



# New England Regional Art Museum Ltd

Annual Report 2014-2015

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# Annual Report 2015

## About Us

### New England Art Museum Ltd

### Strategic Business Plan 2014-19

**VISION**  
*A dynamic arts centre for:*

- **Connecting** people
- **Creating** memorable cultural experiences and opportunities
- **Celebrating**, developing and preserving our iconic collections

**MISSION**  
*NERAM is committed to providing a well-resourced cultural centre that embraces dialogue, interaction and learning; that encourages the exploration and discovery of our outstanding collections; and that connects our community and its visitors with art.*

- CONNECTING people**  
We connect with our diverse community. We share stories, interact, and provide a gathering place where everyone is welcome. We support our local artists. We engage with our stakeholders and we build and strengthen partnerships to provide opportunities for creative collaborations.
- CREATING memorable cultural experiences and opportunities**  
We aim for a diverse range of inspiring exhibitions and events. NERAM is a place to return to. We encourage interaction, dialogue, exploration and discovery, both here and beyond our walls.
- CELEBRATING, developing and preserving our iconic collections**  
We celebrate the stories of our collections, and the passion of our collectors and donors. We are responsible for overseeing, preserving and making accessible our iconic collections of Australian art.

## Chair's Report

Welcome to this Annual Report presentation for the 2014 -15 financial year. Another eventful year that was a year marked by a few losses.

Our Director since we reconstituted in 2008, Caroline Downer resigned to take on the role of Executive Officer for Regional Arts North West. The most accurate way of assessing the impact that a leader has had on an organisation is to compare the state of that organisation when they came in to how it looks when they leave. In Caroline's case this art museum is in a much better position now compared to when she arrived in August 2008. She has overseen many substantial improvements in the fabric and activity of our gallery.

During Caroline's tenure, we have seen:

- An increase in annual visitor numbers from 17,000 in 2008 to over 39,000 in 2014
- A revitalized exhibition program which includes many regional artists all the way through to the high profile Archibald in 2013 and coming again in 2015
- An online presence including a new website, new branding and online catalogues of the Hinton Collection and Hinton Research Library

- The publication of *Munificence*
- The development of many policies and procedures that have filled a governance void and placed NERAM on a more professional footing
- New public programs and a vibrant art class schedule
- And over \$700,000 invested for the future

There are many things that Caroline has done behind the scenes to make this a better functioning gallery but I think that the two things that stand out for me are the quality of the exhibitions and the variety of activities for children.

While our new director, Mr Robert Heather had not started until the end of the year covered by this report we offer a warm welcome to him, his partner Edwina and two children.

During the five month period between Caroline leaving and Robert commencing the Acting Director was Christine Durham. Christine ran a tight ship while in charge, fixed a few things that had bugged her for a while and handed over to Robert in early September. Our sincere thanks to Christine for a job well done.



Cr. Laurie Bishop, Mayor, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Andrew Murray, Chair, NERAM

Sadly, the resignation of Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO, as the 37th Governor of NSW, meant that we lost one of NERAM's most dedicated and passionate Patrons. Dame Marie has visited NERAM many times, she gave us great support behind the scenes and she even hosted a function to thank our supporters at Government House. We thank our continuing Patrons, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Mr Adam Marshall MLA, Dr Philip Bacon AM and Mr Barry Pearce AM for their strong support of NERAM.

The departure of the Café operator NERAM Harvest in April 2015 gave us an opportunity to renegotiate the Crown lease with the Lands Department and the Armidale Dumaresq Council as Trustee so that the cafe area could be included in our lease area and so that we had the power to sub-let that space. We now have a successful new tenant and the whole complex is now within our general control.

Since November 2014 NERAM has a new, upgraded air-conditioning system and building management system which represents a \$250,000 investment in the essential fabric of the gallery. Having the right temperature and humidity is vital and we thank our local Federal member, Barnaby Joyce MP for securing the funding to make this happen from the Commonwealth Government's Building Our Future program. Our contractor Duncan McLean from Armidale Air-conditioning did a great job getting the system installed and functioning with as little disruption to exhibitions as was possible. Duncan also fixed some design faults in the system at his own expense that were well beyond his scope, and we thank him for that.

