

# Walcha's

## Open Air Gallery of sculptures and artworks



In 1996, Walcha Council was approached by Stephen King, a local farmer and sculptor, to collaborate with him to create a fountain sculpture for McHattan Park in the centre of town.

The decision to accept his offer and install Walcha's first sculpture led to the suggestion by Council to form the Walcha Arts Council to facilitate an ongoing public art program. A plan was conceived and drawn up by the Walcha Arts Council and was adopted by Council into its 1998 Management Plan. The concept came to be known as the Open Air Gallery.

By 2001, with the financial support of Walcha Council and other funding bodies and a strong and dedicated resource base of accomplished local artists to implement the plans, Walcha Arts Council had established over 25 sculptures and public artworks in the Open Air Gallery.

In 2003 an exhibition of Walcha's art was held in Sydney and in an essay written for the catalogue, the art critic John McDonald wrote:

*"Walcha has found a way of signposting its continued vitality. For a modest investment of ratepayers' funds, the Council has given the town a special place on Australia's cultural map. This has come about with the assistance of artists and supporters who have donated a great deal of time and expertise to create this unique facility. It is an example of many individuals working together for the good of a community in which they share strong family and sentimental ties."*



### 1. "Weather Signs" – Stephen King, Walcha: 1996

2.5 x 3 x 6.2m • Local Yellow-Box and steel. This fountain depicts the reliance of a rural community on the weather, and the signs and stories that try to bring some certainty to the indifferent and fickle nature of the weather. Donated by the artist, with the support of Walcha Council.

### 2. McHattan Park Shelter – Mosaic in concrete: 1996

Created from designs by local artists from Amaroo Museum & Cultural Centre including Richard Morris, Wayne Schmutter, Jason Alexander.

### 1998 The 'Blackfellows Gully' Workshop

Sponsored by Stephen King who hosted these artists on his Property, 'Blackfellows Gully' in the lead up to 'Sculpture by the Sea' 1998

### 3. "The Family" – Tom Deko, PNG: 1998

1.2 x 0.6 x 1.9m • Oil drums. Figurative work representing the artist's love of family and village life. Made for 'Sculpture by the Sea' 1998. Donated by the artist with support from 'Sculpture by the Sea'.

### 4. "The Warrior" – Tom Deko, PNG: 1998

2.4 x 2 x 3.3m • This steel sculpture is a rendering of traditional New Guinean imagery. Made in Walcha and purchased by Walcha Council.

### 5. "Sea Monster" – Emmanuel Watt, Vanuatu: 1998

1.5 x 0.4 x 1m • Stringybark carving. Emmanuel Watt, a traditional artist from Vanuatu who visited Walcha during 'Sculpture by the Sea' 1998. Made in Walcha, purchased by Walcha Council in 1999.

### 6. a,b,c – The maquettes: 1998

Maquettes created as proposals for the roundabout sculpture competition.

- James Rogers, "Song Cycle", 0.6 x 0.6 x 1.6m, painted steel.
- Stephen King, "Apsley Falls", 0.7 x 0.4 x 2m, steel.
- Nigel White, "The Tuning Fork", 0.5 x 0.5 x 1.5m, ironbark.

### 7. "Cosmology" – Bronwyn Bancroft, Sydney: 1998

This mural is located at the entrance of Walcha Central School and painted with the assistance of the students. Sponsored by ASSPA funding.



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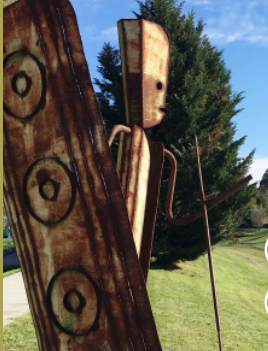


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### 1999 The Town Entrance Signs

Commissioned by Walcha Council – government funding for new town signage.

#### 8. "Black Cockatoo" – Ross Laurie, Walcha: 1999

2.5 x 0.6 x 5m • Carved Tallowwood. Southern entrance sign, created to keep watch over the Walcha district.

#### 9. "Strainer Post" – Stephen King, Walcha: 1999

0.5 x 0.6 x 5m • Carved Grey Box. Eastern entrance sign. A tribute both to timber itself and the industry that has played such a key role in Walcha's history.

#### 10. "Toll Gate" – James Rogers, Walcha: 1999

1.7 x 0.6 x 8m • Tallowwood and steel. Northern entrance sign Celebrates the shape and rhythm of the word, Walcha.

#### 11. "True Born Native Man" – Nigel White, Mudgee, NSW: 1999

4.5 x 1.0 x 8.2m • Carved Tallowwood. Western entrance sign. A statuesque figure welcoming visitors to Walcha.

#### 12. "Generation Stick" – Stephen King, Walcha: 1992 / Installed 2000

0.7 x 0.7 x 9.5m • Stringy bark. This sculpture represents the continuum of life through DNA and generational rhythm. Donated by the artist.

#### 13. "Song Cycle" – James Rogers, Walcha: 2001

3 x 3 x 6.5m • Steel. Celebrating the cyclic nature of provincial life. A melody is suggested in the shapes and lines, a melody that keeps coming back on itself. Commissioned by Walcha Arts Council, funded by Armidale 3rd City of the Arts.

