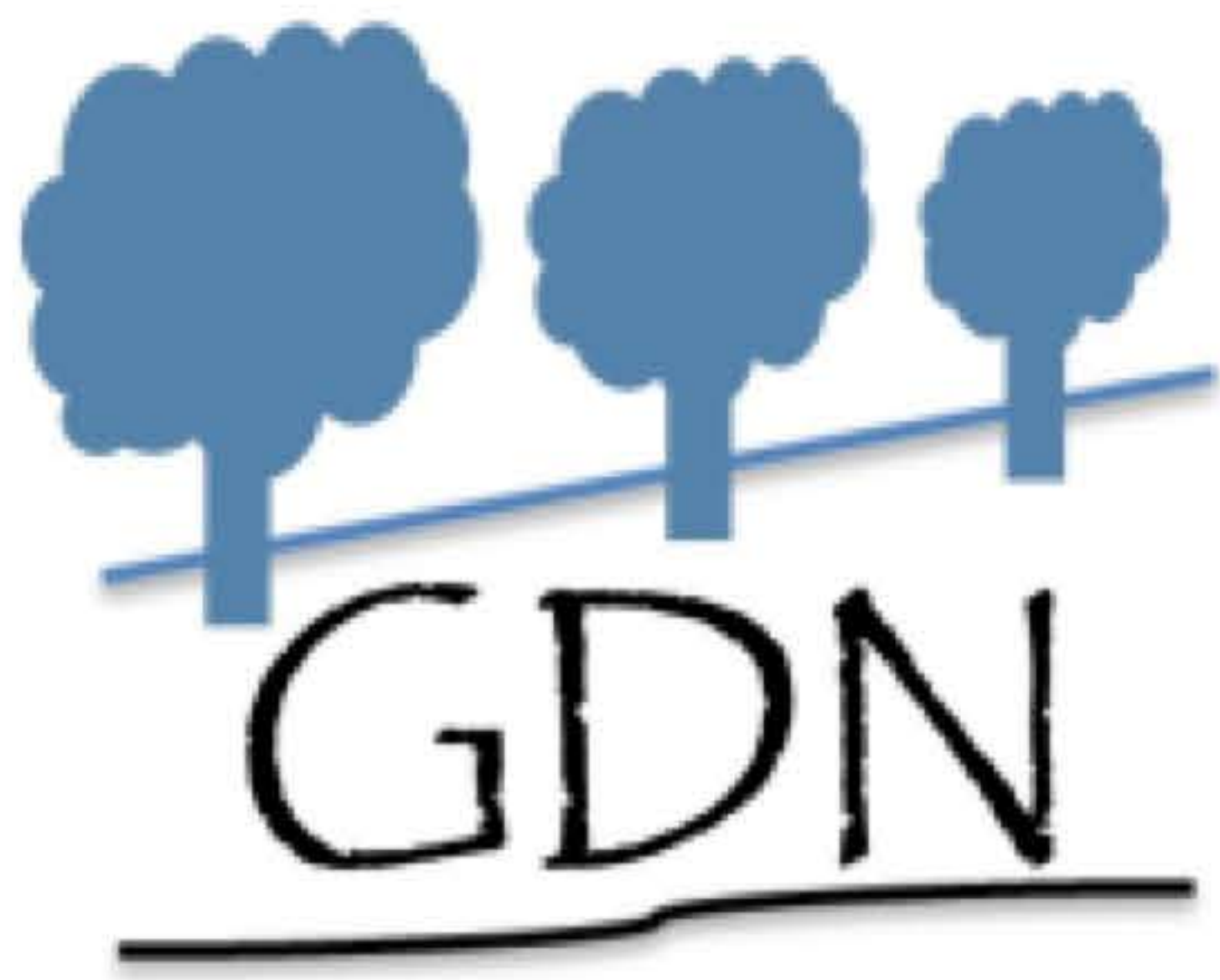
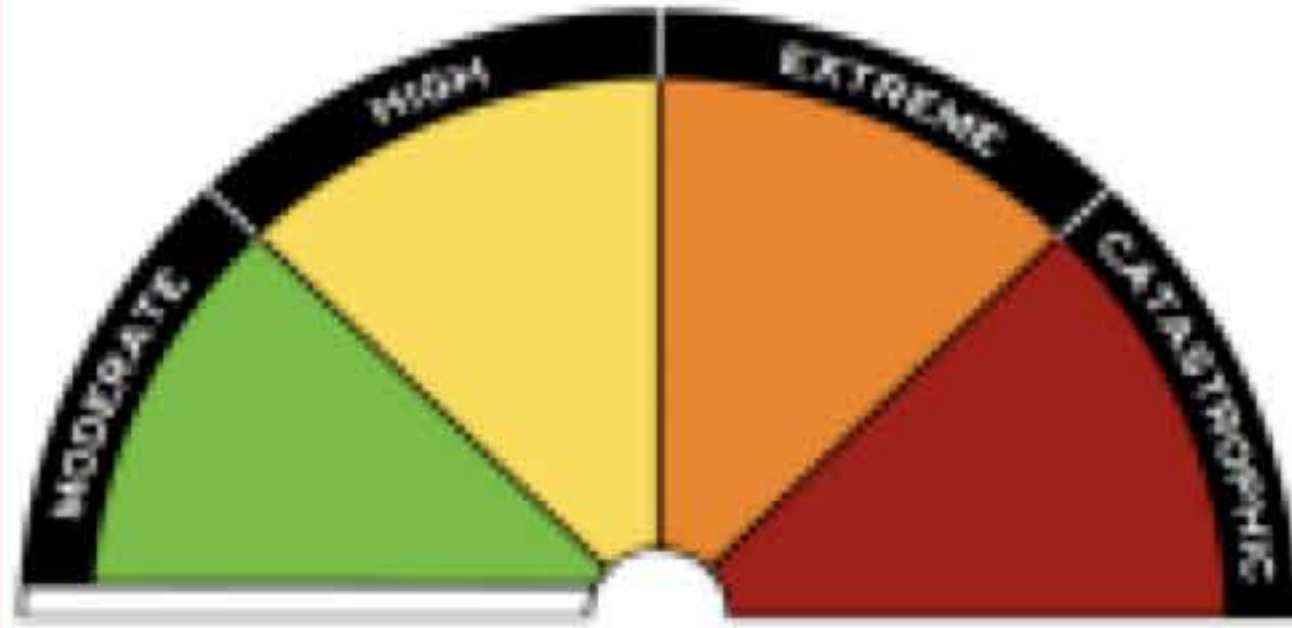




