



# Arts and Culture Annual Report 2008/2009



Christopher Langton: *Plastic Man*, 2008, synthetic polymer paint on PVC, 300 x 244 x 134 cm  
Courtesy the artist and Tolarno Galleries Artwork included in *Trouble in Toyland* exhibition 2009

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## ARTS AND CULTURE OVERVIEW

### Vision and Strategic Objectives

**Vision:** Arts for All

**Strategic Objectives:**

To enhance opportunities for artistic and cultural expression through:

- providing, facilitating and partnering a range of community festivals and events
- providing facilities and venues for artists to present their work
- providing opportunities for communities and artists to develop cultural projects through cultural grants
- encouraging artistic expression through community and public programs
- resourcing, educating and advocating arts and culture activity to the general community and within Council
- planning and review of strategic policies



*Art Installation by Amanda King during the 2009 Coburg Carnivale*

## Highlights of Year

There were a number of highlights across the Arts and Culture program in 2008/2009 including the following:

The **Counihan Gallery in Brunswick** enjoyed a very successful year with a number of well received exhibitions. One of the most noteworthy was the *Connections, Land and People* exhibition which provided arts based workshops to students at the Victorian College of Koori Education in Glenroy and an opportunity for these students to exhibit their works alongside Indigenous artworks from the Moreland Art Collection. Participants benefited immensely from this experience which broadened both their artistic experience and also their knowledge of Indigenous arts practice.

Other highlight exhibitions included *Trouble in Toyland* and *Mute Relics and Bedevilled Creatures*. Both highly successful exhibitions attracted significant media attention and a large number of diverse visitors. Visitor feedback regarding these exhibitions was very positive. In addition to the successful gallery program, Edwina Bartlem, Gallery Curator, was one of only two Gallery Curators in Victoria to be invited to speak in detail about the Gallery's annual program at the Public Galleries Association of Victoria's Annual Conference.



Image: Sam Leach, *Kangaroo Hybrid*, 2009, oil and resin on wood, 25 x 25 cm,  
Courtesy the artist and Sullivan and Strumpf Fine Art.  
Artwork featured in *Mute Relics and Bedevilled Creatures* exhibition 2009.

The inaugural **Coburg Carnivale** was a festival highlight this year. The Carnivale consisted of a full week of programming with performance and art installations in Victoria Mall that culminated in a community festival on the Sunday in Bridges Reserve. The Carnivale involved extensive collaboration within the Arts and Culture Unit and across Council, which contributed significantly to the success of the event. There was a strong sense of colour

and enjoyment throughout the festival week and feedback was extremely positive from Coburg residents and traders.

The Arts and Culture Unit was responsible for a public art commission in Sparta Place that saw the engagement of a prominent Melbourne artist - Louise Lavarack. The large-scale piece, *New Order*, reflects both Brunswick's cultural heritage and vibrant contemporary arts practice.

## **Staff**

There was a significant turnover of staff in 2008/2009. Six of the eight core staff changed, the majority after long periods in their positions. Tim Bruwer, Manager Cultural Development, and Anne-Maree Pfabe, Unit Manager Arts and Culture, had both been in their positions for more than 8 years and their departures were felt strongly throughout the Social Development Department. Of note was also the resignation of Chris Bond, Gallery Assistant, who had been in the role for 6 years and was instrumental in the development of many aspects of the Gallery during this time.

In addition to these departures came the long anticipated appointment of a Cultural Events Officer, providing some much needed support to the Community Cultural Development Officer position. The additional appointment of a Cultural Events Officer brought the Unit's staffing EFT from 4.1 to 4.75.

**Cultural Development Manager** – Genimaree Panozzo replaced Tim Bruwer in February 2009.

**Unit Manager Arts and Culture** – Emanuela Savini replaced Anne-Maree Pfabe in December 2008.

**Public Art Officer** – Michael Brady resigned at the end of December and was replaced by Daniel Mitchell in early April.

**Gallery Assistant** - Lauren Simmonds commenced in the role at the beginning of January 2009 with a short cross over period before Chris Bond left in mid January.

**Cultural Development Administration Officer** – Jenell Quinsee commenced in the position at the beginning of January 2009.

**Cultural Events Officer** - Sedat Sir commenced in the newly created position in mid November but resigned in February to take up a position with the Youth and Leisure Services Branch. The position was filled by Anthony Martin who began in late April.

