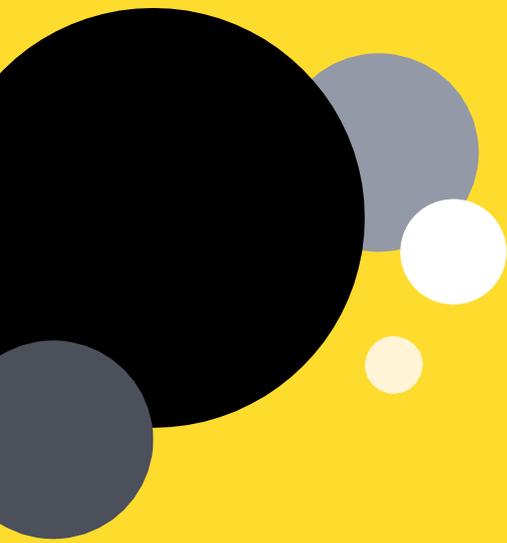


# A RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS



REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA

## THE LOMANDRA PROJECT

### BUSH TOYS

2014

This program is proudly supported by:



Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development



COLLIER CHARITABLE FUND



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*This resource has been prepared by Adrienne Kneebone, in collaboration with Suzi Cordell, Education and Families Manager at Regional Arts Victoria.*

# ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This teacher resource has been developed to complement your class' visit with **The Lomandra Project: Bush Toys**

We would like to assist you and your students to maximize the theatrical, scientific and education- al experience that the show offers and want to provide you with inspirational extra material to bring the performance and its pedagogical content to life in your school.

A short introduction to the workshop's main features:

1. The exploration of creativity and design, cultural stories, language and listening
2. Exploring the medium of fibre art and teaching creative fibre sculpture

In summary, this Education Resource Pack provides you with a number of possible activities in the areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, and offers useful information and links to support your approach.



Bush Chook

# CURRICULUM LINKS

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY: Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Histories and Culture

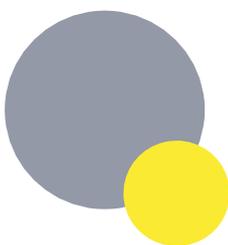
GENERAL CAPABILITIES: Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability

Domain	Dimension
<p><b>The Arts</b></p>	<p><b><i>Creating and making</i></b>            F – 2: They use skills, techniques, processes, media, materials, equipment and technologies in a range of arts forms. They identify, describe and discuss characteristics of their own and others’ arts works.            3-4: Students create and present works in a range of arts forms that communicate experiences, ideas, concepts, observations and feelings. They select and combine a range of arts elements, principles and/or conventions, and use a range of skills, techniques and processes, media, materials, equipment and technologies.            5-6: In their arts works, they communicate ideas and understandings about themselves and others, incorporating influences from their own and other cultures and times.            7-8: They generate and develop ideas that explore particular concepts, techniques and issues when making arts works</p> <p><b><i>Exploring and responding</i></b>            3-4: They identify and describe key features of arts works from their own and other cultures, and use arts language to describe and discuss the communication of ideas, feelings and purpose in their own and other people’s arts works.            5-6: They interpret and compare key features of arts works made in a range of times, places and cultures. They identify and describe influences on their own works and discuss the purposes for which arts works are created in different historical and cultural contexts.</p>
<p><b>English</b>  <b>Language</b></p>	<p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>            Intercultural knowledge and language awareness            F – 6: Students apply relevant conversational rules and expectations; for example, those related to politeness. They demonstrate understanding of cultural differences in writing conventions for specific discourse forms by producing equivalent items in another language.</p>

