

DEVONPORT REGIONAL GALLERY REPORT TO COUNCIL

2015–2016 EXHIBITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Gallery's annual exhibitions, education and public programs for 2015-2016 presented diversity and a range of opportunities for community engagement. A total of 16 exhibitions were presented: 8 in the Main Gallery and 8 in The Little Gallery Project Space. Gallery staff curated 5 major exhibitions in this period: 3 from the Collection and two Solo exhibitions and published 5 exhibition catalogues. A total of 20,817 people attended gallery exhibitions and programs.

Collection exhibitions included *Something New, Something Blue* (attendance 2,173) and the very popular *Forty Year Retrospective of the DCC Permanent Collection* which were both curated by the Director and Curator of Collections. The retrospective exhibition attracted over 3,000 visitors which highlighted the interest our community and visitors to the region have in our historical and contemporary collections. Photographs from the DCC Robinson Collection were selected and printed from the original negatives for the *Lyons Share* exhibition which coincided with the centenary of Home Hill, Joseph and Dame Enid Lyons family home. The exhibition opened in June 2016 and continued into the next calendar year.



40 Years of Collecting: Devonport City Council Permanent Collection, 28 November 2015 – 31 January 2016

TOURING OUTWARDS: LOANS FROM THE DCC PERMANENT COLLECTION

A ball gown (circa 1890) from the DCC Permanent Collection - Moon Collection was on loan for the *10 Objects – 10 Stories: Celebrating Community Collections* exhibition curated by Roving Curators Veronica Macno and Melissa Smith. The gown was on show from April to June 2016 at 146 Artspace Tasmania, Hobart.

TOURING OUTWARDS: DRG STAFF CURATED EXHIBITIONS

TARA BADCOCK: HUNT NATURE BIRTH toured to the Rosny Barn, Claremont from March to April 2016. DRG received payment from Rosny Barn for this tour. This exhibition was presented by DRG

in September 2015 as the annual Solo Commission and included a full colour exhibition catalogue publication. The exhibition attracted 2,375 visitors.

TOURING INWARD

True Self: David Rosetzky closed in mid July 2015. This survey exhibition was a massive undertaking for DRG, transforming the exhibition space with large scale projections and compelling photographic work from several years of artistic practice. Rosetzky presented a floor talk to 20 students from NW colleges. Attendance: 3,253

A survey exhibition of paintings and drawings by Melbourne-based artist Katherine Hattam was opened in March 2016 by MONA curator, Jarrod Rawlins. The artist presented a floor talk to Year 10 and College students, and the general public. Attendance: 1,976

LOCAL ARTISTS

Anne Morrison's Solo Exhibition *Preservation and Loss* was a wonderful way to celebrate the first opening for 2016 and proved very popular amongst locals and tourists alike. Morrison presented talks that provided an insight into her practice, and workshops that engaged community members and extended their skills and knowledge. The Gallery published a full-colour catalogue for the exhibition. Attendance: 2,368

THE LITTLE GALLERY

The Little Gallery Project Space once again attracted many applications of a high standard. Emerging and Early Career artists state-wide showcased their work bringing in new audiences. Many of these artists were given the opportunity to present talks and workshops with staff acting as mentors.

2015-2016 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A number of workshops, events and programs were delivered in conjunction with the Gallery's exhibition program. A regular 'Twilight Tour' for each exhibition was established, replacing the Saturday artist talks. These tours have proved to be more popular and gather a dedicated crowd of arts enthusiasts.

Regular monthly sessions, including the reading group Books + Art and the education program for early years, 1, 2, 3 Create have continued to attract strong participation.

The schedule of workshops throughout the year have comprised a variety of arts media, including still life drawing, life drawing, poetry, abstract painting, contour drawing, watercolour painting and photography. A highlight of the workshop series included 'Abstracting Nature: Patterns, Networks and Painting Processes' with artist Anne Morrison, which coincided with Anne's solo exhibition *Preservation and Loss*. This two-part workshop filled quickly and a second set of workshops were scheduled, also booking out.

Morrison's painting processes and techniques also attracted the education sector, with eight schools visiting the Gallery during her exhibition and an outreach painting workshop with Anne delivered to Don College year 11 and 12 students.

The popular 'Nightscape Photography' workshop also held in the previous year attracted high participation rates with this year's new delivery format in four two-hour parts, facilitated by Brian Sollors and Peter Sayers. The Nightscape Photography workshop series corresponded with *The Lyons Share* exhibition, and the location for one of the four sessions was Home Hill – the home of the Lyons family.

The Gallery partnered with Home Hill to present an education program across both venues for *The Lyons Share* exhibition. The Gallery's Little Aesthetics program was delivered to visiting schools, which focused on photographic equipment and techniques, portraiture and observation. The school's visit to Home Hill included a program that focussed on Dame Enid Lyons, the Lyons family and the home. A total of six schools participated in the joint program.



Anne Morrison's workshop *Abstracting Nature*, 1 March 2016

The community photography project, PORTAL, which was established in 2014, was delivered again in 2015/16. A total of 81 registrations were received, and 78 photographs submitted; an increase of 50% from the previous year. Participants captured and submitted one photo from their day in the North West of Tasmania on 3 January 2016 ('Capture Day'). Submitted photographs then featured in the PORTAL exhibition, displayed in the windows of an empty shop-front in Devonport CBD for a period of 10 days at the end of January.

The Gallery's young members committee, the Droogs, had a busy start to 2016 with the presentation of the *Four 8 Film Festival* in March, The Sketchbook Project across March and April, and *Reclaim the Lane* in April. The *Four 8 Film Festival* involved 12 teams signing up to create a short film in 48 hours. A total of 10 teams reached the deadline and their films were screened at Devonport CMAX to an audience of over 100 people. The winner received a cash prize of \$400 and runner-up \$100.

Reclaim the Lane is Devonport's National Youth Week event held in Rooke Lane, and jointly organised by the Droogs, Devonport Regional Gallery, Youth, Family and Community Connections and Devonport City Council. The event transformed Rooke Lane, beside the Gallery, into a vibrant celebration of youth arts, music and creativity.

The stunning Gallery interior continued to attract a number of musical concerts, including Sydney ensemble, *Feel the Manouche*, who performed as part of the Devonport Jazz Festival in July 2015 and Tasmania's *Virtuosi* who performed two Sunday evening concerts.