

BALLARAT INTERNATIONAL FOTO BIENNALE 2019 FESTIVAL REPORT





“I am very proud to be an ambassador for the Ballarat International Foto Biennale. In 2019 the event featured internationally significant contemporary photographic works from over 120 artists, attracting an audience of over 37,000 people, and bringing a strong social impact to Ballarat.”

JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC



Now in its 14th year, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale is a world-class event that continues to evolve, expand and attract curious audiences and most importantly, renowned international photographic artists. 2019 was my second Biennale as Artistic Director and fourth year working with incredible artists and curators to provide a festival that prompts the audience to question, explore and be changed by art.

The 2019 festival attracted more than 37,800 visitors from August 24 to October 20, an increase of 360% since 2015. Visitors from outside Ballarat made up 71% of the audience who experienced photographic art in a multitude of forms.

With the theme of 'Hello World', leading artists exhibited works that represented their world in unconventional ways and in unpredictable circumstances. Liu Bolin / *Camouflage* [China] invited viewers to consider the camouflaged body as a vehicle for thinking and making change in the world.

Fiona Foley's exhibition *Who are these strangers and where are they going?* [Aus] recreated and expanded the oldest-known song in the history of Australia, telling of the exchange between Captain Cook and the Badtjala people.

The Open Program continued to provide a platform for artists and curators at every stage of their career to execute exhibitions to invigorate the city. Ballarat came alive with art, with something to be seen around every corner. Ballarat-based astronomer and photographer Phil Hart's exhibition brought planetary motion to life in a dramatic way, taking out the judge's choice for Best Exhibition Award.



The inaugural *Alane Fineman New Photography Award* was launched at this year's event to shine light on artists working in the Asia Pacific region, seeking to find those whose work is beginning to receive critical attention. The winner, Yichen Zhou [China] received recognition of her body of works titled *Daily Talk*. The prestigious *Martin Kantor Portrait Prize* was awarded to Penelope Hunt [Aus] for her stunning work of Alan Constable, *Finding Focus*.

We are constantly working to represent Ballarat outside the City and are proud that the exhibition *Who are these strangers and where are they going?* from the 2019 Biennale toured to Sydney for the 2020 Sydney Festival. The exhibition by Badtjala artist Dr. Fiona Foley, curated by Djon Mundine OAM was first exhibited in the Ballarat Mining Exchange. This exhibition showcases key works from Foley's Internationally celebrated 30 year career and relocated to the National Art School (NAS) in Darlinghurst Sydney to celebrate the Sydney Festival.

There are a multitude of highlights and moments of which I am incredibly proud however the most important aspect of the festival remains the ability for this event to focus the lens onto artists from all countries, backgrounds, cultures and interests using Ballarat as a beautiful backdrop. The spotlight is shared equally among them all.

60

Days

150+

Artists

37,800+

Attendees

71%

**Attendees
from outside
Ballarat**

190+

**Core and
Open Program
exhibitions
and events**

66

**Open Program
venues**

99%

Free events

135

Volunteers

180,000

**Views of Core
exhibitions combined**

3,800+

**Attended Education
Programs**

“Congratulations to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale for its vision and artistic integrity as the lead photographic festival in Australia today. Victorians should be proud that a major international photographic festival is based in the beautiful heritage town of Ballarat. I am very proud to be involved in this significant major event.”

STEPHEN BRACKS AC

For over a decade, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale has enriched the cultural landscape of regional Victoria and become the most significant, prestigious photographic arts festival in Australia. Held every two years, the event expanded to 60 days in 2019 bringing increased capacity in terms of both artists and visitation.

The Ballarat International Foto Biennale comprises of two major photographic programs: a curated Core Program showcasing work from Australian and international artists that is new and unseen in Australia or contextualised afresh; and an Open Program that fosters the development of new artists. Public projects, education programs, workshops, artist talks and prizes round out a rich and diverse cultural event that attracted more than 37,800 audience members, delivering significant economic and cultural impact.

Our friends and supporters have a collective enthusiasm and vision regarding the future direction of Australian photography and photographers, and the place they take on the world stage. As registered members of National Association for Visual Artists (NAVA) and International Biennial Association (IBA) we ensure all our artists are supported. We aim to have a positive

social and economic impact on the Ballarat region, serving and unifying the community, accessible to all with most events free. The Ballarat International Foto Biennale is guided by the principle that it not only serves the community but also plays a vital role in cultivating it.

The Ballarat International Foto Biennale has established itself as Australia's leading photographic festival. We've done this by consistently engaging audiences with photography, responding to our audience's needs, their changing vision of art and culture, and the role it plays in shaping Ballarat. We recognise and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as the First Australians. Through photography, we see our world reflected back in unexpected ways through the eyes of others: artists, community and new perspectives.

“The Ballarat International Foto Biennale has consolidated itself into an event of great significance for the engagement with and appreciation of contemporary photography, and for the considerable professional and community engagement that the festival promotes.

The Biennale is equally noteworthy for the way that it engages with, activates and animates the community and cultural history of Ballarat. BIFB attracts thousands of visitors to the region, engaging the local and wider community – artists, audiences, patrons, volunteers, First Nations communities, sponsors, businesses, government and academic partners, and of course cultural institutions – in meaningful ways. Through its intrepid scope, the Biennale literally takes over the city and introduces audiences to the rich cultural diversity and social history of Ballarat and environs.”

In 2018, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale purchased the Union Bank building in Lydiard Street South to develop the National Centre For Photography, the only regional gallery dedicated exclusively to photographic arts in Australia.

Image: John Gollings



“The passion and commitment invested in the Biennale by both the team and the Ballarat community demonstrates the power of strong vision and big ambition.”

KATE TORNEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA



“I loved how the city was used as a venue for the Ballarat International Foto Biennale – exhibitions were presented in a range of locations from old bank buildings to brick walls – the installations were creative and engaging.”

