



THE 2024 PALMER SCULPTURE BIENNIAL

Opens on Saturday March 16th.

THE PALMER BIENNIAL IS A UNIQUE EVENT

The first Palmer Sculpture Biennial was held in 2004, and since then has gained an impressive reputation both locally and internationally. The event is now one of the longest, continually running sculpture exhibitions in Australia. People who have experienced past biennials now make a point of returning.

The biennial is run by the artists, and rather than aiming to show many works, the emphasis is on quality, artistic merit, and the way they interact with an Australian environment. A high priority is that visitors should be able to engage with both sculpture and place.

“Congratulations to Greg Johns on what he has created at Palmer. This is a nationally important project with Australian sculpture in the Australian landscape. It is also a huge undertaking that brings joy to many and a wonderful opportunity for the artists. The calibre of the artists and the sculptures exhibited at Palmer are a testament to its importance.”

David Handley AM, Founding CEO and Artistic Director, Sculpture by the Sea (2024)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PALMER BIENNIAL 2024

The Palmer Biennial will be opened at 1pm on Saturday 16th of March by **Robert Lindsay** former Director of McClelland Museum Victoria, senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria, and co-curator of the Palmer Biennial.

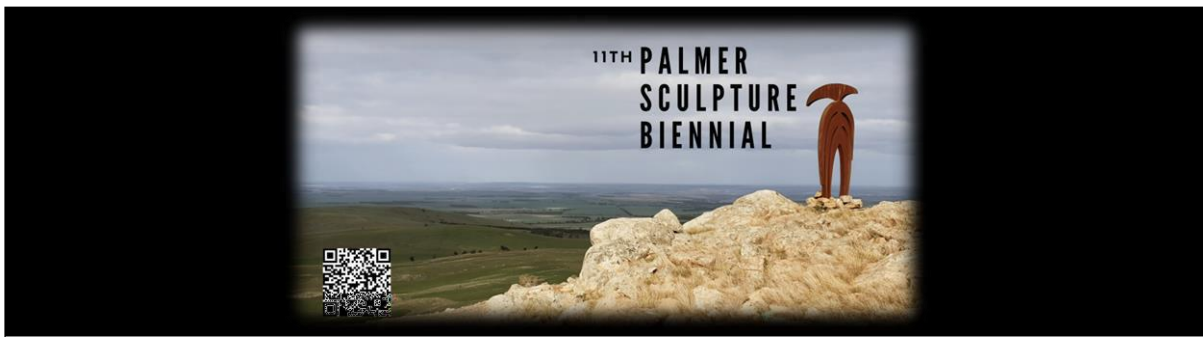
Other speakers are Greg Johns, Pam Dean (Ma Hth Sc), and Bill Clifford.

THE ARTISTS

The artists include three from interstate, one from overseas and fifteen South Australians. Amongst their ranks are leading sculptors with widespread reputations as well as exciting visionary newcomers.

HONOURED ARTIST

- [Stelarc](#) from Victoria
Stelarc's works have broken new ground, re-imagining the human body technologically in terms of robotics, AI and virtual systems, and often featuring performances involving bodily modifications. At the Biennial, he will be collaborating with emerging SA artist Anika Gardner. Their work will be called “rockProsthesis (metal, muscles, code)”.



OVERSEAS ARTIST:

- [Karl Chilcott](#) HENÅN, Sweden

INTERSTATE ARTISTS:

- [Cliff Burt](#) from Victoria
- [Tony Davis](#) from Western Australia
- [James Orsto](#) from the Tiwi Islands

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS:

- [David Atkins](#)
- [Liz Butler](#)
- [Dr Maarten Daudeij](#)
- [Anika Gardner](#) (EM)
- [John Hayward](#)
- [Greg Johns](#)
- [Max Lyle](#)
- [Sam Mulcahy](#)
- [Astra Parker](#)
- [Niccy Pallant](#) (EM)
- [Will Powrie](#)
- [Alan Todd](#)
- [Westley Tully](#)
- [Victor Waclawic](#)
- [Peter Walker](#)
- [Sian Watson](#) (EM)
- [Clancy Warner](#)
(EM = emerging artist)