These staffing changes meant that the Unit was in a continual state of flux for much of the year. Whilst Business Planning workshops were a valuable activity in themselves, they also provided an important team building opportunity for the Unit. Some time will still be needed for a sense of stability to return to the Unit and the team to be consolidated.

## **Training and Professional Development**

The Arts and Culture Unit undertook various forms of training and professional development in 2008/2009.

Training provided by Council included: Fair Process, Equal Employment Opportunity, TRIM (Records Management), Kronos (Payroll System), Pathways (Customer Service), Risk Management, First Aid Level 2, Contract Management, Recruitment and Selection, NetCat Website training, Construction Induction, Working at Heights, Manual Handling and OH&S Representative training.

Some external training was also undertaken. The Community Cultural Development Officer and Cultural Events Officer attended Risk Management for Events and the Gallery Attendant attended InDesign training and a two day course in Art Conservation.

The training budget for 2009/2010 has been increased to provide more opportunities for staff to attend training specific to the Arts and Culture Unit.

Other Professional Development and networking activities included:

- Gallery Curator attended and gave a conference paper at the *Global Arts Local Knowledge* Conference organised by the International Association of Philosophy and Literature and hosted by RMIT University.
- Gallery Curator attended the Public Galleries Association of Victoria Annual Conference at the National Gallery of Victoria.
- Gallery Curator attended one day Indigenous Cultural Maintenance Symposium at the University of Melbourne
- Gallery Curator attended the Public Galleries Association of Victoria forum in Benella in June and presented a paper on the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick
- Manager Cultural Development and Unit Manager Arts and Culture attended a presentation entitled "Building Sustainable Communities through Sustainable Spaces" at Arts Victoria

## **Business Planning**

The Unit held three business planning workshops in May and June. The Unit revised its vision and strategic objectives to incorporate the new Council Plan. Progress on the Moreland Arts Strategy was discussed and an Action Plan for the Strategy in 2009/2010 was drafted.

## **Finance**

The total Arts and Culture Budget for 2008/2009 was \$995,987. The breakdown of this budget was:

Base Budget	\$481,387	48.5%
Performing Arts Moreland Contract	\$369,600	37%
Festivals and Events	\$145,000	14.5%

The Performing Arts Moreland Contract oversees the management of the Brunswick Music Festival, Sydney Road Street Party and the Mechanics Institute of Performing Arts.

The Arts and Culture Unit derived its income from:

Council	\$925,412	93%
State and Federal Government Funding	\$45,000	4.5%
Festival and Event income	\$21,369	2.1%
Hire of Counihan Gallery in Brunswick	\$4,206	0.4%

The per capita cost to Council for the provision of Arts and Culture was \$6.40 in 2008/2009.

## **Contracts**

As part of Council's Tendering process, the Arts and Culture Unit assisted the Procurement Unit in drafting the tender documents and the selection of Council suppliers for both Event Infrastructure and Corporate Catering. The Arts and Culture Unit is the Contract Manager of the Event Infrastructure preferred suppliers.

## **Health and Safety**

Members of the Arts and Culture Unit continued to attend the Cultural Development OH&S Committee meetings held monthly to discuss and take action on health and safety issues. In 2009 the Community Cultural Development Officer joined the Committee.

The Gallery Curator and Community Cultural Development Officer undertook a five day training course to become OH&S Representatives.

Risk Management plans for all festivals were reviewed and updated in consultation with Council's Safety Officer.

Audits of the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick were undertaken in December, February, March, April and May.

One incident report was submitted by the Arts and Culture Unit in 2008/2009.

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

*Strategic Objective: Providing, facilitating and partnering a range of community festivals and events*

### Council Presented Events

#### **Dinner Dance for People with Special Needs**

23 August 2008

Over 230 people attended the popular Dinner Dance for People with Special Needs event at the Coburg Town Hall. The event celebrates and acknowledges the experience and expertise of people with disabilities and is organised in collaboration with the Community Development and Social Policy Unit. Patrons came primarily from Moreland and enjoyed a night of dancing to the band 'Anna & Todd'.

#### **Fawkner Festival**

26 October 2008

Over 5000 attended the Fawkner Festival in 2008. A committee comprising members of the community, members of Focus on Fawkner and Council Officers were responsible for planning and delivery of the event. The Festival had strong local representation with 10 of the 14 performances by artists being from the local area. The Festival had 61 stalls, many of which were organisations from the local community.



