

Cheryl Davison, My Favourite Place, at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery

walawaani



**Shoalhaven
Regional Gallery
Strategic Plan
2026-2030**

WALAWAANI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Inspired by the Dhurga word Walawaani, which means both welcome and have a safe journey, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery (SRG) Nowra will embark on a journey over the next five years that will mark a shift in the Gallery's 21-year history.

Over the next five years SRG sees the potential to transition from an impactful arts organisation that plays an important role within a regional area, to an institution that is having a profound impact on the arts at a state, national and even global level. This Strategic Plan will guide the Gallery towards this potential.

SRG is based in Nowra on the southern bank of the Shoalhaven River, across the river from Bomaderry. Oral histories of the area recount significant events such as the sighting of James Cook's voyage and the arrival of the First Fleet, with tales that include references to Gurung-gubba—a great white pelican.

Today, the Shoalhaven hosts a vibrant First Nations community: 10.2% of Nowra identifies as Aboriginal and/

or Torres Strait Islander (2021 ABS) making the region home to one of the largest Indigenous populations in NSW outside a metropolitan area. 41% of this community is aged between 5 and 24 years. The future for the next generations of First Nations artists lies in Nowra.

This Strategic Plan outlines a range of initiatives focused on nurturing new generations of First Nations artists including HOME, partnering with the Art Gallery of NSW and the Department of Education in our work in primary schools; developing an Aboriginal led secondary school Koori Kids Art After School program; curating New Horizons for Year 12 art graduates; launching the Ngaoara Fellowship, an annual exhibition opportunity for emerging First Nations Artists; and commissioning new works by mid-career and established First Nations artists. Through these initiatives - and more - SRG is committed to developing Nowra into a powerhouse for First Nations culture and art. This commitment will benefit the entire arts sector by forging a contemporary practice that delivers both creative excellence and social and cultural value.

CHERYL DAVISON
FEATURE ARTIST SRG 2025



Not only is the Shoalhaven home to vibrant First Nations communities, but it is also home to a vibrant community of artists from a diverse range of backgrounds who have grown up in the area or chosen to call the Shoalhaven home. The Gallery is committed to nurturing and supporting local artists and a core aspect of the Gallery's program is dedicated to supporting local art. SRG believes the future of art lies in regional areas where contemporary practices, focused on connection, community and the natural world, offer alternatives to extractive modes of thinking and being.

According to the 2021 NCOSS Mapping Disadvantage in NSW Report, 17% of Nowra is living in poverty. A 2024 Council survey revealed that 35.7% of households in Nowra earn less than \$800 a week. Within this context SRG is more than a Gallery; we provide a space for community groups to gather, including meeting rooms for employment assistance programs for long-term unemployed, spaces for young mothers to socialise,

and support groups for the elderly. SRG forms a hub of connection that fosters feelings of cohesion, safety and belonging. Shifting demographics have also made the Shoalhaven home to increasing numbers of artists, some of whom struggle to afford housing in Sydney, Canberra and the Illawarra. These artists hunger for a regional gallery that can offer cultural leadership, curatorial ambition, and meaningful community engagement. SRG is uniquely placed to work with these artists as we nurture and grow our national reach and local community.

With the appointment of a new director in August 2024 SRG has a new leadership team. This document outlines a vision that is bold, fearless, kind and inspiring. Over the next five years SRG will be at the forefront of art practices that address the critical needs of our times.