Issue No 261
November 2023

THE GLENLYON DISTRICT NEWS

Covering Coomoora, Denver, Drummond, Glenlyon, Porcupine Ridge and Wheatsheaf
Established 2001 Member CNAV



MODERATE Plan and prepare	HIGH Be ready to act
EXTREME Take action now to protect life and property	CATASTROPHIC For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

FIRE DANGER PERIOD STARTS 20 November 2023 What is your "Plan B"?

New Art Project in Glenlyon

Ryan Kennedy has lived in Glenlyon for nine years. He is a sculptor, artist, arts curator and school crossing lollipop man in Daylesford. He has created Radical Fieldz – an exciting creative arts program through which he brings together artists and our local community.

Radical Fieldz is a six-month creative program which looks to further expand our artistic ecology through free public programs and opportunities for artists. Developed to align with aspects of our rural living and the desire to connect community/country, it is a creative exchange of ideas and skills. The program also looks to be a meeting place for a variety of community groups to cross pollinate ideas and members.

Ryan explains, "Welcome to RADICAL FIELDZ, a new creative arts program in Glenlyon, Victoria exploring our everyday rural living and landscape through artists' processes. With free public programs and opportunities for artists throughout our six-month season, RADICAL FIELDZ invites everyone to join in as we creatively explore community and country. Join us monthly at the Glenlyon Market and sit down for a cuppa with one of our artists as they share their ideas and showcase their work.

All are welcome to our FREE public art events. Join artist/curator Ryan as we creatively investigate our everyday life and landscapes through sculpture, drawing, performance and land art."

RADICAL FIELDZ opening day was on Saturday October 22, when Ryan was joined by Anne Mellino, local artists Pat Kermode, Pattie Beerens and Tony Sawrey at the Glenlyon Community Dam. For this exercise they built a series of sculptural forms out of dead wood as habitats

for local spiders. Over the next six months, with the help from the spiders and their webs, these works will grow into a 'Silk Garden'. This work was installed for exhibition at the end of season hARvesT celebration.

On Saturday 18 November, 9 am–1pm talk with artist Tony Sawrey at the Market, then join Ryan 12pm–3pm for the Public Art Event at Glenlyon Community Dam .