## **Christmas Party for People with Special Needs**

7 December 2008

Over 280 people attended the 12th Annual Disability Christmas Party held at the Coburg Town Hall. The event celebrated 'International Day of People with a Disability' and acknowledged the achievements of people with special needs through showcasing participants from the Moreland Creative Movement and Dance Program and the Sunflower Crosby's Singing Group.

## **Carols by the Lake**

14 December 2008

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, Carols by the Lake was cancelled in 2008.

## **Twilight Movies in the Park**

13 and 20 February 2009

A crowd of approximately 400 people, mainly families, attended Bain Reserve on 13 February to see *Horton Hears a Who* and a crowd of approximately 550 - 600 attended Sewell Reserve on 20 February to see *Enchanted*. The Moreland City Junior Brass Band performed and Pascoe Vale Rotary Club provided the BBQ at both evenings. All sausages were halal and served on wholemeal bread as a recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Officer.



### **Music for the People Concert**

28 February 2009

Approximately 150 people attended the free Victorian Concert Orchestra Concert at the Coburg Town Hall as part of the Brunswick Music Festival. The performance was well received.

### **Sydney Road Street Party**

1 March 2009

The Sydney Road Street Party is a well established highlight on Morleand's festival calendar and attracted crowds of approximately 50,000 people in 2009. Promoted as the 'friendliest party in town', the Street Party had six community stages with over 50 performances that showcased the wide variety of culturally diverse and highly talented local artists and community groups. There were approximately 130 stalls at the Street Party of which over 65 were community stalls.

### **Brunswick Music Festival**

12 to 22 March 2009

The Brunswick Music Festival was held between 12 – 22 March and showcased an impressive line-up of local, national and international artists. There were 47 concerts presented under the umbrella of the Brunswick Music Festival, of which 23 concerts were produced directly by the Festival and had attendances of close to 4,000 patrons. 2009 marked the final year that the Festival will be presented directly by Moreland City Council. From 2010 Council will move from the role of presenter to Principal Public Partner and Performing Arts Moreland, a not-for-profit group, will present the Festival.



### **Pascoe Vale Festival**

14 March 2009

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the Pascoe Vale Festival was cancelled in 2009.

### **Glenroy Festival**

26 April 2009

Unfortunately due to inclement weather, a wet weather plan had to be implemented for the Glenroy Festival which significantly limited the Festival program. The performance area and stalls (25 out of 62 booked), were moved indoors or under the original stage. Despite the weather, attendance was estimated to be 2,000 - 3,000 over the course of the day.

### **Moreland Sculpture Show**

14 to 26 June 2009

The launch of the Moreland Sculpture Show was held on Sunday 14 June with 100 people in attendance. The Acquisitive Award was given to Kitty Owens and Mary Zbierski-West for *Magic Carpet- Ghost Chinese Market Garden* who will create a permanent reproduction of the work in Bridges Reserve. The Non-Acquisitive Award was given to Marynes Avila for *Ancient* and the People's Choice Award was given to Staphanie Karavasillis for *Grass is Greener*.

### **Coburg Carnivale**

15 to 21 June 2009

The inaugural Coburg Carnivale consisted of a full week of programming with performance and art installations in Victoria Mall that culminated in a community festival on the Sunday in Bridges Reserve that attracted audiences of approximately 4000. There was a strong sense of colour and enjoyment throughout the festival week and feedback was extremely positive from Coburg residents and traders.



*Art installation created by Sue Davies and students of Coburg Primary School for Coburg Carnivale*

## Community Presented Events

A total of 45 Event permits were processed over the year by the Unit for community initiated events in various parks across the municipality. Events included large annual community festivals such as the Alevi Festival and Pallaconian Brotherhood Festival, weddings, family fun days held in Gowanbrae and the 3ZZZ twentieth Anniversary Concert at Coburg Lake.

There was a review of the Community Resource Guide for Festivals and Events within Moreland. A new manual with guidelines and risk management procedures was developed in collaboration with Council's Safety Officer. Various units across council were consulted in the process. The guidelines will provide an important resource to community groups organising events throughout the municipality and will be utilised by a number of units across Council.



