

# Bridge Art Project Newsletter



Barmah Dharnya Day  
Smoking Ceremony July 2021

## BAP AGM 3rd August 2021

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on August 3. At that time our Board positions will be declared vacant and refilled. We will also be looking for additional people to get involved in subcommittees and work groups to advance many of the projects that are emerging, so please feel free to attend (and put your hand up for a job if you wish to get more involved!). Because of the COVID situation, we are not sure yet where the meeting will be held, but will be sure to inform everyone as soon as we get some certainty around that.

## Gala Dinner a fabulous success

We thank the more than 200 people who attended the Gala Dinner to launch our fundraising Prospectus on 22 May at the Moama Bowling Club. It was an opportunity to spread the word and engage with lots of people interested in the arts. Our thanks to Moama Bowling Club for underwriting the event through their Club Grants program which meant that we could plan and deliver a fabulous night with no financial risk.

Guest speaker, Andrew Gaynor, was asked to talk about how the arts can enhance communities. He introduced us to a range of community-oriented innovative arts activities. Let us know if you would like to see his presentation.

Sigrid Thornton and her husband, Tom Burstall's participation helped to raise the profile of the event. We very much appreciate their commitment to the project.

The generous donation of paintings by 14 local artists and very attractive prizes for the raffle plus the fine work (and shenanigans) by our auctioneers,



Fabulous Moama Lights final night  
22 May 2021

John Moyle and Gary Wood, delivered a fabulous result with \$35,000 raised.

Thanks so much to those who made donations and to everyone who attended.

The Bridge Art Project is a registered charity with DGR status.  
**All donations are tax deductible.**

The final display of the Moama Lights set the mood for a great night on 22 May (for those who were able to secure tickets). What a fabulous display of Indigenous talent with a smoking ceremony, an address by Uncle Des Morgan, varied music and artworks by Indigenous artists. Murray River Council is keen to see whether the event can be staged again. We will provide support where we can.



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## Our Fundraising Prospectus

The reasons for the holding the gala dinner were three-fold—firstly to introduce the project to a lot of people; secondly to launch our fundraising prospectus; and thirdly, to have some fun! If you do not have a copy, please contact us and we will be delighted to send you one. It is also available through our website: [www.bridgeartproject.com.au](http://www.bridgeartproject.com.au)



All donations welcome. Can be made to our Bendigo Bank account:  
Name: Bridge Art Project Incorporated Trading  
BSB 633 000 Account No. 169 655 784

## Gallery Design

Terroir architect Scott Balmforth created the concept of the new gallery to the left for our Masterplan. This was done before BAP bought the land at 74 Meninya Street Moama.

With that design, approximately \$6.9m would be required to build the gallery.

Our next objective is to finalise the design of the gallery to advance our grant applications. Brandrick Architects are working with us to do just that on a pro-bono basis. Ged Brandrick and his team did some early work on the project, and we thank them for their ongoing support for the project. It's worth mentioning that the Brandrick team won the bid for the design of the new art gallery in Swan Hill, which is now final. They therefore have relevant experience in this space.

## Elevated Walkway

As many of you know, the gallery site in Meninya St is separated from the 17 hectares of land closer to the river where further elements of the Project will be developed. In between lies some private land. The owners, Ros and Bill Main, have graciously permitted BAP to prepare a route through their property which will be established as a right-of-way. The elevated walkway connecting the two BAP properties will follow the route Below. Planright is working on preparing plans for Council on a pro bono basis, and we thank them for that.

## Site Preparation of 74 Meninya Street

The building on the site will need to be demolished. Quotes have been obtained which are approximately \$30,000. Dumping fees for the waste are a significant proportion of that cost. If you have any suggestions as to how we might progress this step, we'd be pleased to hear them.

Barry Donchi, our founding Chairman, has excellent credentials in re-cycling, and spots an opportunity when it presents. He has worked with the bridge contractors McConnell Dowell, who are building our neighbours new road (ie. the new Echuca Moama Bridge Project) to secure timber and concrete offcuts and copper 'shoes' that we will be able to utilise in the Bridge Art precinct. So creative people, start thinking about these opportunities.



Our objective with the gallery is "to tell the story of humans in Australian through contemporary art".

Tell us how you might use the gallery. We'd love your ideas as we progress its design.

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## Grant Applications

To advance the project, we are going to be very dependent on attracting capital grants money from Government. Most require a co-contribution of 25 to 50% by the applicant. We therefore need to keep fundraising to build up our 'war chest'.

At the moment we have one grant application lodged, under the Commonwealth's Building Better Regions Fund. While we recognise that this application is a bit of a stretch for us, we remain optimistic. The outcome is expected by November.

A lot of effort has gone into grant applications with submissions made to Create NSW in September 2020, BBRF Round IV in March 2021, Murray River Council in March 2020, the Balnaves Foundation - all were sadly unsuccessful.

A current application is being prepared for a NSW Government Tourism Activation Fund which seeks to create "unique and high impact tourism and events infrastructure that helps to boost local economies, create jobs and ensure visitors to regional NSW have unforgettable experiences that encourage repeat visitation." We fit the criteria in spades, but there is much work to do before submission, including the development of architectural plans for the gallery. They are in progress, so we will have that application submitted by August 13.

We continue to monitor grant opportunities as they arise and will pursue them where they are relevant.



Turtles on display at Dharnya Day

## Social Media

J2 Content Creation have taken on the task of managing our social media activity which Jacqui Berthaume had established. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram where Jason and Jen from J2 have been busy posting all sorts of info relevant to the project.

Please have a look and share the content with friends. All comments are welcome!

<https://www.instagram.com/bridgeartproject/>

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## Under The Bridge Art Project

One of the smaller projects being pursued is the creation of artwork on the pylons beneath the railway near the soundshell in Moama. This is intended to provide an early taste of the work that will be undertaken later on the Bridge Art site proper.

Dealing with VicTrack is a protracted process, but we can finally see light at the end of this tunnel (to use a railway metaphor) at least for the first stage. With support from Murray River Council we hope to secure a lease governing the pylons.



Landscape architect David McCubbin has provided helpful assistance with developing the brief for this project. The next steps involve finding a way for the pylon surfaces to remain available for inspection as we seek to use them as an art canvas! Further work will be needed with VicTrack engineers once the lease issue is resolved. Watch this space!!

## Your Committee



Don't forget the AGM on 3 August. We are keen to recruit new members to the Committee and we value your suggestions, ideas and contributions.

If you have skills and interests that are related to any of the projects we have underway, we'd love to hear from you. The gallery is aimed to be a major piece of tourism infrastructure, but not only that. We hope that it will be a community hub for the arts.

Creating the gallery is our first priority, after that, building the raised walkway to the Murray River is next. Through the 17 hectares, our collective imagination can run wild.