Saturday 21 December: 9 am–1pm Glenlyon Market at Shire Hall with artist Tas Wansbrough
12pm–3pm Public Art Event at Glenlyon Community Dam with Ryan Kennedy



Ryan explains the Radical Fieldz project to Sarah Clark at the Village Market.



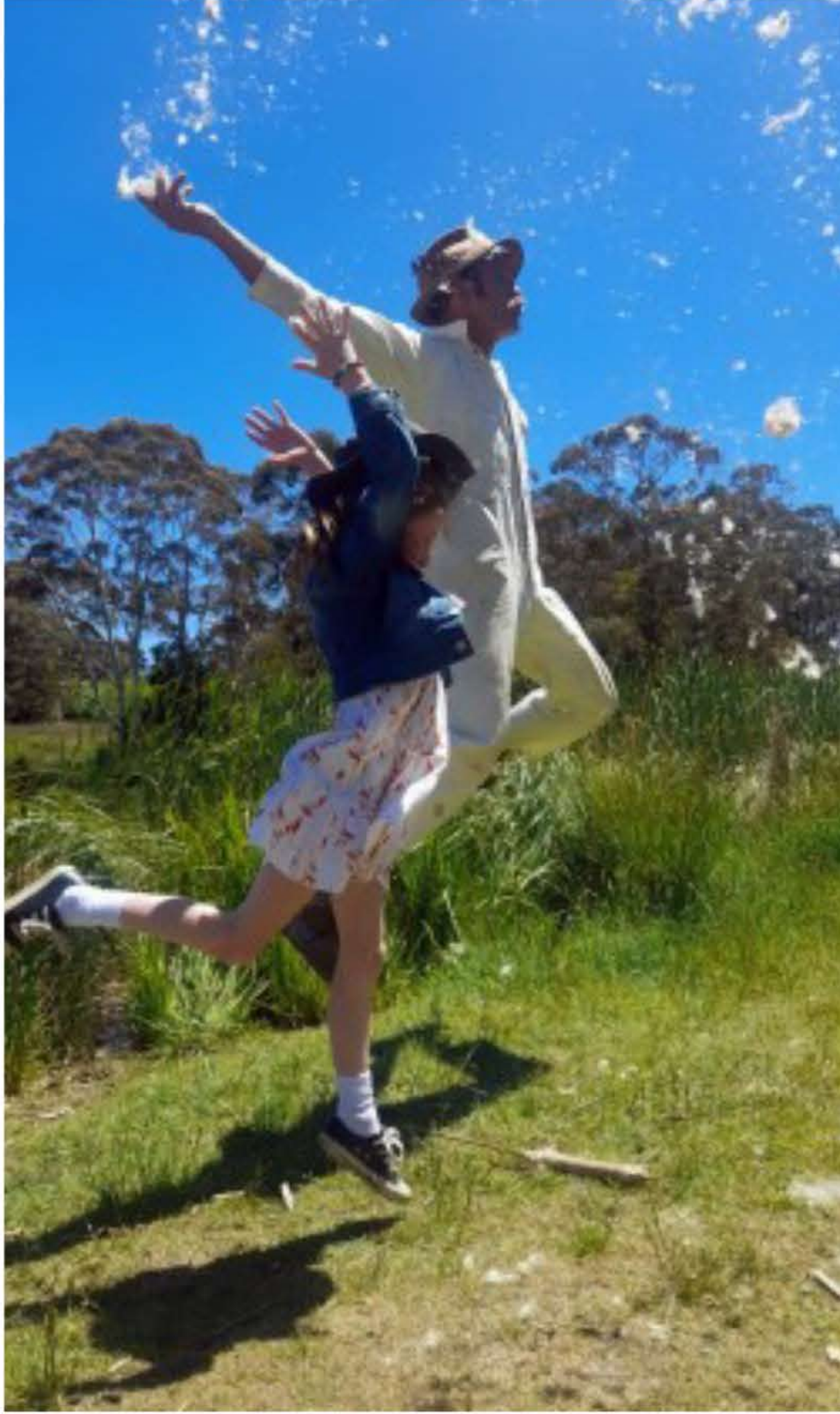
Pat Kermode, Ryan Kennedy, Anne Mellino, artists Pattie Beerens and Tony Sawrey at the Glenlyon Dam.

