

July 2024



Photo right :CIAF Co Patron Henrietta Fourmile-Marrie AM

Thancoupie Bursary Fund Newsletter



THANCOUPIE BURSARY AWARD BREAKFAST 2024



Photo above: Vincent Barbia 2024 Bursary recipient

This year the Thancoupie Bursary Breakfast was held at the 'Yarning Circle' at Northsite Contemporary Arts as there was construction work at our usual venue at the Ports North Cruise Liner terminal where Thancoupie's Sphere is located.

Henrietta Fourmile-Marrie AM Co-Patron of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair provided the Welcome to country and honoured Thancoupie's memory as the inaugural Co-Patrons of CIAF and her strong advocacy for Indigenous Art.

Craig A Hoy mcd the event and introduced the 2024 Bursary recipient, Vincent Barbia. Vincent is a descendant of the Ait Kodal (Crocodile clan) and Samu (Cassowary clan) from Saibai Island and his family was one of the many families that relocated from Saibai Island in the Torres Strait to settle in the Northern Peninsula area of mainland Australia in the 1940s and 50s.

2023 Bursary winner and Indigenous Visual Artist and Performer Zane Saunders shared his experience of dry point etching and printmaking and Jennifer Isaacs close friend of Thancoupie shared memories of her art training in Sydney and her development as a ceramicist.

We thank those who supported the event including former Senator, Jan McLucas, Bradley Smith and Val Schier who provided the catering for the Breakfast Event. Also thank you to Ashleigh Campbell and Russell Milledge at Northsite Contemporary Arts for sponsorship of the venue facilities; and Board members: Paul Matthews, Craig Hoy, Anthony Todd Weller and Ingrid Hoffman for logistics.



Thancoupie Bursary Breakfast



Photo above: Craig A Hoy Mcing the Bursary Breakfast at the 'Yarning Circle' Northsite Contemporary Arts Cairns.

Visit our facebook page for more photos of the event

<https://www.facebook.com/thancoupiebursary?mibextid=ZbWKwL>



Photo below: 2023 Bursary winner Zane Saunders



2023 Bursary winner Zane Saunders shares Thancoupie Acknowledgement Speech

When I reflect and think about Dr. Thancoupie Gloria Fletcher, the late (Thanakupi) 'Wattle Flower', what she meant to me. The memories I hold and treasure within my heart is of a dear and beloved elder, inspirational leader, talented and gifted artist, strong maternal figure and cultural peer. I believe Thancoupie really lived an impressional life and left behind a lasting and important legacy for each of us to contribute to and build from. The inspiration of her life and story I'd compare it to that of the sun, the sun allows us to see things clearly in the light of day, and with it brings warmth, comfort and healing to the continuation of life. I am very grateful to have known and met Thancoupie, and I'm appreciative of receiving this award in honour of her.

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge and thank the many traditional owner groups whose lands we live on and occupy in this region of ours and get to practice culture and our cultural responsibilities and obligations. The recognised Yidinydjii people and Nation whose land and country we're presiding now on for this esteemed event. I like to acknowledge and remember Thancoupie who was an outstanding accomplished artist who worked hard in helping the indigenous cause for her people and this Country



Thancoupie's Bursary Fund was established in 2012 in Cairns, where Thancoupie had close links and lived at her studio in Trinity Beach for more than two decades.

The Fund is a registered public company under the Corporations Act, limited by guarantee. Governance of the Fund is vested in the Board of Directors. The Directors ensure Thancoupie's Bursary Fund complies with legislation governing the management, operations and obligations of Australian Charitable Trust Funds as required by the Australian Taxation Office.

