

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

TarraWarra Museum of Art/Healesville Sanctuary

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NOVEMBER 2013

Future Memorials and Spirit of the Land



Images: (LEFT) Tom Nicholson, *Towards a monument to Batman's Treaty* 2008-2013, 101 A0 sheets pasted to the museum wall, 3456 used bricks collected by citizens in and around Healesville, Courtesy of the artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane, (CENTRE) Jonathan Jones (Kamilaroi/Wiradjuri) with Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy (Wurundjeri) after William Barak (Wurundjeri), *untitled* (shield design) 2013, fluorescent tubes and fittings, electrical cable, Courtesy of the artists (RIGHT) William Barak, Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta, bronze 2013, Image courtesy Healesville Sanctuary

TarraWarra Museum of Art (TWMA) proudly presents a second unique collaboration with Healesville Sanctuary, its neighbour in the Yarra Valley, to accompany the museum's current feature exhibition *Future Memorials*

To mark the special occasion of the 10th Anniversary of TarraWarra Museum of Art the museum will be holding a Free Public Open Weekend on the 7th and 8th of December. Entry to the museum's two current feature exhibitions *Future Memorials* and *Russell Drysdale: Defining the Modern Australian Landscape* will be free and the museum will also be holding a number of free public programs.

The weekend will also see the visit of a Wedge-tailed Eagle from Healesville Sanctuary, representing *Bunjil*, the living embodiment of the creator spirit of the Wurundjeri, to celebrate the announcement of a new collaboration between the museum and the world famous native wildlife park.

TWMA and Healesville Sanctuary will introduce a special reduced entry fee* for visitors who visit both venues during the duration of the *Future Memorials* exhibition. The exhibition takes its cue from the proximity of TWMA to the site of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station which was originally located on almost 5,000 acres along the Yarra River between 1863 and 1924. *Future Memorials* explores the effects of colonialism on Wurundjeri people and seeks new ways to understand and renew the relationship between the past and the present.

After viewing the *Future Memorials* exhibition at TWMA, visitors will have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Healesville Sanctuary to actually "step onto Coranderrk", as the land at Healesville Sanctuary was originally part of the former Coranderrk Aboriginal Mission Station.

The exhibition at TWMA has been developed by Sydney-based Wiradjuri-Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones and Melbourne-based non-Aboriginal artist Tom Nicholson in collaboration with senior Wurundjeri Elder Prof. Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy AO and runs at TarraWarra Museum Art until the 9th of February, 2014.

It presents two new contemporary installation works. Tom Nicholson's *Towards a Monument to Batman's Treaty* incorporates thousands of bricks and over 100 wall plaques in an exploration of the history of Coranderrk and pioneer John Batman's highly contentious land treaty document which he claimed to have negotiated with the Wurundjeri in 1835. Jonathan Jones yellow light-based work *untitled (shield design)* is inspired by the diamond

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pattern carved on the great Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta (leader) William Barak's historical 1897 parrying shield, on display in the Future Memorials exhibition at TWMA, and his prediction that he would pass when the wattle bloomed.

As a second part of the collaboration the launch of a new TWMA/Healesville Sanctuary combined tour will also be announced on the TWMA 10th anniversary weekend.

Over two Sundays in January next year, visitors will be able to take the *Spirit of the Land* Indigenous walking tour at Healesville Sanctuary after a guided tour of the *Future Memorials* exhibition at TWMA.

Healesville Sanctuary recently unveiled a commemorative bronze life-sized sculpture of William Barak to mark the 110th anniversary of Barak's passing. The sculpture, titled *Between Two Worlds*, depicts a man caught between two worlds, but able to bridge both, as an ambassador for his people and protector of Wurundjeri traditions and culture.

The tour will be led by the present day Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta, Murrindindi, beginning at Barak's statue then following a bushland trail to a *Dreaming Place* for storytelling where a 250 year old canoe tree proudly stands.

Visitors then continue on to another pathway where the story of the former Coranderrk Aboriginal Station continues to unfold. They will experience emotive soundscapes through the voices of elders past and present, the descendants of Barak, who reflect on the inspiring Aboriginal leader and tell their own family stories of Coranderrk passed down through generations.

Details for the *Future Memorials* and *Spirit of the Land* TWMA and Healesville Sanctuary Combined Tour

Tour Dates: Sunday 12 and Sunday 19 January, 2014

Tour Times: At TWMA from 2 to 2.30pm (Make own way to Healesville Sanctuary via provided map)
At Healesville Sanctuary 3.00pm to 3.30pm

Tour Duration: 1/2 hour at TWMA, 1/2 hour at Healesville Sanctuary (20-25 minutes 'easy' walk/exploring the rest of Healesville Sanctuary optional)

Availability limited. Maximum 15 people.

For tour prices and bookings visit www.twma.com.au or phone (03) 59 57 3100

*Reduced entry fees to either TWMA or Healesville Sanctuary are claimed by presenting a TWMA or Healesville Sanctuary ticket purchase receipt when visiting the alternative venue. Reduced entry fee at TWMA is a \$2.00 deduction from the normal ticket price. Reduced entry fee for Healesville Sanctuary is a 10% deduction from the normal ticket price. For full details see www.twma.com.au

For information on the TWMA free public programs for the 10th Anniversary Free Public Open Weekend on the 7th and 8th of December visit www.twma.com.au or phone (03) 59 57 3100

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HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY/ZOOS VICTORIA IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO FIGHTING EXTINCTION

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