OUR VALUES

WALAWAANI

we welcome people into our space and wish a safe journey for all

EXCELLENCE

we understand decolonised practice as key for developing works of artistic excellence

COURAGE

we are brave in the work we make and the decisions we take

CREATIVITY

we inspire, nurture and support artistic practice in all its forms

KINDNESS

we act with compassion, care and empathy

ORIGINALITY

we are situated within the specifics of our place and time, and are fearless within this space

OUR VISION

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery acknowledges the First Nations peoples who have an unbroken connection to the lands upon which we work, including the Wodi Wodi, Jerrinja, Wandj Wandj, Budawang, Murramarang and Yuin communities. We offer our respect to the Elders of these communities and seek opportunities to support and learn from the Shoalhaven's First Nations people and culture. Our vision for contemporary art is inseparable from this acknowledgement.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery envisions a world that celebrates the importance of contemporary art and

respects the work of artists and the unique contributions they make to our society. SRG sees art as a key aspect of daily life and celebrates all the ways in which creativity and culture bring people together and inspire and engage communities.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery seeks to connect with community and share our knowledge and passion for art and culture. We value the beauty of the natural world that surrounds us and celebrate how nature can inspire artistic practice.

OUR MISSION

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery aims to contribute to the creativity of our region through diverse exhibition programming, cultural events, new contemporary art commissions, advocacy for regional artists, community engagement and cultural leadership.

SRG makes a commitment to work with First Nations artists and communities and this Strategic Plan will help guide us on this journey. In this aspect of our work, we endeavour to create exhibition opportunities that support First Nations artists, commit to cultural consultation in developing programming initiatives, and to be First Nations led in our work within this area. We have developed a range of programming initiatives that will help engage and nurture younger generations of First Nations artists, from primary school through to high school, and beyond. We identify this as a priority area for the Gallery – and the arts sector as a whole.

We seek to engage and inspire young audiences through school programs, youth led programming and

youth exhibitions. We are a place of inspiration, learning and engagement for the community including Culturally and Linguistically diverse communities (CaLD) and LGBTQIA+ communities. We connect with our community in respectful ways that provide opportunities for mutual learning and engagement.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery is located near the edge of the Shoalhaven River and our work extends through Nowra and the greater Shoalhaven region. We seek to nurture and engage audiences for contemporary art and bring a fresh perspective to existing expectations for regional galleries.

The Gallery sees regional areas as the future for arts in NSW as they have the potential to connect culture, sustainability and community, and lead new forms of practice and engagement.

IMAGE: INSTALLATION SHOT, THE CRAB'S DREAM, WADE MARYNOWSKI, SRG NEW WORK COMMISSION, 2024. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELE BARKER.



AREAS OF OPERATION

Our key areas of operation are exhibitions, workshops, a gallery shop, and public programming. We have approximately six exhibition slots across each year which can accommodate up to twenty individual exhibitions.

The Gallery has four exhibition spaces, a forecourt which currently hosts Barnett Newman's Broken obelisk, on loan from the National Gallery in Canberra as part of the 'Sharing the National Collection' initiative, and a large courtyard suitable for gatherings, events and performances.

The Gallery currently hosts workshops and classes across the year and has an art studio and other meeting and workshop rooms. We have a dedicated team of artist educators who run school groups, after school classes, art experiences for primary school students,

classes for emerging artists and specialised skill-based workshops for more experienced artists.

In 2025 we are running a pilot Aboriginal led art after school program with five schools in the Shoalhaven aimed at nurturing new generations of First Nations artists. We plan to continue with this program across the next five years. The Gallery is part of HOME, a partnership with AGNSW and the Department of Education which has been designed to engage local primary schools in First Nations culture and art.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery plays a leadership role in the region through coordinating a network of museums and galleries across the Shoalhaven and supporting regional artists. We seek to support and advocate for all artists living in the Shoalhaven area.

OUR GOALS

1. To Place Artistic Excellence at the centre of what we do

2. To be a National Leader in Celebrating and Supporting First Nations Artists

3. To Develop and Inspire New Cultural Leaders

4. To Build Community through Exhibitions, Education and Public Programs

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: To Place Artistic Excellence at the centre of what we do

Strategies:

- Create critical, dynamic and relevant exhibitions and public programs
- Collaborate with exceptional artists and partners
- Provide sustained, professional mentorships and development programs
- Maintain an innovative, contemporary and interdisciplinary arts focus

Initiatives to support this goal:

- Curate original, locally based exhibitions with global impact, for example Resist the System (Karla Dickens, 2025) Bun dja - forget me nots (Aunty Julie Freeman, 2026).