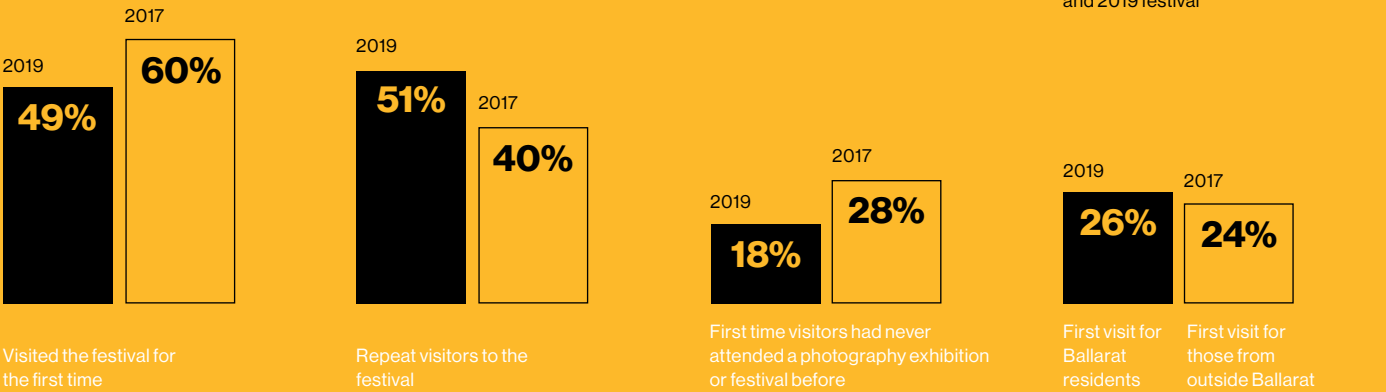
PEGGY SUE AMISON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, EAST WING, DOHA QATAR



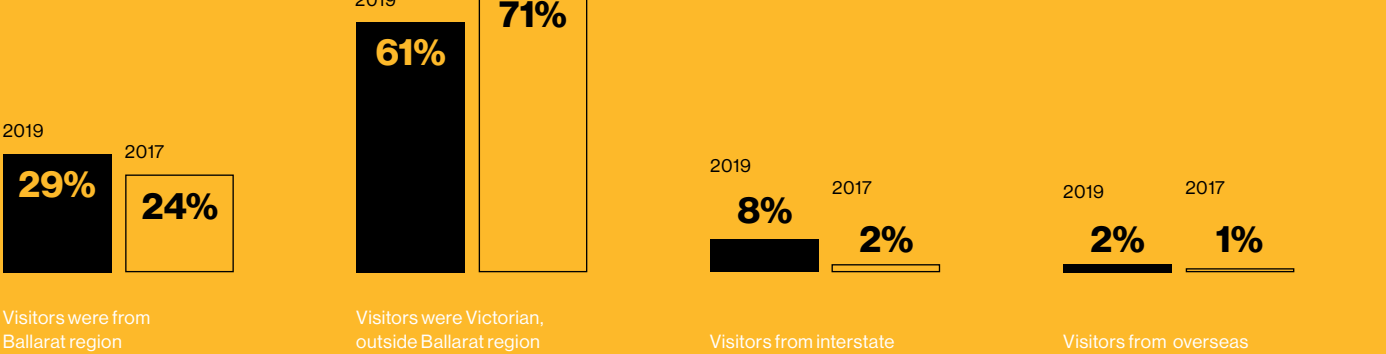
DEMOGRAPHICS



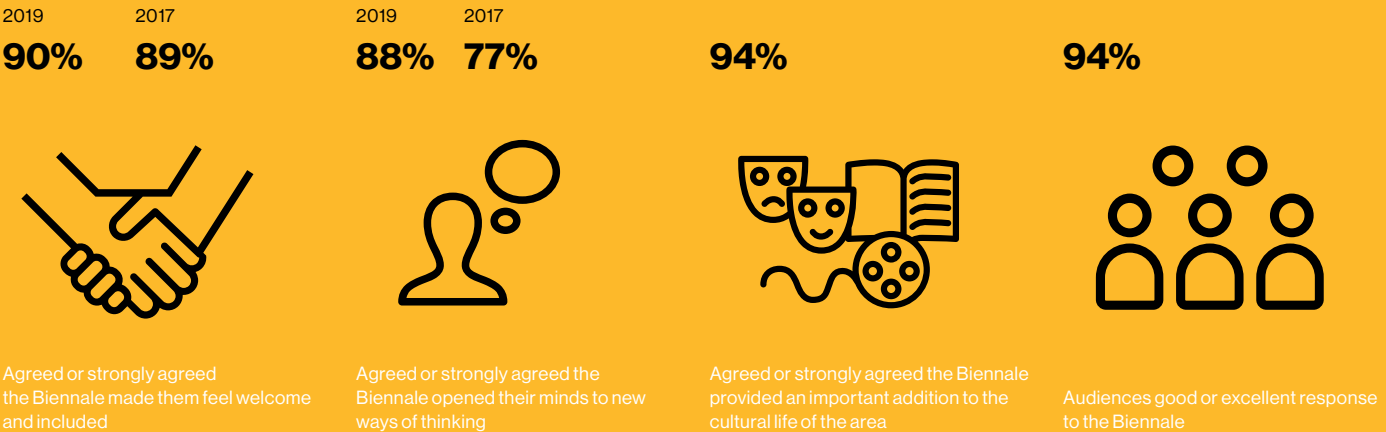
ATTENDANCE HISTORY



LOCATION



CULTURE



VISITATION

85

Number of venues

109

Number of Events

4Average venues
visited per person**2**Average nights
stayed per person**1,810**International visitor
nights generated
(107% increase
from 2017)**19,240**Domestic visitor
nights generated
(105% increase
from 2017)**26,870+**Non-Ballarat
attendees

OUTCOMES

\$7.27MEstimated direct economic
benefit for Ballarat region
attributed to the Ballarat
International Foto Biennale
(86% increase from 2017)**\$18.43M**Estimated indirect economic
benefit for Ballarat region
attributed to the Ballarat
International Foto Biennale**36**Full time equivalent
employment value created**5.6**Full time equivalent direct
employment by Biennale for
the festival



“The Ballarat International Foto Biennale has exciting and relevant content that speaks to me. The programs and content are well balanced with gallery shows and site specific curated shows. All major sites are within walking distance, and for overseas visitors, it is convenient as you can walk around at your own pace.”