Glenlyon District News is your community newsletter. If you have something to say or information you would like to share, contact the editor at glenlyonnews@gmail.com Deadline for copy : 10th of each month

Radical Fieldz

By Ryan Kennedy

What is art? For us at *Radical Fieldz* art begins as a sensory experience, it arrives through the long gaze at a sunset, the scent of wattle blossoming, the feel of a bull rush seed floating past our fingertips. Is art context or composition or both? For us here at *Radical Fieldz* art begins with an investigation, an unknowing and an eagerness to create/perceive the world around us in new ways.



Our November event started with an exploration of local seeds as they began their journey around the biodiversity wonder that is our Glenlyon Community Dam. We paid particular attention to the bullrush seed, like a densely populated skyscraper, these towers swaying in the breeze awaiting the seasonal warmth to burst out into the bush. A simple method of performance art, mimicry, was used to better understand our local seed life. Local youngster Sophia and Mary as well as myself performed the 'bullrush' act of compacting our bodies into tiny balls and bursting open several times. While enjoying this fun action we discussed the enormous effort all plants put into their seeds. Sophia noted that much like making a baby these seeds take a long time to create and are far more precious than we initially perceived.

We at *Radical Fieldz* encourage you while in your garden or out in the bush to take a few minutes and through the use of your own body mimic the world. Be it a simple gesture with your hands, a whistle to a bird or a full bodied expression, use this time to translate our environment into a performance. How does this active engagement change you and or the world around you? Does one better understand their environment or self? It is exactly this kind of serious/play that we encourage you to find in your everyday.

December brings artists Tas Wansbrough to the Glenlyon Market, her work explores the fascinating resilience of the human body through relief carving, sculptural forms, and installation works. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts from FedUni Arts Academy Tas has furthered her practice through studies at the British School at Rome and numerous public works. Tas is an award-winning artist whose works have been featured in the Lorne Sculpture Biennale, The Parliament of Victoria, M Pavilion, The Biennale of Australian Art, and recently the Lot 19 Sculpture Prize.

In "Hyper Nature," Tas invites us to embark on a sensory journey that explores the overwhelming intensity of the natural world. Through her art installation,

Tas channels her experiences of prolonged confinement within sterile hospital environments, leading us to reflect on the remarkable ability of nature to amplify our senses to a state of hyper-reality. "I use art to explore the human condition. I focus on the limitations of our bodies and the messages we sometimes ignore in the pursuit of our dreams. Survival keeps us going, but it's love, creativity, and curiosity that push us beyond our limits. In my art, I represent these ideas through figurative works that show how healing rituals connect to modern healing practices," said Tas Wansbrough.

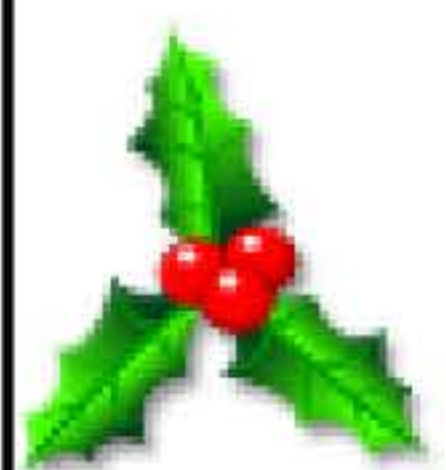
Join Tas Saturday 16 December, 9am-1pm at the Glenlyon Market as she presents her practice and upcoming project, 'Hyper Nature'.

Join us Saturday 16 December, 12-3pm at the Glenlyon Community Dam as we create a community sound composition. Bring your own instruments, voices and noise makers as *Radical Fieldz* along with local musicians explore sound, nature and community.

Saturday 20 January

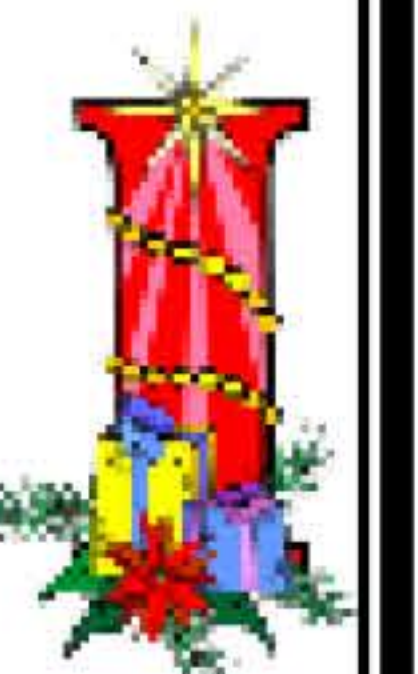
9am-1pm Glenlyon Market at Shire Hall with artist Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling (POD)

12pm-3pm Public Art Event at Glenlyon Community Dam with curator Ryan.



