journey – Incorporating Old and New*, 29 February 2020. Photo credit: Tiffany Garvie

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

KOORIE FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

Knowing who you are and where you come from is an essential part of identity and pride for Koorie people.

Koorie people have been dispossessed of this knowledge through the policies and practices of past governments, including the removal of children from family and Community. The main purpose of our Koorie Family History Service is to provide members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants with knowledge of their family tree, family history, culture and Community. We view our role as an important part of building pride and creating a sense of wellbeing in the Koorie Community.

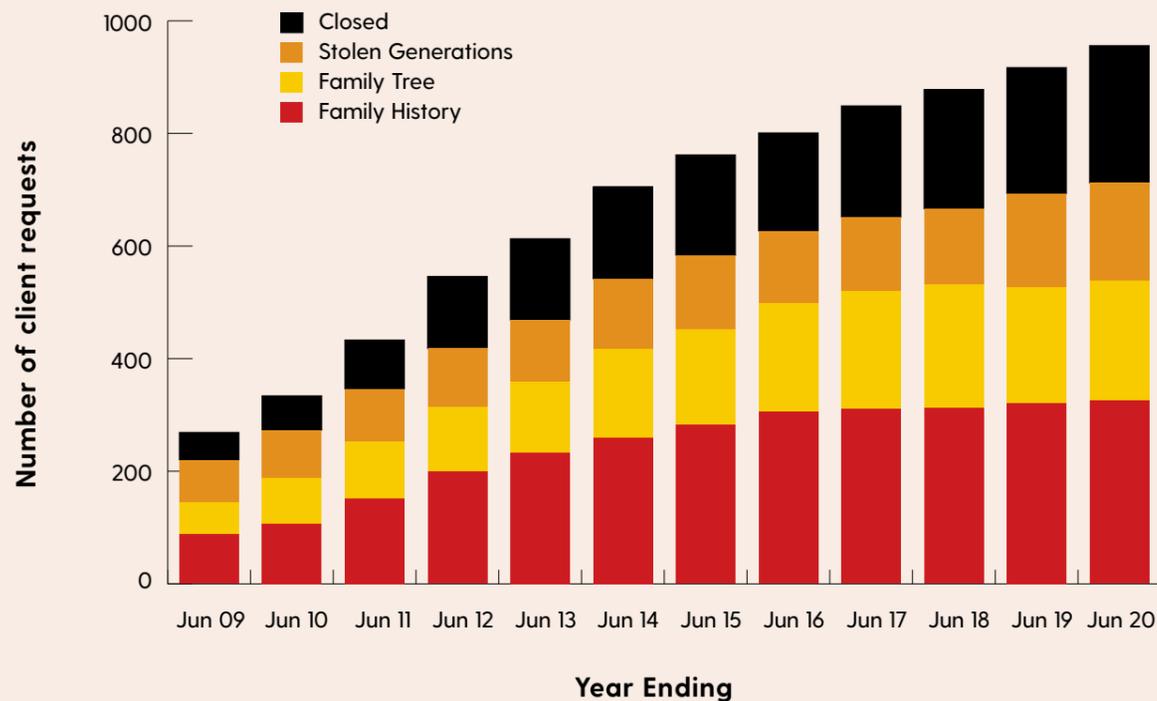
The Koorie Family History Service (KFHS) provides a confidential, client-based, genealogical research service for Stolen Generations survivors and their families, and the Victorian Koorie Community.

CLIENT REQUESTS

In 2019-20, the KFHS received a record number of 363 new requests for family tree and family history information.

At the end of the 2019-20 financial year, the KFHS was actively researching 712 client requests, and had completed research on a further 244 requests with a further 458 pending.

Of the 712 requests being actively researched, 174 were from clients who identify as Stolen Generations Survivors or their descendants (two of whom are in custody), and 538 were general requests.



FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS

On 20th December 2019, the KFHS provided a half-day Family History Training workshop for Indigenous Department of Health and Human Services Interns. It provided a unique insight and understanding of issues relating to Stolen Generations Survivors. The workshop also discussed the unique differences and difficulties associated with tracing family trees in Victoria compared with other states and territories.

On 12th February 2020, the KFHS team provided a Family History Information Session to Aboriginal Victoria staff and members of the Victorian Public Service Network, as part of a two-hour information sharing event.

On 13th February 2020, the KFHS team supported National Apology events in Melbourne and Geelong, with staff members in attendance. Many other community events in which the KFHS would normally attend and participate were either postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 8th May 2020, the KFHS Manager provided a Family History workshop to staff from the Australian Catholic University's Jim-baa-yer Indigenous Higher Education Unit. This was originally planned as a half-day workshop held on-site at the Koorie Heritage Trust. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff requested the workshop be held via Zoom. Its success led to the planning of further family history workshops in the future.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TESTIMONIALS

My thanks go out to Jenny and her team at the Koorie Heritage Trust. The Family Tree and Family History they have supplied is absolutely amazing, going back six generations, along with the documentation, records and history to go with it. So much more than just some names and dates, they have also managed to find many pictures and letters, giving me an insight to the lives and hardships of my ancestors through the generations. I now have the link to my People and Country. The information supplied has also enabled me to connect with other Family members. In short, they have done a fantastic job which was well worth the wait and I would highly recommend this service for those looking to connect with their past history.

–Steve Thornbury

I was overwhelmed by all the family history that was found, having Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, I knew nothing about. Now I can pass this onto my children and Grandchildren with pride. I cannot express enough appreciation for the tireless hours they have put into producing this history.

–Raelene J. Cheetham (née Wilson)

Many, many thanks to the Koorie Family History Service for all the information provided to us. There is a sadness in reading many things, tears have been shed but a pride in the resilience of those who went before this generation. We had been hoping to visit areas where ancestors came from during late March / April this year, but the virus put a stop to that. Brian goes into hospital in two weeks for a full shoulder re-construction and with eyesight gone in one eye & not the best in the other, we are hoping we will make it late this year sometime.

–Eleanor Findlay, on behalf of my husband Brian, children & grandchildren

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

EDUCATION

In the first half of the 2019-20 financial year, we witnessed increased momentum in all parts of our Education Program. With the Trust's closure due to COVID-19, we rolled out an online cultural competency program, which attracted significant uptake by existing and new clients.

BUILDING ABORIGINAL CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

During 2019-20, our Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency (BACC) workshops continued to gain momentum from the previous year. The number of clients and industry sectors we delivered workshops to increased, as well as the overall number of sessions we conducted up until March 2020 before our closure. By that time we had increased the number of delivered workshops compared with the previous financial year, and despite a short period of uncertainty, particularly from potential clients, we managed to deliver a large number of online workshops from April to June. As a result, we finished the financial year with the same number of sessions as the previous year.

Our facilitators, Rob, Bernadette, Tim and Carissa, continued to receive very positive feedback from participants.

It was really fantastic, I have done similar training, but I believe this one provided me with the best understanding about cultural identity and all the different ways in which people identify and the importance of not making assumptions and asking questions.

–BACC participant, 2019

Our BACC program delivered a total of 175 training workshops throughout 2019-20. Of these, 97 were half-day and 36 full-day sessions conducted during our period of face-to-face programs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in late March 2020 the Education team quickly introduced an online format for delivering workshops. Koorie Heritage Trust has led the way in this innovation. From late March 2020 until the end of the June 2020, our Education Program delivered a total 42 workshops conducted in a four-hour online format.

Over and above our typical workshops, the Education team also conducted 45 short cultural talks, workshops, excursions and speaking roles with various organisations including schools, corporates and government.

