



2022-2023 Update

2-year report on the
Hervey Bay Regional Gallery
Strategic Plan 2022-2026
December 2023



Introduction

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Hervey Bay Regional Gallery is proud to report on our first two years of operations under the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

Since reopening in April 2022, after extensive renovations, HBRG has already achieved major milestones and is making ambitious strides towards the objectives set out in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

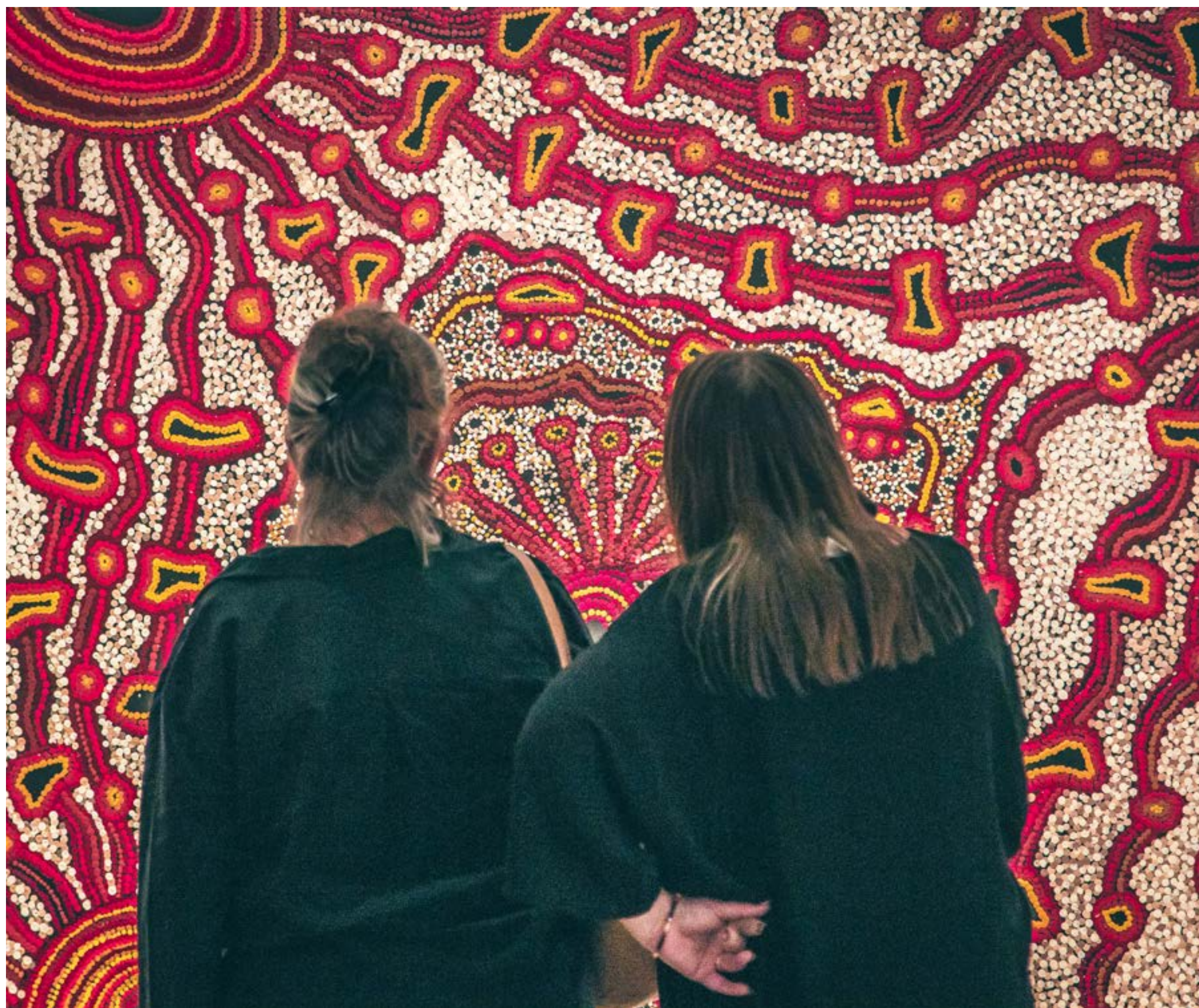
Through exhibitions, public programs and strategic initiatives, HBRG is developing new local audiences and establishing itself as a landmark cultural attraction for Queensland, interstate and international visitors.

