



**ARTSNATIONAL**

Margaret River

**ARTSNATIONAL MARGARET RIVER society has launched**

The ArtsNational Margaret River committee extends a warm welcome to all our members and heartfelt thanks for your support, as well as a special welcome to our guests. We hope you enjoy being part of our growing community. ArtsNational is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to delivering arts lectures of exceptional quality, primarily presented by international experts.

Our programme consists of **11 lectures in 2026**, most delivered by internationally recognised experts, with two or three each year featuring distinguished local specialists.

Following our launch at the Secret Garden in November we have been readying for the programme in 2026. Our first three lectures have received very positive feedback from our members and guests who attended the lectures. Alan Dodge talking about an area of his passion: the New York art scene in the 50's and 60's. This lecture had some superb images from that era and Alan shared some personal insights.

Dr Susan Kay-Williams delivered two outstanding lectures - one on colour and where dyes originated and Japonisme using beautiful examples of blockprints to highlight Japan influence on western artists. Our next lecture is on 11 May with Sandra Hill, a member of the stolen generation who will talk about the constancy of art in her life.

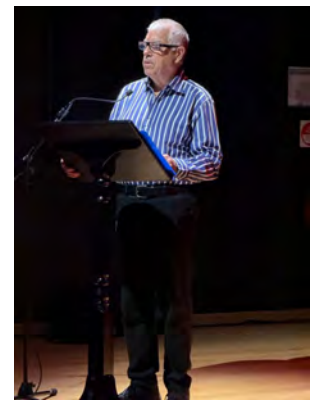


ArtsNational Margaret River launch at the Secret Garden, November 2025

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It was with great excitement and anticipation that the newest ArtsNational society in Australia—**ArtsNational Margaret River**—offered its inaugural lecture on **Tuesday 3 March**.

In keeping with the ArtsNational tradition of presenting high-quality, arts-focused lectures, our first event of the year was a lecture titled ***Abstract/Pop/Minimal: The New York Art Scene in the 1950s and 1960s***, delivered by **Alan Dodge AM CitWA**, former Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Alan’s insights set a wonderful tone for our inaugural season.



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The **2026 program** includes:

- **Sandra Hill**, Noongar artist and member of the Stolen Generations, reflecting on her life and art—guided by her belief that *“during her long journey through life, art has been the only constant.”*
- **Sue Geddes-Page**, Principal Lecturer at South Regional TAFE Margaret River, who has dedicated her career to arts education and will speak on **Mediterranean Garden Design**.

The full 2026 program is available at [www.artsnational.au/societies/margaret-river](http://www.artsnational.au/societies/margaret-river)

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## Arts National Perth offers reciprocal membership rights

Margaret River lectures will be held on **Monday afternoons**, following the Saturday lecture in Perth. In collaboration with the Perth society there is a reciprocal arrangement where a member can attend the Perth lecture for \$10 - but you will need to book. While international lecturers will visit both societies, the topics will often differ.

Be quick - click here to join!

# Art & Books

A free online public lecture series by  
Associate Professor Sam Bowker  
for Booranga Writers' Centre,  
Charles Sturt University, and ArtsNational

**Tuesdays 6pm - 7pm**

- 3 March 2026 The Book: History & Artistry
- 10 March European Illumination
- 17 March Arabic and Persian Manuscripts
- 24 March Incunabula! Rise of Printed Books
- 31 March Picturebooks, Comics & Manga
- 7 April Infinite Scroll: The Future of Books

Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/4w2478ad>



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presented series of illustrated lectures covering the  
diverse history of art and books."*



Charles Sturt  
University



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Members also enjoy a rich program of additional events, including online lectures, private studio visits, guided exhibition tours, and online lectures with Sam Bowker from Charles Sturt University, behind-the-scenes access to cultural institutions. An upcoming visit to the

**Maylands Ballet Centre**, is where members can observe a WAB rehearsal and meet the dancers.

Members also receive discounts from selected partners, including **Text and Co Bookshop Dunsborough**, **Luna Palace Cinemas**, **Musica Viva**, and arts supplier **Oxlades and Jacksons**.

Run entirely by volunteers, ArtsNational Margaret River promotes both the enjoyment of and engagement with the arts. If this program inspires you, you may wish to take the next step by joining the committee—or one of its subcommittees—to help deliver our lecture series.

Further information is available at our website or email [margaretriver@artsnational.au](mailto:margaretriver@artsnational.au).

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## Your ArtsNational Margaret River Committee

Kay Campbell – Chair

Jan Batchelor – Vice Chair

Bill Rees – Treasurer

Alison Stewart – Secretary

Penny Bower – Membership Secretary

Katie Clapin - Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Simone Sewell - Marketing

Committee Members – Fiona Moriarty, Janie Borrill, Jackie Adams, Alison Tuckett, Lee James.

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## A message from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me. On reflection, I realise I've been organising events for most of my life—from school days, to university events, to a career in event management and PR, to serving on the council of the Friends of the Art Gallery of WA. Later came my involvement with ADFAS, the precursor to ArtsNational; first as Vice Chair establishing the Perth society in 2019, then as Chair, and now as the inaugural Chair of the newest society in the ArtsNational family: ArtsNational Margaret River.