The NERAM Foundation finished the year with funds invested and it paid a contribution from its investment income to NERAM to support operational activities. I would like to recommend Foundation donations to all NERAM supporters as a way of ensuring that future for our Art Museum is a vibrant one. Thank you to Peter Lloyd for taking on the Chair of the Foundation and Trusts Committee this year.

The Friends of NERAM, ably lead again by Martha Saw, continue to provide great support to NERAM and they are a pleasure to work with. The footprints of the Friends are everywhere. The Catering Queens (and the occasional Prince) prepare and serve food at our openings, the bar is staffed and organised by Friends, fundraising events provide valuable subsidies to gallery activities and the willingness and spirit of the group underpins the warmth that makes the NERAM community what it is.

Thanks also to the Packsaddle committee, since 1989 they have made over 50 acquisitions for the permanent collection and also provided structural funding for the Packsaddle Studio.

The Board has been a very effective force in guiding NERAM through the past year. Both Gorm Kirsch and Jane Kreis resigned during the year and we thank them both for the time they gave us, and their ongoing support since leaving the Board. We welcomed Sandra McMahon as a new Board member in April 2015. Sandra is well known in the arts community through her previous role as Director of Tamworth Regional Gallery and now as an owner of the Weswal Gallery and she has been a valuable addition to our Board. My thanks to Steve Gow for his support as Deputy Chair and his work on a few major projects during the year, also to Lucinda Wright and Lou Conway for their help to me in finding a new director. Carolyn Cooper is our own Minister for Finance and we would all be lost without her. Carolyn oversees the monthly accounts, manages the audit process from NERAM's side and gives sound financial advice to the Board. Finally, thanks to the three wise men, Murray Guest, Peter Lloyd and Sam Beasley for their help this year.

To all Board Members, Caroline, Christine, Robert, the hard working Staff of NERAM, Volunteers and those that support us though Friends and Packsaddle I offer my personal thanks for everything that you bring to NERAM both individually and collectively.

Merry Christmas to you all.

**Andrew Murray**  
Chair NERAM Ltd

## Art Museum Director's Report

Arriving and starting work at a new gallery is always daunting and because the New England Regional Art Museum has such a fantastic reputation it has been wonderful that the reality matched my expectations. It has been great to see the level of community support and interest in what NERAM does, the fine work being done by the volunteers and staff as well as the commitment of groups such as the Friends of NERAM and the Packsaddle artists.

Art museums cannot survive without the support of the people who make up their local community. Everyone can show this support in a variety of ways, by donating funds or by giving their time as a volunteer, their expertise as a Board Member or by just turning up to an exhibition opening or a talk. I cannot take credit for the work which went into the program in 2014-15 here at NERAM but would like to thank everyone involved for helping in their way to make it a successful year.

It was a big year for NERAM with 33,474 visitors attending a program of 31 exhibitions and a range of other activities.

These included:

- **The Art of Wool:** a partnership with Australian Wool Innovation which included an edited catalogue, and will now become a major touring exhibition travelling to Goulburn (NSW), Hamilton (Vic), Tamworth (NSW), Dubbo (NSW), Albury (NSW), Geelong (Vic) and Taree (NSW) with support from the Commonwealth Government through the Visions of Australia program;

- **Munificence: works from the Howard Hinton Collection** which was accompanied by the beautiful fully illustrated book published with assistance from the Gordon Darling Foundation and featuring essays by Caroline Downer, NERAM Director and Barry Pearce, Emeritus Curator of Australian Art, Art Gallery of NSW;

- Collection based exhibition such as **The Flowers of Hinton, Print and Process II and The Female Nude** which explored the riches of the various collections held here at NERAM;

- An array of works by local and visiting artists including Rowen Matthews, Kerry Gulliver, David Tucker, Fay Porter, Rapheala Rosella, Anna Henderson, Vince Vozzo, Lin Quaife, Vicki Taylor, Michelle Hungerford and Gabrielle Collins, Ray Rixon & Phil

Greed, Judy Wilford, David Mackay;

- The always popular and diverse Packsaddle fundraising exhibition which encourages the collector in everyone;

- The ongoing partnership with the University of New England and local schools to showcase the talents of local students in the annual **UNE School Art Prize** exhibition;

- Visiting exhibitions from our colleagues at Tamworth Art Gallery (**Utopia Silk Batiks**), and Museums and Galleries NSW (**Striking Contrasts**); and

- Working with the community through groups such as Beyond Empathy, on the **Illuminate** installation and the **Catharsis** project.