GWEN LEE, CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL (SIPF)



PUBLIC RELATIONS

8

TV News Spots

69

Pieces of Print Coverage

31

Individual Radio Interviews

100

Pieces of Online Coverage

ADVERTISING

2

TVCs (15 and 30 second) on
Prime and WINTV

5

Leading Victorian cinemas aired 15
and 30 second commercials

28

Ads on radio/Google AdWords
/ Social media - Facebook / Instagram

\$1.84M

Estimated PR value

OUTDOOR

20

Real estate boards

4

Megasites

750

Rock posters

4,000

DL flyers

1

V/Line train wrap

DISTRIBUTION

Melbourne, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Daylesford, Geelong, Ballarat / **40,000**
Programs / **90,000** Postcards / **20,000** free tote bags / **2000** A2 Cafe Posters

SOCIAL

4,000⁺

New social
media followers

8,802

Facebook
(42% increase
from 2017)

7,559

Instagram
(63% increase
from 2017)

4,256

#ballaratfoto
posts

10,177

#mass
isolationAUS posts

2,958

@mass
isolationAUS

2,235

#bifb posts

MEL, Ballarat, SYD

Top 3 locations for Instagram followers

INFLUENCERS

5

Chinese local
influencers

142,200

Total reach

14,500

Total engagement
reach

WEBSITE

50,206

Unique visitors
(32% increase from 2017)

62,017

User sessions
(28% increase from 2017)

EMAIL

10,300

Subscribers



“The Biennale brings together communities from all over Victoria and V/Line is excited to get behind this important event on the Ballarat calendar.”

JAMES PINDER, CEO V/LINE



LIU BOLIN [CHN] CAMOUFLAGE

The Liu Bolin *Camouflage* exhibition, hosted by the Art Gallery of Ballarat, was the first Australian exhibition by this important Chinese artist. His series *Hiding in the City* formed an integral part of the exhibited works showcasing key works from the past 15 years of Bolin's creative output.

"Audiences can expect an explosion of colour, a reimagining of the typical art gallery environment, incredible moments of interaction, contemplation and solace.

For this exhibition I have worked with leading exhibition designers and curators to create a memorable experience for all those (children and adults) interested in art and global politics." Liu Bolin

Bolin's work is a visual record of his performance that captures his hidden body within a landscape or another environment through the visual art of photography. Curated by Emma Thomson.

• Visitors 26,365



"Liu Bolin is a brilliant main event. It encompasses so many meaningful themes." AUDIENCE COMMENT

FIONA FOLEY [AUS] WHO ARE THESE STRANGERS AND WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

This exhibition showcased key photographic works from Dr Fiona Foley's internationally celebrated 30-year career. Alongside her newest work, a recreation and expansion of the oldest-known song in the history of Australia, telling of the exchange between Captain Cook and the Badtjala people, were interactive and site specific installations.

• Visitors 18,633

We are delighted to announce that this exhibition toured to the 2020 Sydney Festival and was presented at the National Art School (NAS). Dr Foley's work will reach an even larger audience during the festival and the Ballarat International Foto Biennale brand will be promoted as part of this exhibition.

This is the second time BIFB have developed and toured such an exhibition, the first was the 2017 *Tell* exhibition of emerging First Nations artists that toured to the 2018 Sydney Festival.



“This festival offered many amazing recourses to curators, photographers and professionals in the field of photography so that they were able to connect with each other.”

ALESSANDRA CAPODAQUA, INDEPENDENT CURATOR, ITALY

Image: Ellen Eustice

CAPITAL

Capital, exhibited in the former Union Bank during its transformation into the new National Centre For Photography, brought together Australian and international practices that encounter forms of financial, political, human and photography's own capital. The project curated by Naomi Cass and Gareth Syvret, questions the capitalist model and its legacy.

Capital featured works by Gabi Briggs (Aus), Peta Clancy (Aus), Mark Curran (Irl/De), Simryn Gill (Malaysia/Aus), Kristian Haggblom (Aus), Newell Harry (Aus), Lisa Hilli (Aus), Nicholas Mangan (Aus), Darren Siwes (Aus), Martin Toft (Jer), Yvonne Todd (NZ), Justine Varga (Aus) and Arika Waulu (Aus).

● Visitors 18,633



Image: John Gollings

ROBBIE ROWLANDS [AUS] INCREMENTAL LOSS PART 2

Incremental Loss [Part 2], shown at the National Centre For Photography, showcased the centre's extraordinary transition to becoming Australia's only regional gallery dedicated to photography, while furthering Robbie Rowlands' interest in the relationship between photography and sculpture.

● Visitors 10,545



Image: John Gollings

MATHIEU ASSELIN [FRA] STOCK MARKET

Mathieu Asselin in his exhibition *Stock Market*, presents the reckless history of growth of the global biotechnology corporation Monsanto.

Asselin conducted extensive research, travelling through Vietnam and the United States to find people and places dramatically affected by the products manufactured and sold by Monsanto. In this hard-hitting documentation, Asselin exposes the global company's practices and their cynical efforts to change their negative public image through children's TV shows and marketing campaigns.

• Visitors 10,545



Image: John Gollings

LAIA ABRIL [SPAIN] A HISTORY OF MISOGYNY, CHAPTER ONE: ON ABORTION

Laia Abril's *A History of Misogyny* is a long-term visual research project undertaken through historical and contemporary comparisons. In her first chapter *On Abortion*, Abril documents and conceptualises the dangers and damages caused by women's lack of legal, safe and free access to abortion, highlighting the long, continuous erosion of women's reproductive rights.

