

BORDERS

MILDURA 26-28 APRIL 2024

Borders emerged in the midst of the 2020 pandemic. With not much to do and months of solo time I went to the River. I walked every day for hours. I noticed other people too, on walking tracks that prior were very quiet.

In times of uncertainty and upheaval we were all drawn to her.

Our Murray (Mil/Dhungala) River is the lifeblood of our community, and a traditional gathering place for First Nations people. It is the longest River in Australia; the heart of the Murray Darling Basin; and Australia's food bowl. It is also a state border.

I am perplexed that an ever changing, alive and dynamic River can be made into a fixed line on a map. A hard border that segregates; organises us; defines the edges of where one policy begins and another ends.

As borders closed our relationship to the River was being tested in a way it never has before, and I felt called to explore this creatively. And so it began.

I could never had imagined what would unfold over the following three years as artists emerged from across and along the River. We came together through a series of research Labs in River communities and an online Community of Practice.

Together we researched layered contexts of place, and engaged in the embodied practice of Body Weather. We deepened our relationships with each other, our practice and place in a way that has regenerated us creatively.

This mini-festival is an offering back to our community and our River. I invite you to approach our events with an open mind, body and heart.

My deepest thanks to Regional Arts Australia for supporting a three year process; our host communities of Mildura, Speewa, Moama and Albury; and our exceptional Borders artists for trusting us through this process.

Rhae Kendrigan- Creative Producer

Tickets by donation - bookings required
events.humanitix.com/borders-mildura



OPENING NIGHT

FIRE OF PROMISES

FRIDAY 26 APRIL 7.30-9.30PM

@APEX PARK



An evening under the stars, gathered around the fire by our mighty River. Be welcomed to Country by Mark Grist and join us in our community ceremony **Fire of Promises**, a collaboration between Borders artists symbolising the apex of our three year journey along the Mil/Dhungala (Murray) River.

Featuring performances by Borders artists including *Hidden in Plain Sight* by **Sandra Collins**, *Deposit* by **Kirsten Wehner** and *Maggie Ellis*, and *Return to the River* by **Rhae Kendrigan**.

BYO mug, camp chair or rug.
Billy tea and dessert provided.

WORKSHOP- FLOW MB

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 10.00-11.00AM

@POWERHOUSE

MB (muscle/bone; mind/body) is a Body Weather group warm up designed to increase awareness of body and mind - helping to extend your regular range and patterns. It's about giving your body a riddle to try and solve. Join the Borders artists as **Linda Luke** and **Peter Fraser** guide us through a specially designed MB for flow, finding the movement of the River in our bodies. MB is energetic but also allows for you to work at your own pace and capacity. A fun and unique experience, it is suitable for all fitness levels, no dance experience is required.



PERFORMANCE WALK

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 12.30-1.30PM

@APEX PARK

Borders artists will spend two days participating in a place based research Lab at Apex Park, using methodologies of Body Weather to deepen connection to the landscape. Artists will share their embodied ephemeral responses on this short walk along the River. Join us as bodies emerge from the landscape and the performance offerings unfold. Meet the artists with refreshments served afterwards.



WORKSHOP- CYANOTYPE

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2-3PM

@APEX PARK

Join **Ellen Clark** for an enchanting journey into the world of cyanotype photography by the River. In this hands-on workshop, we'll delve into the captivating process of creating sun prints using natural materials sourced from the riverbank and surrounding landscape. No prior experience is necessary - this workshop is open to beginners and seasoned artists alike. Come and unleash your creativity in a fun, spontaneous, and unpredictable exploration of cyanotype printing. All materials provided.



EXHIBITION OPENING- LAB LIVE

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 7.30-9.30PM

@POWERHOUSE

The artists who have participated in the Borders project come from a variety of creative backgrounds- including painting, drawing, sculpture, dance, video and writing. Experience our research 'Lab' set up in the basement of the Powerhouse. Discover the stories of the River collated throughout the project and shared in a group exhibition representing 25 artists, opened by Borders project mentor **Vic McEwan**. The evening includes *River Songs* performance by **Carma Rose**; *Underneath* projection by **Kris Tito**; *Illuminate* installation by **Julie Briggs**; and an interactive drawing activity.