In 2019-20, we were again successful with a number of tender applications, and continued to deliver BACC training under ongoing contracts. The tenders and ongoing contracts were with the Victorian Public Sector Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Each contract includes ongoing workshops into 2020-21, and we are developing new contracts with the Department of Education and Training, and the Federation of Community Legal Centres.

Several other organisations continued their relationship as clients: Beyond Blue, NAB, Swinburne University, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, VIVA Energy, Box Hill Institute, Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Office of Public Prosecutions, and Victorian Legal Aid. We also worked with a number of organisations in the water resource industry: South East Water, City West Water, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water.

Across all of our workshops and the range of organisations Koorie Heritage Trust works with, we continue to maintain a high standard of delivery which is evident from the following feedback our facilitators received:

I would really like some feedback to be provided to the presenter for this session - he was absolutely brilliant. He was so generous in sharing his own story, so open-hearted and patient with us, and he came to the training with a sense of humour and collaborative learning. This was really wonderful, powerful training - and I think that was in huge part due to the presenter. I can't be strong enough in my praise for this training, and this particular presenter. I wish this training could be rolled out to every single Australian citizen/resident!

–BACC participant, 2019

This training was quite frankly incredible. It gave me a very real sense of the complexities our Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander clients experience. Everyone should do it.

–BACC participant, 2020

BUILDING CULTURAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

In 2018-19, we introduced the Building Cultural Safety in the Workplace program to complement and build on our existing Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency Training. During 2019-20, a number of organisations participated in these workshops to supplement BACC workshops they had previously attended. We also successfully combined the two workshops for some organisations, which also received positive feedback.

The Building Cultural Safety in the Workplace program enabled us to re-engage with previous clients, and also gained considerable interest from new and potential clients. We delivered 25 specific cultural safety workshops and 48 of our BACC workshops were combined with cultural safety training.

WALKING TOURS

From June 2019 to February 2020, our guided walking tours (Birrarung Wilam and Scar Tree Walks) were extremely popular and we experienced an increase in the number of bookings and participants. Participants included schools, community organisations, and corporate and government sectors on our groups tours, as well as the general public on our public tours.

In 2019-20, approximately 5,800 individuals participated in our tours, which had us well on track to reaching and exceeding last year's figure before the tours were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. As with previous years, our education sector accounted for the largest number of participants across primary schools, secondary schools, and tertiary institutes, and we continued to conduct tours for the private sector, government and the general public.

The number of participants on our Public Tours increased and we endeavoured to increase exposure to the international tourism market after becoming a Signature Experience with Tourism Australia and gaining membership to Discover Aboriginal Experiences. While our membership was approved in January 2020, we are yet to take advantage of international marketing. In the meantime, we continue to be involved with Tourism Australia's programs and marketing campaigns through online attendance of

Tourism Showcases into the Americas. We also have applications to attend online tradeshows in the UK and Europe, and the USA in October 2020.

In 2019-20, we conducted joint tours with Arts Centre Education Programs and MCC MCG tours. These fall under the partnership agreements formed with the Arts Centre and the MCC in 2018-19. We also continued to deliver on our ongoing contract to provide tours for City of Melbourne staff under their education and development programs, and this contract was recently renewed for 2020-21.

Visit Victoria continued to support our tours by extending our reach into the domestic, interstate and international tourism markets, which was augmented by our successful application for Signature Experience with Tourism Australia, and Discover Aboriginal Experiences membership. Our Manager of Education and Visitor Experience also attended the Victoria Tourism Showcase to the UK and Europe, supported by Visit Victoria, to promote Aboriginal experiences in Victoria, and particularly market the Koorie Heritage Trust.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

shopKOOORIE

At shopKOOORIE, we stock products that are designed and/or crafted in Victoria by our Koorie artists and craftspeople, as well as our broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

At shopKOOORIE, we are unique and authentic. Working with artists and craftspeople from around Victoria to promote and sell their products, we are, and for the Victorian Aboriginal community. All our stock are designed and/or crafted in South East Australia by our Koorie artists and craftspeople as well as our broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who call the South East of Australia home. Buying from us is to purchase an authentic South East Australian Aboriginal designed and/or crafted product. shopKOOORIE is an integrated part of our educational experience. It is another opportunity enabling visitors to learn of the uniqueness of south eastern Australian Aboriginal peoples, cultures and communities through art, craft and design. Our product range and display reflects 21st century Koorie peoples and communities grounded in 60,000 years of lived history.

We actively work with our Collection team to produce products that showcase the Trust's unique Collection. Before each exhibition, the Collection team and shopKOOORIE collaborate to select and reproduce pieces from the Trust's Collection, which are then made available for purchase. In 2019-20, pieces created by Donna Blackall and Uncle Greg Muir were selected from the Collection and reproduced to coincide with our exhibitions.

We continually source products from Victorian communities and regularly change the products sold in the shop to ensure a variety of products is for sale. shopKOOORIE continues to regularly sell products to government departments, local councils, universities and government schools. During the COVID-19 closure, we continued to purchase products from community artists and craftspeople, helping to provide an income for them.





Image 1: Installation view, *Kaiela-Dungala/Vessels of Life*, Eva Ponting (Gunditjmara), *Past, Present, Future No 1*, 29 February until 19 April, 2020. Photo credit: Christian Capurro
Image 2: Uncle Stewart Murray Meeting room. Photo credit: Nicole Cleary

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

VENUE HIRE

Located on the 1st and 3rd levels of the Yarra Building, and designed by one of Australia's largest multi-award winning architectural and design firm, Lyons Architecture, in collaboration with Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria, our for hire spaces provide a unique and popular venue for meetings, launches, workshops and seminars. Our spaces accommodate up to 150 standing guests in an immersive Aboriginal experience and in a unique Koorie setting.

The rooms are utilised by community organisations, government departments and private companies. In 2019-20, The Venue Hire space received bookings from the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Department of Justice, Victorian Legal Aid and Mim Bartlett Consulting. We continue to receive repeat bookings from the Department of Justice, Department of Health, MIFF 37°South Market, and other organisations.





Image: Installation view, *The 7th Koorie Art Show*, 2019, 7 December 2018 until 23 February 2019. Photo credit: Christian Capurro

COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

COLLECTIONS

The Koorie Heritage Trust continues to hold in trust for the Victorian Aboriginal community, one of the largest and unique collections of historical material directly pertaining to the clans and nations in south-eastern Australia. The Collection provides a vital source of engagement for the wider community, presenting historic and contemporary material, and notable artwork that reflect and appreciate the distinct Indigenous clans and nations of Indigenous people of south-eastern Australia. Linking the past to the present, a diverse range of paintings, weavings, artefacts, skin cloaks, stone tools and carved wooden shields reflect the strength, resilience and perspectives of First Nations people, culture and history.

Through highly skilled practitioners working in a variety of mediums such as fibre craft, pokerwork/wood burning, printmaking, resin work, textile/feather work, jewellery in all types of forms, and earthenware, the Koorie Heritage Trust has accumulated a special range of material items that encourages younger generations to learn and develop a range of exhibitions and programs that encourage the wider community to learn about history and culture of past and current generations.

The Oral History Collection contains over 2,000 items of historical and contemporary films, recordings, and transcripts of Elders, community events, festivals, individual interviews, and historical information.

In the Photographic Collection, there are over 48,000 images relating to historic and more recent community events. The library contains over 4,000 archival and book-related subject matter that reference south-eastern Aboriginal, art, culture and history.

The dynamic exhibition display is a significant feature of our programs and exhibitions. The large glass cabinets, open storage cabinets, drawers, walls and the canoe table are a rich resource for presenting a range of material for visitors to enjoy. The display is continuously rotated with new items on show every three to six months. A much needed refresh in terms of painting of Level 3 was completed during the current COVID-19 pandemic and enables further changeover work to occur with the exhibition display.

