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PLASTICS

OFFERS YOU A GREAT FUTURE!

BECAUSE MORE AND MORE
PRODUCTS ARE BEING
MADE OF PLASTICS!

LOOK AT THESE INDUSTRIES!

AUTOMOBILE

Dash Boards
Steering Wheels
Transparent Tops

CONSTRUCTION

Wall Board
Plywood Laminates
Floor Coverings

ELECTRICAL

Wire Coatings
Insulating Materials
Control Panels
Bulb and Tube Components

TEXTILE

Hosiery
Clothing
Furniture Coverings

SPORTING GOODS

Golf Club Heads
Fishing Poles
Lines • Bowling Pins

RUBBER COMPOUNDS

Mechanical Rubber Goods
Kitchenware
Molds

LEATHER

Shoes
Luggage
Belts

MARINE

Hulls or Small Boats
Fittings
Ornaments and Controls

GENERAL MANUFACTURING

Radio Cabinets
Tooth Brushes
Combs

Pens and Pencils
Dishes, Jewelry,
Giftwares

ON AND ON—through industry after industry—thousands of useful, practical, everyday products made BETTER and CHEAPER from some kind of PLASTIC. That's why men and women trained in Plastics can qualify for a great future. YOU CAN GET THIS TRAINING NOW AT PLASTICS INSTITUTE, the world's largest and finest school devoted exclusively to Plastics.

STUDY AT HOME



YOU MAKE THINGS—Home study students get practical kit materials. You make handsome, useful articles. You form, dye, decorate, cast and laminate various types of plastics. You get experience designing and developing your

Plastic-free Biennale

Kim Williams and Lucas Ihlein
NIRIN: 2020 Biennale of Sydney

We, Kim Williams and Lucas Ihlein, developed our *Plastic-free Biennale* project at the invitation of Brook Garru Andrew. Brook's NIRIN - a Wiradjuri word meaning "edge" - prioritised and centred First Nations artists and their ways of knowing and sharing.

We are non-indigenous artists, working in Wollongong, on Country that was never ceded. We are aware of how fortunate we are to live in this place where the escarpment hugs the sea, and the creeks flow down the steep forest slopes, threading their way through suburban concrete to the ocean.

We are grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to create a project in the context of NIRIN. We hope through our work to acknowledge the wonder+trauma of science+capitalism that is Plastic. And we are acutely aware, in the words of Wadi Wadi Elder Aunty Barbara Nicholson, that it is "white man's trash" - our trash - which is non-biodegradable.

This publication offers glimpses of our work for NIRIN. *Plastic-free Biennale* was a layered response. We worked closely with the Biennale organisation to update its environmental policies and change some of their exhibition practices; we organised community events for audiences on Cockatoo Island (which were thwarted by COVID-19); we created an installation - a physical meeting place with our artistic research and thinking; and we invited other artists and scientists to contribute their perspectives on this miraculous family of materials which have become such a global environmental disaster.

What follows is a scrapbook of our process, linking to videos and online resources.

Kim Williams and Lucas Ihlein



Kim and Lucas advocate for stronger environmental policies at a Biennale Board meeting - January 2020.

Lasting impacts: artwork as organisational consultancy

Lucas Ihlein and Kim Williams worked closely with the Biennale over two years to develop their project *Plastic-free Biennale* for the 22nd Biennale of Sydney. The *Plastic-free Biennale* project was a provocation, an interrogation and an honest look at practices from exhibition making to personal choices. Their work delved into the organisational structure and held us to account on every level, with lasting impacts on the way we operate sustainably in the future.

Starting with engaging staff in discussions and field trips, whilst looking into the organisation's environmental management more broadly, this socially engaged project saw Lucas and Kim's practice go beyond that of an artist project, to produce both lasting outcomes for the organisation and a physical work in the NIRIN exhibition. For their artwork in NIRIN, the artists created a space on Cockatoo Island for public gathering and discussion as well an online space which became the project's hub during the Biennale's COVID shutdown.

What was really interesting about this project was that its outcomes also grew to include our exhibition making practices across our venues Art Gallery of NSW, Artspace, Carriageworks, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Cockatoo Island, National Art School and Museum of

Contemporary Art. One such example being that we changed all signage to paint, paper on notepads and paste ups across all venues, where in our institutional venues this would normally have been vinyl or corflute. It is quite a huge thing to change the way so many partners produce exhibitions, so it was great to see everyone come together and try new solutions.

Lucas and Kim's work has seen the commencement of the *Biennale of Sydney Environmental Committee*, which will manage the progress and evaluation of our environmental targets as well as each member working on a personal project driving sustainability initiatives. Lucas and Kim also connected our team with sustainability networks in Sydney, uniting the arts sector through its collective sustainability goals.

Barbara Moore
Chief Executive Officer
Biennale of Sydney



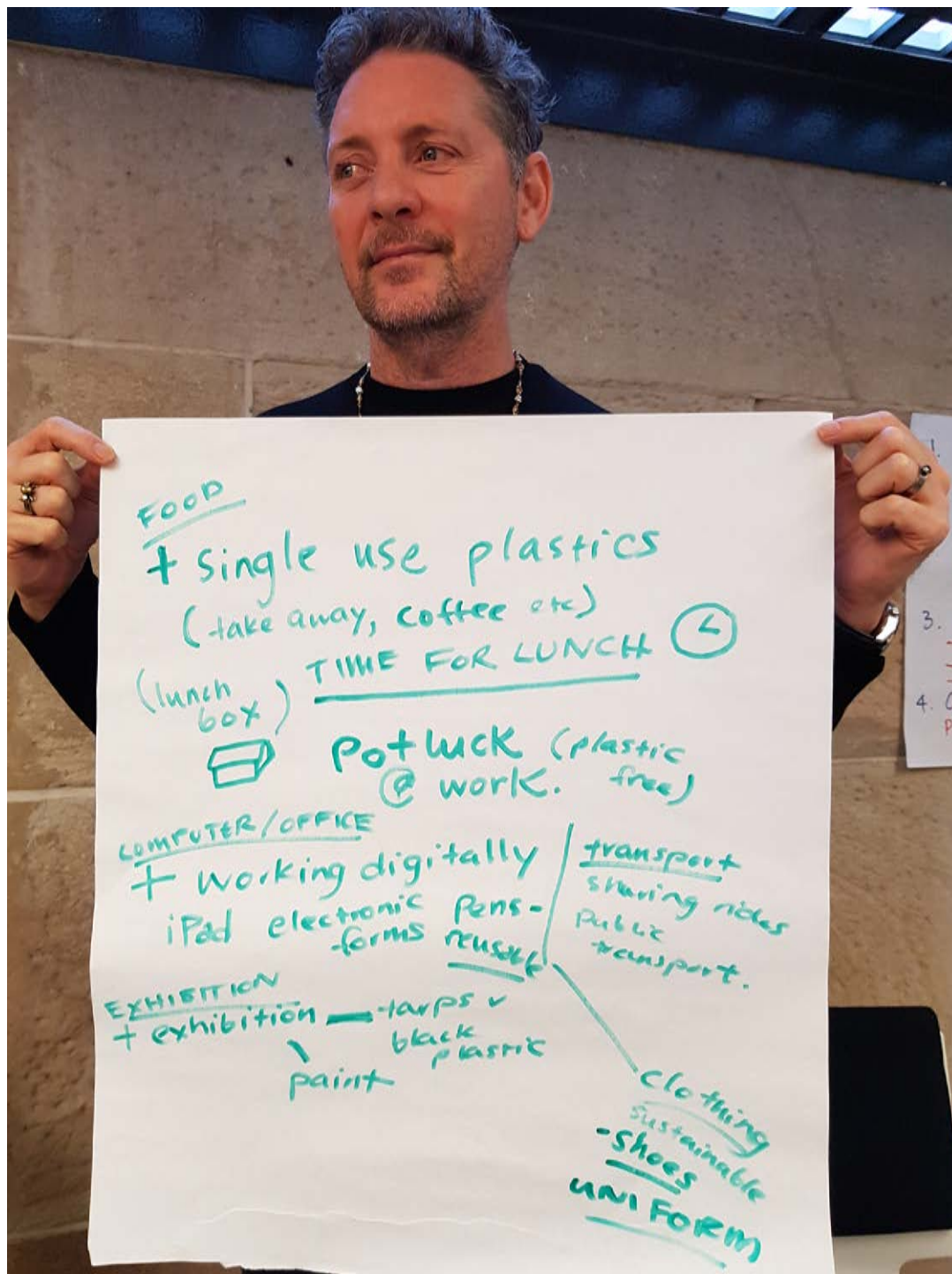
The artists hold their first workshop with Biennale staff, May 2019. Staff identify areas for improvement in their environmental practices.