Partnerships with major national institutions have been complimented with strategic local partnerships and collaborations within Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Looking towards 2024, HBRG is proud to present this 2-year report card, showcasing program highlights and key achievements across 2022-2023.



Image: Gordon Hookey and family at the opening of *A MURRIALITY*



Vision

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery will become a place of significant and meaningful community connection through storytelling

Mission

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery connects communities through ideas, arts, place, history and culture

Since re-opening in April 2022 HBRG has

Welcomed
20,000
Visitors

Exhibited
123
Artists

Presented
17
Exhibitions

Produced
68
Public Programs

Hosted
60+
School & group
visits

*Statistics relate the 20-month period 1/4/2022 - 1/12/2023



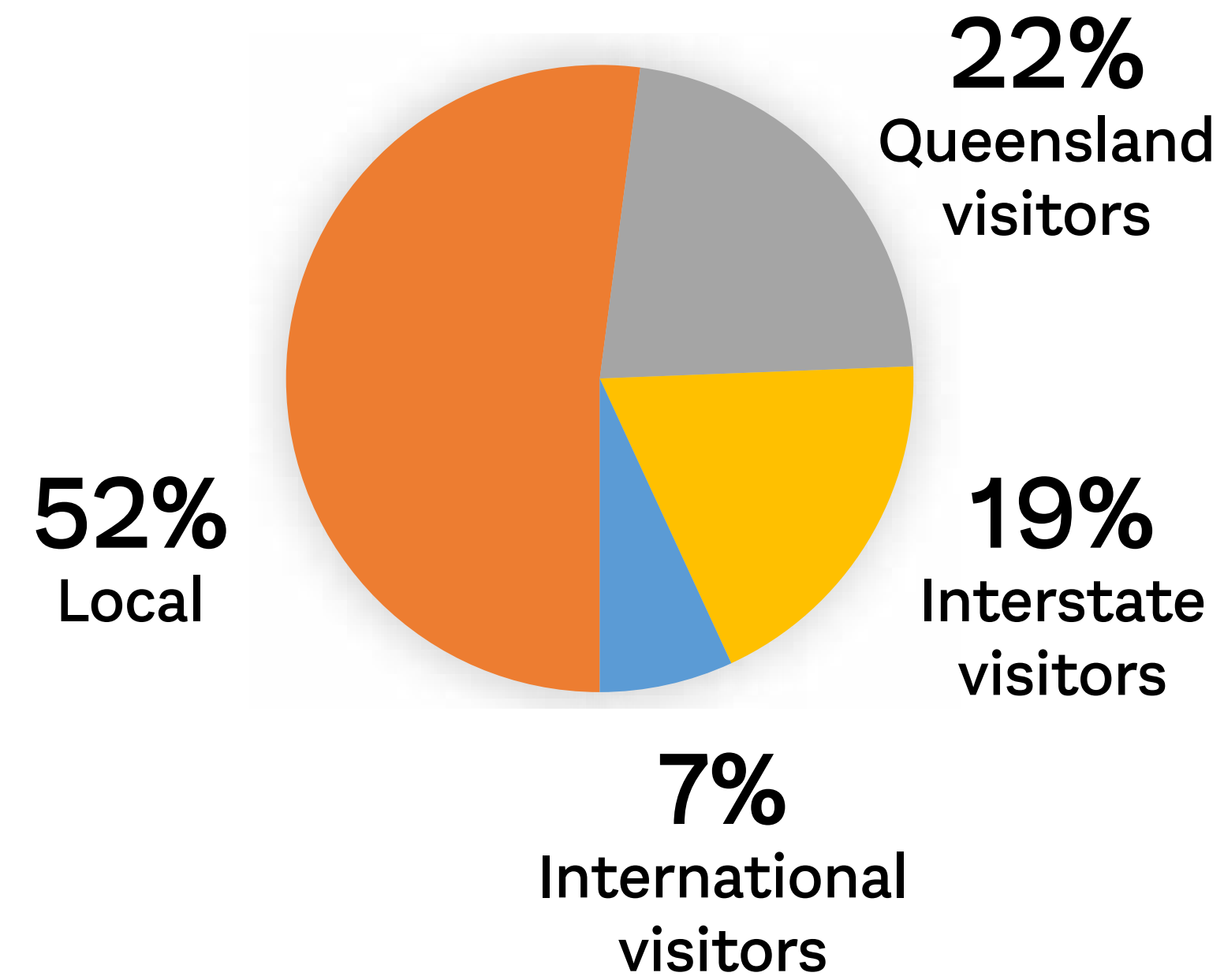
Michael Cook, *Living the Dream*, Hervey Bay Regional Gallery. Photo: C.Y Entertainment.