Her collection of visual, audio and textual evidence weaves a net of questions about ethics and morality, and reveals a staggering series of social triggers, stigmas and taboos around abortion that have been invisible until now.

• Visitors 10,545



Image: Ellen Eustice

BAUHAUS FOTO

Curated by Fiona Sweet and Felicity Martin *Bauhaus Foto* marked 100 years since the establishment of the iconic Bauhaus school in Weimar, Germany. The overarching Bauhaus ideology is that all art forms should be brought together in one 'total' art, embracing the modern marvel of technology. To achieve such a doctrine, the processes were highly experimental yet exquisitely executed.

Bauhaus Foto brought together six prominent photographic artists Consuelo Cavaniglia (Aus), Zoë Croggon (Aus), Lilly Lulay (Germany), Roseanne Lynch (Ireland), David Rosetzky (Aus) and Thomas Ruff (Germany) whose contemporary practice show signs of Bauhaus influence.

● Visitors 12,721



Image: Ellen Eustice

ADI NES [ISRAEL] SOLDIERS

Soldiers presented highly stylized and provocative photographs focused on the intermediary moments between privacy and intimacy within the rigid framework of military life. Adi Nes presents to the viewer his deep contemplation and concern for the loss of innocence within masculinity.

● Visitors 8,827



Image: David Simmonds

NOÉMIE GOUDAL [FRA] TELLURIS

Journeying through Noémie Goudal's installation, the viewer encountered works from the artist's last three photographic series, each depicting what look to be remote mountainous landscapes. Three-dimensional in appearance, the images are in fact two-dimensional backdrops. Curated by Emma Thomson.

● Visitors 15,504



Image: Ellen Eustice

TO THE MOON AND BACK

To the Moon and Back celebrates the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. Within the heritage-listed Ballarat Observatory, a diverse group of international artists, curated by Rebecca Nadjowski and Dr Colleen Boyle, brings their individual voices to a contemporary exploration of the continuing relevance of the historic 1969 lunar landing and its lasting photographic legacy.

Featuring Andrew Curtis (Aus), Vincent Fournier (France), Sharon Harper (USA), Sasha Huber (Switzerland), Penelope Umbrico (USA), Qicong Lin (China), Matt Lipps (USA) and Jorge Mañes Rubio (Spain).

● Visitors 3,859



Image: Ellen Eustice

GIVE US THIS DAY

[UK] [USA]

Showcasing the work of Lauren Greenfield (USA) and Vanessa Winship (UK), *Give Us This Day* confronts the realities of the rights of children, specifically how intrinsic social values shape a child's lived experience and dictate the definition of childhood. Traversing macro-political themes from war, social and economic inequality to individual challenges of gender and body image, the two artists investigate how children negotiate their lives in a world governed by adults and corporate organisations. *Give Us This Day* coincides with the 30th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The exhibition was presented in two prominent churches in the City of Ballarat. Curated by Aaron Bradbrook.

● Visitors 7,823



Image: Tony Long

HELLO WENDOUREE, HELLO AUSTRALIA [BALLARAT] EDUCATION PROGRAM & EXHIBITION

For over two months, primary school children in the Wendouree community explored ideas of identity in a specialised photography-based arts program. Students worked directly with professional photographic artists and educators to learn a range of new skills and photographic techniques, creating a series of images that encapsulate the creative face of this community. The project *Hello Wendouree, Hello Australia* was installed in the Stockland Wendouree shopping centre.



Image: Amelia James

MARTIN KANTOR PORTRAIT PRIZE

Returning for its second iteration, the *Martin Kantor Portrait Prize* is named in honour of the late portrait photographer Martin Kantor. The \$15,000 prize, open to all photographers, is awarded for a photographic artwork of a significant Australian. The award gives all entrants the opportunity to have their work exhibited within the Core Program. The 2019 winner is **Penelope Hunt** for her stunning portrait of artist, Alan Constable, titled *Finding Focus*, 2019. Alan Constable is a ceramic artist who is well known for his ceramic sculptural depictions of photographic cameras. The Peoples' Choice winner is **Steve Young** for his portrait of Paul Kelly titled *PK in the Bay*, 2014. The 2019 judges were Max Delany, Artistic Director and CEO of Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA); Pippa Milne, Senior Curator at Monash Gallery of Art (MGA) and Susan van Wyk, Senior Curator of Photography at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

- Visitors 12,061



Image: Ellen Eustice

ALANE FINEMAN NEW PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD: MYER BALLARAT

In 2019, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale launched the inaugural *Alane Fineman New Photography Award*. This award focuses on photographic artists working throughout the Asia Pacific region, seeking to find those whose work is beginning to receive critical attention and deserves to be seen by international audiences. Six artists received a solo exhibition within the 2019 Core Program: **Madeline Bishop** (Aus), **Grayson Cooke** (Aus), **Anton Gautama** (Indonesia), **Kehan Lai** (China), **Hyungjo Moon** (South Korea), and **Yichen Zhou** (China). Judges awarded the cash prize of \$10,000 to **Yichen Zhou** for the series *Daily Talk*. The People's Choice Award, voted by the public awarded the prize to **Anton Gautama** for his series, *The Outsider*. This exhibition was exhibited in the Myer Basement to activate an unusual retail space and provide an accessible viewing space for the artworks.

- Visitors 12,071



Image: Ellen Eustice

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WATER / WATERWORKS

The Community Partnership between BIFB and Central Highlands Water presented *Waterworks*, a unique exhibition of photographs, objects and ephemera from the Central Highlands Water archives. For the first time, visitors delved in to the expansive 150-year-old archives of photographic essays and the fascinating stories of supplying our most precious resource, water. Curator, Cash Brown said "Visitors can expect a sea of images, hidden for decades, exposing the unseen past and illuminating the extraordinary and often invisible achievements of this remarkable organisation from the early gold rush era until the 21st century."