What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path may lead to peace.

Agnes M. Pahro



Radical Fieldz

By Ryan Kennedy

Listen. Did you hear that? No, it's not the sound of rain, it's the sounds of Radical Fieldz.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our December programs, big turnouts for the community sound composition and our collaborative birdwatching event with FLOC (Friendly Little Ornithology Club). Both these events allude to something other than listening, one celebrating sound/noise/music and the other a 'spectacle' for the eyes; that said, this is only but an illusion.

Though listening is a major component of birdwatching, though we are often highly dependent upon our eyes to observe our environment, one finds that without movement the smallest and/or best camouflaged birds are often difficult to see. Second to sight comes auditory: listening is a huge part of our everyday life and often poorly practised, though these two creative exercises did just that: they exercised our listening.



It was a cool and cloudy afternoon at the community dam in December as about a dozen people showed up for our community sound composition. Beginning with introductions of individuals and their unique instruments: silver spoons, ukuleles, Australian made alto saxophone and a locally crafted string instrument. Exploring the rhythms of everyday sounds we each mimicked objects or actions from our daily routines. What does the sound a gas stove makes sound like when played through an alto saxophone? What does the ripple of the wind on the water sound like through a tuning fork? Before we explored/experimented we had to first listen - listen to these sounds, listen to each other, listen to our instruments. In music we often hear the phrase, "call and response" between instruments and/or melodies. We

here at Radical Fieldz say 'call, listen and respond'.

Earlier in December members of Radical Fieldz and FLOC traversed the 100 acres of Lyonbank Farm. We listened to the variety of calls, the sense of the land and each other's insights. Much like art there is a certain amount of patience, interest and persistence required in birdwatching. The performative aspects of the artistic process are in line with those of 'twitchers', both demanding a sense of presence, observation and the ability to deeply listen. This sense of listening, call and response is something which FLOC will be translating into an experiential art work mapping the Radical Fieldz for our End of Season hARvesT on 16 March 2024. Which reminds me...

Happy New Year. What better way to ring in the new year than to join Radical Fieldz for our next FREE public art event 'Paint the Pad' - Saturday 20 January 2-6pm at the Glenlyon Shire Hall. All ages are welcome to join in the making of a new public mural at the Glenlyon Shire Hall. We will be making an abstract map of community highlights and invite everyone to help 'Paint the Pad'. Commissioned by the Committee of Management and the GPA with paint generously gifted by our sponsors' Haymes Paint. Join us as we make a lasting impression celebrating our hamlet and its history. Special guest Ballarat artist Pauline O'Shannessy Dowling (POD), drawing games and refreshments for all ages.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Glenlyon Market on 20 January from 9am-1pm with artist Kim Percy as she discusses her photography practice, and stick around for 'Paint the Pad' from 2-6pm at the Glenlyon Shire Hall. (In the event of rain the project will take place in the Old Fire Shed)

Please note: we are at the Glenlyon Shire Hall on Saturday 20 January from 2-6pm not our usual spot at the dam

We leave you with a DIY Exercise (Do InstructionalArt Yourself) :

SOUND MAPPING – Sit down with a piece of paper and a pen. Place an 'O' in the middle of your map, you are the 'O' and the paper is the world around you. Close your eyes and listen. For each sound you hear, place an 'O' representing that sound in the corresponding area. Once you have marked all the sounds connect each dot to the centre one. Repeat in different places at different times of day and variations (circle size correlates to the volume, if the sound moves move the circles, etc.)

Radical Fieldz

By Ryan Kennedy

There is something really lovely when a large group of people get together creatively. The common goal and willingness to work with each other to achieve it brings about the best of people.

We welcomed the large turn out and were encouraged to have a number of local artists, creatives and families join us for last month's free art event 'Paint the Pad'. With over fifty people in attendance bringing their skills and sharing their story as we collectively created the mural. Big thanks to everyone who helped, the GPA for their refreshments and especially our sponsor Haymes Paint for their generous gift of QuickPave Pavement Paint.