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITIONS

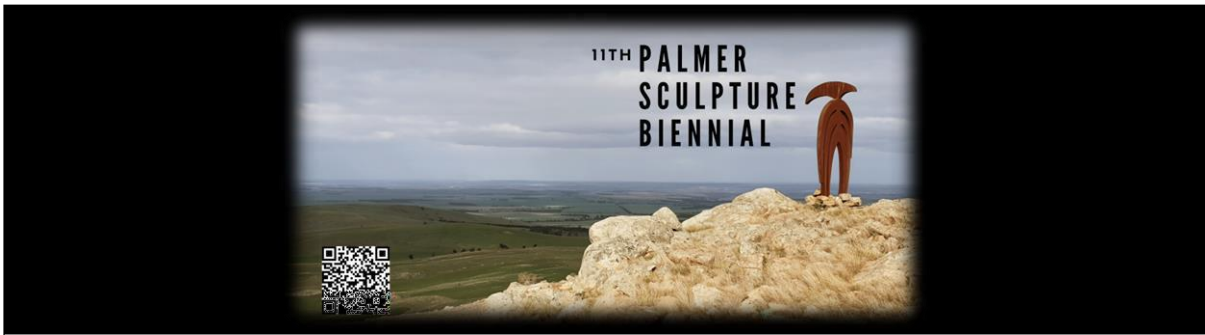
- [John Neylon](#) will be showing his works in an exhibition entitled *My Palmer Rocks*.
- [Dr Maarten Daudeij](#) will be showing six works called *'The Glow' Suite: Celebrations of a Seeing (I-VI)* 2018 – 2022.

TESTIMONIAL

“The spread of sculpture exhibitions and competitions throughout Australia in recent years has been remarkable; the development of Palmer in South Australia, however, remains unique. Some seaside sights such as Lorne and Bondi are easily accessible and justifiably popular with the public. Palmer, on the other hand is 72 kms from Adelaide and presents greater challenges for both exhibitors and the public. The terrain is untamed, though much planting and revegetation has taken place in recent years. Nevertheless, it is the sense of vast space that is still a dominant feature. Consequently, exhibitors need to create works that either relate closely to the ground or that rise dramatically upwards to be seen as strong silhouettes in the landscape.

Greg Johns deserves our gratitude and praise for his exceptional vision; Palmer is quintessentially Australian.”

[Ken Scarlett](#) OAM Australian writer specialising in Australian sculpture. (2024)



Greg Johns Guardian Figures Photo by Les Howard

WHAT VISITORS CAN EXPECT TO SEE

The Biennial takes place in a hilly 400-acre property near the township of Palmer on the way to Mannum. Strolling over a rise in a landscape that includes escarpments, rocky outcrops and open countryside and suddenly encountering a striking sculpture is an unforgettable experience. In such a setting, these works have much greater impact than they could achieve in a Gallery.

BIENNIAL OPENNING HOURS

Weekends (11:00 – 5:30)

16th & 17th March

23rd & 24 March

30th & 31st March

6th & 7th April

13th & 14th April

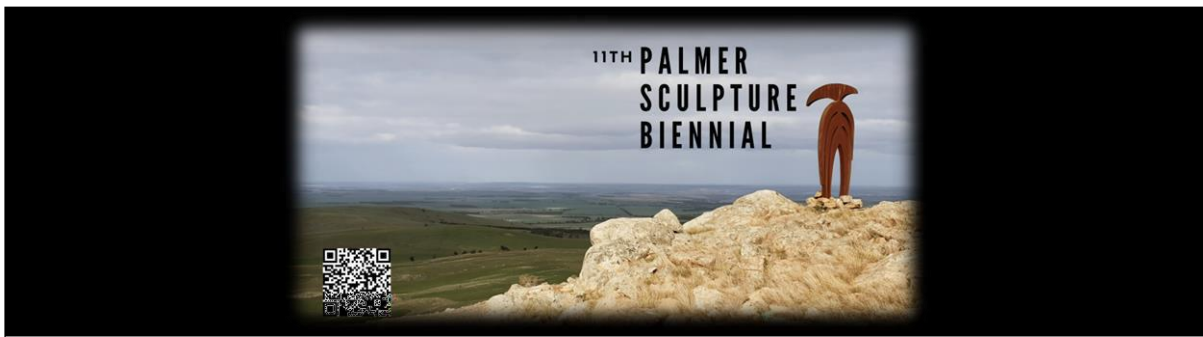
Wednesday afternoons (2:00 – 5:30)

20th March

27th March

3rd April

10th April



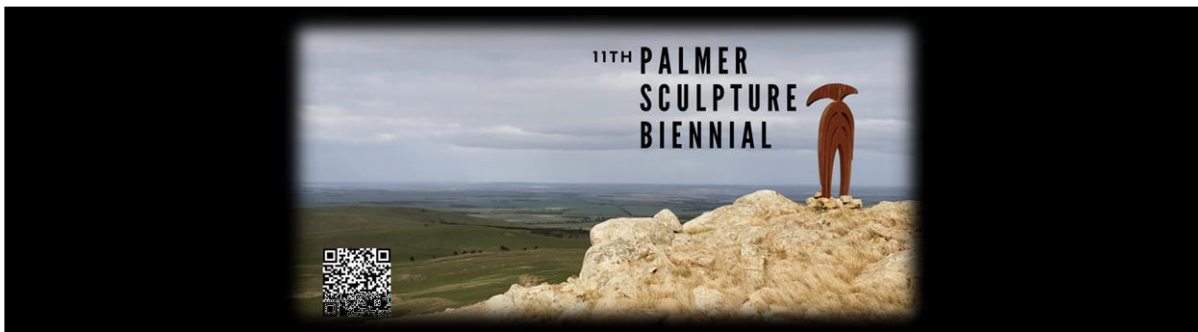
COST

- **BIENNIAL ENTRY IS FREE.**
- Palmer Biennial catalogue is \$10.
- Verandah Music Event from 3pm 16th March is \$20 per head.
- The Palmer Biennial is a **CASH ONLY** event. All money raised is distributed to the musicians and to the ongoing restoration of the landscape.