● Visitors 14,245



Image: Tony Long

“Cash Brown, in working with Central Highlands Water personnel, created an exhibition that was not only extraordinary, noteworthy, informative and interesting, but also significantly raised the profile of the organisation with local, national and international visitors alike. We look forward to building on this relationship into the future.”

PAUL O'DONOHUE MANAGING DIRECTOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WATER



Ballarat International Foto Biennale makes art accessible to everyone. Taking art out of the institution, and using diverse techniques that include paste-ups and projections, images take over Ballarat's laneways, storefronts and bars.

Photographic art lights up the city and starts conversations for locals and visitors alike. Showcasing the work of Australian and international photographers in the streets and laneways of Ballarat builds a festive – and provocative – environment. This provides further proof that art really is for everyone, everywhere. Residents see familiar spaces in a new light, and guests are shown another vibrant side to an already beautiful and arts-focused city.

“We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on BIFB, it's an amazing achievement. From our experience, we are very aware what's involved in putting an event like this together and that you managed to do it to such a standard, to such an extent with your limited resources is nothing short of miraculous. We wish you every success moving forward and hope you maintain the passion and stamina to take it to the next level.”

CHARLES & LEAH JUSTIN / DIRECTORS, JUSTIN ART HOUSE MUSEUM



“Great exhibitions. All makes you think about the world around you, past, present and future.” AUDIENCE MEMBER



The Outdoor Program continued to explore the theme Hello World through the large scale works of Palestinian photographer **Taysir Batniji**. His images of the *Watchtowers* surrounding Palestinian territory were displayed in brand new temporary public art display towers in the Sturt Street Gardens. **Mandy Barker**, a UK photographer, who has been in the spotlight recently due to increased interest from international media, exhibited her *Penalty* series of works. The art project explored marine pollution using the iconic global image of the football (soccer ball), where 992 marine debris balls were recovered from our oceans.

Korean artist **Han Sungpil** presented a major site-specific work, *Polar Heir* exploring issues of global warming by turning one of Ballarat's most popular city laneways into an urban iceberg of epic proportions. French photographer **Oliver Laric** presented his *Missile Variations* series in Police Lane near the Art Gallery of Ballarat, interrogating the way images on the Internet are reinterpreted and our perceptions of reality are mediated by screens and our digital existence. **Hayden Fowler**, from New Zealand, presented *Brave New World* and *Future Distant History*. His series of black and white landscape photographs presented abnormalities with the environment inserting quasi-landforms of alien landfill.

Australian photographers **Eden Menta** and **Janelle Low** are interested in capturing what is often unseen or overlooked. Their work *I Want To Know You Better. Some Books Have Pictures and Some Pictures Have Books* was curated by **W.H. Chong** and showcased in the front windows of Collins Booksellers. This installation interrogated the interaction between the book cover image and the text it represents, a perfect partner for the bookshop and book lovers.

For the first time, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale curated a large display of historical fashion photography by **Monty Coles**, Australian fashion photographer. Showcased in the front windows of Myer Ballarat Department store, this installation was a trip down memory lane on our fashion choices and the way we have represented the female form in the media. Ballarat artist **Erin M McCuskey** took portraits of local people in public spaces throughout Wendouree and exhibited in one of our city laneways.

Diana Lelonek from Poland examines, collects and popularises the knowledge concerning new humanotic nature forms. She exhibited photographs of these hybrid plants and artificial objects in the exhibition *The Center for Living Things* at the Conservatory within the Ballarat Botanic Gardens Conservatory. **Pitcha Makin Fellas** is a Ballarat-based collective with members Peter-Shane Rotumah and Ted Laxton of the Gunditjmara mob and Adrian Rigby of the Wotjionaluk/ Ngarrindjeri mob presenting a large installation work specifically made for the Biennale. Australian **John Street** exhibited *Seventies Foodies* at Central Square Shopping Centre showcasing food photography from the 1970s and 80s with a unique selection of his works from the Peter Russell-Clarke Cookbooks.

The Outdoor Program was freely available to all visitors seven days per week, 24 hours per day during the festival. While the 'actual' number of visitors to these works is immeasurable, the conservative estimate of 37,846 is used based on statistical extrapolation.

“The Ballarat International Foto Biennale (BIFB) has grown from strength to strength over its 14-year history and has developed a significant standing within the photographic communities regionally, nationally and internationally. The BIFB is a success, not only in its own right, but also as an “event” that places Ballarat, and Australia, in the arts limelight and generates significant regional tourism advantages.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SAM HENSON, HEAD OF CAMPUS (BALLARAT), FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA



“Always fascinating to see how individual photographers present their work and themes.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

OPEN PROGRAM ARTISTS

Geoff Adams
Jo Armstrong
Arthur Creative
David Bailey
Elaine Batton
Rhonda Baum
Ewen Bell and Ray Martin
Madeline Bowser and Ben Metherell
Mieke Boynton
Sealey Brandt
Leonie Brannighan
Jaddan Bruhn
Melissa Jane Cachia
Donna Crebbin
Emilio Cresciani
Russell Curr
Jordan Delapena
Ellen Dewar and Jenny Guerrera
Bianca Durrant
Ellen Eustice
Megan Evans
Alastair Firkin and Helen Myall
Fourms
Deb Gartland
Peter Grimes
Gold Museum
Phil Hart
Pato Hebert
Lee Herath
Hody Hong
Clive Hutchison
Robert Imhoff
Darren James
Polo Jimenez
Ian Kemp
Daniel Kneebone
Tamara Kuiler-Coffield
Vanessa Levis
Erin M McCuskey
Denise Martin
Victoria McKay in collaboration with Debra Kelly
Craig Mitchell
Pam Morris

Prashanth Naidoo
Nina Newcombe
Lynden Nicholls
Night Rainbow Photography
Isabel O'Brien
Stuart Orford
Oxygen College
Jon Paley
Senga Peckham and Kristin Diemer
Kim Percy
Carl Rainer
Kip Scott
Sovereign Hill Museums Association
Michael Stringer
Amrita Sur
Andrew Thomas, Neil Sinclair and Janette Richards
Ross Thompson
Michelle Thompson
John Tozer
Christy Van Elsen
Selina Wallace
Michael Wolfe
Warragul Camera Club



The Open Program provides a platform for artists and curators at every stage of their careers to execute exhibitions. Inclusion is simply a matter of registering prior to the festival launch, being matched with a venue (or utilising existing connections) and staging the exhibition.