Original content

From
12%
Internally curated
exhibitions in 2022

to
62%
Internally curated
exhibitions in 2023

Our visitors are



New audiences

54% had never visited the gallery before



Program Highlight

Fiona Foley: Veiled Paradise

10 December 2022 - 26 February 2023

05



Fiona Foley, *Veiled Paradise*, installation view, Hervey Bay Regional Gallery. Photo: John Wilson.

***Veiled Paradise* surveyed three decades of Badtjala artist Dr. Fiona Foley's practice, presented together for the first time on Badtjala/ Butchulla Country.**

This leading contemporary Aboriginal artist's work is informed by her ancestral connection to K'gari, drawing equally upon its serene beauty and the history of systemic violence and sexual exploitation perpetrated on its shores.

Incorporating original research around the Government-regulated opium trade and of the connection between sex and violence on the frontier and beyond, the artist refutes colonisation's attempts to erase her people and their histories. Tirelessly, through painting, photography, film, sculpture and printmaking, Foley gives voice to the dispossessed.

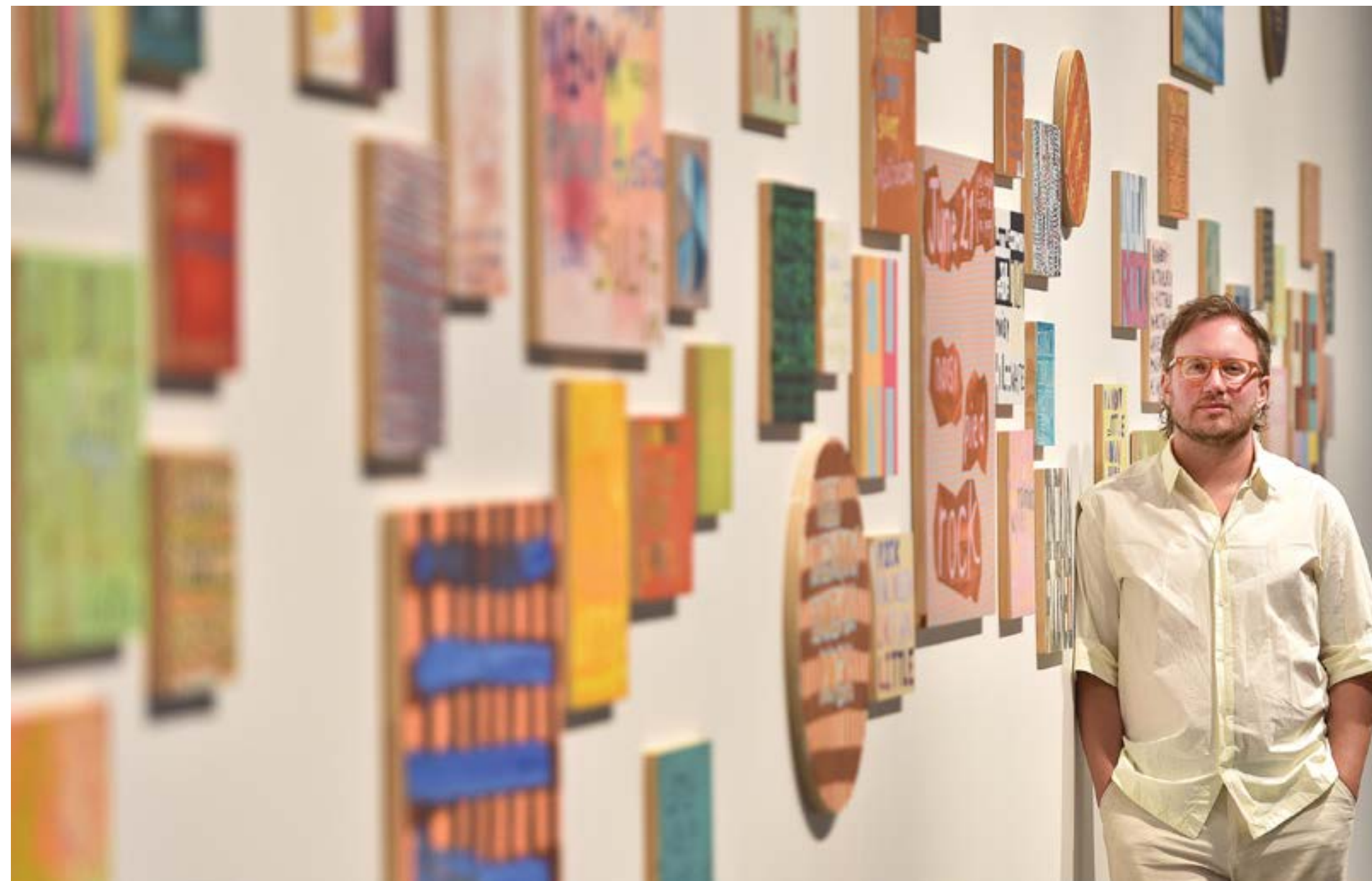
Veiled Paradise was the first major survey of the artist's practice initiated in Queensland. Curated by Angelina Hurley and toured by QUT Art Museum.

