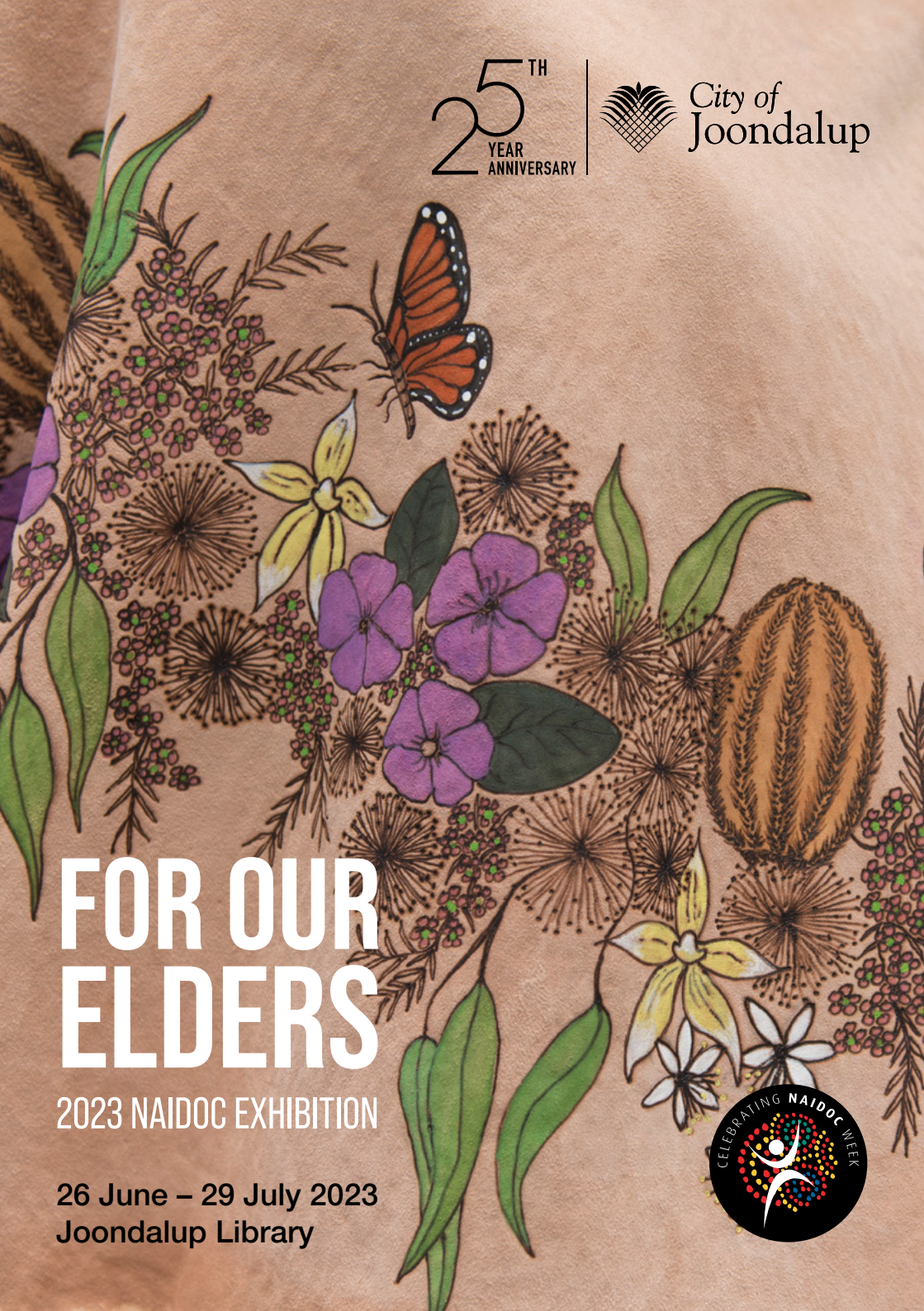


25TH
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



City of
Joondalup



FOR OUR ELDERS

2023 NAIDOC EXHIBITION

26 June – 29 July 2023
Joondalup Library



Image (front cover): Lea Taylor, *Gorah Wandang - To Wear a Long Time Ago*, 2022. Kangaroo skins, waxed linen, leather acrylic and kangaroo bone. City of Joondalup Art Collection. Photo: Christophe Canato.

