

1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOCUMENT: BrookCAB/73, MorrisseyCAS/73 • Womenvision seminar, Sydney Filmmakers Co-Op (attended by 500 people) • Art Gallery of New South Wales opens new Tribal Art Gallery to show Aboriginal and Papua-New Guinea art. • During official visit by Michael Somare, PNG Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam offers to return PNG art. (Jan)¹ • First meeting of new Australian Council for the Arts² (Feb) DOCUMENT: ArtsCouncilCAS/73 • Mildura Sculpture Triennial - <i>Sculpturscape</i>³ (April) (DOCUMENT Brook.NR/73; IMAGES/DOCUMENTS: BurnsFile/73). • Picasso dies (April 9)⁴ • <i>Object & Idea</i> show - National Gallery of Victoria (DOCUMENT: ObjldMilliss/73; IMAGE AU179)⁵ • Gleeson Report tabled. ⁶ DOCUMENT GleesonRepRecs/73 • Opening of Sydney Opera House. • Jackson Pollock's <i>Blue Poles</i> purchased by ANG for \$1.3m⁷ • <i>Recent Australian Art</i>, Art Gallery of New South Wales⁸ (Oct 18-Nov 18) (DOCUMENTS/IMAGES: BurnsFile/73) • 1st Sydney Biennale held at Opera House (Nov 23-Dec 14)⁹ • Patrick White wins Nobel Prize for literature. • Australian edition of <i>Little Red Schoolbook</i>, with advice on sex & drugs, distributed to high school students. • Newcastle Hotel closes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of abolition of tuition fees in Australian universities(Mar)¹⁰ • Establishment of Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate as result of green bans activism • Victoria St squats active¹¹. • Women's Liberation conferences, Teachers Federation auditorium attended by hundreds of women. • General Strike, University of Sydney; split in Philosophy Dept over teaching of course on women's studies. (Tutors, Jean Curthoys & Liz Jacka)¹² (June 21-Jul 17) (DOCUMENT PhilStrike/73; IMAGES AU160, AU161, AU229, AU230, AU231, AU232, AU233, AU234) • Queen officially opens Sydney Opera House (Oct 20) • Preferential trade agreement between UK & Australia comes to end, following UK decision to join European Economic Community.(Feb 1) • France ordered by International Court of Justice to suspend nuclear tests in the atmosphere over Mururoa atoll. France ignores order.(June 22) • Whitlam visits China, the first official visit by an Australian Prime Minister.(31 Oct) • Cease-fire agreement signed between US/South Vietnam & Viet Cong (Jan 23); fighting continues. • World energy crisis. Arab oil-producing nations embargo shipments to US, Europe & Japan in retaliation for their support of Israel. • Salvatore Allende overthrown in military coup in Chile.
------	--	--

¹ Laurie Thomas: *Returning the Art Plunder* (**The Australian**, Feb 24th, 1973) In referring to the systematic plunder of PNG art, by collectors over many years, Somare was quoted as saying "Will we be a nation without our own culture?"