WORKSHOP- SONG FOR THE RIVER

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 10.00-11.00AM

@POWERHOUSE

Discover your natural and authentic singing voice in this one of a kind workshop, that will help you explore the breath and body. We will engage in a series of sound exercises designed to bring out your voice, and collectively offer a song to the River. Whether you're a seasoned pro or simply love to sing, this fun and explorative process is open to all levels of experience. Wear comfy clothes, and bring a mat or rug to lay on the floor.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 12.30-4PM @POWERHOUSE

12.30-1.20pm

Borders? Ecological, Social and Embodied insights

The Borders project began as a question- not to be answered but explored from multiple perspectives. Our diverse research methods throughout the project enabled us to unpack the meaning of Borders in ourselves, our communities and place. Borders project mentor, artist and Artistic Director of The Cad Factory **Vic McEwan** interviews Borders Creative Producer **Rhae Kendrigan**, Body Weather practitioner **Peter Fraser** and Ecologist **Craig Dunne**.

1.45-2.35pm

Introducing embodied research to creative practices

Body Weather is a training practice that explores the intersections between body and place, and has served as the key research method in the Borders Labs along the River. Body Weather facilitator **Linda Luke** introduces the practice and interviews Borders artists **Kris Tito**, **Sandra Collins**, **Liz Glazebrook** and **Kirsten Wehner** about how the embodied research has influenced and elevated their varied creative practices.

3.00-3.50pm

Weaving connections through space/time

Bringing together a constellation of artists from along and across the River, over a period of multiple years whilst overcoming challenges relating to travel restrictions and floods has been ambitious and so rewarding. Creative Producer **Rhae Kendrigan** interviews Borders artists **Ellen Clarke**, **Carm Hogan**, **Julie Briggs** and **Andree Cozens** about the importance of connection between artists in regional practice, and how finding each other has enriched their practice.



WHAT BORDER?

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 4.00-4.30PM

@POWERHOUSE

Closing performance by **Peter Fraser** and **Linda Luke**

What is a border? Where is the border of a river?

What Border? is a lively response to the questionable, porous and malleable notion of 'borders' in relation to the great Murray River and its surroundings. Peter and Linda will attempt to dance transient and interconnected thresholds, imagining river-life from a not-quite-human, ecological perspective.

Performance Consultant: Frank van de Ven

Costume artwork: Ellen Clark

Tickets by donation - bookings required
events.humanitix.com/borders-mildura

For more information
bordersproject.com.au

Follow us on Instagram
@ [borders_project_au](https://www.instagram.com/borders_project_au)

Borders unfolded along the unceded lands of Aboriginal Country including but not limited to:
First People of the Millewa Mallee, Wamba Wamba, Wadi Wadi, Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri.

We acknowledge that we live, work and create on Rivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, and they are the Traditional Custodians of the land, water animals and spirit of this Country.

We pay our deepest respects and gratitude to their Elders past and present.



BORDERS TEAM



RHAE KENDRIGAN- CREATIVE PRODUCER

Mildura- First People of the Millewa Mallee

Rhae is a practicing artist, community development worker and regenerative practitioner from the Mallee. Their creative practice explores the intersections between body and place, with a practice grounded in Body Weather. Using performance, video, drawing and installation their art serves as a process for understanding systems awareness. Rhae is passionate about building strong rural and regional communities through embracing diversity, developing kinship with our natural resources and creating localised economies. In 2020 they founded a social enterprise Regenerative Communities- offering creative and regenerative community development services to regional artists and organisations.

LINDA LUKE- BODY WEATHER FACILITATOR

Woonona, Dharawal Country

Linda has worked across multiple platforms in the performing arts for the past 20 years: as a performer, choreographer, director, mentor and facilitator. In her work, she aims to deepen sensitivity and excavate the subtle undercurrents we experience in relationship to self, each other and the environment. Linda's work revolves around diminishing the 'human-centric' and aims to reinstate a focus on the rich diversity of non-human elements that exist in our environment. A major part of Linda's artistic practice is to engage with marginalized communities to mentor and develop artistic practice through movement, performance and film-making.