These projects include commissioning new artistic works, developing critical analysis through arts writing and will be supported by ambitious public programming.

- Regularly program exhibitions that profile artists born in Nowra and the Shoalhaven, for example Wade Marynowski, *The Crab's Dream* (2024), or by artists who create work specifically in Shoalhaven, such as Tianli Zu, *Blurring Boundaries* (2024) and Lynne Roberts-Goodwin, *Balancing Acts* (2025). We will nurture and inspire artistic practice that is contemporary, locally connected, inter-disciplinary and challenging.
- Maintain long-term partnerships with local communitybased arts organisations, such as South Coast Arts, to provide professional opportunities for the development of the sector at all levels and forms of practice. To work with these communities to situate their work within contemporary practice and provide professional development opportunities for regional artists.
- Maintain and develop *New Horizons* exhibition, an annual showcase of artworks from high schools

across the Shoalhaven to encourage engagement with young audiences and to create opportunities for emerging artists. Actively use this exhibition to identify young artists for mentoring to nurture and develop new practice, especially with First Nations youth.

- Commission new works from established artists, such as *Criminalised*, Karla Dickens (2025) and *Bun dja - forget me nots*, Julie Freeman (2026), that have the potential for touring and future exhibitions, and which will connect SRG to the national and global art world.
- Maintain partnership with Museums of History NSW to support women artists through the bi-annual site specific *Meroogal Women's House* exhibition and prize (2026, 2028 and 2030). Nurture and support female identifying artists and provide professional opportunities for women as leaders of the arts.



IMAGE: BROKEN OBELISK 1963/1967/2005, BARNETT NEWMAN. ON LOAN FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, KAMBERR/CANBERRA. GIFT OF THE BARNETT NEWMAN FOUNDATION IN HONOUR OF DR GERARD VAUGHAN AM 2018 © THE BARNETT NEWMAN FOUNDATION, NEW YORK/ARS, NEW YORK/COPYRIGHT AGENCY, 2024

Goal 2: To be a National Leader in Celebrating and Supporting First Nations artists

Strategies:

- Decolonise our processes through listening, consultation, collaboration and respect
- Build deep roots by working with young people, emerging and established artists
- Be First Nations led, create space for self-determination and respect cultural autonomy
- Forge deep, authentic and long-term connections and engagements
- Create welcoming and culturally safe experiences and spaces
- Dismantle cultural, language and economic barriers that could hinder First Nations engagement

Initiatives to support this goal:

- Over the next five years we aim to expand the number of First Nations staff to create sustainable careers for First Nations artists and communities and regard employing a First Nations staff as a priority. Recognising the ways in which colonisation has disconnected people from community and culture we commit to developing the confidence and professional development of our staff to take on leadership roles within the organisation and the community.
- Over 2026-2030, and beyond, we will deepen and expand our cultural consultation to create greater space for First Nations led programming and initiatives. In 2025 our work in this area will be led by Jaz Corr, Warwick Keen and Allen Bloxsome who run the Koori Kids Art After School program and select the First Nations artist for the Ngaoara Fellowship. In 2026 we will expand this work by employing a First Nations community leader to work with the Gallery one day a week in a consultative capacity. Creating this role will help ensure the Gallery is a culturally safe place with Aboriginal led forms of consultation and engagement.
- Foster engagement with First Nations art from primary school students and their teachers through HOME, a partnership with Art Gallery of NSW and Department of Education. HOME is a year-long engagement with First Nations artists which includes a teacher training day and a workshop day for students alongside excursions to AGNSW, residencies with First Nations artists and extensive google-class room activities. The artists for HOME were Cheryl Davison and Aunty Deirdre Martin (2025) with artists for future years yet to be determined.
- Launch Koori Kids Art After School program. In 2025 this program was funded by a Museum & Galleries of NSW Audience Development grant and will be

managed by Jaz Corr, Warwick Keen and Allen Bloxsome with a guest workshop by Karla Dickens. This program will involve eight First Nations students from Shoalhaven, Bomaderry Ulladulla and Vincentia High who will participate in an eight week after school program that will culminate in an exhibition at the Gallery.