## COUNIHAN GALLERY IN BRUNSWICK

*Strategic Objective: Providing facilities and venues for artists to present their work*

### Gallery Program



Kiron Robinson, *This is not a sign*, 2008, neon light, courtesy the artist and Sarah Scout.  
Artwork included in *Forms of Deceit* exhibition 2008

### ***Forms of Deceit***

11 July – 3 August 2008

Art stresses the illusory qualities of images, vision and language, in which we still place faith as ways of representing and knowing the world. *Forms of Deceit* brought together a group of emerging artists who engaged with themes of truth and deception by questioning the trustworthiness of disparate forms of communication through their chosen media. The exhibition asked: Why is it that in the presence of visual art we ultimately resort to language? Can images and language be trusted? And can artists themselves be trusted? Artists: bcmp (Sam George and Ace Wagstaff), Sam George, Joseph Griffiths, Brant Haslough, Kate Hodgetts, Marita Lillie, Mutsumi Nozaki, Jon Orth, Kiron Robinson and Maria Stolnik. Curated by Dunja Rmandic and Edwina Bartlem. Total attendance for this exhibition was 805.

***Becoming Sequence: Naomi Schwartz and Tomiko Miyazawa***

15 August – 7 September 2008

Through tiny 'scenes', film, painting and installation, Tomiko Miyazawa and Naomi Schwartz explored a kind of introspection that is not intended to shut out, but to remain open. Central to this project was a strong sense of playfulness and a search for self that is not always easy. Constructed scenes, an excavated emotional landscape and a darkened room provided shifting physical experiences and connections within connections. Total attendance for this exhibition was 648.

***Connections, Land and People***

19 September – 12 October 2008

To celebrate and foreground the vibrancy and diversity of Indigenous art and culture, Moreland City Council presented two exhibitions showcasing artwork that explored the connections between land and people. In the front gallery there was an exhibition of artworks by students from the Victorian College of Koorie Education. The back gallery presented selected artworks by Indigenous artists from the Moreland Art Collection. These exhibitions provided valuable insights into the recent history of contemporary Indigenous Australian arts practice, and the important links between land and Indigenous cultural identity. Total attendance for this exhibition was 669.



Eunice Napangardi, *Bush Banana Dreaming*, 1998, acrylic on canvas 80 cm x 80 cm  
Moreland Art Collection

**Front Gallery - *Pattern and Narrative: Douglas Kirwan***  
**Back Gallery - *Ephemeral Works 2005 – 08: Claire Watson***  
24 October – 16 November 2008

Douglas Kirwan has been working in Brunswick at the Ovens Street Studios for the last nine years. This exhibition presented a new series of large-scale paintings by the artist that furthers his preoccupation with pattern, repetition and ornamentation. Kirwan has an interest in the space created by grids and matrixes and the repetitions of pattern, which can be expanded to infinity.

Claire Watson's installations reveal her abiding interest in spatial and socio-cultural analysis and a passion for the absurd. 'Ephemeral Works 2005–2008' provided an insight into the conceptual framework of an arts practice centred on perishable materials and impermanence.

Total attendance for this exhibition was 716.

***Unfold: RMIT Studio Textiles and Screen Print Design Graduate Exhibition***

1 December – 19 December 2008

Graduating students from RMIT's Diploma of Art (Studio Textile Design) and Diploma of Art (Screen Print Design) courses came together to exhibit an eclectic range of textile and print. Over thirty artists presented their designs at the exhibition - designs that speak of their diverse backgrounds and inspirations. Works in knit, weave, tapestry, screen printing, dyeing and other methods gave a contemporary slant to traditional techniques. Many of these works seamlessly combined traditional textile and print techniques with contemporary aesthetics, highlighting the influence of new media, pop-culture, high fashion, fine art and their spontaneous collisions. Total attendance for this exhibition was 1421.



Kim McKechnie, *Bound by the Collective Self*, 2008, Hard bound book, 'White Pages' cotton and polyester, 15 cm x 555 cm. Artwork included in *RMIT Unfold* exhibition 2008

**Front Gallery - *Trouble in Toyland***  
**Back Gallery – *Kizuguchi: Keiko Murakami:***  
16 January – 8 February 2009

The front gallery featured *Trouble in Toyland*, an exhibition exploring the seductive, sinister and anthropomorphic qualities of toys by five leading Australian artists: Martine Corompt, Michael Doolan, Anna Hoyle, Christopher Langton and Van Sowerwine.