The process of creating the work was a big highlight for us at Radical Fieldz, the generosity of people, our ability to put issues aside and work with each other was a real winner. I am aware of the divisions we have within our own community as I am of those within me that divide others. For what is division if not so often a destructive action? Can we work conversely with the act of creating and how that brings us together. Art can be at times therapeutic, so often envisioned as the lone artist working through their emotions. However this can also be in group form as we hold past issues aside making way to see and engage with each other in a creative light.

When you next visit the Glenlyon Shire Hall, look out for the eclectic blend of painting styles, gestures and clever ideas which speak volumes of our creative community/landscape. See the collected differences of each painter and their approach as necessary as the other for the work's success. I personally enjoy the way we have captured our community events and natural landscapes.

Our experience of the landscape is at times poignant, reminding us that we need to engage/observe our environment. These moments come from glimpses of a sunrise while bringing the kids to school, hearing the black cockatoo

call while fixing the mower or looking out the window while writing an article about art/nature. Artists often record their observations, encouraging us to follow their eyes/ideas about the landscape be it environmental, social and or psychological. Nature alone cannot articulate its powers; however through the sharing of stories and ideas, aka art, we can find ways to make nature a significant part of life. Why? If we see nature as an extension of ourselves then through it we can learn about our sense of beauty, familiarise ourselves with the inevitability of life's autumnal season and fulfil what we long for when those fleeting moments pass us by.

With this in mind we invite you to join us for our next monthly art event; Saturday 17 February 9am-1pm local artist Bern Barry will be at the Glenlyon Market answering questions about his painting process and sculptural work 'The Horn of Plenty'. Our free co-creative event brings local artist/photographer Kim Percy to share her process behind the lens as she guides us on a photographic journey through local landscapes, 12-3pm at the Glenlyon Community Dam. BYO Camera/Phone

Save the date, End of Season hARvesT – Saturday 16 March 10am-6pm at Lyonbank Farm (off Back Glenlyon Road). This is a one day celebratory event bringing together local artists, their projects, special performances and

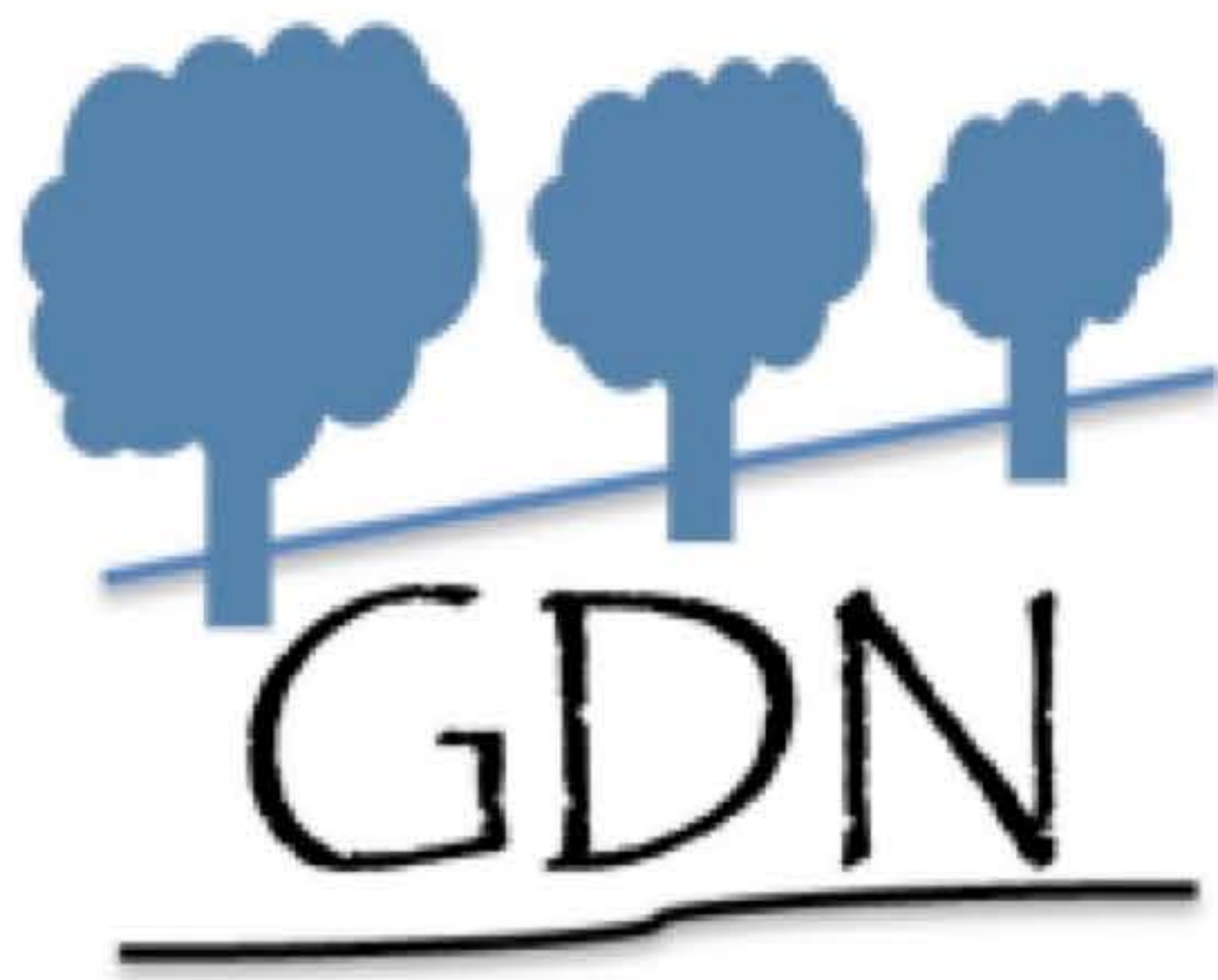
community groups. 'We're Serious Let's Play' - is the curatorial theme for Radical Fieldz and was inspired by Japanese/Korean rural artists of the 1960s while stressing the 'serious/play' found in artistic processes. Artists and communities exploring how the everyday can be engaged in unique ways, one can expect the unexpected. With numerous participatory works and activities for all ages/abilities we encourage everyone to come join as we hARvesT the fruits of our first creative season. BYO Footwear for paddock/farm walking.