Strategic Objective 3:

We commit to the values of learning, sharing and connecting as a pathway to meaningful relationships with Butchulla (Badtjala) people.

Fernando do Campo: To companion a companion

11 March - 21 May 2023



Fernando do Campo with his works in *To companion a companion*. Photo: Alistair Brightman.

***To companion a companion* was a humorous, often cheeky, ode to the companion species that flit amongst us.**

To companion a companion was an exhibition of new work by Argentinean-Australian artist Fernando do Campo that proposed humans as a companion species to birds. It was a collaborative project by Contemporary Art Tasmania, UNSW Galleries and PICA toured by Contemporary Art Tasmania.

The exhibition featured an impressive installation of paintings, video, textile, archival research and performance documentation from this leading Sydney-based artist.

To companion a companion included a suite of public programs drawing on the Fraser Coast's passion for birdlife including an educators preview event with the artist, multiple school excursions, a film screening, a panel discussion for youth week, and a free bird mask activity.

Strategic Objective 1:
Hervey Bay Regional Gallery will become a place of consequence known for excellence across its operations by 2026.

Program Highlight

The Dingo Project: Wongari

11 March - 21 May 2023

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Originally curated for Ngununggula in the NSW Southern Highlands, *The Dingo Project: Wongari* shifted the focus of Djon Mundine's curatorial project to Butchulla country and the Wongari of K'gari.

Featuring artists from across the country alongside Butchulla perspectives, *The Dingo Project: Wongari* investigated the spiritual mythology and historical narratives that connect dingoes to Aboriginal Australia. An important new addition to this exhibition was the commissioning of *Wongari Stories*, a video produced by HBRG in collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.

Featuring excerpts of interviews conducted with local Butchulla artists, cultural practitioners and elders, *Wongari Stories* was an insight into the profound connection that Butchulla people have with the Wongari (wild dingo) on K'gari.

Strategic Objective 3:
We commit to the values of learning, sharing and connecting as a pathway to meaningful relationships with Butchulla (Badtjala) people.

Origin Story

10 June - 27 August 2023



Maroons super-fan Shane Jacobs at the opening of Origin Story. Photo: Alistair Brightman.

Inspired by our state’s passion for the greatest sporting rivalry of all time, *Origin Story* brought together artists from across the region to reflect on the cultural contribution of State of Origin to Queensland’s identity.

From the tribal costuming of spectatorship to the adulation of our immortal state heroes, *Origin Story* celebrated the significance of Rugby League within the Fraser Coast community.

Origin Story included artworks by Joel Barney, Shane Jacob, Ashley Nixon, Phillip Piperides, Phoebe Paradise, Jack Rodgers, Teho Ropeyarn, Erika Scott and David Spooner. Programs included a live screening of State of Origin Game II at the gallery, a digital illustration workshop with Phoebe Paradise, and a kids dance workshop with former Broncos cheerleader Georgina Baumann.

Strategic Objective 2:

By 2026, storytelling will become a foundational value in how we connect to community.

Program Highlight

Alan Peebles: Bird Man

10 June - 27 August 2023

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Strategic Objective 2:

By 2026, storytelling will become a foundational value in how we connect to community.

Presenting a selection of murals alongside his self-published wildlife documentaries, Alan Peebles' *Bird Man* reflected Alan Peebles' passion for the region's wildlife, forming a charming and idiosyncratic portrait of Hervey Bay through the eyes of one of its prominent advocates.