Breaking our plastic addiction: A note from Brook Garru Andrew

Plastic is an all-pervasive addiction. Humans have perpetuated our lives around and within this increasingly addictive substance, which kills more non-human lifeforms than can be fathomed. Every inch of work increasing the visibility of our relationship with plastic is essential. This work not only makes clear how we as humans

act - and surprisingly *don't* act - around plastics, but also hopefully sheds light on how we can change our addiction. Heroic and deep thought and commitment is needed to work on plastics. Systemic change needs to occur, which needs the blessing of humans to be activated. Kim and Lucas and their expanded group of collaborators make up a tiny part of the *nirin* (edge) of the world where it comes to traversing the mammoth task of the plastic problem.

Brook Garru Andrew
NIRIN 2020 Biennale of Sydney Artistic Director



Artistic Director
Brook Garru Andrew
with notes from the
staff workshop.



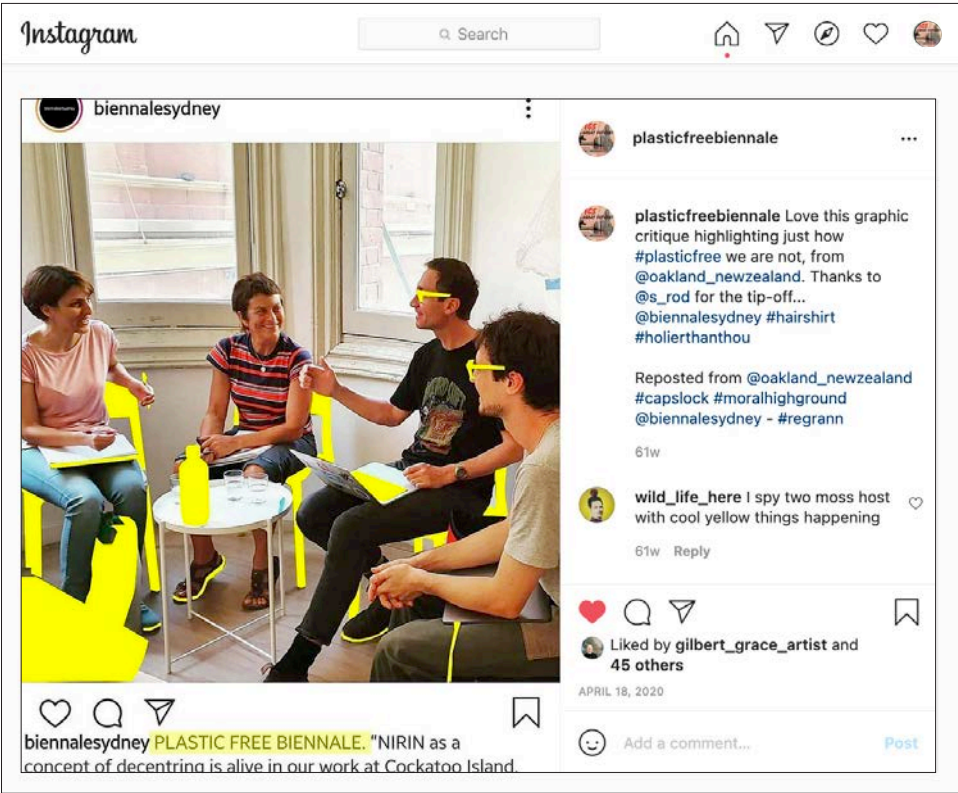
As part of our consultancy with the Biennale of Sydney, we began connecting with other organisations who are leading the way. In this meeting in February 2020, we introduced 4A staff member Kai Wasikowski to the Biennale's Sahar Nabinik, to pass on knowledge about carbon-neutral certification. 4A has made great strides towards environmental transformation, assisted by carbon and energy management specialists Pangolin Associates. We later linked the Biennale with the staff-led committee at the Sydney Opera House for further cross-organisational mentoring.

Samantha Jones was an enthusiastic participant in our project, and led the creation of the new *Biennale of Sydney Environmental Committee*. Samantha and the team have since completed a waste audit of the NIRIN 2020 Biennale of Sydney, as well as two new initiatives. They will track the carbon footprint of each artwork made in the 2022 Biennale, and they have launched the "New and Sustainable Materials Challenge" with Cicada Innovations, to find sustainable materials that can be used in exhibition site builds and presentation of artworks.