PETER FRASER- BODY WEATHER FACILITATOR

Melbourne, Wurundjeri Country

Peter works widely in site-specific performance, dance, improvisation and installations. His primary focus is the transformations that occur where body and environment meet and mingle. His guiding practice is Body Weather which is, fundamentally, an attitude of continual inquiry into embodiment in place: his workshops aim to release the body from habits so that it is available to transformation by imagination and bodily sensation. Peter co-founded Environmental Performance Authority (EPA) which focuses on site specific projects that are participatory in their development and in their implementation.

CRAIG DUNNE- ECOLOGICAL ADVISOR

Nelligen, Yuin Country

Craig found his way to the Mallee like many others; by following the Murray river. After working as a freshwater ecologist in the Albury area, he moved downstream to Mildura in 2018 to work at the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre. He quickly took root in the region, developing an understanding of the deeper connections within the community and find his sense of place within it. Craig brings to the Borders project a passion for the unique ecology of the Murray River regions, and innate curiosity for the subtle nuances of landscapes.





VIC MCEWAN- PROJECT MENTOR

Narrandera, Wiradjuri Country

Vic McEwan is the Artistic Director of the Cad Factory, an artist led organisation creating an international program of new, immersive and experimental work guided by authentic exchange, ethical principles, people and place. Vic's contemporary art practice works with sound, video, photography, installation and performance, with a particular interest in site-specific work that creates new dynamics by working with diverse partners and exploring difficult themes within the lived experience of communities and places. Vic aims to use his work to contribute to and enrich broader conversations about the active role that the arts sector can play in reimagining a better world.

MARK GRIST- CULTURAL ADVISOR

Mildura- First People of the Millewa Mallee

Mark Grist is an Australian Aboriginal man. He belongs to the peoples of the Wergaia, Wamba Wamba and Nyeri Nyeri of northwest Victoria. Mark is a qualified archaeologist who studied at the Australian National University majoring in archaeology and anthropology. Mark has spent many years recording and protecting Aboriginal heritage sites throughout Australia and has been at the forefront of recording biological information from Australian Aboriginal Ancestral remains, contributing significantly to the return of Ancestral remains to various Aboriginal communities throughout Australia.



MARTIN FOX- VIDEOGRAPHER

Woonona, Dharawal Country

Martin Fox has a thirty-five year career span as a video artist, professional editor, sound recordist and director, mostly for film and documentaries as well as for a number of dance productions. Fox has been video artist for De Quincey Co's Metadata and Linda Luke's solo Still Point Turning, and edited video for several dance works, including Margie Medlin's dance film Morphing Physiology. Martin has joined our research Labs along the River to interview artists, document processes and performances.

FRANK VAN DE VEN- PERFORMANCE CONSULTANT

Melbourne, Wurundjeri Country

Frank van de Ven, dancer and choreographer, spent his formative years in Japan working with Min Tanaka and the Majuku Performance Company. Since 1993 he has led Body Weather and Body/Landscape projects worldwide - through Body Weather Amsterdam, founded with Katerina Bakatsaki. With Milos Sejn (Academy of Art & Design, Prague) he set up the interdisciplinary Bohemiae Rosa Project in 1995, connecting body and landscape with art, geology and architecture.



ARTISTS



JULIE BRIGGS Narrandera, Wiradjuri Country

Julie is a creative from Narrandera, which rests on the Murrumbidgee River. Her creative practice is responsive to the prompts provided by the natural and social environment, and readings in related philosophy. Their work involves installation and often includes text, appears in both bushland and gallery settings and is sometimes ephemeral in nature. Her writing has contributed to several collaborations with other visual artists.

LUCI CALLIPARI-MARCUZZO Mildura, First People of the Millewa Mallee

Luci Callipari-Marcuzzo is a multi-disciplinary artist, mother, researcher, arts worker, curator, and writer, based near Mildura in North-West Victoria, Australia. Through multiplicitous methodologies, her work actively engages with her familial and feminine history. Her work is a manifestation of the hopes, dreams, and desires of migrant women, and also, their lived realities. It strives to honour their voices which were often silenced by the dominant gender roles within the Italian Calabrian diaspora.



ELLEN CLARK Albury- Wiradjuri Country

Clark navigates diverse mediums and surfaces to weave narratives that echo the essence of the land and its ever-evolving inhabitants. Her artistic journey is a testament to the profound impact of time on the environment. Drawing inspiration from intricate changes over time, her explorations of the Murray River delve into the nuanced relationship between humanity and nature. Through topographical representations and masterful use of line, her art becomes a visual exploration of energy and flow. .