Joondalup-ak ngala kaditj Noongar moort nidja Wadjak boodjar-ak kalyakool moondang-akkaaradj-midi. Ngala Noongar Moort wer baalabang moorditj kaadidjiny koota-djinanginy. Ngala Noongar wer Torres Strait Moort-al dandjoo koorliny kwaba-djinanginy. Koorra, yeyi wer kalyakool, ngalak Noongar wer Torres Strait Birdiyawer moortkoota-djinanginy.

The City of Joondalup acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. We recognise the culture of the Noongar people and the unique contribution they make to the Joondalup region and Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Celebrations 2023

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate the culture, history, and many accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year, National NAIDOC Week is held from 2 – 9 July. Here at City of Joondalup, we're extending the celebrations over five weeks with a program of music, theatre, cultural activities, and workshops. The 2023 NAIDOC Exhibition will run for the entire duration of these celebrations, providing an exclusive opportunity to explore a special compilation of artworks from the City of Joondalup Art Collection, and their connection to this year's NAIDOC theme: For Our Elders.

For Our Elders is comprised of artworks by Aboriginal artists from Western Australia and has been collated by guest curator and proud Wilman, Ballardong, Whadjuk Noongar woman, Zali Morgan.

We are incredibly proud to present this diverse and poignant exhibition as part of the City's NAIDOC Celebrations 2023.

To explore the full NAIDOC Celebrations 2023 Program, scan the QR Code or go to joondalup.wa.gov.au



For Our Elders

2023 NAIDOC Exhibition

In reflection of the 2023 NAIDOC theme, *For Our Elders* showcases a selection of the City of Joondalup's Art Collection, that feature First Nations artists specifically living and working across Western Australia. Collectively, the works weave an overarching story about the importance of community, culture, and Country. Throughout the exhibition, each work links back to the theme, *For Our Elders* by the artist either portraying stories about elders, by elders or for elders within their communities.

This exhibition of collection artworks explores a range of different artistic practices coming from the community between 2003 to the latest acquisition in 2022, from paintings on canvas, such as Lindsay Harris working with natural pigments, through to Lea Taylor's Booka (kangaroo skin cloak). The variety of mediums and materials used across these works highlights the diversity of Aboriginal artists, and challenges perceived notions of Aboriginal art.

For Our Elders is a space to reflect upon the trailblazers, knowledge holders, survivors and influential artists, within the community in Boorloo and the wider Western Australian community who have guided the way and pushed boundaries for Aboriginal art. Pioneers and prominent artists Sandra Hill, Meeyakba Shane Pickett (dec.) and Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd, who are widely known for their contribution to the "revival" of Noongar art, as well as Queenie McKenzie (dec.) and Helicopter Tjungurrayi, both from the Kimberley region, are featured here alongside those who have followed in their footsteps.

Introducing Zali Morgan

Curator of For Our Elders

Zali Morgan is a Wilman, Ballardong, Whadjuk Noongar woman, currently based in Boorloo (Perth). She grew up on Wadandi Boodjar (Margaret River) and relocated to Boorloo at the start of 2021 to commence a Bachelor of Creative Arts/Fine Art at Curtin University.

Zali is currently working at the Art Gallery of Western Australia as the Assistant Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. She is an alumni of the Wesfarmers Arts Leadership program, and recently presented at Purrumpa – First Nations Arts and Culture National Gathering in 2022.



Photo by Karlee Holland

Zali has a passion for all things creative, with a background in dance and visual art. Her art has been exhibited around Boorloo and is currently held in the City of South Perth art collection, with her writing published in *SeeSaw*. Zali is constantly trying to push the boundaries of what audiences can expect of Aboriginal artists and what the expectation of Aboriginal art is. Zali's multidisciplinary practice ranges across printmaking, textile, and sculpture. Since moving to Boorloo, she has started to reconnect with her mob and culture, after being disconnected from this due to inter-generational trauma.

For Our Elders: **The Change Makers**

For Our Elders is an exhibition that celebrates and honours the wisdom, knowledge, and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders. This exhibition showcases a selection of artworks from the City of Joondalup Art Collection, created by Aboriginal artists who have a deep connection to the land and a strong sense of community, with a focus on the important role of elders in passing on knowledge and preserving culture.

The City of Joondalup Art Collection includes a diverse range of artworks from across the region, created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from a variety of backgrounds and communities. These works reflect the deep connection between people, land, and culture that has sustained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years.