The Koorie Heritage Trust notes that some key features on display, such as the iPads, were impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of the Koorie Heritage Trust during 2020.

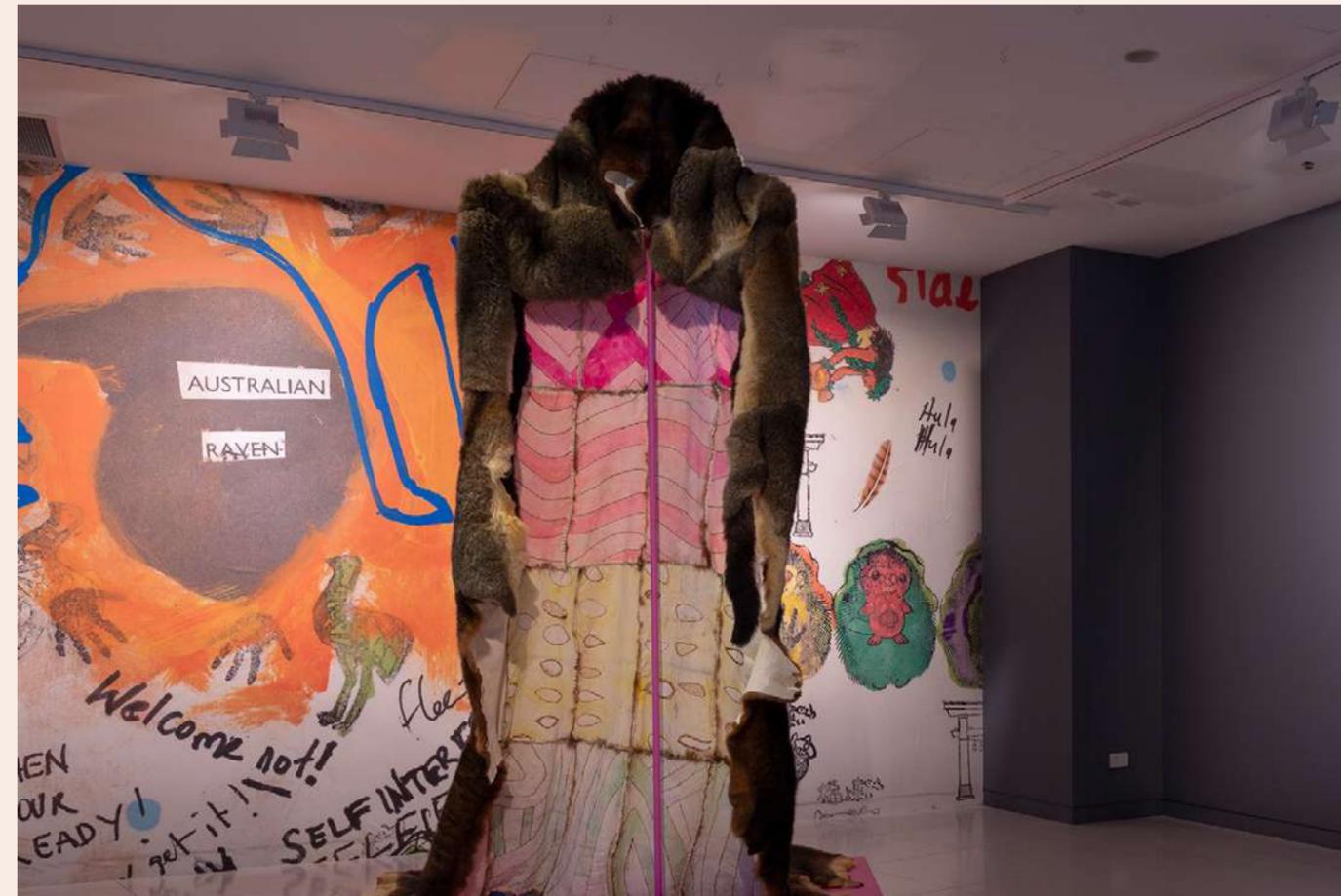




Image 1: Isobel Morphy-Walsh (Taun Wurrung), *Munda-ngat brangaluk (to protect, to hug, to hold all) Stringy Bark #3*, 2019. Purchased 2020. Photo credit: Christian Capurro **Image 2:** Greg Muir (Yorta Yorta) *Self Portrait of A Deadly One*, 2019. Purchased 2020. Acquired through the generous support of Gandel Philanthropy. Photo credit: Christian Capurro

NEW ACQUISITIONS

IN 2019-20, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE ACQUIRED INTO THE COLLECTION:

Greg Muir (Yorta Yorta)
Self Portrait of A Deadly One, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
Purchased 2020
Acquired through the generous support of Gandel Philanthropy
AH 04007

Isobel Morphy-Walsh (Taun Wurrung)
Munda-ngat Brangaluk (to protect, to hug, to hold all) Stringy Bark #2, 2019
Stringy bark, beeswax, kangaroo skin and fur
Purchased 2020
AH 04007

Isobel Morphy-Walsh (Taun Wurrung)
Munda-ngat brangaluk (to protect, to hug, to hold all) Stringy Bark #3, 2019
Stringy bark, beeswax, kangaroo skin and fur
Purchased 2020
AH 04010

Kait James (Wadawurrung)
First Nation, 2019
Wool and cotton on printed cotton
Acquired through the generous support of Anne Ross
AH 04008

Lisa Waup (Gunditjmara, Torres Strait Islander)
Connected Journeys, 2019
Ceramic, glaze, possum skin, emu feathers, cassowary feathers, cockatoo crest feathers, gala feather, seed pods (pyrography), cotton thread, aloe vera fibre, jewellery wire
Purchased 2020
AH 04006

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo)
Artist Book, 2017
Mixed media collage
Purchased 2019
AH 04002
(Winner of the 2019 Koorie Art Show Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award)

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo)
In My Tribe, 2018
Digital artwork
Purchased 2019
AH 04003

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo) in collaboration with Katie Jacobs and Ingrid Tuffs (Craft Victoria)
1 Dingo Spirit Artist Series, 2018
Slip cast earthenware, glaze, and slip decoration
Purchased 2019
AH 03999

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo) in collaboration with Katie Jacobs and Ingrid Tuffs (Craft Victoria)
2 Dingo Spirit Artist Series, 2018
Slip cast earthenware, glaze, and slip decoration
Purchased 2019
AH 04000

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo) in collaboration with Katie Jacobs and Ingrid Tuffs (Craft Victoria)
4 Dingo Spirit Artist Series, 2017
Slip cast earthenware, glaze, and slip decoration
Purchased 2019
AH 04001

The Koorie Heritage Trust appreciates and acknowledges the support of Gandel Philanthropy whose generosity significantly contributes to the expansion of our Collection of unique and irreplaceable Victorian Aboriginal art and artefacts.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Collections team continued to progress the draft digitisation plan, which was developed in consultation with a specialist digital conservator who accessed the Collection in 2018-19. The aim is to continue to upgrade the storage and backing up of digitised files, and assess all the oral history content in the Collection.

As part of our longer-term collections access strategy, and particularly in relation to our Oral History Collection, we have created a unique Oral History webpage which we will continue to populate with our recordings.

The Collections team worked with Wirrim Media Pty Ltd to produce oral history films that incorporate new and historic footage with the recordings of Elders from Aboriginal Community Elders Services Inc. The films were embedded on social media platforms, including Vimeo. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the filming of Floor Talks for exhibitions such as *Affirmation* enabled us to continue producing community programs and make them available online for our supporters to access. We engaged Tin Can Connections for Zoom technical support, and Aaron Walker Photography to film the talks. We received considerable interest in these programs and activities. Since March 2020, we have been planning additional oral history productions.