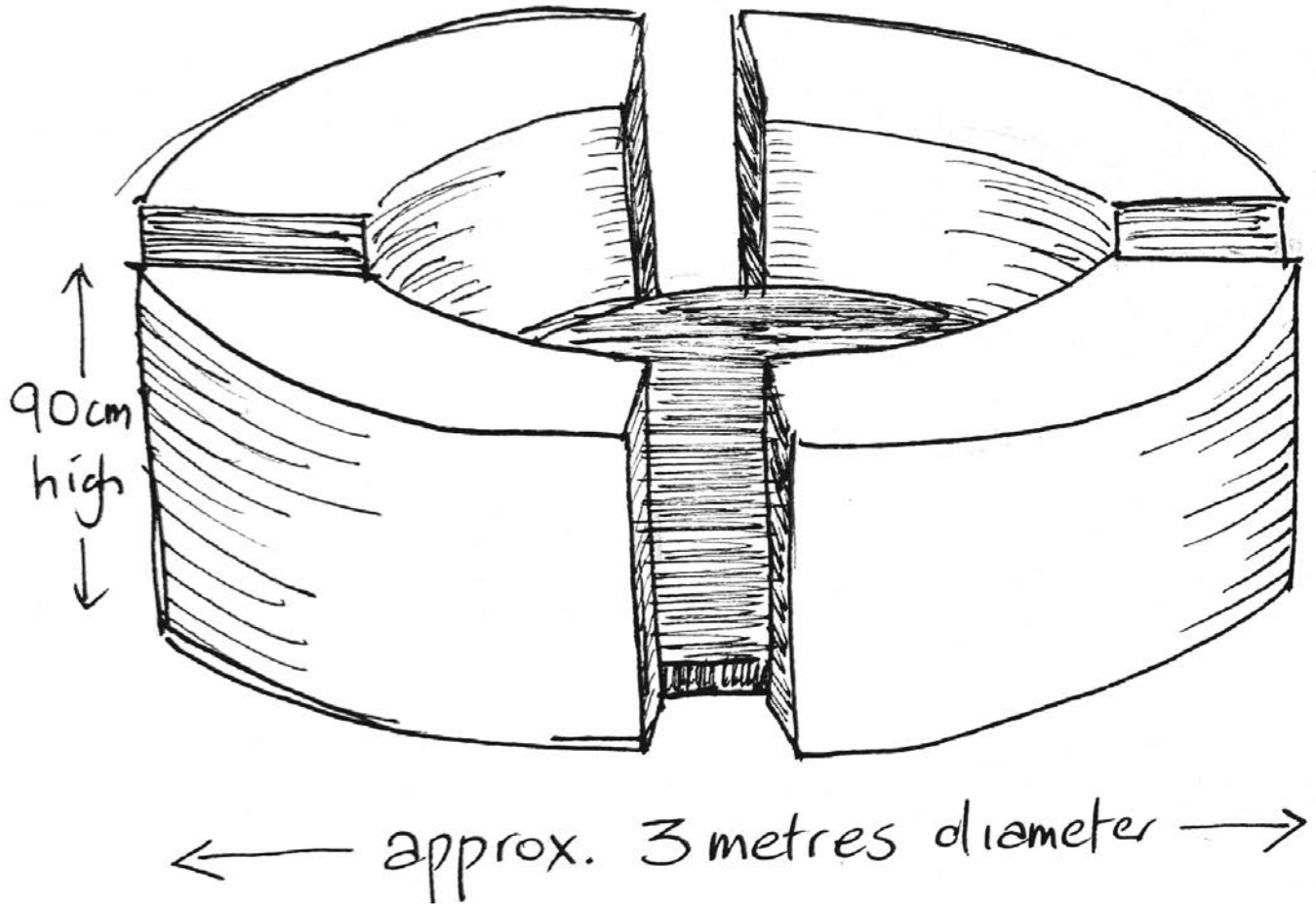
Left: Sahar Nabinik, Kim Williams, Lucas Ihlein, and Kai Wasikowski meet up at 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

Below left: Parody post on instagram highlighting all the plastics in the room by @oakland_newzealand

Below right: Samantha Jones from the Biennale of Sydney Environmental Committee.

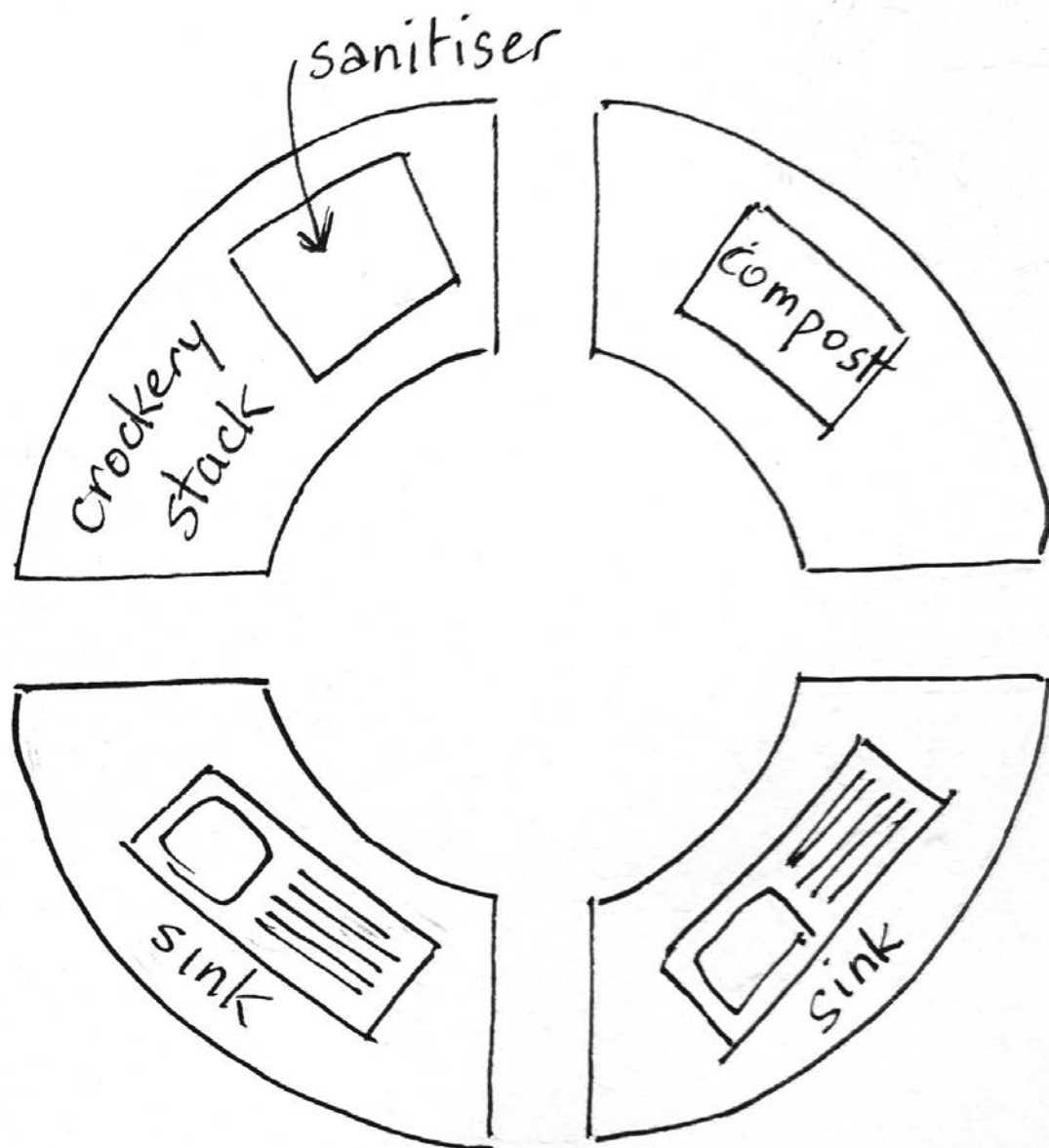


Washing



Design for *Washing Up Hub*. This modular, portable sculpture was originally designed as a conversational hub for Building 101 at Cockatoo Island, and also as functional furniture for live 'washing up' events at Societe Overboard cafe. Cafe proprietor Jad Katalinic was thrilled by this idea. Ultimately COVID-19 prevented the washing-up events from going ahead.