Behind the scenes at NERAM was also extremely busy with the implementation of the new software packages for our accounts and shop, the installation of the new air-conditioning plant and the development of the successful **Adopt an Artwork** fundraising appeal and program which received dollar for dollar funding through Creative Partnerships Australia and will greatly increase our ability to conserve and maintain the collections held by NERAM.

NERAM has a strong history of working with the oldest and youngest members of our community and this continued in 2014-15 with the work the gallery did with seniors through its programs as well as with children.

Educational programs at NERAM also reached 726 students from 21 schools across the region and the range of other activities and events at the gallery included exhibition and storeroom tours, workshops and other programs such as the extremely successful debate "Science vs Art".

I look forwards to working with everyone as we take NERAM into the future.

**Robert Heather**  
Art Museum Director



## People and Supporters

New England Regional Art Museum is fortunate to be supported by a strong and active community base, ranging from significant stakeholders to committed and dedicated volunteers.

### Key Stakeholders

Friends of NERAM plays such a vital role, not only through specific funding for special exhibitions and projects but also in volunteer labour. Their volunteer contribution not only through catering at openings, but at other functions throughout the year, allows NERAM to provide a variety of activities despite limited resources. FON support gives NERAM the opportunity to bring in high quality exhibitions, and to provide specific public programs that specifically meet the needs and interests of its community.

Packsaddle Fundraisers held a successful selling exhibition in October 2014, and continue to support the Museum through acquisitions to its art collections

Margaret Olley Trust continued its partnership with NERAM, donating \$80,082 to assist with staffing infrastructure.

### Operational Funding

Armidale Dumaresq Council is the principal source of funding for NERAM's operations, with a service agreement which provides \$314,568.

Arts NSW assisted with an annual grant in 2013 for \$45,000.

The NERAM Foundation also supported NERAM programs and activities.

### Project Grants

Project grants allow NERAM to the opportunity to develop special programs. In 2014 funding was received from a number of sources including Regional Arts NSW and the University of New England.

### Individual Giving

The circle of community support for NERAM continued to widen. Over the past year we welcomed 58 new donors and supporters – representing in just one year an increase of over 16% to the total donor cohort, through donations ranging from \$20-10,000.

The *Adopt an Artwork* program alone raised funds well over \$100,000 towards the conservation and preservation of the collection.

Individual donors are a huge support to the gallery, complemented by the many visitors who make non-receipted donations through our 'Entry by Donation' policy, which tripled donations to over \$20,000 during the year.

## NERAM Information

New England Regional Art Museum is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee that are Trust managers for;

- Hinton Trust,
- Coventry Trust and;
- NERAM Foundation.

In the 2014 - 15 year NERAM Limited had 396 registered members.

### Patron (until retirement in October 2014)

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, Governor of NSW

### Vice Patrons (elevated to Patrons upon

Governor's retirement in October 2014):  
The Hon Barnaby Joyce, MP, Member for New England

Mr Adam Marshall, MP Member for Northern Tablelands

Dr Philip Bacon, AM, Director, Philip Bacon Galleries

Barry Pearce AM, Emeritus Curator, Australian Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales

### Directors:

Andrew Murray – Chair

Stephen Gow - Deputy Chair

Carolyn Cooper – Treasurer/Company Secretary

Sam Beasley

Lou Conway

Murray Guest

Peter Lloyd

Lucinda Wright

Gorm Kirsch – to February 2015

Jane Kreis – September 2014 – March 2015

Sandra McMahon – from April 2015

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Committees:

The Board continued to operate a number of committees. These committees are chaired by Directors, and membership includes members of the community with expertise in the area of governance being addressed.

