THE RIDDOCH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE 2027/28

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

THE RIDDOCH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE

City of Mount Gambier

Cover image: The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre exterior, photograph courtesy of the City of Mount Gambier

The City of Mount Gambier is home to South Australia's largest regional gallery, The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre. Council are committed to building The Riddoch's capacity to become South Australia's flagship regional gallery, providing its community with world class exhibitions and education opportunities alongside becoming a destination venue for visitors from around the world.

In the next two years we will continue to enhance The Riddoch's reputation as a leader in regional arts and culture with outstanding curated content featuring nationally recognised artists while maintaining close ties to the Limestone Coast community through six core pillars: **Governance, Collections, Exhibitions, Education, Identity and Investment.**

Image: Rory Carter, live drawing at The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre 2020, photograph courtesy of the City of Mount Gambier

ACTION PLAN

GOVERNANCE

We will deliver key policies and procedures relating to all gallery operations including Collections, Retail, Exhibitions and Audience Engagement. This will also include a framework for ongoing consultation and engagement with our community to maintain our close relationships with artists and patrons. This framework will provide opportunities for fundraising and gifts once The Riddoch has successfully obtained Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Image: Mandy Quadrio, *Not gone!* 2023 (detail), wire mesh, rotating mechanism, dimensions variable. Installation view, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne 2023. Commissioned by ACCA. Courtesy the artist

Image: A selection of works from The Riddoch's Rodney Gooch Collection, 2021 Utopia Exhibition.

The Riddoch Collection has a diverse mix of Australian artists from the 20th and 21st Centuries. A collection policy and associated procedures will be delivered ahead of a full audit of the Collection, with a vision to provide public digital access by 2030.

The City of Mount Gambier's significant public art collection will be included in the audit and learning resources, such as self-guided walking tours, developed for visitors and locals.

The Collection will also be the highlight of the exhibitions program throughout the coming years, featuring a significant exhibition of the Rodney Gooch Collection.

COLLECTIONS

EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

We will participate in national cultural conversations by delivering ambitious and original exhibitions of hyperlocal, state and national significance that are courageous, entertaining and sophisticated. Through inclusive, bold and thoughtful storytelling we will place emphasis on the region's volcanic landscape, ancient heritage and the Limestone Coast's sporting, industrial, performing arts and multicultural histories.

To document, promote and engage audiences with our exhibitions, The Riddoch will regularly publish essays, books, education resources and podcasts associated with exhibitions and the Collection.

Image: Margaret Worth, *Earth & Ether*, The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre © 2023

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Image: Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr, photograph courtesy the City of Mount Gambier

The Riddoch will deliver ongoing and meaningful programs and education resources targeted at primary and secondary students delivering an annual regional students' exhibition as well as bespoke learning packs for educators to access exhibition content on and off site. We will create professional development opportunities for educators through original workshop programs and partnerships with state and national bodies.

We will strengthen our relationships with universities through exhibition and programming partnerships and develop an internship program to provide clear career pathways and opportunities for young people.

Our public programs will be diverse and aimed to support intergenerational engagement and learning.

IDENTITY

The Riddoch will refine and develop its identity in 2027 to improve brand recognition and align the gallery visually as a cultural service of the City of Mount Gambier. The new identity will be developed in consultation with the community and Council and will include the name ‘Mount Gambier’ to align with regional gallery branding conventions in Australia and provide a clear signpost of where to locate us.

The updated brand will reflect the increased focus on original curated exhibitions, publications, collaboration, collections and education. It will signify our intent to contribute to national and international cultural conversations while providing local audiences with education and access opportunities to the arts.

Image: The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre exterior, 2025, photograph by Megan Cole

INVESTMENT AND SUPPORT

The City of Mount Gambier will develop a framework for ongoing, authentic engagement and the development of diverse cultural creative communities across the Limestone Coast.

The Riddoch will attract professional development and investment opportunities for artists and arts groups to support them to develop sustainable and viable practices and business models through partnerships with peak bodies and residency opportunities.

We will advocate for the Limestone Coast creative community through building professional and reciprocal relationships with local, state and national cultural stakeholders to build the region’s reputation for excellence and ambition.