# INFORMATION

## PROJECT BACKGROUND:

- The idea of a “bush-toy” takes the imagination immediately to playing with our immediate environment. Wherever possible, it quite literally takes students out of the classrooms to being barefoot on the soil. The significance of “bush-toys” is the ability to engage students with ancient cultures and environmental issues through the searching for, finding of and playing with native flora.
- Through the guidance of fibre artist Adrienne Kneebone and the Indigenous stories told by award winning Aboriginal artist Bronwyn Razem students will be encouraged to create animal forms which are inspired by Bunjil the creation Eagle and/or the relevant residential TOTEM animal to the area. The animals will be made with intention to be exhibited to the school and wider community. There is opportunity for local women to be involved in this workshop if a group is organized.
- Bush Toys is a very simple *form* making technique, which uses native grass and brightly coloured wool with a contemporary weaving style to create 3D animal shapes. The concept originated from the central desert of the Northern Territory. It was developed as a community capacity building initiative to significantly aid Aboriginal women living in remote communities gain financial independence through the creation, sale and exhibiting of new contemporary art works. It was such a significant success that it was then adapted and developed to help school students take concept to form in a fun and stress free learning environment
- The technique is not a traditional Indigenous basketry technique but has been adopted and developed by groups of Indigenous women in the Central desert regions (Tjanpi Desert Weavers) across to Western Australia (Black-Stone weavers) and is now being taught by Top End Artists at Barthulha Webs Artist Camp in Katherine NT.
- The students will learn about local Indigenous culture, recycling and the environment. They will learn of local plants, and local stories. This workshop provides a great opportunity for the students to learn and to expand on the knowledge of Indigenous culture, the environment and of the basics to exhibiting art.



## Award Winning Artist Bronwyn Razem



Gifted Torquay artist Bronwyn Razem has taken out a top prize at the state's most prestigious Indigenous arts award over the weekend.

Ms Razem was announced as the winner of the Victorian Indigenous Art Awards' University of Ballarat Acquisitive Award in a ceremony at the Art Gallery of Ballarat on Saturday.

The coveted award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize and recognises the most outstanding work reflecting Victoria's Western District. Razem's winning work, a traditionally woven eel trap made of New Zealand flax and emu feathers, will be on display at the gallery along with other finalist's and winner's work until December 8. Razem, from the Gunditjmarra/Kirrae Whurrong clan from western Victoria, said she was thrilled to have been recognised after being shortlisted in the awards for the third time.

"There is such a wide range of good artists and it's a very professional field each year.

"I kind of had a feeling I might win this one this year as I felt my piece really fit the category but I was still very surprised, gobsmacked actually. I was quite honoured just to be shortlisted with so many wonderful artists."

Originally from Warrnambool and now living in Torquay, Razem said she first learned the traditional art of basket weaving from her mother 15 years ago.

"She passed it down to me and it's a dying art so I am making sure it's passed onto my daughters too.

"It's important that we do all we can to hang onto these forms of art, they're becoming more and more rare."

The large piece took Ms Razem eight weeks to construct and she said it holds a great deal of personal significance.

"The eel trap itself is not a traditionally spiritual item but I have made this one as an art piece with feathers as a representation of a light breeze and water running through it.

"No one else has entered an eel trap before but it was sculpturally appropriate for my family, I can remember my grandfather making them."

"All of my work, from my paintings to my woven pieces stems from my family."

Ms Razem has an eel trap on display in Canberra's National Museum and another three already in the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria, who was at the awards presentation, said the awards are aimed to build the profile of south east Australian Indigenous art and Victoria's Indigenous artists.

Ms Victoria congratulated all winners and finalists and said it's now the public's turn to be the judge for the Arts Victoria People's Choice Award, worth \$2,500.

“This year’s finalist works celebrate the incredible depth and diversity of Victoria’s Indigenous arts sector and they feature in a stunning exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

I encourage everyone to visit the exhibition either in person or online via the Arts Victoria website and cast their vote for their favourite,” she said.

Head to [arts.vic.gov.au/peopleschoice](http://arts.vic.gov.au/peopleschoice) to view the online gallery and vote for the Arts Victoria People’s Choice Award.