- In 2025 we launched the First Nations Exhibition Expression of Interest and mentorship funded by Shoalhaven City Council Reconciliation Action Plan. One aim of this project is to create opportunities for local First Nations artists to help overcome feelings of alienation from the contemporary art world identified by the Yarning Group. Over 2026-2030 we will make this an annual event, now called the Ngaoara Fellowship, providing a funded opportunity for an emerging First Nations artist to have a professionally curated exhibition at the gallery with mentoring by an established First Nations artist.
- In 2025 we launched an annual temporary art commission for a local First Nations artist to create work at our gallery entrance that celebrates language and cultural knowledge. Over 2026-2030 we will commission local First Nations artists to make temporary artworks providing professional opportunities to develop new works and encouraging all our audiences to engage with, and appreciate, First Nations artwork and artists.
- Over the next two years SRG will showcase First Nations artists across all our exhibition programming with the aim of at least one third of the artists in our program identifying as First Nations.

Goal 3: To Develop and Inspire New Cultural Leaders

Strategies:

- Develop the confidence of our staff and engage them in state and national networks and opportunities
- Create artistic pathways from school outreach to professional practice
- Ensure locally led arts practice and create opportunities for local artists
- Build capacity of local artists and audiences through workshops, masterclasses, community events and exhibition programming

Initiatives to support this goal:

- SRG provides employment opportunities for artists and arts administrators within the Shoalhaven and Illawarra area. We employ over twenty people as arts workers,

exhibition installers, workshop leaders and educators. In addition to direct employment opportunities SRG maintains a collection with a focus on buying works from artists based within the Shoalhaven area providing income to support ongoing arts practice within the community.

- SRG has a focus on youth and emerging artists with an annual New Horizon exhibition, the HOME and Koori Kid Art After School programs and exhibitions, and through the Ngaoara Fellowship Exhibition and mentoring opportunity. SRG recognises that we work in a low-income area with lower rates of access to tertiary education (15% of the population of Nowra hold a tertiary qualification, compared to 23.8% average in New South Wales). This places greater importance on institutions such as SRG to engage audiences in contemporary art and provide opportunities for new generations to learn about art and culture.
- SRG runs after school art classes, master classes and artist workshops which provide employment opportunities for local artists and educational opportunities for audiences.

Goal 4: Build Community through education and public programs

Strategies:

- Reduce barriers to participate in arts and cultural initiatives
- Embed community engaged arts practice in programming initiatives

- Identify new audiences to broaden and diversify engagement and participation
- Create welcoming and safe spaces for audiences to engage with contemporary art

Initiatives to support this goal:

- SRG runs regular public programs from generalist art classes to focused and specialised skill-based workshops. SRG keeps the costs for these workshops low to remove barriers to participation. The Koori Kids Art After School workshop is free for participants.
- SRG is developing the Gallery courtyard as a place for the community to socialise and gather through developing after hours and community focused programming. For example, in 2025 we partnered with Werewolf Productions to run Analog Nowra, a Live Works event which featured an Afghan BBQ and local performers. Events like this have the potential to connect with returned Defence personal who have been fundraising to support NGOs in Afghanistan This event ran in parallel with a photographic exhibition by Muzafar Ali who documented clandestine schools for girls in Taliban occupied Afghanistan.
- SRG identifies that there is a vibrant queer community in the Shoalhaven which has historically been engaged with the Gallery. We welcome and include this community through LGBTQAI+ programming through our youth exhibitions, events, and general exhibition program.



IMAGE: UNTITLED, AMELIE WELLS, ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, NEW HORIZONS EXHIBITION, 2025.