### 2001 The Street Furniture Project

Funded by Armidale 3rd City of the Arts, Walcha Arts Council and Walcha Council with assistance from State Forests NSW, NPWS and Fenning Timbers.

#### 14. "All Aboard" – David Waters, Melbourne: 2001

3.3 x 1.3 x 1.2m • Blue Gum seat representing a train.

#### 15. "The Cocktail Lounge" – Stephen Killick, Wauchope, NSW: 2001

9.5 x 0.9 x 1.9m • Blue Gum, Stringybark and Tallowwood seat.

#### 16. "The Lovers Seat" – Mike Nicholls, Melbourne: 2001

2.1 x 0.7 x 0.8 • Stringybark and steel, this seat was carved by Mike Nicholls and then constructed by James Rogers.

> Street Furniture Project continued

#### 17. "The Bridge" – collaborative: 2001

9.5 x 1.3 x 0.7m • Carved from Stringybark by David Waters, Stephen King, Mike Nicholls and many others.

#### 18. "The Throne" – Stephen King and Stephen Killick: 2001

3.2 x 3.2 x 3.2m • Seat made from a huge Tallowwood log.

#### 19. "The Big Picture" – Mike Nicholls, Melbourne: 2001

4.2 x 0.6 x 8.7m • Stringybark. The idea behind this sculpture was to frame the perspectives of both sides of the Apsley River.

#### 20. "The Long Blow" – Mandy Francis, Hardy's Bay, NSW: 2001

4.0 x 0.2 x 0.5m • Constructed in Blackbutt, this seat refers to the combs, cutters, wool tables and grating associated with the craft and industry of shearing.

#### 21. "The Plough" – James Rogers, Walcha: 2002

4.6 x 1.0 x 0.7m • Seat made from Stringybark and steel.

#### 22. "And the Cow Jumped Over the Moon" – Ross Laurie and Myfanwy Gullifer, Walcha: 2001

1.0 x 1.0 x 4.1m • Made with painted timber and tin, this work stands as an entrance sign to the local Pre-school.

#### 23. "At the Beach" and "Down by the River" – Walcha Pool Mural – Walcha Central Students: 2001, 2006

6.0 x 0.8m each • These two mosaic murals were made with the assistance of Artstart funding, under the supervision of Walcha Central Visual Arts teacher Caroline Nivison.

#### 24. "Rainbow Serpent" – Gordon Hookey, Melbourne: 2002

10 x 10 x 0.6m • This mosaic was made by the renowned indigenous artist Gordon Hookey, with the collaboration of the local indigenous people. The commission was funded by an Australia Council for the Arts grant and overlooks the mill-hole, home of the legendary rainbow serpent.

#### 25. Walcha Cemetery – Gordon Hookey, Melbourne: 2002

These two monuments were placed as a memorial to the many unmarked Aboriginal graves at the Cemetery and an active act of reconciliation within the Walcha community. Unveiled by respected elders of the local Aboriginal community, Mrs Shirley Davidson, Mrs Beryl Green and Mrs Sue Green.

#### 26. "Life on First Breath" – Victor Nui, Tonga: 1999 / Installed 2005

2 x 1.75m • Carved from Red Cedar for 'Sculpture by the Sea' 1999. Donated to Walcha by 'Sculpture by the Sea' in 2005.

#### 27. "Birds Song" – Ross Laurie, Walcha: 2005

Made from galvanised iron, old timber and wire, this sculpture was created using motifs drawn by K-6 students at Walcha Central School. Senior students assisted with engineering and stonework. Funding provided by Arts North West

#### 28. "Where Eels Swim" – Stephen King, Walcha: 2005

Mosaic made with polished granite depicting one of the aboriginal meanings for "Walcha". Stephen King was assisted by local artist, Myfanwy Gullifer.

#### 29. "Bell Tower" – Vaclav Fiala, Czech Republic: 2005

6 x 2 x 2m • Vaclav Fiala, a renowned Czech artist, came to Stephen King's Walcha property to make a sculpture for 'Sculpture by the Sea', 2004. Walcha Council and Walcha Arts Council's decision to buy the sculpture was thwarted when it won the major prize. Fiala returned to make a second sculpture for Walcha and a third for entry into 'Sculpture by the Sea', 2005 – which again won the major prize. Constructed from coastal hardwood milled in Walcha.

#### 30. Middle Street Bridge Mosaic – Stephen King & Myfanwy Gullifer: 2006

This mosaic depicts an eclectic stream of water life and was created using ceramic tiles made by Walcha Central School art students and set into the top of the footpath wall on the new bridge spanning Apsley River.

#### 31. "The Board" – Stephen King, Walcha: 2007

4.5 x 0.6 x 0.6m • Carved from Stringybark, this sculpture travelled from Walcha to Bondi to Cottesloe Beach, Perth, before finally returning to Walcha. Purchased for the Walcha community by the Walcha Town and Country Club.