- Audit, Risk Management and Building Committee
- Collections Advisory Committee
- NERAM Foundation and Trusts Investment Committee
- 4C Committee – Independent Chair: Sam Beasley

### Staff:

Permanent

Director – Caroline Downer

Deputy Director (Operations/Education)

– Christine Durham

Curator – Philippa Charley-Briggs

Development Officer – Tanya Robinson

Registrar – Jennifer Butler

Museum Officer (Museum of Printing)

– Benjamin Thorn

Shop Manager – Sarita Dutoit

### Contractors:

Hayley Clark – Financial book-keeper

Brent James – IT support

### Volunteers:

In the past year, there have been almost 5000 volunteer hours worked in the organisation, equating to almost \$100,000 in-kind. There are over 90 volunteers, who are the life-blood of the art museum, and work in all areas of the gallery – from exhibition installation, administration and filing to front desk reception and the Museum shop.

We also acknowledge the wonderful work of our support groups:

### Friends of NERAM Committee:

- Martha Saw, Chairman
- Ro Randall, Deputy Charman
- Ady Hallam, Secretary
- Rebecca Livings, Treasurer
- Helen Templeton
- Lucinda Wright
- Carol Mackerras
- David Hallam

### 2014 Packsaddle Committee:

- Moira Lloyd
- Glenda Kupczyk-Romanczuk
- Frances Alter
- Michelle Bookallil
- Pat Elkin
- Liz Fulloon
- Julia Rose
- Michelle Schouten
- Lynne Walker
- Juila Hardman
- Anne White



Dr Jane Kreis, Arts North West; Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands and Professor Annabelle Duncan, Vice Chancellor, UNE

# Exhibitions and Events

**18 July 2014**

Exhibition opening (350 people)  
- *UNE Schools Art Prize*

**8 August 2014**

Exhibition opening (120 people)  
- *Ngayulu witini ngayuku mamaku tjukurpa*  
- *Creating memories*  
- *In our city: from the Armidale City Collection*  
- *Internally Hinton: works from the Hinton Collection*  
- *Typographica: from the Museum of Printing collection*  
- *Utopia silk batiks: From Tamworth Art Gallery*

**8 August 2014**

June Ross talk "Painting the Lands" (25 people)

**9 August 2014**

Ant Project Opening (100 people)

**3 September 2014**

UNE International Students Photography Award

**19 September 2014**

Exhibition opening (80 people)  
- *#4 Ray Nixon & Phil Greed*  
- *Interconnect: Anna Henderson*

**1 October 2014**

The Big Draw (29 people)

**19 October 2014**

Great Artplay Day (300 people)

**24 October 2014**

Exhibition opening (350 people)  
- *2014 Packsaddle fundraising exhibition*

**25 October 2014**

Packsaddle artist talk - Neil Evans (15 people)

**1 November 2014**

Artist talk - Basil Hall (15 people)

**2 November 2014**

Artist talk - Angus Nivison (15 people)

**14 November 2014**

Exhibition opening (120 people)  
- *Catharsis*  
- *Hinton the Munificent: works from the Hinton Collection*  
- *Landform: Michelle Hungerford and Gabrielle Collins*  
- *Print and Process II: Works from the permanent collection*  
- *A sense of place: Lin Quaife and Vicki Taylor*  
- *Striking contrasts*  
- *Vince Vozzo: 35 years*

**27 November 2014**

NERAM Ltd Annual general Meeting (45 people)

**3 December 2014**

Supporters Christmas Party (40 people)

**6 February 2015**

Exhibition opening (350 people)  
- *Ex Libris: works from the permanent collection*  
- *Exploration: A retrospective of Fay Porter*  
- *Flowers: works from the permanent collection*  
- *Tasmania: Kerry Gulliver*  
- *Illuminate*

**20 March 2015**

Exhibition opening (80 people)  
- *Imagining remembered landscapes: Jenny Beattie*  
- *Painting an emotive world: Rowen Matthews*

**31 March 2015**

Farewell drinks - Caroline Downer (100 people)

**1 May 2015**

Special preview of *Art of Wool* exhibition - Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association (83 people)

**1 May 2015**

Exhibition opening (280 people)  
- *The Art of Wool*  
- *Female nude*  
- *52 suburbs around the world*  
- *You didn't take away my future, you gave me a new one: Raphaela Rosella*  
- *Certain rituals: David Tucker*

**19 June 2015**

Exhibition opening (120 people)  
- *Look on the bright side: Pat Elkin*  
- *A printer's world: Anne Irvine and Kit Hiller*

# NERAM Collections

**Acquisitions**

The New England Regional Art Museum acquired 3 works of art in the year through individual donors All met the requirements of the Art Museum's Collections Policy.