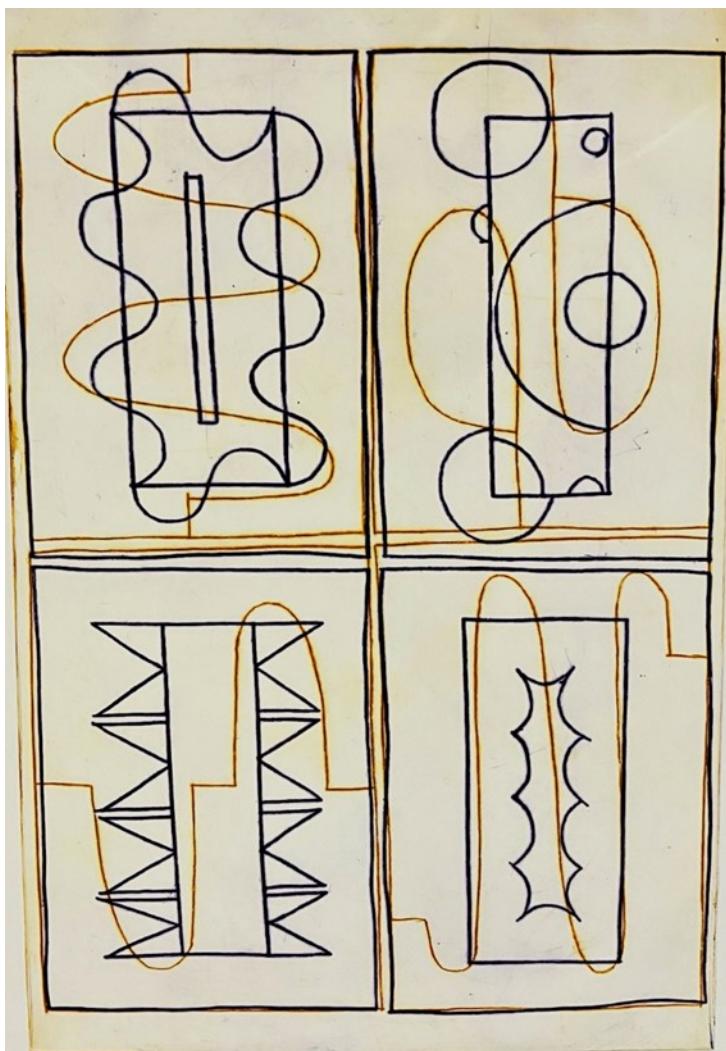


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2023 Bursary winner Zane Saunders shares Thancoupie Acknowledgement Speech

Also to those who've put together and contributed to the idea of creating the Thancoupie's Bursary Fund in honour of her achievements. Co-patrons: Mary Ann Coconut (Napranum elder) Leneen Ford (former QLD Governor) Co-chairs: Rita Moore and Paul Matthews Members of the board: Jennifer Isaacs AO (Order of Australia recipient), Val Schier (former Cairns Mayor) Craig Hoy (artist and friend of Thancoupie), Ingrid Hoffman, Anthony Todd Weller, Belinda Down, Simone Rait and Jeannie Little Theo Tremblay Master Printmaker a facilitator of the 'Spotfire Program' at Northsite Print Studios who played an integral part in putting the application together, providing a Letter of Support, informing me of the opportunity and encouraging me to put forward an application to get the necessary funds to produce a series of new print works. Northsite Contemporary Arts for hosting the 'Spotfire Program' at their Northsite Print Studio's on Greenslope Street, Edge Hill, giving indigenous participants an opportunity to pursue the art medium of printmaking. Coordinated by Katrina Losia Programs Coordinator, Northsite Contemporary Arts. Dr Russell Milledge - Creative Arts, College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University (JCU) Cairns Campus for his Letter of Support, helping put together a successful application.

Below: Artwork by Zane Saunders



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2023 Bursary winner Zane Saunders shares Thancoupie Acknowledgement Speech



I'll share with you now, more insights of my connection with Thancoupie. I did not know her as close, or as long or as intimately as some, but more importantly it was something real, a privilege and honour I had experienced in my life. I first met Thancoupie at the Indigenous Art College in Cairns, back in 1987 whilst attending a 2 year associate diploma course. From my recollections she facilitated the ceramics workshop, and the college was based at the old Hanush's Cordial Factory building on the corner of Draper and Victoria Street, Cairns City. I was a first year's student, and it was just before the college had merged with TAFE Queensland, Cairns Campus in Manunda.

At the time I was very young, probably underaged by TAFE regulations, youthful, raw, seemingly innocent and curious about culture and relatively a new student to cultural art, cultural expression, and a novice of what it meant to be as an indigenous person at that time. Still growing and learning there was also something within me, a cultural intuition and instincts that have helped serve and guide me. My soul's identity, my cultural DNA embedded by my ancestral maker. Spiritual instructions that allowed me to appreciate and gravitate towards the cultural ancestral paths of being, especially with someone as culturally established and beautiful in spirit as Thancoupie.

She emitted cultural confidence, a persona that radiated gently from her humbled nature, her mannerisms and knowledge that flowed effortlessly from her graceful presence. I was in awe of her and I assumed it was instilled in her as a youth in her upbringing, her parental, communal and cultural guidance growing up in her community of Napranum, Weipa Western Cape York Peninsula and her traditional homelands, and the wealth of lived experiences. To which I was grateful at the time and still to this day having witness and experienced someone so influential and inspiring, living and breathing her identity, carrying on her duties, her cultural torch with utmost care and passion to the best of her abilities and circumstances.

I believe today our people, our youth and communities thirst and hunger for this type of leadership, wisdom and guidance. Elders who demonstrate and aspire to a higher moral and ethical standard, that will help draw us in and speak to our internal ancestral consciousness bringing life to our bloodlines, strengthening, and resolving our cultural principles. Thancoupie was like that for me,



Thancoupie Bursary Stall at CIAF Art Market



The Bursary stall provides us with an opportunity for promotion of the Bursary to the public attending the CIAF Art market at the Cairns Conference Centre. Fundraising initiatives promoted through the market stall include a silent auction of donated works and an increased range of merchandising. Donated works included an original ceramic Rainbow serpent Egg by Thancoupie from the Thancoupie estate, art works by Natasha Davui, Zane Saunders, Daphne De Jersey, Margaret Mara, Lisa Michl, Rosella Namok,. Merchandise included Thancoupie Language dictionaries, Thancoupie original prints, T-shirts by Rita Moore's daughter, Lizanne, and face masks with artwork by Torres Sabatino. Donated Waayi books 'We Look We Find' from Napranum and the general public also gave donations to the Bursary. Many thanks to the TBF Board members who volunteered to run the Stall especially to Paul Matthews for his overall event management, Simone for overseeing finances, and Jennifer Isaacs.



Above: Ingrid Hoffman, Val Shier, Paul Matthews volunteering at the Thancoupie Bursary Fund stall