Of particular note is the high production quality that was achieved using cinema cameras, drones, scanned photographs and art/artefacts, and ensuring the appropriate resolution quality for uploading to websites, and screening on a variety of platforms. The high production quality also enhances the viewing experience for our audiences. In particular, it significantly enhanced a short documentary that showcased aspects of Uncle Greg Muir's life and formed part of his exhibition from October to November, 2019.

Films shown on Level 3 highlighted connections to river and Country to coincide with exhibition themes such as Kaiela Arts Shepparton's Kaiela Dungala (Murray-Goulburn) Yalka Lotjpa Nha/Children Speak See exhibition, which displayed original artworks and animations of creation stories of the Dungala region for a children's book produced by Yorta Yorta community Elders. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic

and subsequent closure of the exhibition, Yalka Lotjpa Nha – Children Speak See was reproduced online and is available for viewing on the KHT Kids' Club page of the KHT website. The KHT Kids' Club resource has received regular interest from online audiences.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, we continued to strengthen our relationships with Elders, writers, and community members across Victoria through KHT Voices, a curated digital platform for community members to express their feelings and thoughts in relation to current pandemic matters and social isolation factors. This series of short essays, interviews and stories, presented in written, audio and video-format, captures the voices of a diversity of writers, community members, and artists during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews and reflections engage with people across regional and urban landscapes. It has proved to be particularly important within the community and resonates with many of our community members. We have had significant feedback on this approach and increased visitation to our website by people reading the different stories, both within the Koorie Voices and International Voices sections.

The Collections team adheres to the Koorie Heritage Trust's policy of collecting in a culturally sensitive, professional and ethical manner. The Oral History Association of Australia's Guidelines of Ethical Practice (*Oral History Handbook*, Beth Robertson, 2000) continues to be a reference for our Oral History Program.

The Koorie Heritage Trust acknowledges Viva Energy Australia's generous support of the Oral History program, which ensures that the Koorie Heritage Trust Collection continues to preserve the voices and oral histories of Victorian Aboriginal Elders for future generations. The Trust also acknowledges the Elders who have generously agreed to have their voices and stories recorded.



REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Koorie Heritage Trust's reference library contains over 4,000 items, including rare material and research material consisting of thesis and manuscript items both published and unpublished. The Collection also includes articles, books, brochures, flyers, catalogues, posters, DVDs, CD-ROMs, and more, relating to Aboriginal people of south-eastern Australia.

The Collections team has conducted an inventory in preparation for uploading the Reference Library Collection to TROVE, Australia's online national library and collection database. This is a work in progress and presently the catalogue is only available for viewing at the Koorie Heritage Trust using the collection management software.

The catalogue is aligned with the National Library standards and each item is recorded using the Dewey Decimal Classification system. The inventory and update will be uploaded in the near future.

CONSERVATION

The Oral History Collection, Photographic Collection and artwork/artefact store are kept in temperature and humidity-controlled storerooms to ensure the best conditions for preservation. All information is data-logged and captured in graph form to analyse the conditions and work with any temperature fluctuations. Curatorial and Collections staff regularly check for any infestation using traps and conducting inspections of all spaces to ensure we maintain the best conditions possible. This work is also supplemented with knowledge and guidance from other museum practitioners to ensure we are up to date with current practices. The Koorie Heritage Trust continues to work with conservation teams from the Grimwade Centre to upgrade some of our older backings on paintings and to prioritise conservation work as needed.

The COVID-19 pandemic initiated further investigation of current protocols for the care and safety of the Collection to ensure all requirements in our *Disaster Plan* and the Public Galleries Association Victoria's *Guide to re-opening Public Galleries in Victoria* Version 1.0 are being upheld.

After the Koorie Heritage Trust closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Collections Co-ordinator regularly attended the office to ensure all measures were in place to safeguard the Collection. Further measures were implemented to allow most Curatorial and Collections staff to work, communicate and progress tasks remotely.

Further important work was progressed in stages, including acquisition form upgrades, and Mimsy collections management database upgrades. The upgrades will enhance documentation storage and liaison with Elders during 2020-21, and add value to existing documentation in the Collection. The making of important storage boxes for individual

larger works continued at an increasing rate and will provide essential storage for artworks. The purchase of a large freezer unit has been a valuable asset for the Collection, allowing Collections staff to adequately monitor, in terms of pest control, all items coming into the Collection store in line with required conservation measures. The Koorie Heritage Trust also acquired a Munters mobile refrigerant dehumidifier to further enable Collections staff to respond quickly to slight fluctuations in environmental conditions within the Collection store and ensure air circulation and humidity is maintained at a constant level.

All due diligence was applied in line with the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) guide: *Closed by COVID-19? A Practical Guide for Managers of heritage collections that are closed at short notice because of an epidemic or pandemic*. The guide provides clarification on the additional risks to artworks placed in storage for extended periods, including risks of vandalism, security breaches and pest invasions. Accordingly, we continue to take a diligent approach to replacing pest traps, monitoring staff movements for social distancing protocols, and any other requirements. During 2019-20, regular meetings were held with the CEO, Curatorial Manager, and Collections Co-ordinator to monitor conditions of the Collection.



COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

EXHIBITIONS

The Koorie Heritage Trust's exhibitions program strives to encourage emerging and established Victorian Aboriginal artists to develop their creative ideas using a responsive and cutting-edge process. Supported by a robust exhibition schedule, artists often draw on the Koorie Heritage Trust's Collection to delve deeply into historical and more recent social thinking, and topical events that reflect experiences and stories from a broad cross-section of the Victorian Indigenous landscape in quite varied ways: visual depictions through artefact making skills, weaving and net skills, paintings, and the use of new technology for projections and augmented reality.

The Koorie Heritage Trust is pleased to report continuing development of strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists, and encourages the production of conceptual work drawn from our collections and photographic archives. The popularity of many of our exhibition openings attests to the strong interest received from artists, community members, Elders and our wider audience and supporters.

In 2019-2020, the Koorie Heritage Trust exhibited the works of over 150 individual Victorian Aboriginal artists and presented 15 public programs. The total number of programs for 2019-20 was limited by the closure of the Koorie Heritage Trust in March 2020.

Curatorial and Collections staff collaborated closely with the Public Programs Co-ordinator to develop exhibition schedules and create opportunities for workshops for members of the public to engage in, and learn about culture and art relating to Indigenous people of south-eastern Australia. Staff contributed to publications, worked in partnership with other institutions on a regular basis for events such as the Koorie Heritage Trust/NGV Indigenous Curator floor talk, and mentored emerging Indigenous curators. We continue to work with Melbourne Fringe, and Open House Melbourne and Photo2020 (now Photo2021), and we are developing more up-to-date database technology to enhance our collections and exhibitions.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

During 2019-20, the following major exhibitions were presented in the Koorie Heritage Trust's temporary exhibitions and project space galleries.

KOORROYARR

4 May – 28 July, 2019

Koorroyarr displayed works by Gunditjmara and Keerray Woorroong artists and sisters, Kelsey and Tarryn Love, incorporating possum skin, weaving, sculpture, wood, and canvas. *Koorroyarr* translates to granddaughter in the Keerray Woorroong dialect. The body of work presented was heavily inspired by Kelsey and Tarryn's family, and their Aunties, Uncles, Elders, brothers and sisters, who teach and provide guidance on traditional stories and cultural practices found in their home Country.

