

## **New floating installation launches on the Wollundry Lagoon**

The peaceful waters of the Wollundry Lagoon will be the home to a vibrant floating island in the new exhibition *Turtle Island*, to be officially launched by the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery on Saturday (2 September 2023).

Created by environmental artist Hayden Fowler, the exhibition will be a focal point for conversations on how community can restore and protect local biodiversity.

The island will be covered in a variety of Indigenous plants with the hope that it will attract turtles and birds to nest in safety away from predators.

*Turtle Island* will be on exhibition from 2 September 2023 to 31 January 2024, and visitors will have the opportunity to observe the plants and animals establish on *Turtle Island* as the weather warms.

The activity on the 'Island' will be video documented weekly to capture the animals that visit the island, hopefully a collection of turtles, birds, and more, with the footage available for public viewing on the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery website.

Hayden Fowler predominantly works between Sydney, New Zealand, and Berlin.

Motivated by the planetary human-nature crisis, Fowler's practice explores the effects of alienation from the natural world to the human psyche.

Similarly, his work studies the results of dialogue in Western societies and how it forms human and ecological catastrophe.

*Turtle Island* will launch at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery on Saturday 2 September at 4pm in conjunction with the Spring Exhibition Program – a series of five exhibitions examining issues of sustainability and the environment.

A performance by Letitia Harris and dancers from Wollundry Dreaming will welcome *Turtle Island* to the Wollundry Lagoon as part of the launch event.

*Turtle Island* is being supported by the Regional Arts Fund through Create NSW.

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**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

**What:** Hear about *Turtle Island*, a floating island public artwork on the Wollundry Lagoon.

**Who:** Artist Hayden Fowler, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery Director Dr Lee-Anne Hall, or Narelle Vogel (project manager)

**When:** Thursday 31 August at **10.15am**

**Where:** Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, entry via lower entry (across from Glass Gallery).

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**Exhibition**

Hayden Fowler: *Turtle Island*

Wollundry Lagoon, Civic Centre precinct

Saturday 2 September 2023 – Wednesday 31 January 2024

**Media image:**

Hayden Fowler. Image courtesy of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery



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## About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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