-
- ² new council consisted of Council & seven boards covering separate areas of activity. Council members most involved with visual arts: Dr HC Coombs, HR Bonython, John Baily; Clifton Pugh; Tim Johnson; Baily was also chairman of the Visual & Plastic Arts board which also included Ron Robertson Swann, Nigel Lendon, James Mollison, David Thomas (Newcastle AG) Patrick McCaughey (Fine Arts, Melb. U) Lenton Parr (National Gallery School, Melb) Anne Lewis (Gallery A Exhibitions P/L); Fred Williams; Len French; James Gleeson; Udo Sellbach (Art School, Hobart CAE). See Documents
- ³ See catalogue: *Sculpturescape '73 : an exhibition in Mildura: 5th Mildura Sculpture Triennial* (Mildura Arts Centre, 1973) & Review by Donald Brook: *Power of the Traditional Fool* (Nation Review, 11th May 1973). Works emphasised earth & landscape architecture e.g. Ross Grounds' ecology-awareness well: David Morrissey's live art as resident farmer growing real crops, Ti Parks' *EggOne*; Tim Burns' *Mine Field*. See George Tilley: *Tim's Hopes Exploded: They 'deloused' his artistic mine field* (unsourced); Margaret Jones: *A (for Art) bomb hits Mildura* (**Sydney Morning Herald**, April 7, 1973, p22); Patrick McCaughey: *Natural setting for exciting sculpture* (**Melbourne Age**, April 10, 1973); Alan McCulloch: *Strange shapes in the saltbush* (**Melbourne Herald**, April 11, 1973); Daniel Thomas: *Art into life at Sculpturescape* (**Sydney Morning Herald**, April 12, 1973)
- ⁴ *Picasso Art: No Change in Price – Yet* (Adelaide News, April 17, 1973)
- ⁵ Artists John Armstrong, Tony Coleing, Aleks Danko, Nigel Lendon, Ti Parks, Imants Tillers. No dates for show in catalogue
- ⁶ Report of Committee appointed to enquire into the need for a College of Advanced Education to Provide Tertiary courses in Art and Design in New South Wales, September 1973 Chair G. Gleeson; Members H.F. Abbott, Morris Hertz, F. C. Hinder, Erik Langker, Carl Nielsen, R. B. Winder. Executive Officer, J. H.G. Richardson. Minister for Education: The Hon E.A. Willis. Recommendations: See Documents
- ⁷ The painting purchase was partly brokered by Max Hutchinson, who was reported to have received a \$US100,000 commission. See: *Canberra's longrunning serial: Blue Poles: Episode 1* (**Australian Financial Review**, Sept 26th 1973). See *We Buy \$1.3m painting* (**Melbourne Herald**, Sept 22nd, 1973) Allan McCulloch: 'It makes Australia a sitting duck for future international art market bids... The painting could be the F1-11 of Australian art. The price is much too high for a man who never attained the status of a master.' See also *We Buy \$1.3m US Painting* (**Adelaide News**, Sept 22nd 1973). The painting had been initially purchased in 1953 for \$4000 (\$US6000) & repurchased by collector & textiles merchant, Ben Heller in 1956, the year of the painter's death for \$21,400 (\$US32000). See also *Ours for \$2million: Pollock picture fetches record* (**Sunday Telegraph**, Sept 23rd, 1973); *\$2m – For This!* (with black & white photograph of detail) **Sunday Mail** [Adelaide] Sept 23rd, 1973; Terry Hayes: *Aust Pays \$1.3m For Art* (**Sydney Sun-Herald**, Sept 23rd, 1973); *Art World Divided on \$1.3m Buy* (**Melbourne Age**, Sept 24th, 1973); Sir William Dargie: the gallery could have a Rembrandt for the price. Andrew Sibley: money would be better spent on Australian contemporary work. Terry Ingram: *The Mystery of Blue Poles: Open Govt's secret art policy* (**Australian Financial Review**, Sept 24th 1973); "Outrageous" art purchase - Senator (**Hobart Mercury**, Sept 25th, 1973) 'Blue Poles' – strong views: 'A masterpiece ... it just stinks.' (**SMH**, Sept 25th, 1973) Editorial: *Art for the Nation* (**Canberra Times**, Sept 25th 1973 - criticism of cost); Terry Ingram: *Is Jackson worth \$2m?* (**Canberra News**, 25 Sept 1973); *\$1.3m art purchase my decision: PM* (**Age**, 26th Sept 1973); Michelle Grattan: *Blue Poles makes public see red* (**Age**, 27th Sept 1973) Donald Brook: *Pollocks, plums and princes: Recreating a slop pop high renaissance* (**Nation Review**, 18th Oct 1973) "To declare my own stand I should say that I consider American abstract expressionism a grossly overrated phenomenon, but one that has assumed undeniable importance because of its role in American postwar cultural chauvinism and subsequent imperialism. The history of western art since world war two would be incomprehensible without it and we would do well to have one or two good examples around." *Art Buy Sensation: Barefoot drunks painted our \$1m masterpiece* (Sydney **Daily Mirror**, Oct 23rd, 1973); *Sculptor admits hand in \$1.3m painting* (**Sydney Morning Herald**, 24th Oct 1973); *Oh! What a shocking blue!* (**Daily Telegraph**, Sydney 24th Oct 1973) *\$1.3m art trampled out after booze-up* (**Age** 24th Oct 1973); *Is \$1.3mil. buy an art hoax?* (**Courier Mail**, 24th Sept 1973) *Expert Defends 'Blue Poles': Jackson Pollock work 'authentic'* (**Australian**, 25th Oct, 1973); 'Australian art expert Mr Robert Hughes said yesterday that the authenticity of 'Blue Poles' the painting bought recently by the Australian National Gallery for \$1.3million was not in doubt." *They'll flock to see 'blue Poles' - PM* (**Age**, 9th Nov 1973); *'Poles' buy shows 'fair go' attitude* (**Canberra News**, Nov 20th, 1973); *\$1.3m problem - how to get 'Poles' here* (Canberra News, 28th Feb 1974); *Heavy police guard for 'Blue Poles'* (**Sydney Morning Herald**, 4th April 1974); *Poles overpriced eight times: Dargie* (**Melbourne Herald** 15th June 1974); See also Ian Burn: *'Buying Cultural Dependency: A Note on the Crazy Thinking behind Several Australian Collections* (**The Fox**, No 1, New York, 1975 p141-4)
- ⁸ Curators: Daniel Thomas, Frances McCarthy. Work included: Ross Grounds: *When I was young* (sandbag mountain containing ruby-red pool, ice, fimes suspended rocks & fish, sounds of ticking) Tony Kirkman (earth samples at intervals on journey out of Sydney); Tony Coleing *What's on tonight?* (environment for Australian working-class backyard leisure, beer bottles, concrete, vegetables, live budgerigars in cages); Tim Burns' *Change of Plans* (closed-circuit TV piece in which members of public could talk