Up Hub



Plastic Free Manifesto
Kim Williams & Lucas Ihlein

We wrote this with a plastic pen
And again
With a plastic keyboard

We made a manifesto
It was very sober
and responsible
It acknowledged country
It pledged to take responsibility
and eliminate plastics
where possible

But then we saw you everywhere!

You are irresistible, plastic
You're in the guts of fish and birds
You wrap yourself around necks
You float in the troposphere
You are a guest in our bodies
We buy you, we eat you, we eat with you
We inhale you, we shit you
We are ungrateful, we throw you away!

Our hair falling out:
plastic.
The invisible particles of skin that flake off everyday
Accumulating as piles of dust under the bed and behind the
couch:
plastic.

What will we do?
We will make art!

We had a look at some manifesti
Mierle's Maintenance Art Manifesto
Captured something of what we're grappling with.
The banality of maintenance:
After the revolution, who's going to do the washing up?

We
As it happens
Are trying to "sell"
Washing up –
As an art activity

It may be a hard sell

The seven year old girl
Knows about this stuff
Sometimes
She does "news" talks at school
About plastics
About balloons and the turtles that choke on them
She recommends lobbying council
She recommends contacting scientists
She recommends not having balloons at your party

She knows about this stuff

But when the supermarket
starts to give away "Ooshies"
These little plastic collectible Lion King characters
She begs us to shop there

So she too
Like all her seven year old friends
can collect them

She knows about plastic
She knows about this stuff
But she still wants Ooshies.

We Are
Collectively
Civilisationally
A seven year old girl

We know about this stuff
We know it's going to end up in landfill

Ooshies are never going away
Because there is no "away".

And
We still want Ooshies.

or maybe not.

Maybe we try to do things differently
We have a crack at Plastic Free July

Shop at the food co-op
Bring our own bags
Make our own hummus
Get a "Keep Cup"

But the river of plastic has not stopped flowing
DESPITE!
our efforts

We cannot stop it
It is who we are

So what will we do?
We will make art!

We will think about you, plastic
What do we really need from you?
We will stalk your molecules
We will follow you from the factory to the sea
We will pay attention to you and we will ignore you

We will slow down
We will eat our food on china plates
Drink our drinks from china cups
Wash up after ourselves, paying attention
Let critters eat our scraps and make rich soil

We will return to you
We will talk with you in public
We will dream you out of our bodies
and waterways
and economies

and we will not stop thinking about you



At the same time as our “grown up work” consulting with the Biennale organisation and Board, we also wanted to work at a more grassroots level. So we engaged four girls from the Illawarra (where we live) to create a music video which “celebrates” how plastic is everywhere in our homes.

Left: The Plastic Highlighters music group (Elkie Peacock, Albie Muller, Hazel Henchion, Harper Masters) - production shot from *Plastic in the House* on YouTube.

Keyboards: India Sweeney.
Sound recording: Ben Davies, Silver Sound Recording Studio.
Video production: Morgan Way and Sam Doyon, Wayward

Right: Lyric sheet for *Plastic in the House* by Kim Williams and Lucas Ihlein

Plastic in the House

A new song by
The Plastic Highlighters

Scan with your phone
to watch the music video



Harper
Albie
Elkie
Hazel

Kim

Plastic in the house

Kim Williams 14th December

Plastic here, plastic there, plastic, plastic everywhere (whisper)

Plastic in the house! (wokka wokka - turntable) all girls

Plastic keyboard, plastic mouse, plastic all around the house

Toothbrush, razor, credit cards, rake and wheelbarrow for the yard

CDs, records, bubble wrap, dental floss and bottle caps

Power points and paper clips, plastic wallet, stuff for lips

Velcro, scourer, fishing line, nailbrush, corflute, plastic twine

Plastic stickers on my fruit, plastic laces in my boot

Gapfiller around the door, plastic toys across the floor

Sticky tape and ceiling fan, Tupperware and Teflon pan

Plastic here, plastic there, plastic, plastic everywhere

Picnic set and esky too, battery charger, sole of shoe

It don't matter where you roam, plastic's all around the home Lucas

Bike helmet and washing line, plastic milk crate, roller blind

Steering wheel and bumper bar, the dashboard of my car (honk honk – two beeps of car horn)

Plastic here, plastic there, plastic, plastic everywhere

Plastic here, plastic there, plastic, plastic everywhere





Plastic-free Biennale - Installation view, Building 101, Cockatoo Island.
Photo by Alex Robinson