The 2019 Open Program featured over 65 exhibitions in both traditional and non-traditional arts spaces. Works were displayed in galleries, cafes, bars and various local businesses, turning the city into an immersive gallery experience.

A newly devised judging program named the overall winner from the Open Program for Best Exhibition, **Phil Hart** for his exhibition *Eclipsed!* Hart, an astronomer and photographer, featured stunning photographs of solar eclipses over one of North America's famous mountain peaks.

Additionally, **Donna Crebbin's** exhibition *Element* won the People's Choice Award for her work documenting Australia's wild horses and other wildlife living around Mt Stirling (VIC), Kosciuszko National Park (NSW) and Namadgi National Park (ACT).

World Photobook Day is held annually on October 14 bringing together lovers of photobooks. The day celebrates the anniversary of the first official record of a published photobook by the British Library in 1843 (*Algae of the British Isles: Cyanotype Impressions* by Anna Atkins).

Photography enthusiasts were transported on the Photobook Train from Melbourne gathering in Ballarat on October 12 – 14 to share their books, listen to talks and explore the Photobook Fair.

During Doug Spowart's talk, *Many Tribes: The Australian And New Zealand Photobook* he addressed key aspects of the historical and contemporary makeup of the photobook in Australia and New Zealand where various 'tribes' contribute to a vibrant and progressive discipline.

Photobooks: Getting Published & Getting Collected was a diverse panel discussion featuring Patrick Pound, Sarah Walker and David Waderton. The talk, moderated by Doug Spowart, looked at how photographers get published and how to establish and grow meaningful collections.

The Photobook Fair was held on October 13 at the Art Gallery of Ballarat with participants including the State Library of Victoria, *Vault* magazine, Melbourne Photobook Collective, Particle Books and Photo Book Melbourne.

“Our whole family loved it and can’t wait for the 2021 Biennale. Well done team!” AUDIENCE COMMENT

“An excellent presentation at all venues with a great variety of displays which showcased how beautiful Ballarat is.”

AUDIENCE COMMENT



In 2019 the Education Program saw a dramatic increase in the number of workshops and participating students of all ages, largely due to the ongoing Education Coordinator role established in 2017. 40% of schools participating in the program in 2019, had not visited Ballarat before.

Showcasing our commitment to photography as a powerful education tool, the program delivered curriculum-aligned teaching and learning possibilities across a range of subject areas from visual arts, photography and media to geography, humanities, science, history, politics, Chinese and Indigenous studies. Students explored exhibitions during the festival, and engaged in workshops, talks and other education activities.

LIU BOLIN / CAMOUFLAGE

As the headliner exhibition, *Camouflage* was a unique international exhibition that explored the effects that global mass production and consumerism have on our communities and environment. The education program included self-guided school bookings, floor talks from BIFB education staff, education kits and public engagement activities through a Children's Week program. **Primary School: 539 | Secondary School: 503 | Tertiary: 217 | Adults: 130**

DR FIONA FOLEY / WHO ARE THESE STRANGERS AND WHERE ARE THEY GOING? WITH THE PITCHA MAKIN FELLAS

The program included a focus on Secondary and Tertiary students, with a dedicated Education Kit available. Ballarat-based Indigenous collective, the Pitcha Makin Fellas presented talks and workshops to support the display of their breastplates as part of the exhibition.

Primary School: 11 | Secondary School: 412 | Tertiary: 184 | Adults: 62

BALLARAT MUNICIPAL OBSERVATORY: TO THE MOON

AND BACK CHILDREN'S PROGRAM Combining inspiring and creative ways for young people to embrace science and the arts, the light box activity and sun print workshop augmented the photographic exhibition of the same name celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. In addition, there were activities for Science Week, talks by the curators and artists, exhibition tours for children and a school holiday program.

Early years: 95 | Primary School: 153 | Children Public Program: 107 | Tertiary: 30 | Adults: 239

VCE STUDIO ART: ARTS INDUSTRY CONTEXT:

A full day Industry Context program for VCE Unit 4 studio arts students was presented in association with the Art Gallery of

Ballarat. The students had the opportunity to learn about spaces utilised in the display of a large arts festival with a focus on public and alternative gallery spaces. **Secondary School: 52 | Adults: 9**

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: Workshop presented by Ballarat commercial and events photographer Peter Kervarec. After an introduction to event photography and camera techniques, students had the opportunity to take images using the Ballarat International Foto Biennale indoor and outdoor venues as a backdrop. Peter provided feedback and support and assisted students to best use the settings on their cameras. **Secondary School: 8 | Adults: 1**

COLLABORATIONS – EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Hello Wendouree, Hello Australia BIFB worked with Forest Street Primary School to deliver a comprehensive program of photography based activities and workshops around themes of identity. At the completion of the program each student had their work included in the Hello Wendouree, Hello Australia exhibition displayed during the 2019 Biennale and supported by Stockland Wendouree Shopping Centre. **Primary School: 655 | Adults: 4**

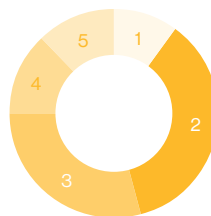
THE CENTRE FOR LIVING THINGS: PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

This project was a collaboration between BIFB, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, BotaniKids and Pleasant Street Primary School. Inspired by Diana Lelonek's work *The Centre for Living Things*, students experimented with growing plants on recycled man made materials, creating a whimsical garden installation which remained on display in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens throughout the Biennale. **Primary School: 55**

2019 CHILDREN'S WEEK This was an opportunity to extend the offerings of the Biennale. With our Camouflage Children's Day falling on the second last day of our festival it was a special way to celebrate the multicultural aspect of our headline exhibition Camouflage. It also provided the possibility for families who do not usually attend gallery events to visit. **Children: 223 | Adults: 115**

Student Groups

2019



1. Preschool groups 10%
2. Primary school groups 36%
3. Secondary school groups 29%
4. Tertiary education groups 13%
5. Non specified 12%

Numbers of Students



Numbers of Workshops





“This experience was absolutely amazing as it allowed students to explore and learn about photography, exhibitions, artists and identity.” EDUCATION SURVEY RESPONDENT



“The Ballarat International Foto Biennale was beautiful, thank you for putting so much time and effort into it. It was a very memorable excursion and I look forward to attending in 2021.”



