

Jimmi Buscombe

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statement of practice

Jimmi Buscombe is a professional artist based in Warrnambool, on the Great Ocean Road in Victoria, Australia. He specialises in highly detailed wildlife art, public art, anamorphic art, chalk art & public/mural art, creating stunning representations of his subjects. The creative aim within his work is to offer a sense of joy and deeper connection through reflections of the natural world and the people, flora and fauna that inhabit it.

Jimmi has been commissioned by councils, clients and organisations both locally and internationally to create portraits, street art and public art of native wildlife as well as numerous private commissions. Every piece of artwork is treated with much care and consideration. Jimmi is passionate about the visual arts and the important role they play within a healthy, well-functioning community.

Jimmi is highly experienced in the field of public art, developing, managing and installing over 30 major permanent public art works across the state of Victoria since 2018. He is fully insured for public works through NAVA (the National Association for the Visual Arts) and has an EWP HRW License (Elevated Work Platform High Risk Work License) for operating knuckle booms/boom lifts, scissor lifts and working at elevated, high risk sites. Jimmi also has extensive experience working with councils and organisations in developing detailed work plans and SWMSs (Safe Work Method Statements) that are often a requirement for councils and government organisations such as WorkSafe Victoria and SafeWork NSW.

From 2018 to 2022 Jimmi was an artist in residence at Lyndoch Living, an aged care facility in Warrnambool, Victoria where he was commissioned to create realistic murals of native Australian plants and animals, essentially bringing nature inside to the residents of Lyndoch. The works hold much more meaning and value than the end product of a beautiful mural. Seats and couches were set up around where Jimmi was painting, the residents encouraged to sit and talk with Jimmi as he created his works of art. The interaction with the residents was where the real gold of this project occurred, with many residents spending hours a day offering conversation and gentle words of advice.

Jimmi's most widely known mural became part of a now viral video by ABC Southwest Victoria, titled the Accidental Wombat Mural in Warrnambool (see link below). Originally created as a practice piece for a future work (commissioned by Warrnambool City Council) the mural depicts a wombat breaking through the concrete wall of a rail overpass in Otway Rd, Warrnambool. The video has currently had in excess of 64 million views worldwide and has become a local Warrnambool icon.

Jimmi's has been a finalist in the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (NSW), the Kennedy Art Prize (SA) the Holmes Bird Art Prize (QLD) and has won the Judges Prize and People's Choice prize on a number of occasions at the Warrnibald Portrait Prize (Warrnambool). One of his paintings 'DANDROGYNY' was acquired by the Warrnambool Art Gallery in 2019 as part of their collection of permanent works.

exhibitions/awards

WINNER - PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD - WARRNIBALD PORTRAIT PRIZE, WARRNAMBOOL ART GALLERY – 2023
for his portrait *Fiona - Sister of the Stars*, of Kirrae Whurrong Aboriginal artist Fiona Margaret Clarke.

FINALIST IN THE HOLMES PRIZE FOR REALISTIC AUSTRALIAN BIRD ART - 2022
for his painting *Wilpena Red Crested Robin*, acrylic paint on 60cm plantation teak round

SECOND PRIZE - JUDGE'S PRIZE - WARRNIBALD PORTRAIT PRIZE, WARRNAMBOOL ART GALLERY – 2021
for his portrait *Connor*, of artist and poet Connor Ovenden-Shaw. Jimmi's painting *Connor* was also included in the Bendigo Pride Festival exhibition in 2022 at Dudley House.

FINALIST IN THE DOUG MORAN NATIONAL PORTRAIT PRIZE 2019
for his portrait *DANDROGYNY*, of Warrnambool born dancer and performer Daniel Newell.

FINALIST IN THE KENNEDY ART PRIZE, SA - KENNEDY ARTS FOUNDATION
for his portrait *DANDROGYNY*, of Warrnambool born dancer and performer Daniel Newell.

WINNER - PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD - WARRNIBALD PORTRAIT PRIZE, WARRNAMBOOL ART GALLERY - 2018

for his portrait *MANHOOD*, of Warrnambool born dancer and performer Daniel Newell as DANDROGYNY. *MANHOOD* was acquired by the Warrnambool Art Gallery as part of their permanent collection.

WINNER - JUDGE'S PRIZE - WARRNIBALD PORTRAIT PRIZE, WARRNAMBOOL ART GALLERY – 2017

for his portrait titled *Jennifer and Rosie* of local legend Jennifer Chambers and her chook Rosie the hen.

selection of public art works

THE MURRUMBATEMAN WATER TANK (17M) - LIONS CLUB OF MURRUMBATEMAN, NEW

In February 2023, Jimmi worked with the Murrumbateman Lions Club and Murrumbateman Landcare to develop his third work as part of the Australian Silo Art Trail. The piece measures 17m tall and depicts two Gang Gang Cockatoos nestled in a Yellowbox Grassy Woodland with Golden Sunmoths in a late evening sunset.

THE AVOCA SILO PUBLIC ART PROJECT

I completed the Avoca Silo Art Project in February 2022. At 20m tall, the Avoca silo artwork depicts the Australian Barking Owl, a bird native to the local Pyrenees Ranges. It is the first glow in the dark silo in the world and features two separate glow in the dark experiences that can be viewed after dark. First, set behind the owl is a glow in the dark starburst sky. This starburst sky and the owl's eyes both glow in the dark when charged by the silo's installed floodlights. There is also an interactive glow wall set on the Pyrenees Ranges below the owl where visitors can draw their own artworks using nothing more than light from a torch or phone torch

LISMORE WATER TOWER PROJECT - CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL

In February 2020, I created a major piece on the Lismore (Vic) Water Tower for Corangamite Shire. The mural, at 16m tall, depicts two dancing brolgas and some sheep standing amongst native wildflowers in an early morning misty field. Once the main artwork was completed, it then evolved over several more months to include a broлга nest, then some eggs, then cracks in the eggs, and finally the hatching chicks.