PLASTIC LAPTOP COMPUTER PRINTER DIGITAL SCREEN MOUSE PLASTIC CABLES STORAGE BOX PRINTER TONER PACKAGES BUBBLE WRAP AIR FILLED PACKAGING FOR BOOKS CLEAR PLASTIC STORAGE BOX ROUTER WATER BOTTLE POWER ADAPTER SHRINK WRAP-AROUND BOOK ZIP LOCK BAG SPINDLE FOR CD CASE PLASTIC BAG DVD CASE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE CASE STICKY TAPE DRIVERS LICENCE MEDICARE CARD \$100 NOTE \$50 NOTE \$20 NOTE \$10 NOTE \$5 NOTE CREDIT CARD BIROS SPIRAL BOUND BOOK RECORDS CABLES LOT OF CABLES CAMERA TRIPOD KNOBS ON ADJUSTABLE CHAIR KNOBS ON FEET OF CHAIR CAMERA LENS CAP STAPLER POLAROID CAMERA BINDER CLIPBOARD RING BINDER MAGAZINE RACKS PLASTIC A4 SHEET PROTECTORS STAPLER VACUUM CLEANER TEXTAS NAME CARD HOLDER KAZOO WHITEBOARD PLASTIC TUBS FOR PAPERS PLASTIC TRAY DRAWERS PLASTIC BOX FOR BUSINESS CARDS PLASTIC INDEX CARD HOLDER BUBBLE WRAP PLASTIC PACKAGING TAPE PLASTIC GLUE BOTTLE PLASTIC SHARPIES CASTORS OF DESK PLASTIC HANDLE OF INK ROLLER LUNCHBOXES PLASTIC BOTTLES OF COLOURED INKS PLASTIC TUBS BUBBLE WRAP ICE PACKS ART PALETTE CAPS ON PAINT TUBES ENGRAVING TOOL CASE PLASTIC RETRACTABLE KNIFE PLASTIC HANDLES PLASTIC INTERNATIONAL PLUG ADAPTORS PLASTIC PARTS OF A HOLE PUNCHER PLASTIC PARTS OF A STAPLER STICKY TAPE DISPENSER PLASTIC TEXTA LIDS PENS PENCIL SHARPENER PLASTIC STRESS BALL FILM CANISTER TRAVEL TAGS CD COVERS PLASTIC TRACING PAPER HIGHLIGHTERS VELCRO BACKING SET SQUARE AND PROTRACTOR EARPHONES BACKPACK CLIPS KEYTAGS GIFT RIBBON FISHING LINE RCA CABLES CORFLUTE PLASTIC MANILA ENVELOPES PLASTIC WRAPPING AROUND BOX OF ENVELOPES COATING ON PHOTOS ACRYLIC PAINT PERSPEX BLISTER PACK FOR BATTERIES ROLLER BLIND AND STRING TO MAKE IT GO UP-AND-DOWN ADJUSTABLE ERGONOMIC CHAIR DEVICE FOR HOLDING LAPTOP RING BINDER SPIRAL BOUND A4 DOCUMENT TYPE WRITER OLD MAC LAPTOP PACKAGES FOR ENVELOPES SHRINK WRAP FOR BOOK CD COVERS WALL CLOCK PLASTIC BOX FOR 3-D PRINTED OBJECT 3-D PRINTED OBJECT HARD DRIVE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE DOCUMENT DRAWERS LIGHT SWITCHES DOWN LIGHTS IN CEILING CONTACT COVERING ON TEXTBOOK CAMERA FIXTURE TO JOIN DIGITAL CAMERA TO TRIPOD BATTERY RECHARGER SAMSONITE SUITCASE FILLER FOR DOOR SNAKE THAT BLOCKS THE AIR FROM THE FRONT DOOR RACK OF SHOES EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS PLASTIC ON IT PLASTIC UMBRELLA LANYARD COVER FOR OPAL CARD PLASTIC TEE LIGHT COVERING PICTURE FRAME JEWELLERY CASE BEDSIDE LAMP MOISTURIZER BOTTLE EAR PLUGS TISSUE BOX COATING DIRTY CLOTHES WASHING BASKET POLYESTER CLOTHING BY THE TON CLOTHES HANGERS BEDSIDE CLOCK CEILING FAN PLASTIC REMOTE CONTROL FOR CEILING FAN COMPONENTS OF DREAM CATCHER PLASTIC BUTTONS PICTURE OF A SLOTH KIDS COAT RACK ZIPLOC BAG ELECTRONIC THERMOMETER BEDSIDE CLOCK KIDS FLUFFY TOYS NO DOUBT MADE OUT OF POLYESTER KIDS NIGHTLIGHT CABLES FOOD TRAY TUPPERWARE MAGIC SAND BOX KIDS TOYS BY THE TON MAGIC GENIE LAMP WALLET CDS & CD CASES BOUNCY BALLS DEODORANT TUBES OF OINTMENT DENTAL FLOSS SHAVING CREAM TOOTHPASTE TOOTHBRUSH SHREK TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER PLASTIC FILLINGS IN MY TEETH TOILET SEAT TOILET COMPONENTS TOILET BRUSH BATH TOYS PLUG BASKET FOR PLANT NAIL BRUSH EYE DROP BOTTLES MEDICINE CABINET FIRST AID KIT BAND-AID PACKAGING HAIR BRUSH PLASTIC COMBS CHESTY COUGH LIQUID CAP CALAMINE LOTION CAP NAIL BRUSH PLASTIC NETI POT SACHETS PLASTIC STORAGE BOXES FOR MEDICINES PLASTIC BAG FOR THE COTTON BALLS KIDS FACE CREAM TUB BODY CREAM TUB SHAMPOO BOTTLE CONDITIONER BOTTLE PLASTIC RAZOR TO SHAVE MY LEGS SQUEEGEE BOTTLE CAPS AIR FRESHENER HANDWASH PUMP PACK WITCHHAZEL BOTTLE PLASTIC DETTOL BOTTLE OF OIL SUNSCREEN PLASTIC WRAPPING AROUND SOAP BOX OF COTTON BUDS LIP BALM PLASTIC PILL BOTTLES MEASURING CUP BETADINE BOTTLE TUB OF VASELINE EYEDROPPER COATING ON TWEEZERS OINTMENT TUBES PACKET OF NAIL FILES BLISTER PACKS OF PAINKILLERS SOAPBOX EYE DROPS IN PLASTIC AMPOULES PLASTIC BAND-AIDS ICE CREAM TUB MAKE YOUR OWN PERFUME KIT POLYESTER DOONAS AND SHEETS MISCELLANEOUS PLASTIC BANDS FOR EYD HINDING SHEETS LOUNGE ROOM LIGHT COVER KIDS MAGIC LAMP FANCY BALL VINYL COVERING ON POUFFES TISSUE BOX WITH PLASTIC COVER RECORD PLAYER STEREO PLUGS FOR THE STEREO SPEAKERS FOR THE STEREO PLANT POTS WALL UNIT PLASTIC RECORDER LOTS OF KIDS GAMES PASS THE PIGS PLASTIC BOXES FOR CARD GAMES LIKE TOP TRUMPS PLASTIC BOX FOR RECORD PLAYER CLEANING DEVICE KIDS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS RING BINDER FOLDERS FOR RECIPES LP RECORDS AND THEIR PLASTIC SLEEVES UKULELE CASE UKULELE STRINGS GAS HEATER COMPONENTS MADE OUT OF PLASTIC HARRY POTTER PUZZLE WITH PLASTIC INSERT HOLDING ALL THE PUZZLE PIECES RECIPE BOOKS WITH PLASTIC SLEEVES PLANT POT LAMP PLASTIC BUCKETS HOLDING LOTS OF PENS AND TEXTAS ZIPLOC BAGS TAGS FROM A HOTEL PLASTIC RAINCOAT PLASTIC WIG WORN AS GINNY WEASLEY TO KIDS BOOK WEEK PLASTIC TAKEAWAY CONTAINER FILLED WITH JAGGERY PLASTIC GLASSES PLASTIC CONTAINER FILLED WITH KIDS SLIME SLIME ITSELF KINDLE PLASTIC LAMINATED CALENDAR PLASTIC WALL CLOCK AEROPRESS COFFEE MAKER RECHARGEABLE BIKE LIGHT PLUGGED INTO PLASTIC USB CHARGER PLUGGED INTO A WALL SOCKET MADE OUT OF PLASTIC KETTLE WITH PLASTIC COMPONENTS ON THE HANDLE COFFEE MAKER WITH PLASTIC COMPONENTS ON THE HANDLE COFFEE TAMPER MADE OUT OF PLASTIC USB SPEAKER MADE OUT OF PLASTIC DISHWASHER WITH MANY PLASTIC COMPONENTS PLASTIC CAKE BOX SYNTHETIC PAINT BRUSHES DISH BRUSH VINEGAR BOTTLE PLASTIC SPRAY BOTTLE HAND WASH PLASTIC DISH WASHING CONCENTRATE PLASTIC COMPOST BUCKETS BREAD BOX MADE OUT OF PLASTIC TONGS PLASTIC MANY COMPONENTS ON THE TOASTER LITTLE BOXES THAT HAVE MISCELLANEOUS TABLETS DEAD BATTERIES MADE OUT OF PLASTIC LIDS ON ALL THE SPICES IN THE SPICE RACK PLASTIC CONTAINERS THAT HAVE CAKE DECORATING SUPPLIES MICROWAVE OVEN MADE OUT OF PLASTIC OVEN WITH PLASTIC COMPONENTS SCISSORS WITH PLASTIC HANDLES EXHAUST FAN SALT IN PLASTIC SHAKER SALT CELLAR PLASTIC CHOPPING BOARDS OF ALL DIFFERENT COLORS SHAPES AND SIZES PLASTIC WRAPPED LOLLIES PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR PASTA AND NOODLES GARLIC SLICER LEGS AND ARMS OF DOLLS CHUX PLASTIC PEPPER SHAKER PLASTIC TEA CADDY KEEP CUP WATER BOTTLE VEGETABLE PEELER BASTING BRUSH PEPPER GRINDER KNIFE HANDLES CAKE SPATULA EGG FLIPPER ICE CUBE TRAYS PASTRY BRUSH PLASTIC COATING ON DISHRACK SAUCEPAN HANDLES MIXING WAND BLENDER JUICER DEHYDRATOR ALL THE INTERNAL PARTS OF THE FRIDGE TUBE OF WASABI YOGHURT TUB BEETROOT DIP TUB OF OLIVES TUB OF FETTA TUB OF ICECREAM BREAD BAG FROZEN PEAS BAG GEL PACK ICE PACKS ICE BRICKS SODASTREAM AND SODASTREAM BOTTLES PLASTIC CASING AROUND FOOD PROCESSOR FOR DEHYDRATOR PLASTIC STORAGE CADDIES CLING WRAP PLASTIC PACKAGING FOR RICE AND NOODLES AND PASTA AND PEARL BARLEY AND SEAWEED PLASTIC SPEICE PACKETS PLASTIC LIDS ON ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF VINEGAR AND SAUCES PLASTIC CONTAINERS IN THE FRIDGE PLASTIC STICKERS ON APPLES AND LEMONS PLASTIC MILK BOTTLES DUSTPAN AND BRUSH PLASTIC TRAVEL TAGS CABLE TIES PLASTIC HANDLES ON WALKING POLES PLASTIC TUBE AND MOUTH PIECE AND BLADDER OF CAMELBAK DRINKING SYSTEM FOR BUSHWALKING PLASTIC BROOM PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES FOR ALL OF OUR TOOLS THE BOXES FOR POWER TOOLS THE POWER TOOLS THEMSELVES MADE OUT OF PLASTIC A WHOLE BASKET FULL OF DOUBLE ADAPTORS EVERYTHING MADE OUT OF PLASTIC YOGURT CONTAINER FILLED WITH PLASTIC PERMANENT MARKERS A SMALL PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH MISCELLANEOUS STUFF INCLUDING CRAYONS WALL PLUGS SOME CHAIRS MADE OUT PLASTIC TENNIS RACKET WITH A VINYL COVER AND PLASTIC STRINGS SEWING BOXES PLASTIC CUTTING MAT SCREWDRIVER HANDLE PLASTIC PAINTS LIGHT BULBS MADE OUT OF PLASTIC BACKPACK MADE OUT OF SOME SORT OF POLYESTER GRANDMA SHOPPING TROLLEY MADE OUT OF PLASTIC BUILDERS STRING POLYESTER ROPES MEDICINES PACKAGED IN PLASTIC BLISTER WRAPS BASKETS MADE OUT OF PLASTIC CROCS SHOES SNEAKERS THE SOLES OF MY BLUNDSTONES PLASTIC HATS A PLASTIC WIND UP RECHARGEABLE TORCH PLASTIC RAINCOATS PLASTIC WASHING MACHINE AGITATOR ALL THE WASHING POWDER COMES PACKAGED IN PLASTIC CONTAINER FOR WOOL AND DELICATES PLASTIC CONTAINER FOR PRE WASH STAIN REMOVER EUCALYPTUS OIL SUNSCREEN PLASTIC SCRUBBING BRUSH ABOUT A DOZEN PAIRS OF SWIMMING GOGGLES SWIMMING BAG PLASTIC TURPS BOTTLES MR. MUSCLE FURNITURE WAX BLEACH PLASTIC SPONGE IN A SHRINK WRAP OF PLASTIC GREASE REMOVER IN PLASTIC SPRAY AND WIPE FOR GLASS CLOTHES IN THE WASHING MACHINE HALF OF THEM WITH BITS OF POLYESTER IN THEM PLASTIC SKIN CLEANSER IN PLASTIC BOTTLE METAL RACK IN BATHROOM WITH COVERING MADE OUT OF PLASTIC SHOWER HEAD PLASTIC THANK YOU MILK BODY WASH PLASTIC KITCHEN CABINET WOULD NO DOUBT BE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC SINK PLUGS ALL MADE OUT OF PLASTIC TOILET SEAT AIR FRESHENER PLASTIC SUNSCREEN PLASTIC SYRINGES KIDS INFLATABLE DONKEY TOY PLASTIC WATERING CANS PLASTIC MOP BUCKET PLASTIC SPONGE PLASTIC SQUEEGEE MOP HEAD DOG BALL DECORATIVE ROPE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC HELMETS MADE OUT OF PLASTIC BIKES WITH MANY PLASTIC COMPONENTS SWIMMING COSTUMES FLIPPERS HAGRID TOY COTTON REELS PLASTIC CLOTHES RACK DIPPED IN PLASTIC BASKETBALL PLASTIC SOCCERBALL PLASTIC KIDS BEACH TOYS PLASTIC BICYCLE BELLS PLASTIC OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT WITH SLIDE GUINEA PIG RUN PLASTIC BOTTLES FOR THEIR DRINKS PLASTIC CAR DASHBOARD POTPLANT PLASTIC GAPFILLER AROUND THE DOOR PLASTIC SHIRT BUTTONS PVC PLUMBING PIPES PLASTIC COATING ON WIRES TUBE OF HAND CREAM PLASTIC STEGOSAURUS PLANT POT CORD LINE SWITCH ON BEDSIDE LAMP THE HANDS OF A CLOCK PLASTIC LINT BRUSH CEILING FAN REMOTE CONTROL READING GLASSES FROM THE CHEMIST PLASTIC DONGLE CASING TV CASING BABY DOLL PLASTIC WASHING MACHINE CONTROL PANEL DISHBRUSH SCRUBBING BRUSH SCOURER NAIL BRUSH POWER POINT PHONE CHARGER GLUE STICK SHOELACE EYELETS PLIERS HANDLE DRILL CASING ELECTRIC JIGSAW CASING CIRCULAR SAW CASING SCREW CASE PLASTIC STORAGE CASES FOR SCREWS AND NAILS GARDEN HOSE AND FITTINGS WHIPPERSNIPPER CORD PLASTIC SHELIVING FOLD OUT TRESTLE TABLE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS EXPANDING FILE SAW HANDLE SAFETY GLASSES EAR MUFFS DENTAL FLOSS GUITAR PLECTRUMS SUNGLASSES COAT HANGERS GRASS CATCHER PLASTIC CLOTHES PEGS MILK CRATES THE PLASTIC CLADDING COVERING MY ENTIRE HOUSE WHEELIE BINS PLASTIC