The City of Joondalup's Art Collection was first established following the separation of the City of Joondalup from the City of Wanneroo in 1997 with the City of Joondalup acquiring the contemporary art collection. The City's Art Collection now holds 287 examples of Western Australian contemporary art, including paintings, sculptural works, drawings, prints, watercolours, photography works, glasswork, textile work, installation and video work. It is housed within the City buildings including the Council Chambers, libraries, administrative offices, and leisure centre. The collection now includes 29 artworks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

The artworks featured in this exhibition represent a diverse range of styles, techniques, and themes, but they all share a common thread of respect for the elders and their knowledge. From the vibrant colours and patterns of paintings by artists such as Ben Pushman and Helicopter Tjungurrayi to the figurative and multi-media works of Julie Dowling and Queenie McKenzie. Meeyakba Shane Pickett and Vanessa Russ draw upon the abstract to depict Country, whilst Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd and Christopher Pease portray Country through the birds, waterways, and fauna. Each artwork tells a story of connection to the land and the ancestors.

Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd's work, *Ngoorlark*, tells a story of the importance of Boorongur or Totem in his Bibbulmun Nyoongar/Budimia Yamatji cultures and more broadly Aboriginal cultures, and the importance of elders giving us our totem when we are born:

... 'Boorongur', meaning 'spiritual elder brother' and 'blood brother relation', identifies people with strong connections to place and belonging. 'Totemism' could be called our peoples religion. For every species of food - animal and vegetable, is the 'Boorongur' of either a group or individual. Every circumstance of life and death was ceremoniously associated with the totem. Our children were taught their totemic laws from earliest infancy and were told of the guardian spirit always watching over their totem, so that they should not wantonly hurt or kill the young of their fathers, 'Boorongur', for these were their own little 'totem brothers and sisters' ... - Tjylyungoo Lance Chadd.

In this exhibition, we pay tribute to the elders who have guided and inspired these artists, passing on their wisdom and knowledge through storytelling, song, dance, and ceremony. Through their art, these artists continue to honour their ancestors and keep their traditions alive for future generations.



Tjylyungoo Lance Chadd, *Ngoorlark*, 2020. Acrylic on Belgian linen. City of Joondalup Art Collection.
Photo: Christophe Canato.

Balardung artist Meeyakba Shane Pickett (1957-2010), had a love for his Boodjar (Country), and explored this through painting. Pickett's earlier works depict a figurative landscape, and commonly of the Pilbara region, however even as his practice expanded and he explored abstraction, the sense of place is still strongly narrated throughout his work. Shane Pickett remains an artistic inspiration and acknowledged leader in the Noongar community for the way in which his practice evolved, and with it, the appreciation from wider Australia for the work of Aboriginal artists from the south-west of Western Australia.

Pickett's work, *The Arriving of Muguroos Rain Clouds* (2006), was the Winner of the 2006 Joondalup Invitation Art Award. This work speaks to the continuation of culture through our knowledge keepers, and the importance of the seasons in Nyoongar culture:

"All of the Nyoongar people's six seasons have very important purposes for plants and wildlife that belong to the region. For thousands of years, Aboriginal people have lived with and understood the connections between ecology, meteorology and song lines that bring as well as disperse the rains. In practicing this form of culture we find that we have a part to perform in maintaining the balance of life. Muguroo (May and June) is the season of courtship and fertility. The magpie sings alone calling for rain and for all his clan to come and listen to the song of fertility. This is the beginning of nature's new cycle." – Meeyakba Shane Pickett

Wardandi, Pibulum, Minang elder and artist, Sandra Hill draws upon her ancestors in the work *Wautt Paardalaniny (Moving Camp All Together)* (2008) and the importance of cultural traditions:

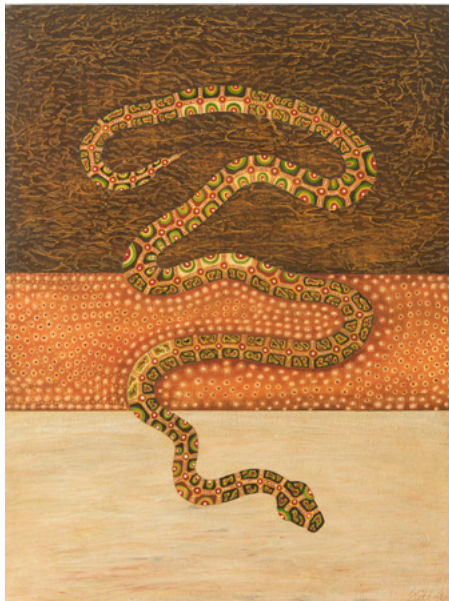
"The serpent represents my ancestors, the Nyoongar people as a community. They are moving away, moving camp, due to white intervention, from their deep connection to their country and their traditional lifestyle. This unique lifestyle was steeped in cultural tradition and ideology since the beginning of time and can be traced back at least 50,000 years...