back with living materials - nude university students - on screen) Also included work of William Anderson, John Armstrong, , David Aspden, Jonas Balsaitis, Peter Booth, Robert Boynes, Mike Brown, Ian Burn, Mel Ramsden, Gunter Christmann, Bill Clements, Aleks Danko, John Davis, William Delafield Cook, John Firth-Smith, Dale Hickey, Robert Hunter, Noel Hutchison, , Robert Jacks, Tim Johnson, Victor K, Peter Kennedy, Mike Parr, Tony Kirkman, Richard Larter, Donald Laycock, Nigel Lendon, Tony McGillick, Alan Oldfield, Ewa Pachuka, Ti Parks, Paul Partos, John Peart, Peter Powditch, Ron robertson Swann, Robert Rooney, Rollin Schlicht, Alberr Shomaly, Guy Stuart, Michael Taylor, Imants Tillers, Tony Tuckson, Dick Watkins. See Daniel Thomas: *Art & Life: The actuality of sculpture* (**Architecture Australia** 1976) See also: Bruce Adams ...*beyond the beanbags* (**Sunday Telegraph**, October 1973); Mitch Johnson: *Gallery's culture shock* (**The Digger**, November 10 - December 8, 1973); Lenore Nicklin: *Like to sing ... recite? asked nude man: Togetherness at the Art Gallery* (Sydney Morning Herald, -- Oct, 1973); Janise Beaumont: *For the sake of Art, will you drop 'em?* (---- Oct, 1973); Martin Beesley: *Row over Nude Art: Police Move in When a Picture Comes to Life* (**Australian** Oct 1973); Mitch Johnson: *Controversy at the Art Gallery* (**Honi Soit**, -- Oct 1973)

⁹, organised by Commander Tony Winterbotham (Asst to Belgiorno-Nettis, MD Transfield); held at Opera House; funded by Dept of Foreign Affairs, VAB, Transfield. Biennale concept replaced Transfield Prize, one of most important prizes in early 70s; Belgiorno-Nettis was rumoured to be unhappy with radical nature of post-object works awarded prize in later years. Participating Artists: Emil Schumacher, Biren De, Renato Guttuso, Affandi, Minami Tada, Park Suk Won, Joseph Tan, Antonio Pelaez, William Sutton, Colin McCahon, Sawasdi Tantisuk, Solomon Saprid, Patrick Heron, Clyfford Still, David Aspden, George Baldessin, Sydney Ball, John Brack, Robert Brown, Kevin Connor, Gunter Christmann, Fred Cress, John Firth-Smith, John Hopkins, Bob Jenyns, Clive Murray White, Roger Kemp, Ian McKay, Robert Klippel, Ron Robertson Swann, John Olsen, Peter Powditch, Rollin Schlicht, Fred Williams, Fred Williams, Dick Watkins, David Wilson

¹⁰ to take effect from Jan 1, 1974

¹¹ Evictions occurring as well as demonstrations. Oct - Askin Govt announces that action to be taken to expel squatters.(SMH, 20 Oct 1973, p3)

¹² See Judith Ion: *Return of the Repressed: Feminism in the Quad, Embarrassment & Amnesia: A Conference Report of Sorts* (**Australian Feminist Studies**, vol 12, no 25, 1997). See also series of articles entitled *The Return of the Repressed*, (**Australian Feminist Studies**, vol 13, No 27, April 1998, particularly articles by Jean Curthoys, Sue Wills, Ann Curthoys & Judith Ion