OUR KPIs

GOAL 1: TO PLACE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AT THE CENTRE OF WHAT WE DO

	Description of Goal	How it will be measured	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Indicator 1	SRG curated exhibition that has state and/or national impact	Number of reviews of exhibitions in arts based publications	1	1	2	2	3
Indicator 2	Create exhibition opportunities for artists born or based in LGA	Artists based in Shoalhaven area as proportion of program	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

GOAL 2: TO BE A NATIONAL LEADER IN CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

	Description of Goal	How it will be measured	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Indicator 1	Create exhibition opportunities for First Nations artists	First Nations artists as a proportion of total number of artists in program	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Indicator 2	To establish the reputation of Ngaoara Fellowship	Total number of applicants	10	15	20	25	30

**GOAL 3:
TO DEVELOP AND INSPIRE NEW CULTURAL LEADERS**

	Description of Goal	How it will be measured	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Indicator 1	Mentorships for emerging artists	By total number offered	1	1	2	2	3
Indicator 2	Number of visitors participating in events at the Gallery	By total number registered for the event	1000	1200	1300	1400	1500

GOAL 4: BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

	Description of Goal	How it will be measured	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Indicator 1	Embed community engaged arts practice in programming initiatives	Number of art workshops led by local artists	5	5	6	7	8
Indicator 2	Create opportunities for new audiences to visit the gallery	Numbers of visitors to the Gallery	41,000	42,000	43,000	44,000	45,000

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery has a proud 21-year history of supporting regional artists in NSW. This work has positioned the Gallery as a significant cultural institution within the local area. The Gallery currently attracts around 30,000 visitors a year and has an active and loyal support base.

As testament to this, Anna Lawrenson and Chiara O'Reilly recently conducted research on the role Shoalhaven Regional Gallery (Humanities Research, 2024.) They noted the Gallery attracts a considerable local audience and has a clear focus on responding to their needs through a changing exhibition program that sees it representing global issues with a Shoalhaven lens; "this hyperlocal focus and approach is an asset for the institution and the community, which is thus empowered to experience the world differently." Their article analyses the role that institutions like Shoalhaven Regional Gallery can play in bringing the community together, especially during times of crisis. As they

explain, "on the one-year anniversary of the Black Summer fires, the gallery staged Wonder + Dread: Art in a Land of Weather Extremes—a major exhibition, scheduled during the prime summer slot, which situated weather extremes as integral to the region and Australian experience."

SRG has identified that more work is to be done to connect with First Nations artists and communities and this will be vital for the Gallery's future within the Shoalhaven area. The Gallery has also identified the opportunity to grow its ambition in exhibition programming to make a larger contribution to the arts ecology on a state and national level.

SUMMARY OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

The Gallery is twenty one years old and has a proud history of support for regional artists. A recent highlight was the 2022 exhibition Plant Your Feet, curated by Glenn Barkley (2022). This exhibition combined works by Barkley alongside objects borrowed from local museums and pieces made by the community, and explored universal ideas around history, place and identity.

Previous strategic planning highlighted the need to connect with communities that are under-represented in the Gallery and led to the Our Place: Your Stories project, where invited artist/s create works that directly respond to ideas gained from research and consultation with such communities. This culminated in the 2024 solo exhibition by Chinese-Australia artist Tianli Zu, who explored the hidden histories of Chinese settlement in the Shoalhaven over the last 200 years.

Culture Dose for Kids was an arts engagement program that supported young people experiencing anxiety. Developed by the Black Dog Institute and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, SRG delivered the program to young people with their parents with the

goal of reducing anxiety and improving wellbeing and social connections for participants.



IMAGE: ZANNY BEGG IN CONVERSATION WITH EUAN MACLEOD AS PART OF ARTIST TALKS AT THE GALLERY, 2024.



BAGANDHA YANGGAMBA-NGGA - 'COUNTRY SINGS IN ME, NINE-CHANNEL



BAGANDHA YANGGAMBA-NGGA - 'COUNTRY SINGS IN ME, NINE-CHANNEL VIDEO PROJECTION, NICOLE SMEDE, WINNER OF THE 2025 NGAOARA FELLOWSHIP. PHOTO BY JACQUIE MANNING.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the next five years Shoalhaven Regional Gallery has an ambitious series of exhibitions and public programming initiatives that will lift the profile, scope and reach of the Gallery. A few highlights are below.

