

# YOUNGARTS 2025

Our ArtsNational Narrabri 2025 Young Arts project was a great success when four Narrabri High School HSC Art students attended a masterclass run by local artist Graeme Compton. The weekend masterclass took place in May with the aim of giving the students an insight into the life of a professional working artist.

Graeme is a visual artist who is fascinated by the real and the imagined. He explores the psyche, symbolism, compassion, communication and comedy that can be found in art. Graeme depicts his ideas in the form of elephants, dragons, birds and all manner of creatures, often anthropomorphising or zoomorphising his subjects.

His styles range from fine art realism and surrealism to fantasy art, illustrations and cartoons, using all forms of media including pixels. He has won several art prizes and, since 2013, has illustrated 21 books (with one more on the way) for various authors, including Pat Clarke, Cassidy Jackson-Carroll, Gaille Walton and Glenda Lay.

The two-day workshop, titled 'LITERALLY ILLUSTRATING' provided the hand-picked students with encouragement to develop their own expressive styles, along with guidance on improving technical skills and useful work habits in drawing and illustration. The students were given an insight into the book and comic publishing environment and included various anecdotes from successful professional artists, illustrators, authors and publishers.

Each student received a 'Starter Kit' of various necessary artist's tools, along with an instruction and tasks manual, written and illustrated by Graeme. In addition, they had access to a number of interviews conducted by Graeme with other illustrators, authors and publishers who are professionals working in the industry. These included such luminaries as Jason Chatfield, Matt Ottley, Nat Karmichael, Elise Hurst, Lisa Stewart and Lorena Carrington.





