



Saturday 29 September 6.30pm

Special Thanks:

Richard Manner for technical advice and support, John Tonkin - camera, Keira Mackenzie and Bert Tenbungu Groves -Yamma – children voices.

...and support from:

Jenny Tubby, Billy Jade Prince, Xanthe Zarrella, Djon Mundine, Terry Hayes, Barbara Campbell, Nick Keys and of course the wonderful team at Bundanon and Riversdale.

BUNDANON TRUST



Photo: Ian Hobbs

last word 2012

robyn backen
and the plank

Last Word 2012 is the third and final performance in the series for Siteworks. It is a river fugue or a collage of voices transmitted then received – beside, around and across the Shoalhaven tidal zone.

In the 1880's the farmer Thomas Biddulph of Eeree (Earie Park) wrote in his diary, each entry starting with a simple weather report. These diaries are the inspiration for a light and sound performance at dusk.

robyn backen and the plank

Robyn Backen is an interdisciplinary artist and a recent recipient of the Australia Council Fellowship for 2012-14. *Last Word* walks alongside research Robyn has undertaken since the late 1990's; taking shape whilst researching for the *Weeping Walls* at the Sydney International Airport, through to the most recent commission, *Whisper Pitch*, for Carriageworks in April 2012. The research focuses upon communication systems and whispering architectural spaces – places where our voices/thoughts become part of the architecture of the space.

When Robyn is not making art or obsessively reading weather reports, she is coordinator of the Masters of Studio Art at Sydney College of the Arts .

The PLANK is a special group of people with whom Robyn Backen shares and discusses her evolving practice. Over many years each member has held a unique voice and often invisible presence in her work. They are her team of advisors or collaborators. This project was an opportunity to bring them all together. Robyn is eternally grateful for their friendship, inspiration and insights.

Annemaree Dalziel's medical career was interrupted by a collision with a car in 1981, beginning new work concerned with fragments, bodies, and protective coats. A fascination with people, bodies and stories is the line through the seemingly separate worlds of her initial training and eventual practice.

As a costume designer collaborating with contemporary performance makers, she is interested in pushing images and form in relation to bodies, to light, to disappearance. The dramaturgical rigour of her work derives from her abiding interest in cultural difference, in the intersections of history and its various languages, and in how these lie encoded in our bodies. And from a hunch that we are on inevitable collision courses; that every encounter holds this potential, so how to get in? These questions and the interactions they engender underlie her work as a curator and producer of contemporary theatre and fuel the conversations with artists and communities that are essential to this work. Annemaree is currently the curator/producer of Contemporary Theatre at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Ian Hobbs, lying in bed as a child, Ian would stare into the dark, studying the grain of night. Later - light and optics become enduring interests in a career as a media artist. Ian has worked with arts organisations and the media as a photographer, creative director and designer. Since 2000 he has taught media, design and developed unique courses in New Media at numerous Universities in NSW. Ian Hobbs Media focuses on video and specialised-media production with an emphasis on communication and strategy. Ian has also expanded Ian Hobbs Media launching Codey - a web consultancy which manages web design and publishing.

Neil Mackenzie formed Mackenzie Pronk Architects in 2004 with partner Heidi Pronk. Neil and Heidi have design experience across a broad range of project types. Their practice aims to produce high quality sustainable architectural design working closely with clients to craft unique, appropriate and cost effective design solutions. The practice has won 4 architecture awards at the NSW Institute of Architects.

Neil revels in the iterative collaboration that produces architecture with clients, consultants, builders, artists and fellow architects. Neil strives to make every space in a project a delight, championing design quality from a detail to a large scale masterplan.

Collaborative work with artists has been a continuing thread through Neil's practice for the past 20 years. Recent projects include *Giidayn Mirral* education space at Coffs Harbour, *Delicate Balance* at Ballast Point Park and both with Robyn Backen. Neil is seldom not working with Robyn Backen in some guise or another (and he likes it that way).

Michelle Xen is a Brisbane based visual/sound artist, musician, and performer. A QCA graduate, Xen is completing a Master of Arts in Research in multidisciplinary practice, with works in music production, composition and contemporary performance in relationship to her painting and video installation practice. Michelle's work synthesises colour, gesture, dynamic, timbre, volume, and field to create emotional and visceral installations, videos, paintings, sounds and songs. Her practice forms relationships between contemporary art practice, pop music and contemporary performance, creating a generative questioning of how we assimilate and balance cultural outputs.

Michelle is a founder and member of the LADY ELECTRONICA collective who recently worked on songs and sounds in the studio with Quan Yeomans (Regurgitator), Wally de Backer (Gotye) and Scott Horscroft (EMI). Her debut EP – SYNAESTHESIA, a multi-platform project, will be released in November 2012. Michelle has treasured her time working with Robyn Backen; on the *Weeping Walls* for Sydney International Airport, *Rice Talk* for the Echigo Triennial, Japan and in Bundanon on *Last Word*.

Christopher Zinn has long been obsessed with meteorology. It started with listening to the shipping forecast on BBC Radio long wave which covered seemingly romantic areas of the North Sea and Atlantic such as Dogger and Rockall. It carried on with a Geography MA which had a keen focus on climate change. It continued with a career in journalism in print, radio and TV both here and overseas which included many stories about the weather. Currently as a consumer advocate he exploits any opportunity to look to the skies.

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