Bun dja - forget me nots (2026) will be a new commission for Aunty Julie Freeman in collaboration with her daughter Markeeta Freeman to create a series of protective Moodjin-gaals, totems that look out for First Nations peoples. As part of this exhibition Aunty Julie Freeman will revisit an older work, Forget me Not first exhibited at the Ivan Dougherty Gallery in a 1997 exhibition entitled What is Aboriginal Art. This work incorporated the former gates to the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home. Whilst this work was critically acclaimed and played a key role in the development of conceptual art in Australia it has been in storage on Julie's property for almost twenty years. SRG will work with the artist to restore and exhibit this significant work and commission a new work alongside it.

The Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home is considered the birthplace of the Stolen Generations in NSW, and each year people walk across the bridge from Nowra to Bomaderry to remember the ongoing colonial impacts of this site. The reverberations of this work, and the important subject matter it explores, will reach beyond the local area and be felt at a state and national level. Initiatives such as this demonstrate the ways in which Shoalhaven Regional Gallery can reposition itself within the arts ecology – whilst also keeping its local roots.

Liquid Mountains (2026) is a group exhibition, initially developed by Bondi Pavilion, featuring artists who render visible the unique connections surfers feel with the ocean. In partnership with Bondi Pavilion this exhibition will be reimagined for the Shoalhaven context, considering the spiritual, social, and sublime, of surf culture. Featuring work by Andrew Kidman + Jon Frank (featuring Mark Sutherland), THE GHOSTS OF NOTHING, Leyla Stevens, Lucas Davidson, Luke Kennedy, Michele Barker + Anna Munster and Peter Sharp.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery is committed to run the Ngaoara Fellowship over the next five years to build capacity for local First Nations arts community. This initiative is aimed at developing new generations

of Indigenous artists by creating opportunities for emerging artists and providing support and mentoring by established First Nations artists. This program will run alongside Koori Kids Art After School program, New Horizons and HOME to nurture and support new generations of First Nations artists. The winner of the Program highlights inaugural First Nations Emerging Artist exhibition is Nicole Smede with her exhibition Bagandha yanggamba-ngga - 'Country sings in me a collaboration with Mudjingaal Yanggamba, a choir of ten Yuin women.

Analog Nowra (2025) was a Live Performance Night in partnership with Werewolf Productions. The evening included an Afghan BBQ, performances and curated social space that invited audiences to connect, engage and explore. Artists include Kaz Therese, Bec Dean, Mahdi Mohammadi, Jawad Yacoubi and Abus Neshat, alongside locals from Nowra. This event provides an example of courtyard activation that will become a part of core programming at the Gallery.



IMAGE: (ABOVE) RED DUST STICKS TO YOU, ATONG ATEM, PHOTOGRAPH, 2022.



IMAGE: LITTLE HEADS, SASSY PARK, CERAMICS, 2023. SASSY PARK IS THE WINNER OF THE 2024 MEROOGAL WOMEN'S PRIZE EXHIBITION AT SHOALHAVEN REGIONAL GALLERY. PHOTO BY KARL SCHWERDTFEGER. (NEXT PAGE) HOME EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOP PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH ART GALLERY OF NSW AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. PHOTO BY MICHELE BARKER.

Creative Spaces Shoalhaven (2026) is a partnership with Beyond Empathy to activate community spaces outside the gallery with marginalized young people. This project will be led by a contemporary artist, Atong Atem, and supported by Beyond Empathy, an award-winning arts and cultural development agency, with a focus on young people. This project will run alongside a partnership between SRG and AGNSW to host the The 2025 Archibald Prize. Creative Spaces will seek to amplify the voices of young people as they explore issues of identity, self-expression and self-portraiture.