#### 32. "Up and Down" – Myfanwy Gullifer, Walcha: 2007

180 x 100cm • This mosaic was pieced together from porcelain during the redesigning of Walcha's streetscape.



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### 2007 Shopfront Awning Post Workshop

Artists and technicians designed and carved more than thirty posts during a ten-day workshop in Walcha to replace the old awning posts of six shopfronts.

**33. Goodcom Communications** – Charlie Trivers, Wamberal, NSW: 2007 • Ironbark and Tallowwood.

**34. Walcha Fitzderby Chambers** – Rick Reynolds, Elands, NSW: 2007 Ironbark and Tallowwood.

**35. Commonwealth Bank** – Rick Reynolds, Charlie Trivers and the Walcha Woodcarving Group – Plum Henry, Stephen King, Sam Lisle, Brian Lockyer: 2007 • Tallowwood and Ironbark.

**36. Walcha IGA Supermarket** – John Turier, Adamstown, NSW: 2007 Tallowwood and Ironbark

**37. Walcha Newsagency & Visitor Information Centre** Walcha Woodcarving Group: 2007 • Tallowwood and Ironbark.

**38. Old site of Visitor Information Centre** – Sallwa Hourani, Armidale, NSW: 2007 • Tallowwood.

**39. "Olympia"** – Sallwa Hourani, Armidale, NSW: 2007 • Stringybark

**40. "The Citizens"** – Andreas Buisman, Austria: 2010  
Carved and polished columnar basalt crystals sourced from local property "Glen Collin", St Leonards Creek. The work was commissioned by Walcha Arts Council and Walcha Council, and represents local residents catching up with each other as they go about their business.

**41. Dendroglyph**  
Aboriginal carved tree brought to Walcha's Pioneer Cottage Museum grounds in 1965 from "Silvermount" and believed to be the only remaining one of three trees carved as memorials to the men who died during a fight between local and coastal Aborigines in the late 1800s.

**42. "The Whale"** – Alan Hubble, Tamworth: 2010  
5.5 x 3 x 2.5m • Galvanised steel. Sculpture donated by artist.

**43. "Barrow"** – James Rogers, Walcha: 1999  
2 x 0.7 x 0.5m • Donated by artist.

**44. "Apsley Falls"** – Julia Griffin & Stephen King, Walcha: 2013  
4.4 x 1.2m • Polished stone mosaic, donated by the artists.

**45. "Bong Tree Island"** – Marcus Tatton, Tasmania: 2013  
4 x 4 x 0.9m • Stringybark

**46. "Rung Out"** – Plum Henry, Walcha: 2013  
6.2m high • GlenGro Landcare Group beautification project, federally funded with support from Walcha Council. Situated 5km south of Walcha township.

**47. "The Figure in the Landscape"** – John Petrie, NSW: 2014  
1.15 x 0.32 x 0.9m • Basalt. Exploring the figurative presence in the landscape, while revealing the interior beauty of the stone through horizontally sliced cross sections. Arts NSW Grant acquired from 'Sculpture by the Sea' 2014.

**48. "Goulburn River Landscape"** – Paul Bacon, NSW: 2014  
1.77 x 1.75 x 0.85m • Steel. A drawing rendered with steel expressing the bend in a river, trickle of water, pool, wall, tree and sky. Arts NSW Grant acquired from 'Sculpture by the Sea' 2014.

**49. "Laindjung"** – Peter Lundberg, USA: 2011  
8 x 2.5 x 2.5m • Cast concrete and steel. "Inspiration comes from primitive sources and nature. The earth is dug and subterranean structures are formed that later stand and reach for the sky" – Peter Lundberg. Donated by the artist with assistance from Walcha Council.

### 2018 Walcha Sculpture Symposium

Funded through Regional Arts Fund NSW, Walcha Council and Community

**50. "The Hairy Men"** – Matt Pilkington, Armidale: 2018  
370, 340, 330, x 450 x 450 • Tallowwood. A mythical Aboriginal creature designed to protect children. Forming boundaries by scaring them away from places they shouldn't go.

**51. "Long Hall"** – Dale Miles, Sydney: 2018  
320 x 103 x 83 • Hardwood. Playful homage to the much loved and well used community hall/chapel that has become an icon of the Australian rural landscape.

**52. "Mother"** – Caz Hazwell, Sydney: 2018  
254 x 230 x 200 • Hardwood. This work makes reference to elemental, architectural, infrastructure, the basic shape of a site screen and the female body.

**53. "Moonbeams"** – Nameer Davis & Barbara Penrose, Brisbane: 2018  
290 x 275 x 190 • Hardwood. Moonbeams is a pavilion that casts shadows of the sun and of the moon and serves as a conduit between sky and earth.

**54. "Beacon"** – Collaboration of James Rogers, Stephen King; Walcha, and Michael Purdy; NSW South Coast. 2019  
3m x 6m x 6m. A housing for the eternal flame. Commemorating those from Walcha who have served in any armed conflict following World War II. Composed of steel, concrete, Sydney sandstone, polished granite and local basalt, along with imported letter tiles and LED lighting.

Photographs 11 and 24 by Beryl Feron.



### Walcha Visitor Information Centre

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walchansw.com.au



