

BUNDANON TRUST

CHARTER OF OPERATIONS 2009-2010

Operating Context

Bundanon Trust is located in regional Australia on the banks of the Shoalhaven River. Bundanon's mission is to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of its site and to operate a centre of excellence for the arts and education, for the benefit of all Australians.

Bundanon Trust's vision embraces care of its unique collection of Boyd family artworks and archives; furniture, rugs and books; contemporary art, sourced from the artist in residence program; and historical and contemporary architecture of national significance.

The Trust is committed to maintaining and conserving the artworks, objects and buildings in its care; supporting research and scholarship and providing public access to the collections through the digitisation of its holdings; on-site gallery and display areas; education programs and exhibition touring.

Bundanon's artist in residence program provides opportunities for individuals and groups of artists, from all over the world and from all disciplines, to pursue their practice in an intellectually supportive and environmentally unique setting.

Through the Trust's education programs schools, tertiary institutions, adult learning groups, and educators experience Bundanon's collections and the built and natural environment; encounter the Trust's visiting artists in residence and engage in specialist creative arts programs. Priority programs have been developed for schools with designated disadvantage status and for young people at risk.

Priorities and Actions for 2009-10

Bundanon's Strategic Plan (Revised) 2007-11 identifies priorities within the company's four main strategic areas and confirms key actions for the coming year.

Key priorities are noted below:

- 1. The completion of the access road to the Riversdale property.**

Agreement has now been reached with the private landowners across whose property Bundanon Trust has a purchased Right of Way. It is anticipated that construction work on Stage 3 of the access road to the Riversdale property will begin in late 2009. The completion of repairs will require the implementation of new signage to the Trust's public properties and will lead the way for a site interpretation strategy. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 4)

2. **The Dorothy Porter Studio for dancers and performers** is now complete and a launch, with a performance by The Australian Ballet and representatives from the dance sector, including NAISDA and Critical Path, will take place on Saturday 5 September 2009. Strategy 1: Consolidate the Arts and Education Programs (KPIs 1 and 14)
3. **The digitisation of the Trust's collections** continued throughout 2008-09 with 3,877 objects and artworks now available on line. It is intended that the digitisation be substantially completed by the end of 2011. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 9)
4. In late 2008 the Trust commissioned *Root Projects Australia* to develop a brief for a **Masterplan** for the Trust's properties. The board has worked for nine months with the consultants to develop a shared vision for Bundanon for the next 20 years.

The process has been thorough and has taken account of the wide range of custodial responsibilities with which the Trust is charged, as well as exploring opportunities for the growth and development of the Trust's cultural and educational activities. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 8)

5. The development of a comprehensive **Land Management Strategy** to guide the work of the Trust in caring for its bush, park and farm land in a manner which is sensitive to environmental constraints; provides sustainable models for public visitation and opens up opportunities for business and cultural infrastructure development.

The strategy will be informed by existing documents including the Heritage Management Plan and the Bundanon and Riversdale Landscape Management Plans and will inform the revision of the Total Asset Management Strategy. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 1 and 6)

Key Actions for 2009-10 are noted below:

1. The launch of a major **national touring exhibition**; *White gums and ramoxes: Ceramics by Merric and Arthur Boyd from the Bundanon Trust Collection* will take place in August 2009. The show will travel for three years to around a dozen venues, across five states and territories. It is the first time this unique collection of objects has been seen outside the Bundanon Homestead. Strategy 2: Partnerships and Collaborations (KPI 12)
2. New **national arts partnerships** are being actively pursued with a range of arts organisations including Australian Performing Right Association (APRA), The Australian Ballet and the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Agency. (NAISDA). Strategy 2: Partnerships and Collaborations (KPI 16 and 14)
3. **Funding from all levels of Government** has successfully been sought for both the 2008-09 and the 2009-10 financial years for education, arts and exhibition projects. Supporter programs have been revised and a stranded **donor program** which seeks individual benefaction for specific areas of the Trust's operations is being launched in 2009. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 23)
4. With the guidance and funding support of the **Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority** Bundanon has embarked upon a major weed eradication program across both properties. Staff and volunteers are involved in lantana reduction and re-vegetation along the

creek bed and foreshore at Riversdale and along the walking trails at Bundanon. Strategy 3: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Asset Management (KPI 3)