The Meroogal Women's Art Prize is a partnership between SRG, Museums of History NSW and Bundanon. This biannual event creates opportunities for female artists to create a site-specific work for an exhibition at Meroogal House with a residency at Bundanon and an exhibition at SRG.

Broken Obelisk (2029) will be a group exhibition of new work by contemporary artists invited to respond to Barnett Newman's sculpture currently

residing in the forecourt of SRG. This gravity-defying work is considered a masterpiece of human engineering; an inverted obelisk—a four-sided tapering monument from Ancient Egypt—is inserted upside down into a pyramid, another Egyptian form. The shape of the obelisk is a reference to the Washington monument, its inverted nature, interpreted as a response to the broken promises of American democracy. A group of artists have been invited to consider the ways this work resonates within the contemporary and local context, for an exhibition in 2029.

The gallery is developing new exhibition projects around the health of our oceans, the aftermath of war, comics, queer identity and more. In 2027 the Gallery is looking to partner with Openfield Festival in Berry in a celebration of First Nations artists.

GOVERNANCE

The Gallery has the following positions:

- Director (Shoalhaven City Council)
- Administration Assistant- Arts & Culture (Shoalhaven City Council)
- Gallery Officer (Shoalhaven City Council)
- Audience and Public Engagement Officer (Shoalhaven City Council)
- Casual Gallery Officers and Casual Art Educators

MODERN WORK CONDITIONS

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery participates in safe workplace training and is compliant with Work Health and Safety obligations. The Gallery considers the mental and physical safety of its employees, and staff have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which provides a confidential, free, professional counselling service for staff, spouse/ partner and dependents. Shoalhaven Regional Gallery is a child safe organisation. The Gallery is wheelchair accessible with accessible toilets.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery was established in 2003 on the site of a former TAFE building. The building was refurbished by Shoalhaven City Council with funding support from NSW Ministry of the Arts and the Australian Government Regional Partnership Program and officially opened in 2004. The Gallery has been in the same building without renovation or significant upgrades since 2004.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
SRG has a central location, being within easy walking distance from the Nowra CBD. The Gallery has multiple meeting rooms for workshops and public programs, as well as a beautiful courtyard that is popular place for locals to visit and meet.	SRG is twenty years behind most regional galleries in exhibition capacities, design and equipment. The Gallery has mitigated against this weakness through strong bonds with other institutions, including Wollongong Art Gallery and Bundanon, both of whom regularly assist through the loan of display equipment including projectors and media players.

To grow in both program capacity and audiences the Gallery needs to improve its front of house reception, exhibition spaces and display equipment. These will be priorities for the Gallery over the medium term.



INSTALLATION SHOTS RESIST THE SYSTEM,
SOLO EXHIBITION BY KARLA DICKENS, 2025.
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUIE MANNING AND TOM JOHNSON.

COMMUNICATIONS

SRG recognises the importance of a marketing and communication plan and is developing its own unique brand within the umbrella of Shoalhaven City Council.

Areas identified for improvement include the brand logo, website and our social media presence. These improvements will be rolled out in stages with an initial focus on more agile areas for change, such as our social media profile, with longer term aims of a logo rebrand and website improvement.

SRG has begun the process of incorporating Dhurga and Dharawal languages into our publications and exhibition signage, in consultation with local communities.

The Gallery has begun the process on refreshing our signage and marketing to provide a more contemporary feel for the Gallery.

The Gallery respects the cultural and moral rights of artists and First Nations communities. Images by artists and text about artists will be used with permission and in a manner that respects the integrity of the original author and/or copyright holder.



IMAGE: (ABOVE) JAZ CORR AND KARLA DICKENS, IN CONVERSATION, AS PART OF ARTIST TALKS AT THE GALLERY 2025. (PREVIOUS PAGE) INSTALLATION SHOTS RESIST THE SYSTEM, SOLO EXHIBITION BY KARLA DICKENS, 2025. PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUIE MANNING AND TOM JOHNSON.