SURF COAST TIMES Nov 2013



**Image:** Bronwyn Razem, *Eel trap with emu feathers*, 2013, New Zealand flax, emu feathers, 120 x 30

<http://artguide.com.au/articles-page/show/victorian-indigenous-art-awards-2/>

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



**Adrienne Kneebone**

Adrienne Kneebone worked with Western Arnhem Land weavers to develop a community building project titled The Pandanus Project. Adrienne is currently studying for a Masters of Visual Arts at Monash University and travelled to Beijing for an artist residency in 2012.

Adrienne's work has been exhibited in Indonesia and has been accepted and acquired by several National Art Awards. Adrienne is also co-ordinator of Barthulha WebsArtist Camp [www.barthulhaweb.com](http://www.barthulhaweb.com)



**Bronwyn Razem**

Bronwyn Razem is an Indigenous Australian basket weaver and painter. She is a Gunditjmara woman of the Kirrae Whurrong clan of western Warrnambool on the Victorian coastline. Bronwyn's practice involves an exploration of her Indigenous heritage and identity, and she creates symbolic representations of places and events that are meaningful to her family. She integrates ochres, sand and other materials into her paintings, and her works also draw on the possum skin cloak traditions of her ancestors. Exhibitions include the solo show "Symbols of Identity" (2006/2007), "Ngathook mangnoorroo watanoo: I come from (2008) both at Bunjilaka Gallery, Melbourne Museum, and "Local story: local voices" at the National Wool Museum, Geelong. Bronwyn was highly commended for the Deadly Art Award at the 2005 Victorian Indigenous Arts Awards, and she was short-listed for the Victorian Indigenous Arts Awards in 2006. In 2008, Bronwyn was chosen by the Australia Council for the Arts to be part of a delegation of Indigenous artists to attend the 10th Pacific Arts Festival in Western Samoa.

Bronwyn's mother, **Aunty Zelda Couzens**, was a well-respected basket weaver and elder who taught Bronwyn basket-making techniques. Bronwyn now regularly conducts basket weaving workshops with Victorian Indigenous communities in order to facilitate the revival of cultural traditions. She has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours at Deakin University, and in 2008 she was enrolled in a Master by Research degree at Deakin Institute of Koorie Education, Geelong, and was living in Ballarat.

# ACTIVITIES

## Suggested Activities for BEFORE the visit from the Lomandra Project

- Collect sticks, stones and leaves from the school yard. Have a pile ready for the day.
- Have a discussion on the local Aboriginal tribe to the area, tribal names and languages.
- Invite a local elder to your school to discuss local culture and language with your students
- Practice winding string around a toilet roll, (to get used to winding surprisingly some children have difficulty doing this!).
- Draw pictures of native Australian flora and fauna, choose a couple that are common to the area.
- Look at a map of Australia and point out and become familiar with the central desert and the Top End areas.
- Explore indigenous arts practices – both traditional and contemporary.
- Visit Bunjilaka and experience Wominjeka First People's Exhibition "<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/whatson/current-exhibitions/first-peoples/>

## Suggested activities after the Bush Toys workshop

- Reflection: Discuss and write a page reflecting the workshop and Indigenous stories told.
- Tell and write, draw, perform stories from your culture
- Make a list of local native grasses
- Design and make a garden at your school, home or in the community using local grasses and other native plants local to the area
- Explore local bush tucker.
- Encourage the students to make something at home from found grasses etc to share with class
- Set up an exhibition of the works made and get the students involved in setting up etc
- Invite the local elders, community and parents to open the exhibition
- Go for an excursion to The Melbourne Museum to look at Victorian Indigenous weavings
- Visit Bunjilaka and experience Wominjeka First People's Exhibition"

# FURTHER READING

For further information about Indigenous history and culture, try some of these links below. This list is by no means exhaustive, but provides a starting point to explore further!