THEY SHIELD US

3 August – 29 September, 2019

This exhibition highlighted the skills and knowledge of First Nations women through body adornment. The exhibition drew on the Koorie Heritage Trust's Collection along with new works by artists Yaraan Bundle, Djirri Djirri Dance Group, Isobel Morphy-Walsh, Marilynne Nicholls, Laura Thompson and Lisa Waup, and coincided with Melbourne Fashion Week.

MEMORY MIXTAPE

3 August – 29 September, 2019

Neika Lehman (trawlwoolway) curated a line-up of films emphasising one of Blak cinema's strongest joining links: memory. *Memory Mixtape* featured films that contest official histories, celebrate ancestral embodiment, and are documents for change. Blak cinema is used as evidence for land rights claims, royal commissions and is often the mouthpiece for historical truths colonial Australia tries to forget.

LAND CURRENTS

3 August – 29 September, 2019

Land Currents was a collection of digital prints on paper by Taungurung artist/designer Maddi Moser. *Land Currents* focused on personal links to land and how it ties the artist to her Taungurung culture. Maddi digitally altered photographs to explore how the natural world connects all people. The images represented the energy that exists in the earth, creating a multitude of connections across land and water.

CAMPING ON COUNTRY

5 October – 24 November, 2019

Camping on Country was an ambitious and immersive solo exhibition by Gunditjmara master weaver, Aunty Bronwyn Razem. It tells the stories of families coming together and Elders teaching the importance of being on Country, passing down knowledge, and old ways.

OLD AND NEW

5 October – 24 November, 2019

Taking inspiration from photographs, mostly from his personal collection, Yorta Yorta artist, Uncle Greg Muir, took the viewer on a captivating journey, retelling his stories through art, and the intersection between disability and Aboriginality. *Old and New* combined the familiarity of Uncle Greg's well-known landscapes with new, deeply personal portraits featuring a variety of subjects. *Old and New* was Uncle Greg's first solo exhibition.

MARNDA GRIK

5 October – 24 November, 2019

Marnda Grik means large spider in Woiwurrung. Marnda Grik is a weaver of story, history and Country. She embodies the matriarchs of the past. In what was a new body of work, Central Goldfields based Wurundjeri artist, Blackgin, explored her relationship with Marnda Grik. By creating works that honour Marnda Grik, Blackgin also aimed to challenge colonial notions and repair her spiritual relationship with this ancient matriarch, and invite viewers into the space of Marnda Grik while paying homage to her.

DRY YOUR DISHES ON MY CULTURE

5 October – 24 November, 2019

Dry Your Dishes on My Culture, by Wadawurrung visual artist Kait James, explored questions surrounding identity, perception and knowledge of Australia's Indigenous communities. Kait focused on Aboriginal Calendar Tea Towels, popular during the 1970s and 1980s, that trivialise and stereotype Indigenous culture. Kait subverted these familiar kitchen items with pop-culture references, and Indigenous issues relevant to the period as well as the present day, to reflect a contemporary perspective.

7TH KOORIE ART SHOW 2019

7 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

The Koorie Art Show is our annual event showcasing the diverse talent of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in one inclusive space. It is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition, presenting the works of Koorie and Victorian-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists (new and emerging, mid-career and senior) aged 17 years and above.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PRIZE-WINNING ARTISTS:

Kelly Koumalatsos (Wergaia, Wemba Wemba)
Portrait Of Sisters In Law Wemba Wemba Great Aunty Frieda Stewart And Wergaia Great Grandmother Eleanor Stewart, 2019
Recipient of the Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in any Media (\$10,000)

Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo)
Mirrigang Days, 2019
Recipient of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award (\$5,000)

Ngardang Girri Kalat Mimini (Victorian Indigenous Women's and Trans Diverse Art Collective)
Dungala Winyaar (Yorta Yorta for Murray River Women), 2019
Recipients of the Viva Energy Australia 3D Award (\$5,000)

Kait James (Waddawurrung)
Hungry For Land, 2019
Recipient of the RMIT University Emerging Artist Award (\$5,000)

Tammy Gilson (Wadawurrung)
Karrap Karrap Binnak (Flower Basket), 2019
Recipient of the Lendlease Reconciliation Award (\$5,000)

Greg Muir
Mooroopna Hospital, 2019
Recipient of the Koorie Heritage Trust Highly Commended Award (\$500)

Tanisha Lovett
Tree of Life, 2019
Recipient of the Koorie Heritage Trust Highly Commended Award (\$500)

The Koorie Heritage Trust People's Choice Award (\$1,000) was awarded to Alvin Darcy-Briggs at the close of the art show.

On the judging panel for the 7th Koorie Art Show awards were Aunty Esther Kirby OAM (Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri), Elder and Artist; Steven Rhall (Taungurung), artist and academic; and, Myles Russell-Cook, Curator Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Victoria. A Metro Tunnel Creative Program representative participated in the judging for the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award.

The Koorie Heritage Trust acknowledges Creative Victoria, the Metro Tunnel Creative Program, Viva Energy Australia, Lendlease, and RMIT University's Ngarara Willim Centre for their generous support of the Koorie Art Show prizes.



Image: Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), *Captain Cook's Collective Impact, on Victorian Aboriginal People & Country, Past, Present & Future*, 2019. *Affirmation*, 29 April until 15 November 2020.

**THE 2ND KOORIE ART SHOW 2019: KIDS AND YOUTH
7 December 2019 – 16 February, 2020**

The Koorie Art Show: Kids and Youth is our annual event showcasing the diverse talent of Victoria's young and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative artists aged between 5 and 16 years. It complements the Koorie Art Show, which is open for Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged 17 years and above, and is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PRIZE-WINNING ARTISTS:

Koorie Heritage Trust award (2 x gift cards to the value of \$250 each), 5-10 years:

Ngari (8 years old)
Bunjil The Creator

Tiannah (7 years old)
Little Bird, Big Bird

Koorie Heritage Trust encouragement award (2 x gift cards to the value of \$100 each), 5-10 years:

Kyah (5 years old)
Mob Around The Fire

Seraphina (5 years old)
Colourful Galaxy With Portals

Koorie Heritage Trust award (2 x gift cards to the value of \$250 each), 11-16 years:

Shyane (16 years old)
Deadly

Tanisha (11 years old)
Eye See Country

Koorie Heritage Trust encouragement award (2 x gift cards to the value of \$100 each), 11-16 years:

Sab (16 years old)
Aboriginal Land

Gurrenah (16 years old)
What We See

On the judging panel for the 2nd Koorie Art Show Kids and Youth awards were Aunty Esther Kirby OAM (Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri), Elder and Artist; Steven Rhall (Taungurung), artist and academic; and, Myles Russell-Cook, Curator Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

The Koorie Heritage Trust wishes to thank Peter Waples-Crowe and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) for their support with the entries.

**KAIELA-DUNGALA/VESSELS OF LIFE
29 February – 19 April, 2020**

This exhibition showcased the work of emerging and established artists from Kaiela Arts, Shepparton. It featured textiles, cultural adornment, earthy vessels and skilled weaving, all of which reflect the Kaiela-Dungala region of Victoria. Developed in partnership with the Koorie Heritage Trust and Kaiela Arts, the exhibition showcased robust art and craftsmanship through the exploration of Country and the ebb and flow of the Kaiela Dungala (Goulburn Murray) river system.

**MY CULTURAL JOURNEY: INCORPORATING
OLD AND NEW
29 February – 19 April 2020**

My Cultural Journey was Donna Blackall's (Yorta Yorta) first solo exhibition, and explored learning and belonging. Drawing inspiration from the Country on which the artist spends time, and respect for a cultural foundation based on family knowledge, *My Cultural Journey* reflected Donna's totems, Country, and kinship connections.