Alan Peebles passed in January 2022. Inspired by his enduring legacy as an artist and activist, *Bird Man* combined a selection of the Bus Shelter Paintings with a reel of Peebles' homemade wildlife documentaries. A much-loved feature of the Fraser Coast streetscape, these murals, and their re-contextualised display at the gallery shone a light on a local hero—and importantly, on the birdlife he fought to protect.

Collection Highlight

Girra: Fraser Coast National Art Prize

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In 2023 HBRG mounted the Girra: The Fraser Coast National Art Prize exhibition, a biennial prize that seeks to explore our reciprocal, inextricable relationship with the environment through contemporary art. Girra invited entries from artists working in any visual art medium from across Australia, offering a \$25,000 major acquisitive prize.

The inaugural winner of Girra: Fraser Coast National Art Prize, announced in September 2023, was Western Australian artist Anna Louise Richardson for her work *I asked for a sign (wedge-tailed eagle)*, a 2-metre tall charcoal drawing on cement fibreboard.

Richardson's intricately detailed and impressively scaled work represents a significant early acquisition for the newly focused Hervey Bay Regional Gallery Collection.

Strategic Objective 4:

We will build, maintain and share a Fine Art Collection of State significance.

Collection Highlight

Fiona Foley: Janjari

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***Janjari*, a major new work by internationally renowned Badtjala contemporary artist Dr Fiona Foley marks the first acquisitive commission by Hervey Bay Regional Gallery since reopening in 2022.**

Filmed entirely on K'gari, a flowing narrative guides the viewer from west to east of the world's largest sand island.

Laced with Fiona Foley's signature tension between a haunted past, contemplation of solitude and moments of joy and humour, this piece is a significant addition to the artist's oeuvre and HBRG's collection.

This project is commissioned and funded by Hervey Bay Regional Gallery with additional support from the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between the Queensland Government and Fraser Coast Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

“Absolutely loved the *Janjari* film. So powerful and thought provoking. Very deep and poignant.”
— Gallery visitor

Strategic Objective 4:
We will build, maintain and share a Fine Art Collection of State significance.



Fiona Foley, *Janjari*, 2022

Highlight

Gallery Shop & Makers' Markets

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HBRG supports a sustainable creative economy through commercial opportunities for local makers. Over \$9,000 in commissions have been paid to artists through products sold in the HBRG Gallery Shop since April 2022.

In addition to the permanent retail space, HBRG held four quarterly Makers' Markets in City Park, hosting 31 stalls by local artists and makers across the year.

The success of the market contributed to an external commercial market organiser approaching Fraser Coast Regional Council to start a weekly farmers and artisan market in City Park. Local artisans, including HBRG Makers' Market stallholders, have been offered regular and ongoing economic opportunities via these new markets.

Strategic Objective 5:

We will engage with our diverse communities and stakeholders to promote a sustainable creative economy.

Diverse creative economy

Through exhibitions, public programs and strategic initiatives HBRG has engaged a diverse range of artists and stakeholders throughout 2022 - 2023.



Image: Joel Barney painting his mural *K'gari Creation Story* in the HBRG foyer as part of *Land, Sea and Sky*.

Exhibiting Artists

52%

Local

29%

QLD

23%

National

42%

Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander

Artists, facilitators and speakers engaged via public programs

132

Partnerships

HBRG has partnered with major national institutions including Institute of Modern Art, QUT Art Museum, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Monash Gallery of Art, Ngununggula | Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, and The Jam Factory.

Local partners, collaborators and sponsors include Fraser Coast Libraries, Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Stockland, FCRC's Natural Environment Team, the Hervey Bay Boat Club, and more.

Strategic Objective 5:

We will engage with our diverse communities and stakeholders to promote a sustainable creative economy.

Visitor comments

“The best regional gallery I have had the pleasure of visiting and most amazing exhibition by Dr Fiona Foley. Thank you Hervey Bay.”

“It’s a pleasure to see the changes that have been made, walking into a friendly local gallery. I also appreciate being able to experience contemporary exhibitions at my doorstep. Job well done.”

“Wonderful exhibits. Blown away by what I’m seeing in this regional gallery.”

“*The Dingo Project* was amazing .. a beautiful and haunting depth of knowledge .. stimulated all the senses and switched on my thinking cap.”



Image: Fred Leone and Local Showcase Performance. Photo: C.Y Entertainment.



Image: Opening of *The Dingo Project* and *To companion a companion*. Photo: Alistair Brightman.



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