SANDRA COLLINS Albury- Wiradjuri Country

My varied background over many decades in Community Arts, Wellbeing and Education assists me in exploring the notion that we are all authors of our own stories. A longtime passion with personal story and Improvisation and their ability to heal and develop both individuals and communities continues to carry me forward. As an artist born on Wiradjuri Country, Bungambrawatha, my creative journey is deeply grounded in the life sustaining relationship I share with Country and my Elder MamaGirl, whose wisdom continues to guide me. Through my art I seek to inspire and ignite traditional spiritual wisdom, upholding values of respect, grace and humility.



ANDREE COZENS Beechworth- Yorta Yorta Country

My interest in the world of sound has led me on a lifelong path from my early training as a soprano in traditional classical western music, to engaging in a diverse range of music and sound-related enquiries. My early schooling in the visual arts has likewise broadened my experiences into performance and installation-based works. The stories told in songs have led me into the world of theatre-making where story-tellers create an immersive world of experiences and ideas.



MAGGIE ELLIS

Echuca, Yorta Yorta Country

Maggie is an artist and an arts educator living and working in Echuca on Yorta Yorta Country. Through a range of multi-model creative processes such as creative movement, drawing, and sculpture, she explores the fragility of textural landscapes within the natural environment and one's relationship to this. Maggie aims to collaborate with others through the creative process, to amplify their resonance and dissonances with nature and to attend to this themselves.



LIZ GLAZEBROOK

Mildura, First People of the Millewa Mallee

The colours of the landscape are always changing and ethereal, which I try to capture in my paintings. The Millewa Mallee region has an ancient history and is home to over 1000 lakes that are both salt and freshwater. I've always had an interest in the changing states of matter especially the salt lakes that change to pink. The evaporation of water to these leave crusty surfaces of salt crystal formations. Salt harvesting reduces the amount of salt entering the Murray River but more can be done..

NELLIE HOWDEN

Dareton, Barkindji Country

I am a Sunraysia artist and educator based in Dareton. Living minutes away in walking distance to the river, I often find myself sitting at sunrise or sunset, respecting, and reflecting on its majestic and meditative qualities. Many of my artworks are created from disused and repurposed artefacts. I have facilitated small art programs both in Australia and Overseas, mostly with persons who have mental and physical anguish. Irrespective of someone's demographic or identification, I believe we all wish to connect. So, for me, I always am drawn back to connection to the earth, to the river and to our amazing skies.



R'BAAHN LAH

Yackandandah, Dhudhuroa & Minjambuta Country

R'baahn is an emerging contemporary watercolourist who paints the entirety of the world - the connection between sentience & place. She uses watercolour on paper or canvas to build colourful & extremely detailed transparent layers. Realistic images of Australian flora, fauna & habitat are overlaid with repetitive marks, representing patterns of thought or movement. Together these articulate the haunted relationship between human ego & the ailing natural environment.

ELIZABETH MASTERS

Chiltern- Yorta Yorta Country

The Murray River carries with it my family story from Swan Hill to the Upper Murray. It borders between my past and present. As an artist who works primarily with clay, I am continually using my hands to push and pull and create objects from porcelain clay. These objects border the space between utility and beauty. I work from my home studio in Chiltern Victoria.





DAVID & RHONDA MCTAGGART

Korong Vale, Dja Dja Wurrung & Barapa Barapa Country

David works with fibres and wire sculpture, fence structures and recycling to express ideas about climate such as carbon capture and complex structures within forms. Rhonda is an artist and educator working with sculpture, plants, soil, structures, land regeneration and photography to express ideas around climate issues and potential regeneration solutions.

WIN MOSER

Mildura, First People of the Millewa Mallee

I am a Mildura based artist whose work is an exploration of my place in the landscape. Living in the heart of a horticultural area, with the River as the main life giver, I look for ways to examine my relationship to the natural world and respond to the impact we make on the land. In the interest of sustainability, I mostly recycle and reuse materials to create my works and try to use natural materials as much as possible.