DIY (Do Instructional Art Yourself)

For decades artist Hamish Fulton has been recording his walks from around the world, listing the time, place, route and weather conditions. These records are often printed to appear like plaques at a war memorial or commemorative writings of great events in history. These brief text based works allow us to fill the gaps as we (artist/audience) exercise our imagination. Next time you are on a walk, through nature or even the Coles parking lot, take the time to write down the basics of that walk. Time, place, route and weather conditions. Reflect/share this writing, how does this record change your view of the past walk? Has doing this changed your awareness on future walks?



Paint the Pad - Free painting event Jan 2024



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Established 2001 Member CNAV

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Radical Fieldz Harvested

By Ryan Kennedy

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon for *Radical Fieldz* inaugural End of Season Harvest celebrating six months of creative programming and art works. Over 200 attendees joined nine artists and three community groups in expanded fields of practice including art, agriculture, science, sport and nature. Connecting with people and place, we collectively explored a variety of immersive and participatory art works/artistic happenings.

Early morning brought our first Tractor Pull, audience members joined athletes from Daylesford Crossfit in an exercise of strength and teamwork as we pulled a 1941 Massey Harris tractor 200 metres across the paddock. Local artist and academic Kim Percy invited participants to take a photo given a specific prompt producing a mosaic of polaroids captures the day.

Artist Hayley West gave us insights into natural burial processes through dialogue and offering visitors the chance to lie in a shallow grave. Those who took part enjoyed the unique visit from within the earth and remarked how peaceful the experience was. Local artist Bern Barry and Ballarat artist Tas Wansborough found great fun reconnecting with locals they met earlier in the program at the Glenlyon Village Market.

Castlemaine Zen's Kynan Sutherland Roshi was joined by over 30 attendees for a silent walk across the 100 acre property ending with 108 Bells beneath the mana gums by Kangaroo Creek. Local artist Anthony Sawrey led a group discussion about his process of painting with a motorbike and land art while we sowed seed in his tracks.

Glenlyon artist Paul Mason, local Geologist Dr. Ahmad Tabassi and Post & Earths' James McGuire used an excavator/auger to dig below the surface in an open investigation about local geology, soils and earthworks. The



Thank you to Karen Brothers Photography

afternoon brought about a delightful work by Daylesford artist Gav Barbey, 'Shadow Sculptures' participants buddied up collecting ephemera (leaves, flowers, stones, sticks, bones etc) using the afternoon sun they struck a pose while their creative partner filled in their shadow.

