

scenesontheyarra.com

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Sunday
19th April 2015
@Fed Square/
Birraring Marr
4.30 – 6.30pm

TALL
TREES
+TRIB
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Tall Trees & Tributaries

Just hours drive from Fed Square are forested mountains, a giant forest being the one thing between clouded skies and important Victorian rivers like our Yarra. This iconic forest is a high rainfall landscape home to huge tree ferns at the feet of giants; record breaking Mountain Ash. Countless small perennial streams flow like springs from these forested mountains. This water is caught within the Yarra Ranges for Melbourne by numerous small weirs and dams to provide 90 % of Melbourne's water, our forest is a giant water harvesting landscape for Melbourne that averages 600 GL a year, equivalent to 4 Wonthaggi desalination plants yet provided at little cost. When shared between Melbourne's millions, and taking inevitable future droughts into account this water is incredibly precious. It has been a privilege to work with these talented artists to communicate the significance of our headwater forests. Lets connect to and celebrate this critically important forested landscape - Our Tall Trees and Mountain Tributaries.

Don Butcher

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water has provided safe, secure and affordable water services for over 120 years. Most of Melbourne's drinking water comes from the 157,000 hectares of closed water catchments in the Yarra Ranges, which have been closed to the public for over 100 years. We are fortunate to be one of only 5 cities in the world that harvest water from closed catchments. These native forests filter rainwater as it flows across land into creek, rivers and our reservoir storages, providing Melbourne with some of the highest quality water services in the world. Melbourne's catchments are also home to a variety of plants and animals including the endangered Leadbeater's possum.

Directors Notes

A year ago a group of artists from the Yarra Valley boarded a bus to spend two days in the Yarra & Toolangi State Forest to study this landscape in-depth. The artists learnt from local specialists: Sean Marler- Environmental Scientist, Karina Doughty- Environmentalist, Uncle Roy- Taungurung Elder, Don Butcher- Naturalist and Deanne Eccles from KNOT. Each one of the specialists sharing incredible insight into the Tall Trees & Tributaries of this area and the Yarra River with the artists.

Over the last year the group of 8 artists have composed, written, built, created and rehearsed. Today you will see all of the work drawn together and each artists work showcasing their experience in the forest and bringing the stories of the forest to Melbourne.

They have also been involved in community workshops with families, individuals, youth and primary school children. Everyone that lives in the Yarra Valley has had an opportunity to be involved in this project.

This project is part of Scenes on the Yarra, a series of 7 works along the Yarra River that relate to site and the environment.

This project has been funded by Yarra Ranges Council's Art & Heritage Grants for Community and Melbourne Water's Sponsorship & Community Partnerships Program. Today is the collimation of this project and we hope you enjoy it. Please leave your comments on the web page @ www.scenesontheyarra.com

Jeminah Alli Reidy



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

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. We are attempting to share a fundamental story. It is a story about who we are in relation to our world, to our biology, to our history, to those who inhabited this place before us. It is my privilege to guide the audience through the landscape of dreaming and imagination that has come to life through the hearts and hands of this group of visionary artists and forest-lovers.

Hannah Koch

WAA, Last bottle of water, Speaking Stone

To me the Waa's are both the trickster spirits of the forest as well as the tricksters we have in our own self. My inner Waa is the person who eats Milo straight from the tin. Ravens are cheeky, but also very focused, inquisitive creatures. I'd like to be a bit more like a Waa in my everyday life. I'm also lucky enough to perform with powerful messages on the Speaking Stones and in the Selling of the Last Bottle of Water.

The Waa's

Simon Oats conducted a creative workshop with youth in the Yarra Ranges, with the support of the Yarra Ranges Council. These fine young actors have come together today to embody the mischievous character of the Waa. Thankyou to Alana Michaud, Emily Georgina, Finn Allen, Katherine Moolenschot and Tarquin Wenhuda.

Matthew De Boer

Charred Wood 1

This work by Matthew de Boer is constructed of timber collected from burnt forestry coupes in the tall wet forests of the Yarra Ranges. It speaks of the relationship between humanity and nature, and the coarse application of technical resource management techniques in an area of unique ecological value and personal and cultural significance.

Carbon is a symbol of transformation in natural systems; it is also the defining 21st century symbol of humankind's ongoing impact on planetary processes. At this intersection, environmental issues can be seen as an extension of our social construction of nature, where the 'externalities' of progress reveal an artificial separation between human life and natural processes.

Sioux Dollman

The People Tree – FLASH MOB

A forest spiralling out to form a giant Mountain Ash tree, laying in this space for the audience to walk through. Feeling and seeing, the scale of these magnificent trees amongst the cityscape. Using people to create this vision, a living, breathing, loving tree, connecting heaven to earth.

All as one, in white, celebrating life in harmony - we are all connected.

Ashlee Hughes

Leadbeater's Possum, Bird Lanterns (schools workshop)

Music and lanterns guide us down the dry creek bed, feel the earth under foot, and enjoy being under the canopy of the gumtrees. The audience are the water, flowing down the river, hearing music and performance along the way. As you walk along the creek bed gently feel each step underfoot, feel the night air, listen to the sounds and take notice of any surprises you might see along the way – thankyou Alinta Barnes.

The lanterns have been made with the assistance of the children from Grade 5 & 6 at Healesville Primary School, thank you to all of the students and teachers for their enthusiastic and diligent work.

Polly Christie

Forest Bells

My artist response to being in the forest environments has been through music and song. I was able to facilitate some gorgeous group singing in the old growth forest and write the beginnings of a melody in the logging coup. For the performance at Birrarung Marr, I have developed the initial musical ideas from that time and composed songs that will be taught to everyone during the performance. I have also composed a piece for the Federation Bells and the Federation Hand Bells utilizing emotions and moods I experienced at the time.

Karena Goldfinch

Drawing together the threads

Drawing together the threads.

The threads of forest, stream, river and sea.

Drawing together the threads.

The threads of Owl, Possum and Mountain Ash.

Drawing together the threads.

The threads of you and me.

The threads of all we see.