



Where Art Meets Nature

WAMA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FY 2022 - 2023

The period since the last AGM has been extremely exciting and successful for WAMA.

In October 2022, Jaala Pulford MP announced that WAMA was awarded a State Government RTIF grant of \$6.75 million to be matched on a 1:3 basis. Following this announcement, work started in earnest to deliver the WAMA Project Stage 1.

Case Meallin were appointed project managers in December 2022, and the construction contract awarded to Nicholson Construction in November 2023.

The Project Control Group, including DJPIR representatives, has worked tirelessly and in full harmony to deliver excellent progress in all areas. A highly focused value management process and rigorous governance with respect to the appointment of consultants and contractors is in place. WAMA Stage 1 is on schedule for the official opening in Q1/2025.

In addition to the above, highlights of the last 12 months include:

- The very successful second biennial WAMA Art Prize, Works on Paper with a nature and art theme. The 50 finalists were exhibited in our first gallery exhibition partnering with Ararat Gallery TAMA.
- An outstanding exhibition and fundraising event, '*An Intimate Immersion in the Art and Nature of John Wolseley*', hosted by the artist himself, John Wolseley
- Launch of a \$5 million fundraising campaign at the 2023 Donors Recital and Dinner event in Dunkeld. A target we are well on the way to achieving.
- The continued flourishing of the Grampians (Gariwerd) Endemic Botanic Gardens and Jallukar Native Grasslands. We hosted many visits from garden groups and plant societies, raising awareness of our flora assets.
- Hosted three Nature Play Days at the WAMA site.
- Appointment of a Site Manager and Operations Coordinator
- Ongoing marketing and communications, continuing to build WAMA's brand equity.

All this would not have been possible, without the support of many donors and volunteers, to which I extend my heartfelt thanks - you have made WAMA a reality.

Thank you.

Greg Lewin AM

Chairman,

WAMA Foundation