**AFFIRMATION
29 April – 23 August, 2020**

Affirmation explores truth-telling through a First Nations lens. Bringing together some of Victoria's most exciting multi-disciplinary Indigenous photographers – Paola Balla (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmarra), Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Tashara Roberts (Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, English and German) and Pierra Van Sparkes (Pibbulman) – *Affirmation* provided a rich foundation for each artist to explore the concept of truth in the reality of place, ancestral identity and cultural pride.

The exhibition is a strong component of the Koorie Heritage Trust online experience, where visitors can enjoy a virtual gallery tour and explore our online catalogue. The catalogue provides further interpretation of the creative practices of individual artists, including their influences and unique perspectives.

BLAK DESIGN

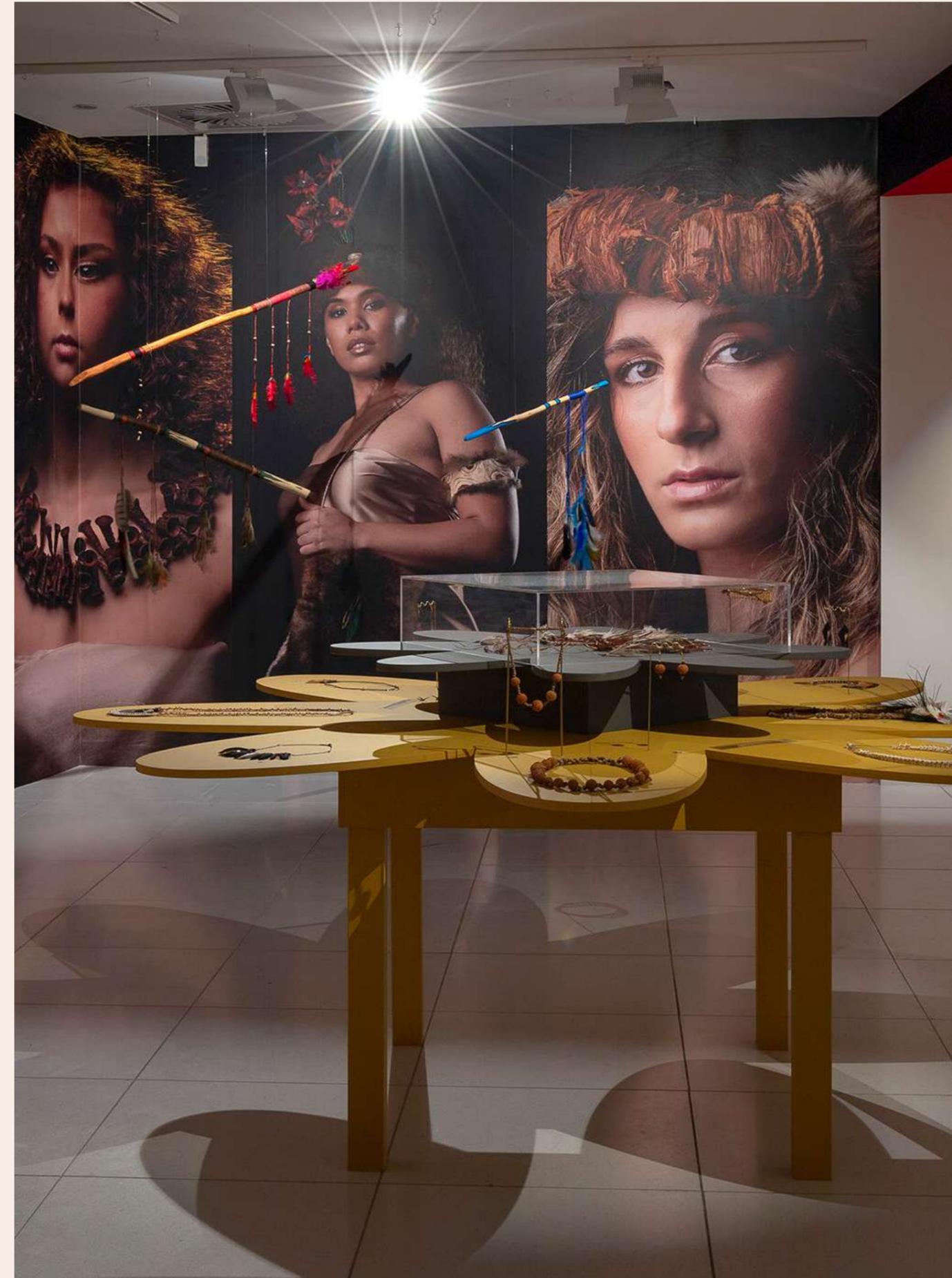
Blak Design is an exciting new initiative to support our First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, craftspeople and designers living in Victoria, by implementing a targeted professional development and mentoring program.

Developed in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria and RMIT University, and generously supported by the Ian Potter Foundation, the program aims to foster First Nations cultural innovation within the Victorian design sector, underpinned by the *International Indigenous Design Charter. Protocols for sharing Indigenous knowledge in professional design practice*.

Each year, over a period of four years, the program will focus on a different design discipline, and provide mentoring in design, production, and small business skills to nurture long-term sustainable design practices. In 2020, the spotlight is on contemporary Blak jewellery design.

The original timeline for Year 1 was delayed due to COVID-19; however, development of the curriculum and format progressed throughout 2019-20, with rollout to commence in December 2020 and continue through to March 2021.

Planning for Year 2 has also commenced, with identification of the design discipline, textile design, and potential presenters.



COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Koorie Heritage Trust Public Programs are a range of immersive events that connect Koorie culture with both the community and general public. These include artist talks, panel discussions, children's workshops, creative workshops for adults, celebrations of significant dates, involvement with other local festivals and professional development for Indigenous artists.

Our public programs expand on our exhibition program to give audiences deeper access to the meaning, motivation and methods of the artists and their cultural heritage. They also bring community together in the spirit of reconciliation. Most importantly, they are both educational and celebratory, providing a voice to Indigenous artists for whom we give preference as presenters, performers, speakers and tutors. Highlights of our public program are as follows:

- In the spirit of NAIDOC Week 2019, we presented two walks along the Birrarung Marr (the Yarra River) supported by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program. The guided walks provided participants with the opportunity to learn how the land on which Melbourne is located has changed over time, and learn the significance of the Birrarung Wilam to the local Kulin peoples.
- Rocky Tregonning, a Gunaikurnai man and a Senior Cultural Tour Guide at the Koorie Heritage Trust, ran a school holiday activity for children during which they created river reed bracelets and necklaces for NAIDOC week.
- Peter Waples-Crowe, a Ngarigo artist, presented a children's school holiday workshop creating collages. The children worked with images of the dingo to create stories of survival, honouring them and their relationship to Aboriginal people.
- James Henry presented *Photographing Artwork*, a workshop exclusively for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. James encouraged photographers and artists to develop the skills required when photographing artworks for high quality digital replication.
- Lisa Waup, a Gunditjmara and Torres Strait Islander artist and fashion designer, presented a jewellery workshop using remnant fabric from her own collection. Participants created their own unique one-off ring to wear and take home. They also incorporated materials found in nature and hand stitched them into their piece using a variety of cottons.
- Master Weaver, Aunty Marilyne Nicholls (Dja Dja Wurrung), ran a feather flower workshop, offering feather craft to create a wearable item. Aunty Marilyne brought her extensive knowledge of feather flower making and artistic practice to the Koorie Heritage Trust in what was a very popular workshop.
- In partnership with Stone Motherless Cold and Melbourne Fringe, we presented a celebration to mark the beginning of Fringe Festival 2019. This was entirely a First Nations-driven party with drag performances and DJ sets by the Motherless Haus throughout the night.
- Highly respected Gunditjmara Master Weaver, Aunty Bronwyn Razem, shared her knowledge of traditional weaving techniques, passed to her through her family heritage, in a workshop on making bush animals. Inspired by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Aunty Bronwyn taught people how to use hay and wool to sculpt a bush animal displaying real personality. This light-hearted workshop provided fun and connection, and produced funky creatures.
- In partnership with Federation Square, we celebrated *A Very Koorie Krismas* as part of the festive season, with a focus on Koorie culture. Festivities included market stalls, workshops, and live performances by Alice Skye, Culture Evolves, Carissa Watts, Djirri Djirri Dance Group and Indigenous Hip Hop Projects. This was the fifth event where Koori Klaus made an appearance to the enjoyment of all. The workshops received considerable interest, particularly weaving and making reed necklaces, and the stalls featuring jewellery and paintings, among many other attractive items, were very popular.
- As an extension of the mixed-media installation, *Vessels of Life*, which formed part of the *Kaiela/Dungala* exhibition, we designed and presented a family workshop. Eva Ponting (Gunditjmara), an artist from the exhibition, presented the workshop, which featured hanging mobiles, objects utilising materials found in nature, possum skin and air-dry clay.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis and stay at home restrictions, in May 2020 we launched KHT Kids' Club, an online platform for children that enables families to continue to engage with the Koorie Heritage Trust. KHT Kids' Club incorporates colouring sheets commissioned by Mick Harding and activity sheets specially designed by Deanne Gilson. The sheets are presented as PDFs to enable downloading and printing at home.

With the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, we designed and presented a free Zoom event to explore our exhibition *Affirmation*, with CEO Tom Mosby, Curatorial Manager Gail Harradine, and artists Paola Balla (Wemba Wemba,

Gunditjmara), Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Tashara Roberts and Pierra Van Sparkes (Pibbulman). Collectively, these multi-disciplinary Indigenous photographers presented an intimate and revealing program. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the artworks, and the artists' intentions and creative methodologies, in relation to the concept of truth in the context of place, ancestral identity and cultural pride.

I loved everything. being shown around the gallery and the comments made by our guide. having the curator online and sharing her thoughts was wonderful. but the most amazing thing was having the artists sharing their thoughts and explaining their art. a truly amazing insight into their work and lives that made the whole event so special.

–Virtual Gallery Tour of Affirmation, anonymous feedback

A follow up virtual event was held as part of our programming for the exhibition, *Affirmation*. Artists, Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Tashara Roberts and Pierra Van Sparkes (Pibbulman) joined an online audience for a panel discussion on the themes within *Affirmation*.

I was able to attend even though I live in regional Victoria. It was just like being there.

–Virtual Gallery Tour of Affirmation, anonymous feedback



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

KOORIE FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

All of the KFHS staff are full members of the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) and the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), and Research staff regularly participate in training sessions at the GSV and the State Library of Victoria (SLV). One of the two KFHS Senior Researchers/Genealogists is also a full member of the Professional Historians Association.

Both KFHS Senior Researcher/Genealogist staff were accepted into the Certificate in Genealogical Research, offered through the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG).

KFHS staff attended the inaugural FearLess PTSD conference in Queensland during August 2019, and participated in the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Records Forum in Melbourne during March 2020. The KFHS is also represented on key advisory groups, such as the Joint Victorian Archives Centre Consultative Forum, and is regularly called on to provide advice and assistance to other key stakeholders.

COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Our Collections, Exhibitions and Public Programs staff participated in the following Professional Development opportunities:

- Curatorial team hosted the *Photo2020* partners' network meeting during August 2019
- Emerging Creative Leadership Mentorship Breakfast
- *Think Inside the Square* presentation by The National Association for the Visual Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts
- *National Gallery of Victoria/Koorie Heritage Trust Indigenous Curator Discussion* moderated by Gail Harradine and Hannah Presley
- Disaster Planning Response for COVID-19
- Photography Workshop with James Henry
- *Conservation During the COVID-19 Shutdown* hosted by Public Galleries Association of Victoria:
- *Caring for Collections during closure* hosted Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria
- *Collections and Disaster Preparedness* hosted by Public Galleries Association of Victoria

The Koorie Heritage Trust maintained its membership of the following professional bodies:

- Australian Museums and Galleries Association
- Public Galleries Association of Victoria
- Indigenous Art Code

OFFICE OF THE CEO

The Koorie Heritage Trust's CEO, Tom Mosby, sat on the following external Boards:

- Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (Chair, Board of Directors)
- Bangarra Dance Theatre (Member/Acting Chair, Board of Directors)

Tom also participated in the National Gallery of Victoria Contemporary Art Supporters international tour to London and attended the 10 year celebrations of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in his capacity as Art Fair Chair.

The Business Manager, Michael Kane, attended the 10th Culture Business Conference in Sydney in November 2020.



Image 1: Tom Mosby, CEO, KHT with artist Donna Blackall at the launch of her solo exhibition, *My Cultural Journey – Incorporating Old and New*, 29 February until 19 April 2020. Photo credit: Tiffany Garvie

Image 2: Welcome to Country, N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM, (Boonwurrung Elder). Photo credit: Tiffany Garvie



Image: Tom Mosby, CEO, KHT with Kelly Koumalatos winner of the Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Media, *The 7th Koorie Art Show*, 2019 and Andrew Jackomos, Executive Director, Aboriginal Economic Development, Inclusion, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Photo credit: Tiffany Garvie

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

We wish to acknowledge the very generous support of all of our partners and sponsors who have contributed to our success this year:

Aboriginal Victoria
 Arts Centre Melbourne
 Australian Centre for the Moving Images
 City of Melbourne
 Creative Victoria
 Federation Square Pty Ltd
 Fringe Melbourne
 Gandel Philanthropy
 Ian Potter Foundation
 Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria
 Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and Family
 Lendlease
 Metro Tunnel Creative Program
 National Gallery of Victoria
 Office for the Arts Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program
 Open House Melbourne
 RMIT University
 Viva Energy Australia

PRO BONO SUPPORTERS

Ashurst Lawyers
 Lyons Architecture
 Price Waterhouse Coopers

BEQUESTS

The Koorie Heritage Trust gratefully acknowledges those who have chosen to remember us in their will. Their legacy is very important to the ongoing achievements of the Trust.

Ms Norma Gleeson
 Ms Lilian Renard
 Ms Jessica Scott Wills

ANNUAL GIVING 2019-20

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our annual giving appeal – your support is truly valued.

We particularly acknowledge the following donations:

Donation > \$5,000

Bell Charitable Fund
Joanne Crosby

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Christopher Mitchell
Ann Jacobs

\$1,000 - \$1,999

ArchiTeam Co-Operative Ltd.
Salt Contemporary Art
Ralph Renard
Andrew Clark
Lea Guillaume
Jennifer Howard
John Landy
Joan McKenzie
James O'May
Albert & Diana Pittock
C. R. Bard Foundation, Inc.

\$500 - \$999

Peter Trott
Brian Newman
Lucy Ballantyne
Janet West
Moir Dempsey
Jock Given
David Gordon
Peter Gray
Heather H Scovell
William Irving
Kathryn Jensen
Helen Kolawole
Bruno Lim
Susanna Mason
Brooke Miller
Liberty Sanger
Eileen Sheridan
Piers van den Berg
Agnes Wong

We were also privileged to be the charity partner for the 2019 Jon Faine Farewell Broadcast Fundraising Appeal. We acknowledge the generosity of Jon Faine in selecting the Koorie Heritage Trust as his charity partner for his farewell broadcast appeal, as well as the generosity of all donors who contributed to the appeal.