Through the delivery of this action plan, we will create cases for support for philanthropic, state and federal investment in The Riddoch and the creative community it supports.

Image: A selection of works from *Mémoire d’un danseur by Guy Detot*, 2025, installation view, photograph by Matilda Jones

DELIVERY AND REPORTING

The City of Mount Gambier will provide biannual reports on the delivery of this Action Plan. These reports will be presented to Council and published online for community access.

Each report will outline the outcomes achieved under each pillar and include quantitative data such as visitor numbers, survey responses, outcomes for local artists, and detailed information on exhibitions, programs, and publications.

Qualitative data, including visitor testimonials, exhibition reviews, and partnership outcomes, will also be featured. This will be complemented by economic data, such as external and internal grants and sponsorships that support the region's artists, cultural groups, and activities advocated for through this Plan.

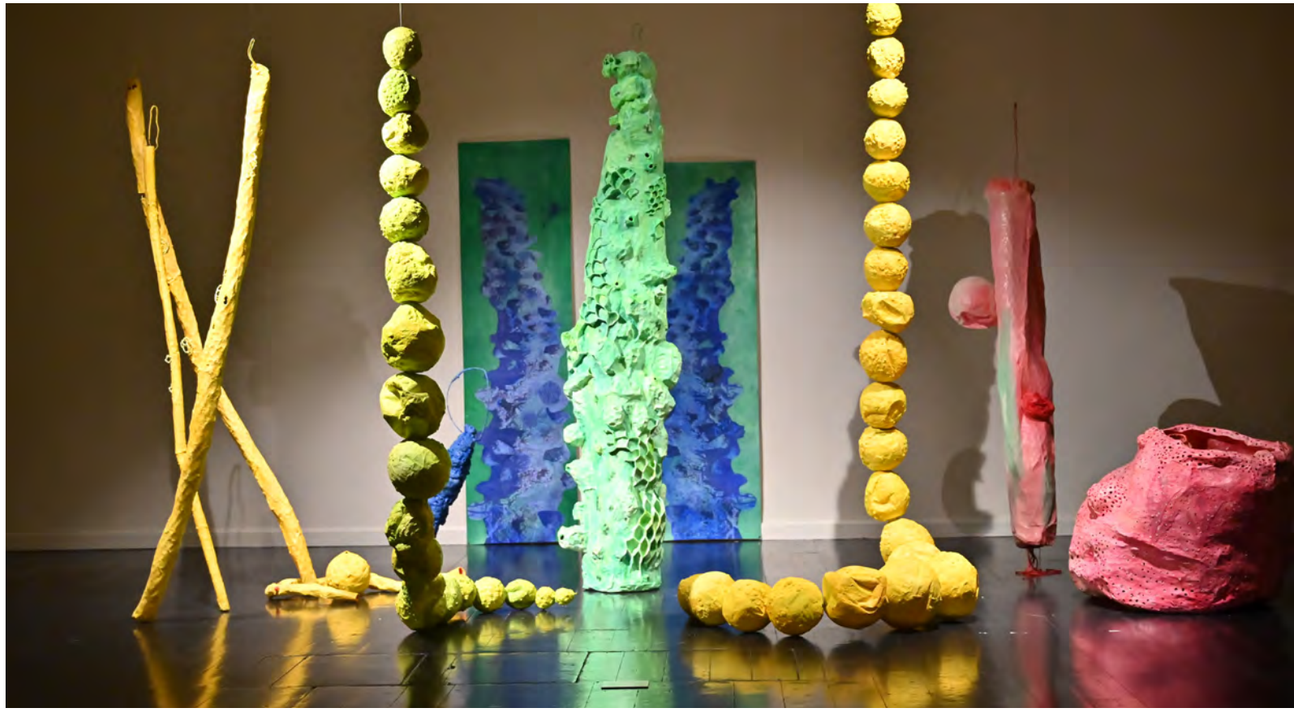

Image: *Harbingers: Care Or Catastrophe installation view* photograph courtesy of the City of Mount Gambier

Image: Aunty Betty Sumner, Aunty Michelle Jacquelin-Furr, photograph courtesy the City of Mount Gambier

STAY CONNECTED

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Participate in our programs.

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