In 2019, there were a number of opportunities for photographers, both amateur and professional to investigate and grow within the art form through artist talks, Q&A sessions, guided walks with experts in their field, films and more.



ARTIST TALKS The host of artist talks and panel discussions with curators and industry experts, which were offered free to visitors and audiences, attracted over 600 attendees. Artists talks included **Liu Bolin**; **Van Badham** on Abortion; **Tony Carbone** on Roundup at Mathieu Asselin / *Stock Market* (Monsanto) exhibition, **Leila Chalk** on Arts Law; **Peter Clancy**; **Lisa Hilli**; **Kristian Haggblom**; **Matt Lipps**; **Nicholas Mangan**; **Q & A with Ray Martin** and **Penelope Umbrico**. **Total: 856 attendees.**

WALKS AND WORKSHOPS There were twelve **Ballarat Foto Walks** and **festival workshops** giving amateur and emerging photographers plenty of hands-on experience to up skill. Architecture photography, night sky photography and time-lapse animation were offered by leading practitioners. . There were two walks around Lake Wendouree conducted by curator **Cash Brown** for the Central Highlands Water *Waterworks* exhibition. The Parrot Walk Workshop with Lumix Ambassador **Ewen Bell** was sold out success. The festival also hosted Hahnemühle / Epson Printing Day in partnership with local creative college, Oxygen College. **Total: 108 attendees.**

The inaugural In Focus Curator Forum, a professional development program, offered three unique opportunities for Australian and international emerging curators, mid-career curators and photographic artists. It was generously funded by The Ian Potter Foundation.

The Forum engaged 15 curators in a four day workshop to interrogate their curatorial practice and was led by five globally acclaimed curators; **Peggy Sue Amison** Director East Wing Gallery (Qatar), **Alessandra Capodacqua**, Independent Curator (Italy); **Gwen Lee**, Director Singapore International Photography Festival (Singapore); **Sim Luttin**, Curator and Gallery Manager at Arts Project Australia (Aus) and **Djon Mundine OAM**, Independent Curator (Aus). Across the four days, participants met with photographic artists and further developed their professional networks and arts practice.

The Curator Awards provided two talented curators with a 12-month mentorship that will culminate in a curated project for the 2021 Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

The Forum for Photographers: 29 August, is a long-standing tradition of the festival with the **Portfolio Review** enabling photographers and artists from all over the world to discuss their portfolios and gain feedback, insight and advice from the curators in the In Focus Curators Forum. This year thanks to the Ian Potter Foundation we were able to offer the Portfolio Review free to over 40 photographic artists.

“The Ian Potter In Focus Curator Forum was a wonderful experience and an important professional development program for emerging curators to immerse themselves in. They got to know their peers, receive feedback and mentoring and were able to create new industry networks. It was also an incredible opportunity for the established curators to connect and share global ideas and developments in the field.”

SIM LUTTIN, CURATOR ARTS PROJECTS AUSTRALIA



“The 2019 Ian Potter In Focus Curator Forum brought me closer to a number of curators across Australia and overseas who are really pushing at the edges of photography and expanding their practice to incorporate the multitude of voices present within contemporary photographic practice. I am excited to see where these new connections lead us.”

RACHEL CIESLA, CURATOR

“Thanks so much for everything and for the opportunity for the portfolio review! The Biennale was fantastic! Looking forward to the next one.”

TRISTAN STILL, PHOTOGRAPHER, PORTFOLIO REVIEWS



Image: Ballarat International Foto Biennale closing night party with Wax'o Paradiso

JAZZ SERIES AT THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY The festival was enriched by a series of unique live performances including **Geoffrey Williams**, a phenomenal local talent whose songs of soul were moving and entertaining.

Alma Zygiar's voice and performance was enthralling and will stay in the memories of all that witnessed it. The third performance was by **Diana Emry** who created a vocal cocktail delighting the senses combining Blues and Bossa, a dash of Gershwin and Bratpack, all with the attitude of the icy diva of Marlene, the sugar of Marilyn and the olive that is Babs. The acoustics in the new National Centre For Photography was a fabulous surprise, creating an intimate atmosphere to enjoy the art and take in the sounds. **159 people** attended the Jazz series.

DR HERNANDEZ, a six-member all star group gave the **65 audience members** in the Ballarat Trades Hall their relaxed rootsy dance grooves and energetic performance.

MELBOURNE DJS WAX'O PARADISO, dubbed the 'Dimboola triangle of lost groove', performed at the Closing Party to an audience of **169 guests** in the *Who are these strangers and where are they going?* exhibition at The Mining Exchange.

MORITZ LANEWAY ICEBERG PARTY: gave revellers the opportunity to engage with the work of **Han Sungpil**, who appeared in the Outdoor Program. Sponsored by Moritz, Sungpil's art covers photography, video and installations, exploring themes including the environment, originalities, history and the relationship between real and represented.

FURRY FOTOS gave dog owners the chance to have bespoke photographs taken of their pooch.

LIU BOLIN UP LATE AT WHITE NIGHT The White Night event, under the direction of David Atkins OAM, successfully brought large crowds to our venues, in particular to Liu Bolin, where the exhibition was opened late for partygoers. White Night is an all ages event that attracted its largest ever crowds in excess of **9,000 people**.