Margaret Olley  
*Wallamumbi landscape with river*, c. 2000  
oil on board,  
Donated by the Estate of Margaret Olley

Margaret Olley  
*Landscape near Armidale (Wollomombi)*, c.2000  
oil on board  
Donated by the Estate of Margaret Olley

Suzanne Forsyth Hatch  
*Dame Edna Everage Tea Pot*, Edition #17  
Anonymous Donation through the Friends of NERAM

No works were donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program in 2014/15.

**Deaccessioning**

In 2014/15, the following works were sold from the NERAM collection.

Ben Quilty  
*Budgie after Budgie after Streeton*, 2004  
oil on canvas  
Gift of Margaret Olley, 2004

Martin Sharpe  
*Monsters and victims*, 1979  
Collage of postcards and coloured reproductions  
Gift of the artist, 1981

William Robinson  
*Two Freshened Milkers*, 1980,  
oil on canvas  
Gift of the artist, 2003

**Loans**

A number of works were loaned out for significant curated exhibitions in Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

**Venue:** Heide Museum of Modern Art  
Exhibition: Gunter Christmann - Now and Then  
Dates: 26 July – 9 November 2014  
Works:

Gunter Christmann  
*Attis* 1975  
Acrylic on canvas,  
Gift of Chandler Coventry 1979

Gunter Christmann  
*Sator*, 1966  
Acrylic on canvas  
Gift of Chandler Coventry 1979

**Venue:** Tweed Regional Gallery  
Exhibition: *The Yellow Room*  
Dates: 10 September – 8 December 2014  
Work:

Margaret Olley  
*The Yellow Room* (triptych) 2007  
Oil on hardboard  
Purchased through the Yellow Room Appeal 2013  
The Howard Hinton Collection

**Venue:** Rockhampton Art Gallery  
Exhibition: *Dreaming of Deco: Style in the modern age*  
Dates: 28 March – 24 May 2015  
Works:

George Owen Apperley  
*Pepita*, 1929  
Watercolour  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1938

George Bell  
*The Green Turban*, 1926  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1935

Jean Bellette  
*The Prince and the Geisha*, 1933  
Watercolour  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1935

Douglas Dundas  
*En plein air*, c. 1930  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of the Society of Artists, 1939  
The Howard Hinton Collection

H.A. Hanke  
*In the studio*, 1942  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1944

Percy Leason  
*Jazz at wiregrass* n.d.  
Watercolour and ink  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1943

Fred Leist  
*Silver and Blue*, 1929  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1939

Esther Paterson  
*The Yellow Gloves* (also known as *Portrait of Betty Paterson*), 1938  
Oil on board  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1939

Thea Proctor  
*Design for a fan*, 1920  
Watercolour on silk  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1938

Viola Quaife  
*The Brown Coat*, 1919  
Watercolour  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1943

H.J. Weston  
*A Summer Night, Sydney Harbour*, 1946  
Watercolour  
Gift of Howard Hinton, 1946

**Rentals**

A number of works were also rented out to various institutions and businesses in Armidale including the Armidale Dumaresq Council and the University of New England.

**Venue:** UNE Economics, Business and Law Department  
Works:

George Raftopoulos  
*Battle of Salamis*, 2003

Christopher Hodges  
*Big blue bull*, 1988

Brian Niland  
*1st theme*, 2000  
*2nd theme*, 2000  
*3rd theme*, 2001

Graham Kuo  
*Maelstrom II*, 1993-94

George O'sazanski  
*Untitled (Wildflower series)*

**Venue:** Armidale Dumaresq Council  
Works:

Neil Evans  
*Pinch Gut*

Helen Geier  
*Plotting from the fragment 3,4 and 5*

Jeff Makin  
*Dights Falls No.2*

Leo Robba  
*Tower Gold Coast, Fades Away*



Julian Bickerstetch, Managing Director, International Conservation Services



Financial Statements attached  
year ended 30 June 2015



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[www.facebook.com/neram.art](https://www.facebook.com/neram.art)

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[neram.com.au](http://neram.com.au)

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**NERAM**  
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ART MUSEUM

**Armidale**  
Dumaresq Council



**Trade &  
Investment  
Arts NSW**