WHERE IS THE PLAMER BIENNIAL

The property is 3.5 km down the Davenport Road which starts opposite the Hotel at Palmer on the way to Mannum. Approximately 1hr 15 minutes from Adelaide.





In the Palmer Landscape

photo by Samuel Cox

PARKING & OTHER EVENT INFORMATION

- Angle parking is available on Davenport Road near the entrance to the Palmer Biennial. If you have difficulty walking up the steep hill, we can usually offer limited 4x4 lifts to the top.
- 4x4 Access only inside the site. Limited parking at the top of the hill. **Please always stay on the tracks drive slowly and be very careful of the wildlife. E.g., native lizards, Echidna, Euro wallaby and kangaroos.** We have spent over 20 years gradually rehabilitating the landscape with native plantings, weed and vermin eradication. Please enjoy the event and remove your own rubbish from the site.
- Towards the end of the opening day on the 16th of March, the **Palmer Verandah Music Event** begins at 3:00 pm. Cost \$20 p/p and cash only. Performers will be [Jen Lush](#) and band, [Aaron Thomas](#), and band, [Snooks LaVie](#) and Nick Kipridis.
- **BYO** Bush Walking Gear, water, food, and a chair if you wish to stay for the music event on day 1. To make the most of your visit and see the works on display you would be advised to set aside 2 to 4 hours.



COVID-19

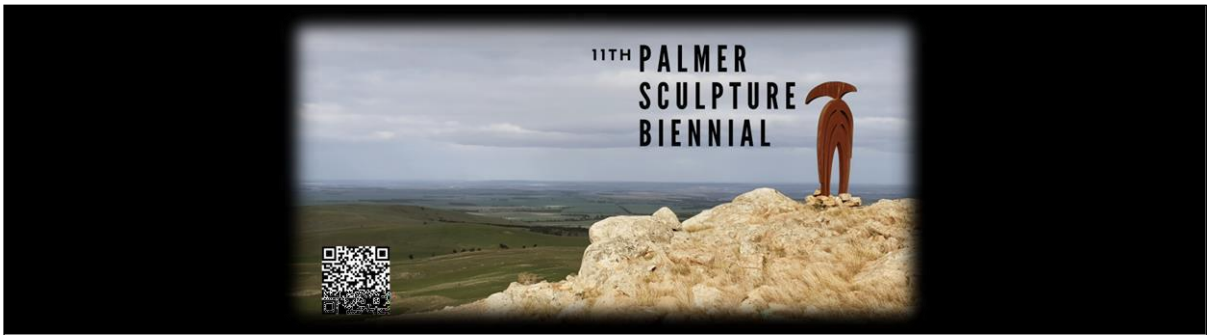
- For any attendance requirements due to COVID-19 restrictions please refer to the latest information from [SA Health](#).
- Current government guidelines do not require patrons to be vaccinated. Palmer Integrated Projects may update COVID-safe requirements for any event as directed by SA Health. All ticket holders will be notified of updates relating to COVID-19.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The event organiser takes no responsibility for lost or damaged property.
- ***This is an all-weather event and will go ahead, rain or shine unless a Catastrophic Fire warning is issued for the Murraylands Region by the CFS.*** In that case, Palmer will **be closed** on that day. Please check before leaving home via the CFS Fire Danger Ratings site. <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/total-fire-bans-ratings/> Suitable shoes and protective clothing are recommended especially if the weather has been wet or hot.
- Patrons consent to be included in any photography, film and/or sound recordings within the event or its surroundings and grant the right to this information being used by us or by third parties directly associated with the event for future marketing or promotional purposes.
- No person shall interfere with plants and wildlife, water fixtures or any other installation within the venue.
- In keeping with South Australian Government health regulations banning smoking/vaping the event is a smoke-free event. Patrons wishing to smoke/vape will be able to do so in the designated smoking area. See the event organiser at the venue for details.
- Patrons agree to remove their rubbish from the Palmer Biennial site upon departure.

CONTACT DETAILS

Email the Palmer Project; palmersculpturebiennial@gmail.com or phone Greg Johns - 0438807860 or Bill Clifford (08) 8398 0868 or visit our website, palmersculpturebiennial.org



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