

# Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators

The Eco Arts events and activities within *For Our Future* are being facilitated by Lead Artists, supported by teams of Eco Arts Collaborators. The role of Lead Artists is to offer creative ideas with an ecological focus that inspire positive environmental action in the community. The role of Eco Arts Collaborators is to enrich creative ideas through multiple ways of knowing and being together.

The Working Group selected Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators whose creative ideas, vision and practice met the following criteria:

1. Inspiring environmental stewardship and action
2. Working collaboratively in community
3. Deepening our sense of connection with the Living World
4. Incorporating different ways of knowing
5. Engaging people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds

Teams of Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators have been appointed by the Working Group.

## Project One - Country is Listening

### Lead Artist and Cultural Advisor – Steve Ulula Parker

<https://millowlculture.com/>



Uncle Steve Ulula Parker is a Traditional Custodian of Boonwurrung Country. He is an artist, musician, performer, cultural educator and a mentor of Indigenous youth. He has lived on Country most of his life and has spent the last twenty years living on Millowl. He is a descendant of the Boonwurrung, Yorta Yorta and Erub people. The four pillars he works with in his professional practice are Country, Culture, Health and Climate. He brings in dance, art, story-telling, ceremony and regenerative land management practices into the work he does. He wants to inspire environmental stewardship and action by drawing on ancient songlines and passing on messages that facilitate walking together and working together.

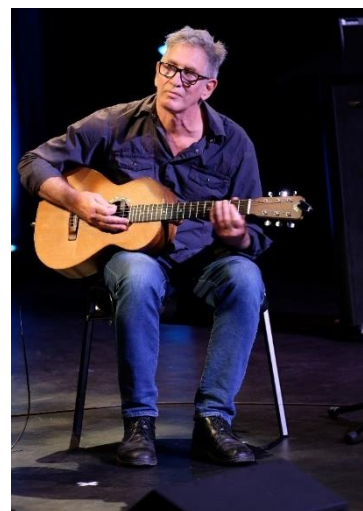
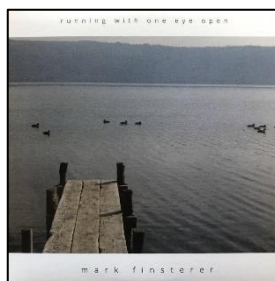
## Project Two - Living Water Ways

### Lead Artist – Mark Finsterer

<https://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/artist/finsterer-mark>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/06YRsNdbQ1suNWtMCEB0TP?si=gU3YaoOERgy8SV5P3x6V4w>

Mark Finsterer is a guitarist, composer, sound artist and producer of ambient minimalist instrumental songs and soundscapes using acoustic and electric guitars and electronic processing - loops, delays and reverbs. Mark has been playing guitar for a long time and has appeared with a wide variety of artists from different genres, performing locally, nationally and internationally. Mark improvises across different creative genres and facilitates others to compose music. He has composed, performed and improvises music for the Coastal Connections project. Mark has also taught guitar in many institutions including Geelong Grammar, Trinity Grammar, Charles Sturt University, NSW Conservatorium of Music and Wonthaggi Secondary College.



## Project Three - Ocean Messages - Lead Artist - Susan A. Hall

[www.susanahall.com.au](http://www.susanahall.com.au)

Susan A Hall is an artist based in Inverloch who paints in acrylics and oils and also works in printmaking, small sculpture and charcoal. She volunteers and curates exhibitions at the Wonthaggi ArtSpace. Susan has completed a Master of Visual Arts, Monash University, Gippsland and has curated a print exchange with American and Australian printmakers, entitled 'Our World of Plastic'. Susan has long-term relationships with artists locally and internationally. In the Ocean Messages project, Susan will facilitate print-making workshops and a Creative Message Exchange, building an intercultural, intergenerational community across the oceans. Susan undertakes collaborative print-making exchanges with Prof Melanie Yazzie, a Navajo artist, printmaker, sculptor and painter who is the Professor of Printmaking at the University of Colorado.

### Artworks from Susan Hall's and Melanie Yazzi's Recent Visual Conversation



## Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir - Eco Arts Collaborator

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aunty-fay-stewart-muir>

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir is a highly respected Elder who has demonstrated strong leadership and committed community service for over forty years in Victoria in the fields of health, Koori prisoner programs, language revival, cultural advocacy and



education. Aunty Fay is a freshwater and saltwater woman, with Boon Wurrung heritage on her mother's side and Wamba Wamba heritage on her father's side. Aunty Fay provides cultural guidance to students and teachers at all levels of the Victorian Education system, providing cultural and curriculum advice in pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education contexts. She contributes to professional learning and resource development and is a published author. In 2018, *Nganga: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Words and Phrases*, which Aunty Fay co-authored with Sue Lawson, was published by Black Dog Books. *Nganga* is an authoritative and concise collection of words and phrases related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and issues. Aunty Fay was appointed by the State Government to undertake the role of Koori Court Elder.

## Camille Monet - Eco Arts Collaborator

<http://www.camillemonet.com/>



Camille Monet is a community development artist who specialises in visual art and decorative earthenware ceramics using underglazes and ceramic sculptures fired using the raku technique. Camille graduated with honours in fine arts from Griffith University in Queensland, going on to major in ceramics at RMIT in Victoria where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1997. After working as a pottery teacher, where she taught students from age 3 to 80, and directing an annual Children's Art Carnival, she began devoting full time to her art. She's exhibited in Melbourne, Queensland and on Millowl (Phillip Island). The daughter of an artist and a piano teacher, Camille was raised in a creative world. Her early experiences of living in countries including Fiji, Malta, England, and Bali helped shape her bold use of colour, while inspiring her often used tropical motifs. Camille facilitates creative and educational activities in order to deepen connection, understanding and love of the natural environment.



## Ed Thexton - Eco Arts Collaborator

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ed-thexton-8189261b/?originalSubdomain=au>

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

Ed Thexton is the President of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and Company Director of Riparian Australia. He is country-bred, educated in horticulture and ecology with a skill range extending from practical on-ground works to catchment scale planning. Ed is identified with one of the earliest large-scale urban waterway rehabilitation projects on the Darebin Creek and the successful rural rehabilitation project on the Genoa River in far East Gippsland. Ed has pioneered the use of indigenous vegetation in waterway rehabilitation, whole of catchment waterway rehabilitation planning and the use of aerial video in waterway assessment.



## Helen Matthews - Eco Arts Collaborator

Helen Matthews has lived on Phillip Island since 1974. She is a retired Primary School teacher. She has worked with many community groups and has served on various committees as a member and in executive positions. She has taught all grades from Prep to Grade 6 as a classroom teacher as well as Art, ITC, Science and Drama as a specialist.



Helen has been a community volunteer at the Phillip Island Arts Fiesta. She coordinated school workshops for the Oceans of Delight and Enchanted Island Festivals. She has participated in a number of Shearwater Festivals, coordinating the creation of Street Parade costumes and art pieces, working with the whole school. She established and has coordinated the Newhaven Primary Art Show, as well as contributing children's artworks to other art displays in the community. She has coordinated and edited 13 additions of the annual Newhaven Primary School magazine. She has been the Newhaven Arts Coordinator, coordinating art, teaching, incursions and sourcing performers, including artist in residence, timetabling, setup, costumes, props, and stage management.