

## Director's Notes

It is only nine days ago since an eclectic group of artists met for the first time and united together to explore North Wharf where the Yarra River lies to the southern flank and Victoria Harbour lies to its northern side. Last Friday we listened to Jim Beggs author of "Proud to Be a Wharfie", Jim Poulter an Indigenous historian, Brian Atkins from the Wooden Boat Centre, Peter Harris from the Alma Doepel Restoration, Don Butcher- Naturalist, and Andrew Kelly the Yarra Riverkeeper as they recounted wonderful tales and shared their breadth of knowledge with us. With this new acquired insight the artists have spent the last week creating art work on site that tell the story of Docklands. Oh yeah and then there is the plastic!

Today we will follow our storyteller on a walk, moving back and forth through time. You will see subtle changes to pre existing infrastructure, meet characters from all walks of "dock life", view projections in working sheds, and sail through this space soon to be transformed and linked to Melbourne's largest urban renewal, enjoy the moment while it lasts. Oh yeah and then there is the plastic!

The Yarra River has been vital in the creation of Melbourne as a capital city, from what was once an abundant wetland to an industrial wasteland. The environment is incredibly different to the past Scenes on the Yarra events and I am excited to making this work in and amongst the inner city web. Docklands is a place where old and new collide and has seen many faces and through the medium of art today I hope that you too will be encapsulated by the unsightly beauty of North Wharf. Oh yeah and then there is the plastic!

The following Artists have all contributed their time to make this event possible, which is an incredible achievement in just over a week. Thank you to all artists for their stunning contribution, extraordinary enthusiasm and creative ability enabling this project to come to fruition.

Jemimah Reidy

## Thank You

This project has been kindly sponsored and supported by many wonderful individuals, groups and authorities. All those connected with Scenes on the Yarra would like to pass on our most sincere thanks to - City of Melbourne, Yarra Riverkeepers, Melbourne Water, Tall Ships Victoria, The Wooden Boat Centre, Yarra Swim Co and Momentum Traffic Control.

A special thank you to the Event Wardens and Seagulls- Hannah Koch, Ashlee Hughes, Erin Wright, Jenny Davies, Matt Stewart (Yarra Swim Co), Andrew Kelly (Yarra Riverkeeper) William Veitch (the bare foot troubadour) Ron Jones, Wurundjeri Tribe Council, Smoking Ceremony

Other groups and individuals who also deserve mention here are the staff and children from the The Harbour Family and Children's Centre Gowrie ELC, Malcolm Moger - Opeam, Stefanie Schulz - Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Michael Womack - Enterprise Melbourne Tall Ship, Loryn Clark- Rotary Docklands, Kelly Jenkins- Destination Docklands. Thank you Nick Atkins for your encouragement.

The Scenes on the Yarra artists at Docklands were once again privileged to learn from an inspiring group of knowledge holders: Jim Beggs author of "Proud to Be a Wharfie", Jim Poulter -Indigenous Historian, Brian Atkins from the Wooden Boat Centre, Peter Harris from the Alma Doepel Restoration, Don Butcher -Naturalist, and Andrew Kelly the Yarra Riverkeeper.



Scenes on the Yarra @ Docklands is today celebrating World Rivers Day.



# Scenes on the Yarra @ Docklands

An incredible and eclectic group of artists from Melbourne have spent only one week together developing a creative production about the Yarra River and the North Wharf at Docklands.



Scenes on the Yarra would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we are travelling through today, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and pay respect to Elders past & present.

# The Artists

## **Alicia Fernandez**

Costumer Designer, Stylist and Artist

My background is in production design with a focus on costume construction, which I studied at the VCA. I love including colour, print, texture, movement, volume, surprise and anything gold in my work (ideally all at once). I have incorporated recycled materials in my designs to encourage ideas of environmental sustainability and resourcefulness, having taught workshops in up-cycling garments to give old items new a life.

[www.aliciafernandez.weebly.com](http://www.aliciafernandez.weebly.com)

## **Ceitidh Hopper**

Sculptor & Collaborator

My practice is the transformation of discarded or trashed material into art that addresses environmental and social issues. In collaboration with other artists I have used plastic bags as the connection point between the layered stories of Docklands displayed in the works.