EN PEAS BAG GEL PACK ICE PACKS ICE BRICKS SODASTREAM
AGE CADDIES CLING WRAP **PLASTIC** PACKAGING FOR RICE AND
FERENT KINDS OF VINEGAR AND SAUCES **PLASTIC** CONTAINERS
PLASTIC TRAVEL TAGS CABLE TIES **PLASTIC** HANDLES ON WALKING
PLASTIC BROOM **PLASTIC** STORAGE CONTAINERS OF ALL SHAPE
UT OF **PLASTIC** A WHOLE BASKET FULL OF DOUBLE ADAPTORS
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STRINGS SEWING BOXES **PLASTIC** CUTTING MAT SCREWDRIVER H
R GRANDMA SHOPPING TROLLEY MADE OUT OF **PLASTIC** BUILD
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AGITATOR ALL THE WASHING POWDER COMES PACKAGED IN **PLA**
OIL SUNSCREEN **PLASTIC** SCRUBBING BRUSH ABOUT A DOZEN P
PLASTIC SPONGE IN A SHRINK WRAP OF **PLASTIC** GREASE REMOVER
ESTER IN THEM **PLASTIC** SKIN CLEANSER IN **PLASTIC** BOTTLE M
ODY WASH **PLASTIC** KITCHEN CABINET WOULD NO DOUBT BE I
REEN **PLASTIC** SYRINGES KIDS INFLATABLE DONKEY TOY **PLASTIC**
ROPE MADE OUT OF **PLASTIC** HELMETS MADE OUT OF **PLASTIC** E
CLOTHES RACK DIPPED IN **PLASTIC** BASKETBALL **PLASTIC** SOCCE
NEA PIG RUN **PLASTIC** BOTTLES FOR THEIR DRINKS **PLASTIC** CA
ES **PLASTIC** COATING ON WIRES TUBE OF HAND CREAM **PLASTIC**
CEILING FAN REMOTE CONTROL READING GLASSES FROM THE CH
H SCRUBBING BRUSH SCOURER NAIL BRUSH POWER POINT P
CULAR SAW CASING SCREW CASE **PLASTIC** STORAGE CASES FOR
E TABLE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT **PLASTIC** SHOPPING BAGS EX