FOTO FILMS was the festival's first program of contemporary short and feature films presented with **Regent Cinemas**. The photography related films included *Thomas Ruff and Candida Höfer*; *Blow-Up* by **Michelangelo Antonioni**; *La Jetée* by **Chris Marker**; *Night and Fog* by **Alain Resnais**; *Faces Places* by **Agnes Varda** and **JR** and finally *BeDevil* by **Tracey Moffatt** with introduction by **Natalie King** who curated Moffatt's Venice Biennale exhibition. Foto Films attracted **109 people**.

LAUNCHES AND INVITE ONLY EVENTS This year's festival presented a series of launches and invite-only events to mark the occasion and thank our many supporters including government, corporate, individual donors, trust and foundation funders and volunteers as well as commemorate and celebrate the artists. Eight different events were presented, from the VVIP Launch of Liu Bolin, the Dr Fiona Foley and Vernissage to the Closing Party for our 135 volunteers. All together, **1,508 people** were noted at these events.

PICTURE HER a theatre piece performed in the National Centre For Photography was performed and written by Marg Dobson. The half-hour performance investigated one of Ballarat's first female photographers, Daisy Harriet Llewelyn.

98 people attended the performances over one weekend.





Over 135 volunteers supplied more than **3,500 hours** of their time to provide exhibition invigilation, Biennale functions, artist talks, education program, portfolio reviews, workshops and administrative support.

- 75% of volunteers came from the Ballarat region
- 22.5% from wider Melbourne and metropolitan area
- 2.5% were from interstate

Ten interns worked 1,736 hours in our office and for events. Four of these young people were from Ballarat.

We established many good relationships with the community:

- 65 Open Program exhibitions in commercial and not-for-profit/community businesses
- Over \$100,000 worth of sponsorship came from Ballarat businesses

“Loved shifts at the Observatory and Town Hall and talking to people about the works.”

VOLUNTEER

“I felt welcome, appreciated and well cared for.”

VOLUNTEER

CORE AND OUTDOOR PROGRAM ARTISTS

Laia Abril (Spain)
 Mathieu Asselin (France/Venezuela)
 Mandy Barker (UK)
 Taysir Batniji (Palestine)
 Liu Bolin (China)
 Gabi Briggs (Aus)
 Jane Burton (Aus)
 Consuelo Cavaniglia (Aus)
 W. H. Chong (Aus)
 Peta Clancy (Aus)
 Monty Coles (Aus)
 Zoë Croggon (Aus)
 Mark Curran (Ireland)
 Andrew Curtis (Aus)
 Dr. Fiona Foley (Aus)
 Vincent Fournier (France)
 Hayden Fowler (New Zealand)
 Simryn Gill (Malaysia/Aus)
 Noémie Goudal (France)
 Lauren Greenfield (USA)
 Kristian Haggblom (Aus)
 Sharon Harper (USA)
 Newell Harry (Aus)
 Lisa Hilli (Aus)
 Sasha Huber (Switzerland)
 Oliver Laric (France)
 Diana Lelonek (Poland)
 Eugenia Lim (Aus)
 Qicong Lin (China/Aus)
 Matt Lipps (USA)
 Janelle Low (Aus)
 Lilly Lulay (Germany)
 Roseanne Lynch (Ireland)
 Pitcha Makin Fellas (Aus)
 Jorge Mañes Rubio (Spain)
 Nicholas Mangan (Aus)
 Erin McCuskey (Aus)
 Sally McKay (Aus)
 Eden Menta (Aus)
 Djon Mundine OAM (Aus)
 Adi Ness (Israel)
 David Rosetzky (Aus)
 Robbie Rowlands (Aus)
 Thomas Ruff (Germany)
 Darren Siwes (Aus)
 John Street (Aus)
 Han Sungpil (Korea)
 Yvonne Todd (New Zealand)
 Martin Toft (Jersey)
 Penelope Umbrico (USA)
 Justine Varga (Aus)
 Arika Waulu (Aus)
 Vanessa Winship (UK)

ALANE FINEMAN NEW
PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD ARTISTS

Madeline Bishop (Aus)
 Grayson Cooke (Aus)
 Anton Gautama (Indonesia),
 Kehan Lai (China)
 Hyungjo Moon (South Korea)
 Yichen Zhou (China)

MARTIN KANTOR PORTRAIT PRIZE

Alison Bennett
 Chris Budgeon
 Jeff Busby
 Kelly Champion
 Robert Earp
 Alex Ellinghausen
 Sonia Esposito
 Ponch Hawkes
 Shara Henderson
 Sophia Hewson
 Glenn Hunt
 Penelope Hunt
 Katrin Koenning
 Kellie Leczinska
 Kirsten Lyttle
 Mia Mala McDonald
 Rod McNicol
 Ellie Meade
 Christopher Polack
 Allison Rose
 Sanjeev Singh
 Rodney Stewart
 Tristan Still
 Tobias Titz
 Thuy Vy
 Steve Young

OPEN PROGRAM ARTISTS

Geoff Adams
 Jo Armstrong
 Arthur Creative
 David Bailey
 Elaine Batton
 Rhonda Baum
 Ewen Bell and Ray Martin
 Madeline Bowser and Ben Metherell
 Mieke Boynton
 Sealey Brandt
 Leonie Brannighan
 Jaddan Bruhn
 Melissa Jane Cachia
 Donna Crebbin
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 Bianca Durrant
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 Phil Hart
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 Lee Herath
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 Clive Hutchison
 Robert Imhoff
 Darren James
 Polo Jimenez
 Ian Kemp
 Daniel Kneebone
 Tamara Kuiler-Coffield
 Vanessa Levis
 Erin M McCuskey
 Denise Martin
 Victoria McKay in collaboration with
 Debra Kelly
 Craig Mitchell
 Pam Morris
 Prashanth Naidoo
 Nina Newcombe
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A full list is available on the website ballaratfoto.org

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