...However, above all odds my people continue to survive and to move forward in a contemporary world, while never forgetting the rich cultural heritage that has been all but left behind over the generations, since the white man came to our shores. We continue to fight assimilation, to remain unique and will always endeavour to maintain our cultural links, kinship ties, languages and the deep connection that we have to our ancestors and our spiritual country." – Sandra Hill

Sandra Hill, Meeyakba Shane Pickett and Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd are world renowned artists and acknowledged leaders and elders within their communities. Such is their standing within the community that many people would agree that these three artists (along with others) revived Nyoongar art and paved paths for many more to follow.

Through these artworks, we can glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing efforts to maintain and share their traditions with the wider community. As we admire these works, let us reflect on the role that elders play in shaping our understanding of the world and our place in it, and let us commit to working together to ensure a sustainable future for all.

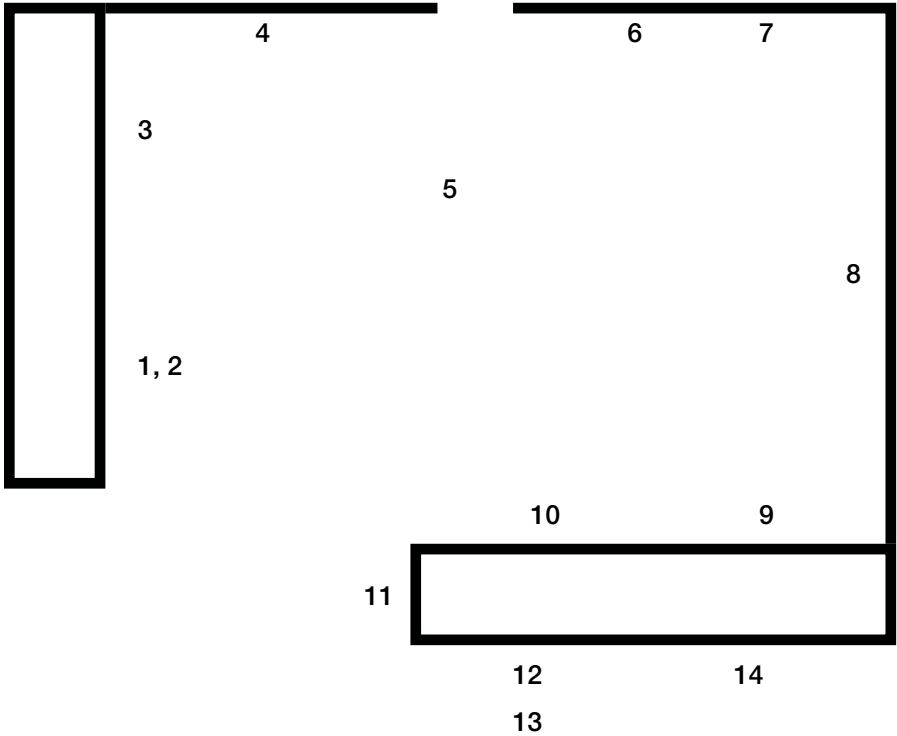
Zali Morgan, Guest Curator



Sandra Hill, *Wautt Paardalaniny (Moving Camp All Together)*, 2008. Oil on board. City of Joondalup Art Collection.
Photo: Christophe Canato.

Exhibition Floor Plan

Joondalup Library



Artwork List

1. Christopher Pease, *Doondalup*, 2021. Oil on canvas, 90 x 70cm
2. Queenie McKenzie, *The Horso Creek Massacre*, 1998. Screenprint on paper, 89 x 109cm
3. Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd, *Ngoorlark*, 2020. Acrylic on Belgian linen, 90 x 120cm
4. Mandy White, *Creatures of the Crystal Caves*, 2021. Acrylic, glitter, and crystals on canvas, 160 x 160cm
5. Lea Taylor, *Gorah Wandang – To Wear a Long Time Ago*, 2022. Kangaroo skins, waxed linen, leather acrylic and kangaroo bone, 151 x 95 x 88cm
6. Ben Pushman, *Blue Scar*, 2003. Oil on canvas, 150 x 120cm
7. Helicopter Tjungurrayi, *Jupiter Well*, 2004. Screenprint on paper, 95 x 74cm
8. Lindsay Harris, *Koraar Woolagut Koorling, Yey Kwodjungut Koorling (Long ago behind going, Today in front going)*, 2013. Resin, pigment, and binder on hemp, 195 x 135cm
9. Sandra Hill, *Wautt Paardalaniny (Moving Camp All Together)*, 2008. Oil on board, 78 x 59cm
10. Tim Leura Tjapaltjarri, *Hunter Dreaming*, 1979. Ochre on canvas, 103 x 143cm
11. Vanessa Russ, *Muddy Road 5*, 2020. Indian ink on Fabriano paper, 76 x 56cm
12. Julie Dowling, *Old Girl*, 2003. Acrylic, red ochre and plastic on canvas, 55 x 55cm
13. Janangoo Butcher Cherel, *Imanara Country*, 2002. Acrylic on paper, 83 x 103cm
14. Meeyakba Shane Pickett, *The Arriving of Muguroos Rain Clouds*, 2006. Acrylic on canvas, 122 x 101cm