The back gallery featured *Kizuguchi*, a solo exhibition by Keiko Murakami dealing with the idea of kizuguchi, a cut or wound to the body, through painting and printmaking. Kizuguchi was explored as a physical, emotional and psychological wound in Murakami's work.

Total attendance for this exhibition was 1169.



Michael Doolan, *Unhappy Ending*, 2008, ceramic platinum lustre, 52 x 38 x 26 cm (variable)  
Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery. Artwork included in *Trouble in Toyland* exhibition 2009

***Women's Salon 2009: Stories of Hope***  
20 February – 15 March 2009

This year's Women's Salon was curated around the theme of 'hope' and celebrated the ideas and elements that sustain us and give us hope, even in the darkest times. Approximately 60 female artists who either live or work in Moreland contributed to the exhibition which was opened by Councillor Stella Kariofillidis and featured a performance by Gypsy music trio, Vardos. Total attendance for this exhibition was 1140.

## ***Gulag***

27 March – 19 April 2009

This exhibition examined the establishment, history and evolution of Gulag Studios, a thriving studio complex in Brunswick East, through the work of its members. Curated by Dr Sheridan Palmer, the exhibition featured the work of 12 artists working across a range of media. Councillor Alice Pryor and Jason Smith, Director of Heidi Museum of Modern Art, opened the exhibition. The exhibition attracted positive media articles in the 'Moreland Leader' on 13 April and in the 'Sightlines' column of 'The Age' on 17 April. Total attendance for this exhibition was 998.



*Tilly-Juls with 'Witness Girl' at Gulag Studio, photograph by Gary Willis, 2009*

## **Mute Relics and Bedevilled Creatures: Constructing an Antipodean curiosity cabinet**

1 May – 31 May 2009

This exhibition was curated in celebration of Reconciliation Week 2009 and featured the work of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists who re-interpreted the concept of the curiosity cabinet and histories of museum collection and display practices. Artists included John Duggan, Julie Gough, Denise Higgins, Sam Leach, Brian McKinnon, Charlie O, Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Uncle Herb Patten, Kate Rohde, Gary Smith and Sharon West. The exhibition was curated by Sharon West, Edwina Bartlem and Brian McKinnon. This exhibition generated considerable interest from local and interstate curators, researchers and members of the public. The Gallery was contacted by representatives from national galleries, museums, universities, government departments and members of the public requesting information about the exhibition. Total attendance for this exhibition was 1280.

The exhibition received significant press coverage:

- An image of Gary Smith's artwork from the exhibition was selected to appear on the cover of 'Trouble', a Victorian art magazine.
- A preview about the exhibition with an image of Julie Gough's work was included in the 'Profile' section of May's 'Art Almanac', a national art magazine.
- A review of the exhibition appeared in the Arts section of 'The Age' on Tuesday 12 May.
- An article about the issues raised at the forums appeared in the News section of 'The Age' on Friday 29 May.



Julie Gough, *Head Count*, 2008, chair, brass, black crow shells, 85.5 x 43 x 43 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Bett Gallery. Hobart. Artwork included in *Mute Relics and Bedevilled Creatures* exhibition

**Front Gallery - *The Lost Track of Time 2 - windows and other reflections:*  
Sally McInerney**

**Back Gallery - *You are the light:* Drew Pettifer**

12 June – 5 July 2009

In her series *The Lost Track of Time 2: windows & other reflections*, Sally McInerney uses photography as a way of seeing and reflecting on the parallel worlds that crop up without notice in everyday life.

Drew Pettifer's confessional photography records and reflects on private moments in the life of the artist. This immersive series explores themes of intimacy, youth and the domestic with the ambiguities that surround these amorphous categories.

Total attendance for this exhibition was 984.

The exhibition received several reviews:

- A preview article by arts writer Penny Modra in the 'M' section of 'The Age' on 7 June 2009.
- An interview with Drew Pettifer appeared in the 'Play' section of the 'Moreland Leader' on 15 June 2009.
- A review about the exhibition was included in the 'EG' section of 'The Age' on Friday 19 June
- A positive review about both Drew and Sally McInerney's exhibitions by arts writer Dan Rule in the 'Around the Galleries' column in the 'A2' section of 'The Age' on Sat 27 June.