Millions of years ago, algae and zooplankton were buried under layers of sediment on the bottom of oceans and lakes. Over time, heat and pressure transformed these fossilised plants and animals into crude oil, natural gas and coal. **Extracted from the earth, these "fossil fuels" form the base materials of most plastics.** Plastics are a family of substances, from the Greek word "plastikos", a word which means able to be shaped or moulded.

There are around forty-five different plastics, broadly grouped into two types: thermoset plastics and thermoplastics. Thermoset plastics remain in a permanent solid state once they're hardened; they can hold their shape & can't be melted down into their original form. Automotive, aerospace parts, appliances, electric housings & components, construction equipment panels and insulators are typical applications of thermoset plastics, as they have good chemical & thermal stability, strength, hardness and mouldability. They're cost-effective but they can't be recycled & they are viewed as a bit old-fashioned now.

In 1846, the Swiss chemist Charles Schönbein accidentally discovered a polymer when he spilled a mixture of nitric and sulfuric acid on cotton, triggering a chemical reaction. The resultant polymer, nitrocellulose, led to the invention of celluloid in 1869. Chemist John Wesley Hyatt was inspired by a New York firm's offer of \$10,000 to anyone who could find a substitute for ivory. The growing popularity of billiards had put a strain on the supply of natural ivory obtained through the slaughter of wild elephants. By treating cellulose, derived from cotton fibre, with camphor, Hyatt discovered a plastic that could be crafted into a variety of shapes. **Celluloid was praised as the saviour of the elephant and the tortoise.** Plastics were promoted as protecting the natural world from the destructive forces of human need.

In 1931, Reverend Julius Aloysius Nieuwland, a Belgian Holy Cross priest and professor of chemistry, developed a synthetic rubber called neoprene.

The DuPont Corporation purchased the patent from Nieuwland, developing the material for a wide range of uses, including gaskets, hoses and adhesives. Today it is used in many domestic products, including laptop sleeves, tablet holders, mouse pads, remote controls, wetsuits & cycling chamois. Neoprene is a type of thermoset plastic.

Teflon was invented by accident in 1938 by American chemist Roy J. Plunkett who was working with refrigeration gases. On checking a frozen canister, he and his colleagues discovered that the sample had polymerised spontaneously into a waxy solid to form polytetrafluoroethylene. In 1945 DuPont registered it with the trademark Teflon. It is used in aerospace, communications, electronics, industrial processes and non-stick cookware, nail polish & stain repellents for fabrics. **Plunkett was inducted into the Plastics Hall of Fame in 1973.** His invention changed the way we cook, clean, groom & floss.

The first fully synthetic plastic was invented in 1907 when Belgian chemist Leo Hendrick Baekeland accidentally created Bakelite ($C_{12}H_{10}O_2C_2H_5$). Baekeland was attempting to create a replacement for shellac, an expensive lacquer made from the shell of the lac beetle. Rather than a shellac-like material, he inadvertently created a polymer by combining formaldehyde with phenol, a waste product of coal, & heating the mixture. The resulting material did not melt under heat and stress. Bakelite's chemical name is polyoxybenzylmethylenglycolanhydride. **The invention of Bakelite heralded the age of plastics.** It was cheap, non-flammable and versatile. Bakelite was used for everything, from electrical & mechanical parts, to telephones, clocks, buttons and jewellery.

Thermoplastics can be re-melted to their original form when heated. They make up the majority of plastics that come and go in our daily lives. The funny triangles with numbers in the middle signify the type of plastic. No. 1 is PET or polyethylene terephthalate, a plastic used to make stuff like re-usable drink bottles & cups, salad dressing bottles, medicine jars, combs, carry bags. No. 2 is HDPE or high-density polyethylene, used to make things like milk bottles, rubbish bags, shampoo & conditioner bottles, detergent & bleach containers. No. 3, PVC or polyvinyl chloride, is a rigid plastic used for stuff like plumbing pipes and flooring, cladding, electrical cabling, blood bags, raincoats. **No. 4, LDPE or low-density polyethylene is a soft flexible plastic made into cling wrap, shopping bags, six-pack rings, squeezable condiment bottles, Ziploc bags, frozen food bags & bubble wrap.** No. 5, PP or polypropylene is a hard plastic used for takeaway containers and some yoghurt and ice-cream tubs. No. 6, PS or polystyrene is still floating around in bean-bag fill & some takeaway containers and packing foam & food boxes. No. 7 is all other plastics, including nylon & acrylic. Most thermoplastics can be either recycled or repurposed.

