



**EXTRA Zine**

**Issue # 31**

## Artist Reflection | Better Together: Artist Collectives | Paul Andrew

Artist-run community colleague Sarah Thomson [HBRG] kindly invited me to speak at a public program for the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery on Saturday 18 February 2023; a fabulous community-based event called [Better Together: Artist Collectives](#).

The invitation to speak that day was based on my experience with ARIs and artist collectives in Queensland and elsewhere since 1979, and more recently in my ongoing role as a facilitator of memory work with the ARI Remix + EXTRA Zine Project [2011-2026]. I was thrilled to attend and convey little stories along with colleagues in a morning of talks and networking opportunities alongside artists from across the Wide Bay region.

The program organised by Sarah aimed to amplify the essential role of artist collectives and artist run initiatives who have a long and enduring legacy in Australia's art ecosystem, supporting and caring for the careers of some of our most significant artists. The idea for the program was one of recollection, networking, advocacy and potential activation, with the hope that the community conversations evolving that day may help prompt artists living and working in the region to initiate their own artist collectives, locally.

Each of the artist speakers; including Sarah Thomson (HBRG, In Residence ARI) and Llewellyn Millhouse (HBRG, Outer Space ARI co-founder) reflected on their own experiences, successes, failures, learnings, challenges and opportunities. In an insightful Q&A session Sheryl Connors-Young (former manager of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Manager Indigenous Programs at Australian Museum, 1990-2013), Ashleigh Whatling (HBRG, former Board member of Sawtooth ARI) and Llewellyn Millhouse generously shared tips and practical advice on how to activate, manage and create plans for an emergent artist collective.

An enthralling series of case studies of collective models, alternative presentation modes and practices was presented by artists and art workers in the Fraser Coast region, and from far and wide. They included Sunshine Coast artist-run community advocates Sharna Barker and June Sartracom (IN | ARI), Luke Harriman (Creative Arts Gympie Region), Carly Baker-Burnham (Harvest & Co.), Phil Oakley ( Bundaberg Art Prize) and Mark Brose ( Hervey Bay Art Society). Each speaker focused on their own lived experiences and relayed instances of creative models, artist collectives, and rich discussion on their creative and social liberatory potential.

As the key note speaker, I too drew from a well spring of personal and professional experiences inside a range of urban and regional artist-run communities, illustrating these experiences from the ARI Remix + EXTRA Zine internet artwork. A key emphasis in my presentation was to note that Collectives can take many forms, while many are politically oriented, many are not, typically they are co-founded around a shared goal and common understanding, allowing artists to pool their funds, skills, fluencies, resources, build their networks, amplify, share and develop their artistic practices. To seek out funding, studio and exhibition opportunities. To create partnerships and collaborate with allied communities. To find different ways to present, promote and archive exhibitions, projects and events which

take place outside of existing institutions. Artist Collectives help to maintain a democratising, non-dominant, non-elite, non-oppressive emphases and facilitate a level playing field in the contemporary Australian arts ecosystem.

I made a memory post for the key note talk which helped guide my presentation, easily accessed here: <https://remix.org.au/better-together-artist-collectives-paul-andrew-six-practical-ways-to-think-about-artist-collectives>

I have also provided a cut, copy and paste below of key BIO information from the HBRG team that fabulous day, and a small selection of photos too, kindly provided by the gallery in March 2023. I am deeply touched by the enduring hospitality of the HBRG team all staff and volunteers, Gatakers Art Space (a sister space in nearby Maryborough) and so many allies in the region who made this trip north to the Fraser Coast an inspirational one. Thank you everyone who kindly came along to both the public program and the delicious lunch get together afterwards at the Hervey Bay Hotel, it was a week of wonderful communing, loving generosity and creative conspiring.