ROBYN PATTERSON

Swan Hill, Wamba Wamba Country

Robyn's love of the Australian bush combined with a passion for art and travel provides endless inspiration for creating unique contemporary works of art.

Drawing and painting was a passion of hers since early childhood. After moving to Swan Hill in 2000 Robyn became one of the original members of the Mallee Artists of Swan Hill. Robyn has participated in several group exhibitions, a solo exhibition at the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery and won awards at local art shows.

CARMA ROSE

Corowa- Bangerang Country

Carm Hogan is a multi-talented performer, writer, director, and teacher. She has directed plays for primary students, created community theatre experiences, and produced original stories for children's theatre. Currently she is undertaking a Master's in Creative Arts Therapy at Melbourne University. A versatile force in music, Carm has donned the roles of choirmaster and musical director, with an unwavering dedication to the transformative power of music, this artist continues to enchant audiences.



SU TAYLOR

Lockington, Dja Dja Wurrung & Yorta Yorta Country

Over 60 years ago, I was presented at the feet of the Dandenong's. The ranges blessed me with a love of nature, art, word and music. Over the years these gifts evolved as I evolved...as my homeland flowed away from mountains toward river plains. As my life cycle spans toward completion, I feel the borders shift in my creative spectrum. Art blends into music...nature grows into song...life's colour blurring, forms a mural of all senses. The Borders Project has signposted my way to this state of being. I feel inspired and excited with this 'permission' to meld my own creative boundaries.

KRIS TITO

Western Sydney, Dharug Country

Kris is an artist and arts and cultural producer living and working on Dharug Country in Western Sydney. She is passionate about working with diverse communities to foster innovative contemporary cultural practices and connections to place. As an artist Kris investigates concepts of place, time and memory through embodied movement, performance and visual practices, exploring environmental and familial connections to the Mil-Barka (Murray-Darling) Rivers. Kris aims to share how the environments that we inhabit intimately inform who we are or who we are becoming.



KIRSTEN WEHNER

Molonglo River, Ngunawal Country

Kirsten Wehner is an artist, curator and writer based on the Molonglo River in Ngunawal Country. Her practice explores people's relationships with the more-than-human world, often taking the form of participatory experiences as well as works in drawing, painting, sculpture and installation that seek to generate cross-species empathy and care.

Kirsten's current research centres on waterways as sites of cultural/ecological embodiment, holders of story and generators of imagined futures.

Borders team:

Rhae Kendrigan- Creative Producer
Linda Luke- Body Weather Facilitator
Peter Fraser- Body Weather Facilitator
Craig Dunne- Resident Ecologist
Mark Grist- Cultural Advisor
Frank van de Ven- Performance consultant
Martin Fox- Videographer

Project partners:

Regional Arts Australia
Regional Arts Victoria
Regenerative Communities
Arts Mildura
Creative Victoria
TASCO
Mildura Rural City Council
The ACRE Project
The Bridge Art Project
Murray Arts
Greenhouse National Residency Program
Create NSW

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Sian Lee Harris (Paakantyi/ Nhuungku)
Uncle Ricky Kirby (Barapa Barapa)
Aunty Suzanne Connelly-Klidomitis (Wiradjuri)
Aunty Vicki Walker & family (Yorta Yorta)
Glennis Briggs (Taungurung/Yorta Yorta)
Valda Murray (Yorta Yorta/ Duduroa/Wemba Wemba)
Margaret Murray (Maraura/Barkindji)

Research Lab participants:

Alison Gibson
Alyce Fisher
Andree Cozens
Annette Wagner
Brooke Arblaster
Carm Hogan
Christeen Thamashi
David McTaggart
Donna Caffrey
Elizabeth Masters
Ellen Clark
Gloria McKerrow
Julia Beechey
Julie Briggs
Kelly Leonard
Kirsten Wehner
Kris Tito
Liz Glazebrook
Luci Callipari-Marcuzzo
Maggie Ellis
Mardi Denham-Roberts
Mel Castleman
Natalie Jenkins
Nellie Howden
Nicola Lambert
R'baahn Lah
Rachelle Armstrong
Rhonda McTaggart
Robyn Patterson
Sandra Collins
Su Taylor
Win Moser

Community of Practice

Aaron Bailey
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Loraine Little
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