**Tjanpi Desert Weavers by Penny Watson**

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

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

<http://djilpinarts.org.au/>

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/whatson/current-exhibitions/first-peoples/>

**Indigenous Organisations In Victoria:**

<http://www.atsihealth.org/aboriginal-organisations/w2/i1001734/>

**Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council**

<http://www.viyac.org.au/listing/>

**Mullum Mullum , Indigenous Gathering Place**

<http://www.mmigp.org.au/resources>

**Koorie Heritage Trust**

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

***Bunjilaka - Museum Victoria***

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bunjilaka>

# FURTHER READING

\*\*\* The most comprehensive resource from the Koorie heritage Trust:

<http://vaeai.org.au/uploads/ckpg/files/Tuckerbag%20Indigenous%20Perspectives-112013.pdf>

Indigenous Melbourne

<http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Placestogo/indigenous/Pages/indigenous.aspx>

Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

<http://www.vaclang.org.au/>

Victorian Aboriginal Education Association  
144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070  
Email: [vaeai@vaeai.org.au](mailto:vaeai@vaeai.org.au)

BALLARAT:

**Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative (BADAC)**

Address: 5 Market Street, Ballarat Central, VIC, 3350

HAMILTON:

Belinda Carroll - (Southern Grampians)

[belinda@gsgllen.org.au](mailto:belinda@gsgllen.org.au)

**Koorie Home School Liaison Officer – Grampians Region**

Address: 109 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat Central, VIC, 3550

# ABOUT REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

Regional Arts Victoria is the peak Victorian agency resourcing and supporting contemporary and innovative regional cultural practice. In the more than 40 years since its establishment, RAV has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the concept that art practice is critical to building capacity and self-determination in communities. It is proud of its reputation as a contemporary, inventive and responsive organisation working with vision, passion and a strong understanding of the challenges and aspirations of the communities that form its regional constituency.

Regional Arts Victoria initiates, facilitates and celebrates the arts in regional Victoria through Creative Communities Victoria, Education and Families, Performing Arts Touring and Regional Arts Development programs.

We do this by:

- Working with artists and regional communities to create high-quality art.
- Playing a major role in developing regional arts networks, tours, projects, programs, skills development, and funding.
- Providing leadership and support to our networks in regional Victoria.
- Celebrating the diversity of cultural experience in regional Victoria.
- Collaborating with partners in business, local, state and federal government, sponsors and education organisations.
- Striving for excellence through benchmarking and continuous improvement processes.

Performing Arts Touring is Regional Arts Victoria's tour coordinating program that works to broker agreements between presenters and producers resulting in tours of a diverse range of performing arts productions.

Touring forums such as Long Paddock and Showcase Victoria introduce presenters to a diverse range of producers and their work, offering new Australian drama, theatre classics, children's theatre, contemporary dance, comedy, musical theatre, physical theatre, world music, circus, opera, ballet and classical music.

Education & Families, is Regional Arts Victoria's program for children and young people. Each year we take a variety of high quality arts experiences on the road across Victoria, from Mallacoota to Murrayville and Heywood to Corryong, reaching over 25,000 young people.

Education & Families tours are AusVELS and VCE linked where appropriate, and include Curriculum links to The Arts, Humanities, English and Citizenship, drama, music, dance, literature, visual arts and multimedia activities. The program connects with Cross Curriculum Priorities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History, Sustainability and Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia.

Regional Arts Victoria provides young people across Victoria with the opportunity to experience, engage with and participate in high-quality live performing and visual arts. Our school incursion program is an inspiring, contemporary, and educational way to promote the value of the arts to young people within communities.

Regional Arts Victoria: [www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au)

The logo for Regional Arts Victoria is a stylized, circuit-like font where the letters are formed by interconnected lines and dots. The text is arranged in three lines: 'REGIONAL' on top, 'ARTS' in the middle, and 'VICTORIA' at the bottom. The letters are black and set against a bright yellow background. To the right of the text is a large, semi-transparent yellow circle. In the upper right corner, there are several overlapping circles in shades of grey, blue, and white, along with a black shape that appears to be a partial circle or a corner of a square.

REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA

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