From queer bushranger myths by Castlemaine artist Martin John Lee to local bird watching group, FLOC's engaging/informative work *Radical Fieldz* Harvest had something for everyone.

Big THANK YOU to our generous sponsors this year, the Glenlyon Progress Association and Haymes Paint, without their support this season would not have been the success it was.

Radical Fieldz is pleased to announce we will be returning next season with our creative program starting up again in October 2024 with more opportunities for some serious play.

Until then you can find us every third Saturday of the month at the Glenlyon Village Market 9am-1pm.

Be Radical All Year

By Ryan Kennedy

We here at Radical Fields are thrilled to announce that we are expanding our program to year round. What does this mean for the community? Every third Saturday of the month, Radical Fields will join the Glenlyon Community Market from 9am to 1pm. There you will find members of our curatorial team and local artists in at the Glenlyon Shire Hall. We invite all ages and abilities to join us as we make place for creative conversations, research and open dialogues about art, agriculture, science, sport and rural living.

Radical Fields welcomes to our creative community artist/writer and curatorial team member Anthony Sawrey who will be writing our monthly articles. He is an accomplished artist and resident of Musk, where he has lived for the last ten years. Enjoy Anthony's words and come say hello to him and the team each month at the Glenlyon Village Market. (Follow the Red Dots.)

We're serious. Let's Play. What does that mean? At first reading the phrase appears contradictory, with one half emphasising a sober deliberate business-like attitude, the other a loose intuitive activity, flippant and indifferent to purpose. But in regards to visual art and its place in regional communities 'we're serious, let's play' represents an important creative state of mind well beyond some simple tautology. Art is considered a serious subject. The reason people make art is deep seated and profoundly important and so too is the desire to have this art intermesh with people, with an audience. But as many art makers suspect, that goal can be hard to achieve outside of metropolitan areas. The eternal city/country divide raises its walls once again, the centre/periphery debates roll on.

Metropolitan areas enjoy, specifically those inner suburbs where art galleries and arts activity is strong, the luxury of access to audiences tailored to a wide range of artists and work. There is little doubt that neighbourhoods with universities, youthful multicultural populations and active social scenes are able to accommodate art discourses with a laser focus. Art can be, with a willing crowd, serious, dense, political, confronting or even tedious and mystifying. Essentially, within cities it is comparatively easy to find a niche where you can feel at home with your particular strand of art practice along with a readymade community to support it.



Artist Tas Wansbrough and Glenlyon Village Market Vendor David.

But the ecology begins to change as you move away from these metropolitan centres. From the outer suburbs to peri-urban zones into regional areas, the population scatters and all their accompanying social fabrics begin to shift and morph. Take an area like the Central Highlands, It is very much a rural area but the mix is peculiar. You have a wide range of political, social, and economic identities and no one seems to socialise in the same places. Often the only time these disparate groups cross paths is in the supermarket, hardware store or post office, so how can you bring these threads together for something as complex as the visual arts?

Such a task is also made extremely difficult while a certain perception of what art is or can be continues to linger. For example, It is all too common for local commercial galleries to treat art objects as little more than homewares for visiting tourists. Well-meaning regional councils spruik the creative credentials of its residents while offering little avenue for engagement with those people outside of surveys or public sculpture tenders. While regular exhibitions come and go with various local festivals, artists often languish on the periphery of parties, parades and tractor pulls. Art in this ecology is forever an afterthought.

Radical Fields, like numerous regional cultural initiatives throughout rural Victoria and beyond, emerged in response to an awareness their region was more than just a tourist draw. They understood by simply living here that it is a place with a diverse range of educated people and an untapped willing audience. Ranging from farmers, builders and mechanics to lawyers, ecologists and teachers, these were people who would, given the opportunity, respond positively to something new. If the question then was: In what form should such an initiative proceed? The answer soon took shape in the byline: We're serious. Let's Play.

Serious Play is an idea that really gained traction in the late '90s to facilitate collaborative interactions in business where applying playful open mindsets was found to foster creativity and innovation. But as a concept it could also be easily applied to visual arts, emphasising to participating audiences the possibilities of freedom, and process over outcome. Perhaps most importantly of all, the notion of play is inclusive. Unlike relying on, for example, theoretical approaches to convince sceptics of an idea's value, play simply welcomes the participant into an environment that is quite literally an open field of engagement.