The City of Joondalup Art Collection

The City of Joondalup's Art Collection comprises of 287 artworks that span a multitude of art forms, including painting, sculpture, installation, textiles, glasswork, ceramics, video, photography and printmaking. The growing collection is worth over \$1,200,000 and provides an invaluable cultural asset for the people of Joondalup.

Some highlights of the collection include artworks by Indigenous artists Julie Dowling, Sandra Hill, Christopher Pease, Meeyakba Shane Pickett, and Tim Leura Tjapaltjarri. Also included are works by respected Western Australian practitioners Olga Cironis, Erin Coates, Theo Costantino, Eveline Kotai, Brian McKay, Gregory Pryor and Helen Smith, as well as local artists Suzanne Logue, Shelley Cowper and Trevor Bly.

Acquisitions from the Invitation Art Prize form the cornerstone of the collection, with artworks by prominent award-winners including Susanna Castleden, Teelah George, Rodney Glick and Lynette Voevodin, Paul Kaptein, Kate McMillan, Trevor Richards, Jon Tarry, and Brenden van Hek.

The Visual Arts Commission Program

Significant works in the City of Joondalup Art Collection were custom created for the City through the Visual Arts Commission Program, with an aim to capture the City's social, urban, cultural and environmental attributes. Previous commissions have been awarded to artists from the local area, interstate and from overseas.

The current commissioned artist is Perdita Phillips (WA), set to unveil a "cabinet of curiosity" in 2024. Informed by her experiences as an environmental scientist, Perdita's work explores the relationships between humans and "other", including rocks, plants, animals, places, and processes.

Viewing the Art Collection

The City of Joondalup's Art Collection, including works from the Visual Art Commission Program, can be viewed in public spaces, in the City's libraries, community facilities, civic chamber and administration building, or by visiting joondalup.wa.gov.au. Sign up to the Arts in Focus eNewsletter to hear about special arts events, including talks, touring showcases and more exhibitions by guest curators.

City of Joondalup Celebrates 25 Years

Don't miss this series of upcoming celebratory exhibitions, capturing 25 years of Joondalup history and showcasing one of the state's most significant collections of contemporary Western Australian art.

Collection Highlights: The Invitation Art Prize

11 September – 11 November 2023

Joondalup Library

Showcasing a range of artworks acquired through the City's annual Invitation Art Prize, this exhibition celebrates the diversity of art in Western Australia.

Invitation Art Prize: 25 Year Retrospective

8 October – 22 October 2023

Westfield Whitford City

The Invitation Art Prize is one of the state's most lucrative and prestigious awards for professional artists. This year's iteration brings all winning artworks together for the first time, marking the evolution of West Australian contemporary art across 25 years.

Suburban Legends

19 February – 20 April 2024

Joondalup Library

Featuring eye catching photography and intriguing interviews by Kate Ferguson, this exhibition features some of the curious people of this place: Joondalup.

Collection Highlights: Moments from the Collection

20 May – 29 June 2024

Joondalup Library

Explore a vibrant exhibition of iconic artworks in the City of Joondalup Art Collection, each with their own important story to uncover.

Get the latest arts and culture news with the Arts in Focus eNewsletter. Subscribe now at joondalup.wa.gov.au

Feedback Survey

Thank you for coming to see *For Our Elders*, the 2023 NAIDOC Exhibition curated by Zali Morgan.

Please take a minute to let us know your thoughts on this exhibition by scanning the QR Code and completing a short feedback survey.

All completed surveys will go in the running to win two tickets to see A Salama Odyssey at September's Sunday Serenades concert.



Acknowledgements

The City would like to thank:

Zali Morgan

Joondalup Library Team

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Cultural Services Team

Acting Coordinator: Laura McKelvey

Visual Arts Officer: Tim Carter

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NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS 2023



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