**Proposals for the 2010 Program**

A total number of 69 exhibition proposals were submitted to the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick for consideration in the 2010 Exhibition Program. This was a significant increase from the previous year which received 40 proposals. Along with the number of applications, the standard of applications also increased. This is indicative of the present reputation and high standing the Gallery has in the arts community.

## CULTURAL GRANTS

*Strategic Objective: Providing opportunities for communities and artists to develop cultural projects through cultural grants*

### Community Grants

There were 15 arts related applications made to the Community Development Grant Program in 2009 and of these 8 received a combined total of \$35,000 in funding. In addition to this funding, three arts organisations in Moreland received Organisational Funding to a combined total of \$6,175 annually for three years.

### Cultural Exchange Initiative Grant

The Cultural Exchange Initiative Grant was allocated to an exhibition by artist Wen Jun from Moreland's Sister City in Xianyung, China. The *Cross Currents* exhibition was presented in July and marked the twentieth anniversary of exchange between Moreland and Xianyung. The paintings were exhibited at the Coburg Civic Centre and were well received by many visitors and Council staff. The paintings were reproductions of frescoes from the Tang Dynasty tombs and vividly depicted daily life in the Court of one of the great dynasties in China's history.



Wen Jun, *Watching Birds and Catching Cicada*, artwork on paper from the *Cross Currents* exhibition

## ARTS IN COMMUNITY

*Strategic Objective: Encouraging artistic expression through community and public programs*

### **'Man of the Valley' – Donated Artwork from Basilicata**

In 2008 the Basilicata Region of Italy donated a bronze sculpture to Moreland in acknowledgement of the contribution migrants from Basilicata have made to Australia. The bronze sculpture by artist Antonio Masini is 4.65 metres in height and was installed in Coburg Lake Reserve. Federazione Lucana in Brunswick facilitated this project. They also collaborated in the official unveiling ceremony on 18 December where Italian Mayors Giuseppe Alberti of Viggiano and Nicola Di Cillo of Grumento Nova were present.

### **Sparta Place Public Art Commission**

The Arts and Culture Unit received a \$60,000 Capital Works Budget for a public art commission for Sparta Place in 2008/2009. Brecknock Consulting undertook the community consultation in January 2009 and following this developed an Artist's Brief for the commission which was advertised widely in February. Council received 33 Expressions of Interest from artists for the commission of which 3 were short-listed by the Project Board to present conceptual design proposals to the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel included the Director Social Development, Manager Cultural Development, Unit Manager Arts and Culture, Manager City Infrastructure, Brecknock Consulting, Mariana Hardwick as a representative of the Sparta Place traders and Dan Wollmering, a member of the Moreland Arts Board. The Selection Panel was unanimous in its selection of Louise Lavarack and her piece *New Order* for the commission. Louise Lavarack was contracted by Council in late March and the artwork was installed in Sparta Place in late June 2009.



## **Reconciliation Week**

The Arts and Culture Unit in collaboration with the Community Development and Social Policy Unit, organised Indigenous cultural workshops for primary schools in Moreland as part of Reconciliation Week. Ian Hunter and Brendan Marks facilitated the workshops, which engaged over 600 children from 10 schools across Moreland. Activities included topics of Wurundjeri culture, storytelling, dance, music and art.

The workshops provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore, understand and reflect on relationships with the land and Indigenous Australians. Much positive feedback was received from teachers and students and evaluation forms indicated the strong need and desire for further information and education.



### **Public Programs at the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick**

There were numerous Public Programs presented in conjunction with exhibitions at the Counihan Gallery. These included:

- *Forms of Deceit* artists Sam George and Ace Wagstaff undertook a silent performance investigating the possibility of maintaining friendship and artistic collaboration while avoiding spoken language on 13 July and 27 July 2008.
- Naomi Schwartz and Tomiko Miyazawa presented a floor talk and discussed the inspiration behind their work and their process for collaboration on the exhibition *Becoming Sequence* on 26 August 2008.
- Indigenous artists Ben McKeown and Mandy Nicholson gave a floor talk and slide show about the inspirations and processes behind their work. They also discussed the connections between land, culture and identity on 4 October 2008.
- As part of the Public Galleries Association of Victoria's GET INTO ART program, Claire Watson and Douglas Kirwan gave a floor talk about their working process on 26 October 2008.
- Several artists involved in the *2009 Women's Salon* participated in an Artist's Talk on Saturday 28 February 2009. This was also a networking event for artists.
- Dr Sheridan Palmer lead a roaming floor talk with Gulag artists about studio art practice.
- A Public Forum was presented at the Gallery on Saturday 16 May 2009 in association with the *Mute Relics and Bedevilled Creatures* exhibition. The forum was developed to encourage discussion and dialogue about the histories of collecting and displaying Indigenous artefacts and remains in museums and curiosity cabinets. The panel consisted of Indigenous artists, academics and museum representatives including Brian McKinnon (Artist), Brett Ahmat (Melbourne Museum), John Duggan (Melbourne Museum), Jason Eades (Koori Heritage Trust) and Sharon West (Co curator). A pod-cast of the exhibition forum can be found on the Moreland Website.
- A roaming floor talk was presented by artists, Drew Pettifer and Sally McInerney on Saturday 20 June 2009.

## RESOURCES, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

*Strategic Objective: Resourcing, educating and advocating arts and culture activity to the general community and within Council*

### Performing Arts Moreland

Performing Arts Moreland was legally incorporated and entered into an agreement with Moreland City Council in October 2008 for the management of the Brunswick Music Festival, Sydney Road Street Party and Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre. The Board's primary functions are to:

- Conduct festivals featuring performing arts including the Brunswick Music Festival and Sydney Road Street Party
- Manage and develop the Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre and to promote its use for the performing arts
- Advance the work and profile of the Company through performance, exhibitions, educational programs, marketing, fundraising, partnerships and sponsorships
- Encourage the participation of artists and broader community in the performing arts and
- Participate in arts initiatives beyond the City when such participation will result in benefit to the community.

The Board met regularly during the year with meetings on 8 July, 12 August, 14 October, 13 November, 18 December, 29 January, 26 February, 7 and 8 April, and 21 May. The Manager Cultural Development and Unit Manager Arts and Culture attended all meetings and provided support to the Board.



### **Moreland Arts Board**

In 2009 Expressions of Interest for membership to the Moreland Arts Board were sought from community members. Applications were received primarily from Brunswick, and consequently not all the Board positions were immediately filled from this call for Expressions of Interest. In order to ensure broader representation of the entire municipality, two positions remain vacant and the Arts and Culture Unit is actively seeking representatives from Fawkner and Glenroy to fill those positions.

New and former members of the Moreland Arts Board contributed to:

- The selection of artists for the 2009 Women's Salon
- Serving on the Selection Panel for the Sparta Place Public Art Commission
- The selection of exhibitions for the 2010 Counihan Gallery in Brunswick Program
- Consultation for the Coburg Initiative

### **Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre**

The Mechanics Institute was closed for the beginning of the financial year due to refurbishment and opened shortly before the Brunswick Music Festival in March. Following the Festival, the venue hosted the Australian premier of Tom Fool by Hoy Polloy and a production by Itch Productions. Demand for the venue was strong with the Mechanics fully booked for 2009. The Mechanics Institute forms part of the Performing Arts Moreland agreement and as such will be managed by this Board in following years.

### **Box Forest Secondary College**

A \$1.4million upgrade of the Box Forest Secondary College Performing Arts Centre was completed in late 2008 under a Development and Joint Use Agreement between the Minister of Education, Box Forest Secondary College Council and Moreland City Council. The Centre is now fully equipped with lighting and sound equipment as well as a kitchen to support all forms of functions. It is used by the school and community for a variety of functions including performances, rehearsals and music lessons.

### **The Coburg Initiative**

The Manager Cultural Development, Unit Manager Arts and Culture, Gallery Curator and Public Art Officer were involved in consultations with the Coburg Initiative team. They attended the Forums held in early June and have liaised with the Coburg Initiative team regarding potential public art initiatives and the proposed Library and Cultural Centre. The Gallery Curator provided the Coburg Initiative dimensions for potential Gallery spaces and has made suggestions regarding appropriate Artist Studio spaces.

## Moreland Art Collection

The Moreland Art Collection is a collection of works from either local artists or artists that have a connection to the City of Moreland. It is accessible to the community via display in the Gallery and in Council buildings such as foyer areas, libraries and meeting rooms. The collection appreciates in cultural and economic value over the years, providing a valuable asset to Council. A Capital Works Budget of \$10,000 was allocated to the Moreland Art Collection in 2008/2009.