In particular I would like to thank Director Ashleigh Whatling for a litany of fabulous conversations, cat stories and scenic escapades, wow- an uncanny reconnecting experience with artist Jo Williams (along with print maker Ellie Nielsen, then from Gladstone) who I worked with at That Contemporary Art Space in Brisbane Meeanjin in 1986, and artist Lou Millen who I met that day and who provided a range of evocative stories about Tasmanian artist-run communities in the late 1980s and 1990s. Lou has made an archival zine about Snake Pit ARI for the EXTRA Zine project here: <https://remix.org.au/extra-zine-issue-27-reflections-of-the-snakepit-gallery-launceston-and-russell-street-studio-lou-millen> .

I would also like send an extra hearty thanks to Sheryl Connors-Young who spoke to me about the foundations of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative in the 1980s, and a key challenges for artist collectives, finding a suitable space to call home. And to Dr Fiona Foley who spoke to us that weekend – to coincide with her extraordinary exhibition - about the political and creative starting point for Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative along with artist colleague Bundjalung-Munajali woman Euphemia Bostock.

And it was super touching to have a conversation with my dear friend and artist colleague Joanna Kambourian while I was in Hervey Bay that week. Specifically, about her first ever solo show staged at the gallery in 2009; **Dim Memories of Exile**, an incredibly important exhibition for Joanna towards her expanding and vibrant body of creative archival assemblage work, a huge artistic legacy as we know it now after Joanna's recent passing. Joanna's own family archive, Armenian heritage, genocide and experiences with Armenian diaspora communities informed and shaped her astonishing contemporary assemblages; <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/fraser-coast/artist-conducts-kindy-workshop/news-story/9b8c0beaa1d1454b9beac32893a0440e>



Image (l-r): Llewellyn Millhouse, Sam Raveneau, Ashleigh Whatling, Sarah Thomson, Lois Shoebridge | accessed: <https://hbrg.ourfrasercoast.com.au/staff>

Extra Zine Cover Image (l-r): Sarah Thomson, Ashleigh Whatling, Sheryl Connors-Young and Llewellyn Millhouse.

**Veiled Paradise** – the breathtaking exhibition depicted in the photos in this archival zine - surveys three decades of Badtjala artist Dr. Fiona Foley's practice. Fiona Foley is a leading contemporary Aboriginal artist whose work is informed and shaped by her ancestral connection to K'gari/Fraser Island, drawing equally upon its serene beauty and the history of systemic violence and sexual exploitation perpetrated on its shores. Access: <https://hbrg.ourfrasercoast.com.au/events/event/763/fiona-foley-veiled-paradise>

### **Better Together Presenter Biographies:**

#### **Paul Andrew:**

Paul Andrew is an artist researcher, senior media artist, video artist and artist curator with experience in social practice, site-generated ephemeral practice and media art making using remix, assemblage, bricolage and collage techniques. Drawing on a current doctoral research project at QUT is increased practitioner interest in scavenger methodologies and queer time. These concepts and techniques are employed for making archival art initiatives in varied and variable cultural forms. Paul has been practicing and exhibiting professionally since 1984.

#### **IN | artist run initiative at the Old Lockup:**

IN | artist run initiative is a multi-disciplinary arts platform based on Kabi Kabi Country (Sunshine Coast). We're about new ideas, new conversations, new forms. IN | is a collective with more questions than answers- premise pushing through curiosity and driven by the region's increasing appetite for rigorous, agile and critical contemporary arts dialogue.

**Creative Arts Gympie Region:**

Creative Arts Gympie Region (CAGR) is a volunteer-run, not-for profit organisation focussed on strengthening the Gympie Region as leaders in the arts through the shared ambition of its artists and the leveraging of local cultural and environment resources. We seek opportunities within the region's boundaries and beyond to enhance the careers and aspirations of artists and creative businesses based in our region. Within two short years, and a global pandemic, CAGR has developed a brand and a profile within the community, built a strong and engaged membership base, secured various project funding, worked in partnership with local government, activated spaces for exhibitions and events, participated in consultation processes on behalf of the sector and provided employment opportunities for local artists wherever possible. In September 2021, CAGR opened the Alluvial Gallery, a new contemporary exhibition space and creative hub supporting local artists, however this space was destroyed by the devastating flood event in February 2022. Following this, a new strategic plan has been developed to lead the development of the arts in the Gympie Region without being tied to any specific space or art form.