BUTTERFLY UNIVERSE - YARRAM INTERNATIONAL CHALK ART FESTIVAL

In January 2021, I was invited to the Yarram International Chalk Art Festival and won second prize with my piece "Portal to the Butterfly Universe".

#WILDVSWARRNAMBOOL FOR THE PICK MY PROJECT SCHEME - STATE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA

In 2020, I completed 4 large scale murals in my home town of Warrnambool as part of the public voted Pick My Project placemaking scheme set up by the Victorian Government. My project, titled #WildVsWarrnambool, received the most votes of any project outside the Melbourne metropolitan area. #WildVsWarrnambool depicts nature clawing back territory from man made structures. These murals were designed to evolve and develop over several months, in almost a slow animation of sorts, with changing landscapes and stories developing over time, encouraging the public to visit the murals multiple times.

THE ACCIDENTAL WOMBAT MURAL IN WARRNAMBOOL

The now famous Warrnambool Wombat Mural became part of a viral video by ABC Warrnambool titled the Accidental Wombat Mural in Warrnambool (see link below). Originally created as a practice piece for a future work (commissioned by Warrnambool City Council) the mural depicts a wombat breaking through the concrete wall of a rail overpass in Otway Rd, Warrnambool. The video has currently had in excess of 64 million views across the world and has become a local Warrnambool icon.

WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO MURALS

Two trompe l'oeil (trick of the eye) murals at Werribee Open Range Zoo in Victoria. One depicting Kulinda the Cheetah, standing in a broken wall and the other depicting four Serval cats leaping around trees, shrubs and logs. Both murals are designed to be photographed with the viewer placed in situ, creating the illusion they are posing with the animals.

GATEWAY TO WARRNAMBOOL - MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES

A 3D trick of the eye mural of a young girl entering through a hole in the wall at MacKillop Family Services, finding the beauty of Warrnambool on the other side.

THE ANIMAL CLASSROOM - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CAMPERDOWN, VICTORIA.

3D anamorphic mural depicting of a hole through the classroom brick wall, showing a room full of native animals at the desks and an emu teacher.

ANIMAL ATTACK - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL, TERANG, VICTORIA.

3D anamorphic mural of a host of Australian native animals breaking into students' bags and pigeon holes.

TERANG WATERING HOLE

3D anamorphic pavement mural in The Avenue (Princes Highway) Terang, showing a hole in the concrete filled with water and surrounded by native Australian birds.

IN SPIRIT - YELLOW TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS

The Warrnambool Ozone Walk street art piece, In Spirit, depicts Seventeen Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos on a blue sky. Funding for In Spirit was won at the inaugural Beers and Ideas place-making event, a public voted event which supports local place-making in the Warrnambool City.

press / social media

SOCIAL MEDIA

I have a highly engaged and growing social media audience of over 30,000 people across Facebook and Instagram from all across the world. My socials often garner huge engagement, with well over 64 million views on the ABC Warrnambool Wombat video, 175,000 views for my Port Fairy "Quoll and the Toilet Roll" anamorphic piece, over 80,000 views on his ABC video for the the Lismore Water Tower, almost 70,000 views on a video about my work at aged care facility Lyndoch Living, and tens of thousands of views for many other videos.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE LINKS

Website: www.jimmibuscombe.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jimmibuscombeartist

Instagram: www.instagram.com/jimmi_buscombe_artist

VIDEO LINKS

The Warrnambool Wombat - ABC Southwest Victoria Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2137681266448199>

The Glow in the Dark silo at Avoca
<https://twitter.com/9newsmelb/status/1505091853061959682?s=12>

Quoll and the Toilet Roll - ABC Southwest Victoria Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/abcsouthwestvic/videos/300356804273895/>

Artist in Residence at Lyndoch Living - ABC Southwest Victoria Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/abcsouthwestvic/videos/387599641828517>

Pick My Project murals - Channel 9 News
<https://www.facebook.com/9NewsWesternVictoria/videos/2215130995458328>

ARTICLE LINKS

Article - Finalist for Doug Moran National Portrait Prize - The Warrnambool Standard
<https://www.standard.net.au/story/6443369/everything-he-touches-turns-to-gold-and-fluro/?fbclid=IwAR3IIQC7-hLv59Xv2zUcTSD5wDt6MKGohE-ZPKszkBlZql4kYq1CQKvqS3g>

Article - Seven Endangered Virtues project - The Warrnambool Standard
<https://www.standard.net.au/story/6886104/endangered-virtues-and-species-highlighted-by-jimmi-buscombe/?fbclid=IwAR2oP4W4fND4xZt2v84YmRRRhhvGGQQ0gc3qaXFMzZbl63soY9s78Eyx2hPA>

Article - Pick My Project #WildVsWarrnambool - The Warrnambool Standard
https://www.standard.net.au/story/6419916/artist-begins-work-on-picked-project/?fbclid=IwAR0ozUQ-vQAKVSiGCq039Ifs57gZ0bePX-pLih_f-oMoOTsdJT38miRrOHg