The Counihan Gallery in Brunswick administers acquisitions for the Art Acquisition Committee. Additions to the Moreland Art Collection in 2008/2009 included:

- *Women's Hair String Ceremony* by Makiniti Napanaanglca, 2007. Donated by Beverley Knight of Acaston Gallery in honour of Michelle Guglielmo Curator of Counihan Gallery in Brunswick from 2002 – 2006.
- *Scars* by Brian McKinnon, 2008
- *Epiphyte 2* by Claire Watson, 2008
- *Hope Box* by Rosalie Waller, 2009

Each of these artists exhibited at the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick in 2008/2009 and both Claire Watson and Rosalie Waller are local residents of Moreland. Brian McKinnon and Makiniti Napanaanglca's work contribute to Council's Indigenous Art Collection.



Claire Anna Watson, *Epiphyte 1*, 2008, Type C Photograph, cabbages, 100 x 140 cm  
(installation view: Vanha Sahantie, Haukivuori, Finland; cabbages, birch tree plantation).  
Moreland Art Collection

### **Norm Anderson Trust**

The Arts and Culture Unit was successful in obtaining Norm Anderson Trust Funding in 2008 to contribute to the Youth Talent Competition associated with Carols by the Lake. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the Carols by the Lake event was cancelled. However winners of the competition were invited to perform at the Music for the People Concert in February.

### **Robert Smith Collection**

Negotiations continued with Robert Smith regarding the Robert Smith Collection Trust Agreement. Progress was made regarding the insurance requirements of the Agreement and further negotiations were postponed until late 2009 at Robert Smith's request. It was recognised that in order to fulfil aspects of the Trust Agreement requirements, an Operating Budget submission will need to be made to Council in 2010/2011.

### **Counihan Gallery In Brunswick Curatorial Internship Program**

The Curatorial Internship Program is an annual program presented by the Counihan Gallery In Brunswick in conjunction with universities offering postgraduate studies in Curatorship, Museum Studies and Arts Management. In 2007 the Gallery Curator was mentor to University of Melbourne Masters of Curatorship student Dunja Rmandic. The internship resulted in a co-curated exhibition featuring the work of emerging artists, *Forms of Deceit* in 2008.

### **Presentations**

- In early April, the Gallery Curator presented a lecture about Art Curatorship to 30 Third Year painting students at RMIT.
- In mid May the Public Art Officer presented two lectures to approximately 50 Third Year Public Art students at RMIT.
- The Gallery Curator presented a paper about the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick at the Public Galleries Association of Victoria's annual forum in early June.

## PLANNING AND REVIEW

Strategic Objective: *Planning and review of strategic policies*

The Arts and Culture Unit reviewed a number of policies, guidelines and processes in 2008/2009. These included:

- The **Art Acquisition Policy** was reviewed and a new policy drafted. Benchmarking was conducted and some consultation was conducted internally. The anticipated date for the Policy to be endorsed by Council is early 2010.
- The **Art in Public Places Strategy** was drafted and consultation was conducted both internally and externally. The anticipated date for the Strategy to be endorsed by Council is early 2010.
- A **review of the Women's Salon** was initiated with a survey distributed to participants of the 2009 Women's Salon and results collated. It is expected that the Review will be finalised and recommendations presented to both internal and external groups for consultation in early 2010.
- A **review of the Moreland Sculpture Show** was conducted with both internal and external consultation. A Council Report with recommendations will be presented to Council in early 2010.
- The Counihan Gallery in Brunswick began conducting **Visitor Surveys** in addition to collecting anecdotal data from the Visitor Book at the Gallery.
- The **All Abilities Events** conducted surveys during both 2008 events that resulted in several changes to the delivery of these events. Most significantly it resulted in the establishment of an Advisory Committee made up of event attendees for the planning and development of the events.
- A **review of event risk management plans** was conducted in collaboration with Council's Safety Officer. This resulted in a more detailed process and template for risk management plans at Council presented Festivals and Events.
- A **review of the Community Event Permit Guidelines and Application Information** was conducted in collaboration with Council's Safety Officer which provides a more detailed framework to facilitate the Event Permit Application process for community groups, especially with regards to formulating a Risk Management Plan.



*Nati Kapua Dance Group at the 2009 Glenroy Festival*

D09/202212