**Harvest and Co.:**

Harvest & Co Collective is an artist collective based in the rural town of Monto, in the beautiful North Burnett region. Harvest & Co was co-created by three creative local women and operated under the auspice of The Rex Monto. The Rex is a profit for purpose arts and cultural organisation which fosters The Arts and is restoring an Art Deco theatre in the communities main shopping street. Harvest & Co Collective operates as a blended model of commission-based art and retail products, all of which are curated beautifully and gathered under the principles of local, handmade and unique. The purpose of the collective is to enhance The Arts and culture in Monto by providing artists a platform to sell and exhibit their products, and to raise funds for the restoration project of The Rex Theatre. Harvest & Co is currently experiencing a pause in operation. The store has a basic online presence; however, the shop front has closed as the next iteration of the project takes place.

**Bundaberg Art Prize:**

Since its inception in 2019 the Bundaberg Art Prize has taken the bold move to hold its annual exhibition using vacant shops in the Bundaberg CBD. With over 400 artworks to display and over \$20,000 in prize money to give away, following the "empty shop" model is not for the faint hearted but is ultimately very rewarding.

**Hervey Bay Art Society:**

Gallery 5, home of Hervey Bay Art Society is the 'Artbeat' of our community. Offering the largest range of artworks for sale in the Bay. Each week day is a hive of activity with art classes and social art groups on every morning & afternoon. There are activities on offer for the beginning artists through to the most experienced. HBAS is proud of its community focus.

**Supporters:**

The Regional Arts Services network is an initiative of the Queensland Government through

Arts Queensland. CQUniversity is serving as the Central Queensland RASN Provider from 2022 – 2025.

**Dim Memories of Exile | Archive Copy (For Joanna's friends, colleagues and family)**

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/fraser-coast/artist-conducts-kindy-workshop/news-story/9b8c0beaa1d1454b9beac32893a0440e>

Kids at Hervey Bay Community Kindy in Scarness were treated to a surprise when visiting artist Joanna Kambourian hosted an art workshop yesterday.

The New South Wales artist has been visiting the region's schools as part of a Hervey Bay Regional Gallery school program, while showcasing her own exhibition at the gallery.

Yesterday's visit had the budding artists creating picture books designed to show their identity through a number of drawings, such as favourite foods, animals and people.

While the kids were eventually drawn back to the sand pit, the lesson and Joanna were definitely a hit.

"It was a nice opportunity to come to Hervey Bay and get to know the place," she said.

Joanna's exhibition, *Dim Memories of Exile*, will be showcased at the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery on Old Maryborough Road from 6pm tonight to June 20.

Originally published as [Artist conducts kindy workshop](#)



















ARI REMIX PRESENTS "SELF-MADE, ARTIST-RUN" A NEW ZINE-BASED ARCHIVAL ART INITIATIVE "THE EXTRA ZINE PROJECT" | feat. TEN ARTISTS, TEN ZINES [2022-2023]

## EXTRA

EXTRA is a Queensland/ Australian networked zine collaboration building from past, present and future 'living' archival art initiatives. Issue # 30 Online Launch 26 April 2023. This emerging zine and zine making projects builds out directly from the ARI Remix Project [2011-2026]. It places an emphasis on making and transmitting creative archival assemblages comprising little stories, hidden histories, marginalised narratives and digitised art/ artists' ephemera safeguarded in the personal archives of artists. Artists and allies who were directly involved in the expanded and expanding SEQ/ Queensland/ Australian artist-run ecology 1940 to Now.

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/EXTRA\\_ZINE](https://linktr.ee/extra_zine)

<https://remix.org.au>

<https://remix.org.au/extrazine>

[https://www.instagram.com/ari\\_remix](https://www.instagram.com/ari_remix)

[https://www.instagram.com/extra\\_zine](https://www.instagram.com/extra_zine)

The ARI Remix collective acknowledges and respects the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands where we live, make and work. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded. We support the Uluru statement from the heart.

## ARI REMIX | PROJECT TWO - Stage One 2022-2024

of this project are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and have been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Queensland  
Government**



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