[www.tumblr.com/blog/finelinerinkstains](http://www.tumblr.com/blog/finelinerinkstains)

[www.facebook.com/ceitidh](http://www.facebook.com/ceitidh)

## **Christian Bishop**

Field Recordings and Found Objects

I am interested in fringes and overlooked sites of our urban environment and the rich histories connected to these spaces. For Scenes on the Yarra I have collected field recordings and found objects, fragments sourced throughout North Wharf, Docklands. These fragments connect the Alma Doepel, one of the oldest surviving three-masted topsail ships with the flowing Yarra River.

This is a collaborative project consisting of poetry, sound, projected video and site specific installations.

[www.christianbishopstudio.tumblr.com/About](http://www.christianbishopstudio.tumblr.com/About)

## **Elizabeth Henderson**

Dance and Performance

It has been such a pleasure working with this group of fabulous and talented artists on this incredible event. To learn about our Yarra from amazing knowledge holders and to bring this knowledge to the audience in our unique way has been a blast! I hope you enjoy our work

as much as we enjoyed this journey. Live, love and dance!  
[www.theministryofdance.com.au/talents/elizabeth-henderson](http://www.theministryofdance.com.au/talents/elizabeth-henderson)

## **Joey Soh P L**

Light installation; everyday objects with transparency/reflective qualities

*Light Through Medium #06, 2015*

I am interested in transitory moments in our everyday life, especially those caused by light phenomenon related to refraction. Scenes on the Yarra provided the opportunity, insights and perfect transitional site to communicate these three points; Reverie, Introspection and Resonance.

[www.joey-spl.com](http://www.joey-spl.com)

## **Jutta Pryor**

Multi Media

*YARRA YARRA* is a poetry film projection installation based on an emotive response to this visual, historical and essential 'place'.

Inspired by the words of Lana Woolf with soundscape by Christian Bishop, I have created visual image streams depicting the surface tension of water, poetic historical aspects of the Yarra River and the Docklands of today.

[www.movingpoems.com/filmmaker/jutta-pryor/](http://www.movingpoems.com/filmmaker/jutta-pryor/)

## **Lana Woolf**

Poetry

Lana Woolf is a page and stage poet, performer and all round wild woman. Her work in 'Scenes of the Yarra' aims to explore the depth of the history, knowledge, and connection that the Yarra River represents. She uses the foundation of of bio-myth to capture one of the stories of the Yarra and re-tell the story to you.

[www.lanawoolfspokenword.com](http://www.lanawoolfspokenword.com)

## **Matteo Volpi**

Independent Photographer

Even if my education was based in particle physics my passion for art has always remained. Scenes on the Yarra mixes photography, painting, installation art and exhibition design to create a holistic relationship between curating and art practice. I am glad to be part of this group of many different artists, thinkers, art-lovers and people from such diverse backgrounds and lifestyles. On top of being the photographer for the event, I have been involved in

installations regarding the garbage recycling and the aboriginal culture.

[www.experimentum.wix.com/vmdiciotto](http://www.experimentum.wix.com/vmdiciotto)

## **Simon Oats**

Storyteller

As a storyteller, it is a rare and wonderful opportunity to work on a piece of performance art of this magnitude and depth. It is my privilege to guide the audience through this landscape of imagination that has come to life through the hearts and hands of this group of visionary artists.

[www.simonoats.com](http://www.simonoats.com)

## **Stepanka Cervinkova** [www.steash.net](http://www.steash.net)

Video-art

*Rave of Mists & Shadows* is a mixed media installation artwork focusing on interaction in between moving images, painting and electronic soundscape paying tribute to all the facets of Docklands, and its environmental transformation. Welcome to world of natural rave party.

Music composed by **Lawrence Spataro**.

Paintings by **Sarah Masson** [www.sarahmasson.com.au](http://www.sarahmasson.com.au)

## **Rebecca Page**

Dance

The docklands are so far removed from the misty valley I call home. An industrial jungle, building blocks of our city placed precariously on top of another. Wharries pushed to their physical limits as chains make music in the night. We dance the grid game like we are in a race, shining our lights to light our way. Yet the river meanders she knows her way, lapping at the docks we dance.

[www.starnow.com/rebeccapage16/](http://www.starnow.com/rebeccapage16/)

## **Vivienne Halat**

Circus

I'm interested in using physical theatre, circus and movement as a vehicle for storytelling. The physical characters developed for this performance of Scenes on the Yarra I play a part in the visual presentation of the stories of the history of the Yarra at the old Melbourne docks. They engage the audience by their presence and physicality, inviting them to experience this unique story.

[www.facebook.com/vivienne.halat](http://www.facebook.com/vivienne.halat)