A common thread runs through all these roles: a love of bringing people together. Of all these endeavours, ArtsNational has been the most rewarding. It is, quite simply, a wonderful “product”. It attracts people who are curious, thoughtful, and passionate about similar things, and it offers access to some of the most remarkable lecturers you could hope to hear. For me that combination is wonderful.

For the past six years I've been yoyoing up the Bussell Highway, deeply involved in the Perth organisation and spending time in the south west. I've watched the Perth society grow from an idea into one of the most successful in the ArtsNational network. That experience gave me the confidence that the South West—with its art-loving, art-involved, and art-curious community—would embrace a new society of its own.

It is my great honour to serve as the inaugural Chair of ArtsNational Margaret River. But no one builds a society alone. I am fortunate to have a dedicated and talented committee beside me. Each newsletter we will introduce another committee member.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or hopes for what this society can become—how we can do better or deliver more of what you want—please contact me directly at [info@artsnationalmr.com](mailto:info@artsnationalmr.com).

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Warm regards,

**Kay Campbell**

Chair, ArtsNational Margaret River

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## TRAVEL TALES

### Tamworth 2026 by Grant Johnston

So, off we went to Tamworth for the 2026 Tamworth Country Music Festival. An intrepid bunch of Arts National alumni with a varied levels of knowledge and appreciation of country music, in all of its forms, and a love for a little cultural adventure.

Thankfully country music is a broad church and we were anticipating some musical treats. We were not disappointed. From the rowdy and eclectic Peel Street buskers to the beautifully orchestrated highlights of some of Australia leading country musicians, there was something for all tastes.

After a soft landing with the Honey Sliders reprising Neil Young's classic and enduring Harvest album, we discovered a wide range of music over many venues across the township. Veterans of the country music industry introduced us to the delights of sweet country harmonies, tributes to Hank Williams, a little rough blues and soul in an underground bar and on and on!

Highlighted by extraordinary performances by Shane Nicholson, Felicity Urquhart & Josh Cunningham, who together introduced us to the next generation of talented performing artists. We didn't get to stick around for Kasey Chambers and the legendary Golden Guitar award concert, but maybe next time.

Our woke tolerances were challenged at the venerable Bush Poets Breakfast, where we found ourselves at the extreme end of contemporary woke sensitivities. The old blokes, steeped in the bush poets' traditions reaching back into the pioneering days, entertained us with poems and yarns resonating with Banjo Patterson and not the least bit concerned with today's cultural sensitivities.

Musical professionalism was at the forefront, and it was a delight to experience the community of musicians, vocalists, guitarists, bassists, drummers, keyboard players, etc, simply settling in together across any number of genre and gigs to produce the highest standards of production and a most entertaining experience.

Is country music art? Well, it is certainly folk music, which entitles it to free entry into the great canon of artistic endeavour. Our experience has provided an insight into the enormous authenticity of Australian country music, influenced certainly by the epicentre of Nashville, but continuing to express the 'on the ground' reality of life for outback, rural and urban (in that order) Australians.

Much is bypassed in mainstream taste making, so a little visit to the heart of country music offers an opportunity to find another Australia, one you may not be aware of or appreciate, and see how this music engages and unites a diverse audience and cross section of, what we found, is the broad church which is our great Australian community.

*Travelling – and want to share your art experiences with our community -please get in touch.*



**ArtsNational Margaret River Members Only event.**

**West Australian Ballet and ArtsNational Margaret River**

**Macbeth Behind-the-Scenes**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Venue: West Australian Ballet Centre, Maylands 134 Whatley Crescent Maylands**

**Cost: \$25**



Photo Credit: Hypnosis Creative Agency - Mauro Palmieri

Join the West Australian Ballet and ArtsNational Margaret River for a special viewing of a rehearsal in the upcoming ballet - Macbeth. After the rehearsal there will be an opportunity to hear from a select group of dancers before refreshments are served. This exclusive behind the scenes experience will allow you unparalleled insight into the creative process and offer the chance to see the dancers and creatives up close in the studio. ArtsNational Margaret River Members Only. **To book contact WAB [9214 0707](tel:92140707) and advise them that you are an ArtsNational member.**

## **West Australian Ballet Company Performance Macbeth**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**Cost: \$120**

**Venue: His Majesty's Theatre 825 Hay Street Perth**

Step into a world where ambition strips characters bare and power plays turn deadly. In this electrifying new contemporary ballet, celebrated choreographer Alice Topp reimagines Shakespeare's iconic figures and thrusts them into a murky realm pulsing with media manipulation, corporate intrigue, and sudden violence.

Before the curtain rises, guests are invited to relax and enjoy the exclusive West Australian Ballet Patrons Lounge. All attendees will also receive a program with their A- Reserve ticket, providing deeper insights into the production, creative team, and performers. Don't miss this fearless collision of classic drama and cutting-edge dance. This ballet performance is selling fast so, avoid disappointment and book now. **To book contact WAB on [9214 0707](tel:92140707) and advise that you are an ArtsNational Margaret River member to receive this offer.**

This is an ArtsNational Margaret River members offer only.

**View ArtsNational Margaret  
River's programme here**

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[www.artsnational.au](http://www.artsnational.au)

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