GOVERNANCE

We are a not-for-profit Incorporated Association governed by the Koorie Heritage Trust's Rules of Association and by a Board of Management. Under our Rules of Association, we require more than 50% of our Board membership to be Indigenous.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ian Hamm (Chair) *
Shannon Faulkhead (Deputy Chair) *
Peter Nash (Treasurer)
Tom Mosby (Secretary/Non-voting) *
Genevieve Grieves (Member) *
Mick Harding (Member) (to Jun 2020) *
Indi Clarke (Member) *

* Indigenous Member

OBSERVERS

The Koorie Heritage Trust is a proud participant of the Observership Program. Modelled on a similar program that operates in the United States, the Observership Program places talented professionals on not-for-profit boards as Observers for a period of 12 months. It is a tool to engage emerging community leaders, giving participating not-for-profit boards an opportunity to mentor the next generation of leaders and to engage new people in the work of their organisations. In 2017, KHT recruited three talented Indigenous individuals to sit on the Trust's Board as Observers. In 2019-20, we welcomed the following Indigenous Observers:

Josh Lloyd (to Dec 2019)
Kiernan Ironfield (to Dec 2019)
Kylie Roper (from Feb 2020)

BOARD COMMITTEES

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Audit and Risk Management committee ensures the integrity of our accounts and financial statements, monitors our internal and external audit functions, and establishes and maintains internal accounting controls and appropriate risk management systems. Members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

Peter Nash (Chair)
Ian Hamm
Shannon Faulkhead
Tom Mosby
Peter O'Connell

STAFF 2019–20

As an Aboriginal organisation, the Koorie Heritage Trust seeks to encourage greater participation of Indigenous people (Koorie and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) in the life of the Trust. To achieve this, the Trust promotes increased recruitment of Aboriginal people and aims to improve retention rates of Aboriginal employees. In 2019-20, the profile of our employees reflected more than 50% identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

OFFICE OF THE CEO

Tom Mosby
Chief Executive Officer (Indigenous)
Michael Kane
Business Manager

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Gail Harradine
Curatorial Manager (Indigenous)
Rebecca Mirams
Collections Coordinator (from Jan 2020)
Jane Walton
Collections Coordinator (to Oct 2019)
Zenzi Clark
Koorie Art Show Community Engagement and Assistant Curator (to Mar 2020) (Indigenous)
Kate Ten Buuren
Assistant Curator (to Oct 2019) (Indigenous)
Tamika Collins
Curatorial Officer (to Feb 2020) (Indigenous)
Moorina Bonini
Assistant Curator (to Jan 2020) (Indigenous)
Carissa Watts
Public Programs Coordinator (to Oct 2019) (Indigenous)
Gemma Jones
Public Programs Coordinator (from Jan 2020)
Maia McDonald
Assistant Curator (from Jan 2020)
Maya Hodge
Assistant Curator (from Jan 2020) (Indigenous)

CULTURAL EDUCATION

Rob Hyatt
Education Manager (Indigenous)
Bernadette Atkinson
Education Officer (Indigenous)
Pauline Sloane
Curriculum Development Coordinator (to Oct 2019)
Timothy Stares
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Indigenous)
Carissa Watts
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (from Oct 2019) (Indigenous)
Kieran Stewart
Education Officer (Indigenous)
Stephen Tregonning

Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (Indigenous)

Donna Blackall
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (Indigenous)

Jacob Hyatt
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (Indigenous)

Kalyani Ellis
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (to Apr 2020) (Indigenous)

Lucas Hyatt
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (Indigenous)

Mitch Mahoney
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (from Sep 2018) (Indigenous)

Terry Atkinson
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (from Mar 2020) (Indigenous)

Jasper Hamm
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (from Feb 2020) (Indigenous)

Ebony Lawson
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural Interpreter (Casual) (to Apr 2020) (Indigenous)

FRONT OF HOUSE AND RETAIL

Judy Allsop
Retail Manager

Kieran Stewart
Customer Services Officer (Indigenous)

Samuel Fisher
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (Indigenous)

Stephanie Allsop
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (Indigenous)

Isabella Atkinson-Paolucci
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (Indigenous)

Emily Giannis
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (Dec 2019)

Savannah Ross
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (from Oct 2019) (Indigenous)

Emma Rose
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (from Nov 2019) (Indigenous)

Lucas Hyatt
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (Indigenous)

Alice Anderson
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (to Jun 2020) (Indigenous)

Kirra Roberts
Customer Services Officer (Casual) (to Aug 2019) (Indigenous)

KOORIE FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

Jennifer Bates
Koorie Family History Service Manager

Margaret Bates
Senior Researcher/Genealogist

Kylie Clarke
Senior Researcher/Genealogist (Indigenous)

Jebrina Close
Researcher/Genealogist (to Mar 2020) (Indigenous)

Maylene Slater-Burns
Researcher/Genealogist (to Oct 2019) (Indigenous)

FINANCE

Eva Taxidis
Bookkeeper

Jacob Hyatt
Database and Admin Ass (from Feb 2020) (Indigenous)

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all the people who have volunteered at the Trust over the last 12 months.

Deborah Peart
Zara Wotherspoon



Image: Aunty Bronwyn Razem (Gunditjmarra), *Land of the Dreamtime 2019* (detail), painted wood and raffia. From *Camping on Country*, 5 October until 24 November 2019. Photo Credit: Christian Capurro

FINANCIAL REPORTS

We are pleased to present the audited accounts of Koorie Heritage Trust for the year ending 30 June 2020. Copies of the full audited accounts can be obtained by contacting the Trust on 03 8662 6300.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Grant and funding income	2,294,565	1,401,466
Trading income	1,363,871	1,332,020
Other income	380,580	461,641
Shop retail income	232,659	326,835
Profit on sale of property, plant & equipment	10,165	10,357
Administrative expenses	(432,446)	(583,433)
Shop retail expenses	(118,742)	(185,159)
Project specific expenses	(741,709)	(1,076,613)
Employee related expenses	(1,415,134)	(1,367,119)
Depreciation and Amortisation expenses	(654,848)	(209,208)
Surplus / (Deficit) from Ordinary activities for the year	918,961	110,787
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after income tax from ordinary activities	918,961	110,787
Other Comprehensive Income		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Revaluation of investments	-	14,050
Revaluation of Heritage & Cultural Assets	-	1,209,781
Total Comprehensive Income after income tax	918,961	1,334,618

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash assets	492,901	475,405
Receivables	162,461	264,399
Inventories	58,367	38,713
Prepayments	11,851	12,066
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	725,580	790,583
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	5,553,368	4,951,850
Property, plant & equipment	1,078,626	1,201,835
Right of use assets	4,179,668	-
Heritage & cultural assets at independent valuation	5,158,250	5,140,840
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	15,969,912	11,294,525
TOTAL ASSETS	16,695,492	12,085,108
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	159,610	264,940
Provisions	207,505	164,089
Lease liability	203,827	-
Income in advance	253,443	1,063,639
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	824,385	1,492,668
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	488,108	-
Lease liability	3,871,598	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,359,706	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,184,091	1,492,668
NET ASSETS	11,511,401	10,592,440
EQUITY		
Retained surplus / (deficit)	9,140,906	8,221,945
Asset Revaluation Reserve	2,370,495	2,370,495
TOTAL EQUITY	11,511,401	10,592,440



Image: Installation view, *Affirmation*, 29 April – 15 November 2020. Photo credit: Christian Capurro

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