6. Relationships with local, regional and national **Indigenous artists and communities** are being strengthened through *Bundanon Blak*, a unique, *Australia Council* supported, mentoring program for regional Indigenous youth, and the ongoing work of Bundanon's Outreach and Education program. Strategy 1: Consolidate the Arts and Education Programs (KPI 21 and 17)

Bundanon Trust Collections

1. Bundanon Trust will work collaboratively with the other national collecting institutions and the broader collecting sector by:
 - developing innovative programs which articulate the potential for heritage and contemporary culture to coalesce to create arts development opportunities for local, regional and national audiences and the professional arts sector.
 - building relationships with the museum sector in Australia through collaboration on exhibitions, supporting exchanges and participation in conferences
 - working through the Heads of Collecting Institutions (HOCl) to develop a strategic approach to common acquisition issues, to avoid potential overlap, and collection policy and operational matters, including storage, preservation and digitization, .
 - continuously reviewing acquisition strategy to ensure the continued development of the collection.
2. Bundanon Trust will develop frameworks and strategies in conjunction with the national collecting institutions around common areas of collection management by:
 - managing its collections and collection storage in conjunction with the Australian National Audit Office's *Safe and Accessible National Collections*
 - developing collection storage and management plans that ensure the long-term preservation and sustainability of the collection
 - increasing the quantity, quality and accessibility of collection information.
 - seeking information and expertise from the major collecting institutions on collection management issues.
3. Bundanon Trust will ensure widest possible access to its collection and diverse public programs by:
 - Researching and presenting an exhibition program, drawn from the collection, in the Bundanon Homestead; the Mordant Family Library at Riversdale; at Shoalhaven Arts Centre in Nowra and for national tour.
 - Providing access to works of art through loans, partnerships and joint ventures.
 - Continuing to digitise the collection to provide greater electronic access to the collection.

- Increasing access to works of art not on display that are located in the Trust's purpose built collection storage facility.
- Continuing to research and develop travelling exhibitions drawn from the Trust's collection of work by Arthur Boyd; Boyd family members and associates and the contemporary artists who participate in the Trust's artist in residence program.
- Publishing information about the collection and exhibitions in catalogues and electronically.
- Improving visitor facilities on the Trust's properties through the planning and execution of an enhanced study centre and Boyd focus gallery.

Partnerships with Commonwealth, State, Territory and local Government agencies.

1. Bundanon Trust will build partnerships and collaborate with relevant agencies with regard to exhibitions and loans to regional and State collecting and exhibiting institutions throughout Australia, including Shoalhaven City Council.
2. Bundanon Trust will build partnerships with and seek advice from, agencies charged with environmental and land management matters, including the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and Booderee National Park.
3. Bundanon Trust will seek the involvement of, and funding from, relevant local and State government agencies, including Shoalhaven City Council, Arts NSW; the Australia Council for the Arts and the NSW Department of Education.

Strategic engagement with Australian Government and the Cultural Ministers Council

1. Bundanon Trust will continue to work cooperatively with the Minister, the Department and other portfolio agencies to effectively fulfill Bundanon's role. This will include:
 - fully informing the Minister and the Department in a timely manner of Bundanon's activities and of any significant events relating to its business;
 - responding to requests from the Minister's office in consultation with the Department; and
 - implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007-2010.
2. Bundanon Trust will contribute to initiatives across the collecting sector that support the strategic priorities of Government and the Cultural Ministers Council where appropriate.

Links with the broader creative sector

1. Bundanon Trust will provide an intellectually and creatively supportive environment where artists from all disciplines can develop new work.
2. Bundanon Trust will strengthen links with the broader creative sector by:
 - developing public programs which bring together the Trust's built and natural assets with its international artist in residence program to enable audiences to experience the work of celebrated artists in a unique setting.

- continuing to work closely with artists and arts organisations to create regional and national arts development opportunities including:
 - offering masterclasses
 - supporting residential laboratories
 - organising skills development and training
 - providing retreat opportunities for research and development for individuals and artist collaborators
- 3. Bundanon Trust will participate in the development of discourse around the arts and respond to new trends and opportunities
- 4. Bundanon Trust will create opportunities for regional and national artists to work alongside each other and international artists
- 5. Bundanon Trust will collaborate closely with the Indigenous community and Indigenous artists to ensure that the opportunities for the creation of work and the presentation of Indigenous arts practice is maximised and is culturally appropriate.