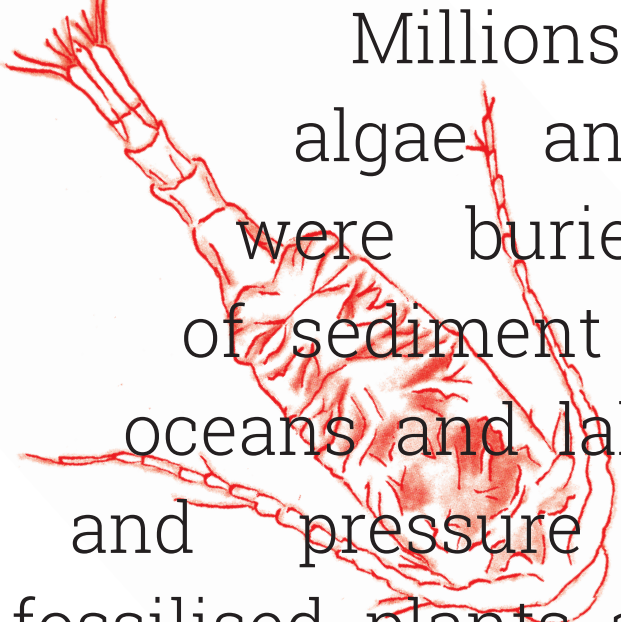
In 1957 chemists Alfred Fielding & Marc Chavannes were trying to create a textured wallpaper that would appeal to the Beat Generation. They put two pieces of plastic shower curtain together through a heat-sealing machine, resulting in a sheet of film with trapped air bubbles. Their bubbly wallpaper was unsuccessful; they imagined hundreds of uses for their product, branded Bubble Wrap, until they decided to market it as packaging material. Around that time, IBM had introduced an early computer and needed a safe shipping method. Previously, balled-up newsprint was used to protect goods, but it didn't offer much protection and the ink rubbed off onto the products. Bubble Wrap evolved into different shapes and sizes, becoming a widely-used packaging material for many industries. It is used extensively in art galleries & museums. Bubble Wrap is made mostly from low-density polyethylene (LDPE).

To make plastic, crude oil and natural gas are sent to refineries, where they are converted into the building blocks of plastic: ethane (C_2H_6) from crude oil and propane (C_3H_8) from natural gas. Ethane and propane are then sent to a "cracker" plant to be broken down into smaller molecules: ethane into ethylene (C_2H_4); propane into propylene (C_3H_6). A catalyst is introduced, linking all the molecules together to form polymers called resins. Polymerisation converts ethylene into polyethylene ($(C_2H_4)_n$) and propylene into polypropylene ($(C_3H_6)_n$).

The long-chain chemical structure of polymers allows plastic to be molded and shaped easily under heat and pressure. **The resins are melted, cooled down and chopped up into pre-production plastic pellets called "nurdles".** In the manufacture of nurdles, additives such as plasticisers, flame retardants, pigments, light & heat stabilisers are introduced to give specific properties to different plastics. Manufacturers use heat to mould the nurdles into different types of plastic products through processes including extrusion, injection moulding, rotation moulding, vacuum forming & blow moulding.

In 1965, while searching for strong but lightweight plastics to use in car tyres, DuPont researcher Stephanie Kwolek accidentally discovered what would become known as Kevlar. Not only was it stronger than nylon, Kevlar was five times stronger than steel by weight. Kevlar is used in more than 200 applications, including boats, bridge cables, tennis racquets, mobile phones, skis, bullet-proof vests, parachute lines, aeroplanes, ropes, car tyres, canoes, fire fighter boots, hockey sticks & armoured cars. **Kwolek did not profit from her invention, as she signed over the Kevlar patent to DuPont.**

In 1927, DuPont Corporation began a secret development project called Fiber66. Chemist Wallace Carothers, who was prone to depression and drinking, led the research into new fibres. Carothers and his team discovered nylon and other polymers including polyamides and polyesters. Nylon was strong and flexible and was first used in toothbrushes, but DuPont's real target was women's stockings. Twelve years later in 1939 DuPont introduced nylon at the World Fair in New York City. They had spent so much money developing and refining nylon, they spared little expense to promote nylon. An unprecedented stampede descended on hosiery counters on Nylon Day in 1940. Crowds waited for hours and customers could only buy one pair of stockings. **Sales assistants were warned not to sell a second pair, "not even if your grandmother wants it"** About four million pairs of nylon stockings sold within two days. Over the following months, "nylon mania" raged on.



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The first step
-- they say --
in overcoming an addiction
is admitting to it.

Then there's eleven more steps!
Let's give it a go:
Make a commitment to
doing something about it

it's now six years since the Biennale of Sydney
created its inaugural "Environmental Management Plan"
which does not seem to have been updated
(nor even taken out of the filing cabinet)

ever since.
And now in 2020
-- bless 'em --
the current staff of the Biennale
is ready to
Own Up.
We are their Witnesses.

We walk through their doors to
gently breathe down their necks
there is no shame
well, just a little
Dust off your policies!
Perk up your procedures!

Holy shit, hide your disposable coffee cups,
the Plastic Police have arrived!

But look, the Plastic Police
are dressed in
fake fur
faux leather
nylon stockings
Perhaps we can work
with these people

There is no point
being Holier than Thou.
And besides
a Hair Shirt
is scratchier

than a Kathmandu Fleece
made from PET Coke bottles.

OWNING
UP

We don't know everything about plastics.
In fact we know almost nothing.
But should our ignorance be a deterrent
for action?

I know more now than I did
Even two weeks ago
Strangely shifting from disgust
at the consequences of plastic waste
to curiosity about this miraculous
group of materials that begin
in the primordial sludge

Yes, you've really been Digging Up!
And your process of research is like a kind of
archaeology
which mirrors the way the long-fossilised bodies
of zooplankton are raised from their
million year slumber
to be turned into
take away containers.

Molecules circulating,
Matter is never created nor destroyed,
Just reconstituted (reincarnated?)
(some aspects of this dialogue
are taking on a quasi religious undertone!)

Beginning and end of life

Yet creation
Invention
Innovation
Breakthrough
Are applauded
Excitement and consequence

...are what make us human. Sure.
It's just that now
innovation and invention need to be pitted
more than ever
against the forces of entropy
The entangled mess
which is the Consequence of
a hundred years of Excitement
about the -- often accidental --
synthesis of new and shiny
families of plastic.

DIGGING UP

How do we talk about the big picture

And move the conversation away from personal guilt
about disposable coffee cups?

I agree

Anxiety about coffee cups is a distraction.

A better distinction perhaps
is between individual choices
and overarching systems.

Which is what we want to talk about
At a level and a volume that
Can be heard

But we are artists
Who will listen?

At its best
isn't culture a megaphone
that can take a small idea
and amplify it? Speaking up

can happen in so many different ways.
In the Plastic-free Biennale
we have been given license to say

what might not normally be said
by employees of the organisation.
In the Plastic-free Biennale
a short term contract cannot be fired!

An artist on a short term contract cannot be fired!

Prodding at the organisation of the Biennale
Is a metaphor for prodding at the larger
Organisation called New South Wales
or Australia or the fractious group
of bordered nations we call

The World
We need help!
Bring in the scientists
the poets
the public figures

Our way is to create a space
for the voices of
the already-experts to Speak Up
to each other.

Kids are experts on plastic
they know it in their DNA
Let them Speak Up!

Scientists who study the Creation Story
of plastic, and scientists who study its
Afterlife --

Gather round!

We are the Court Jesters

holding the whole thing together

with the finest strand of (minty, waxed) dental floss.

SPEAKING
UP

There is some controversy
over whether mechanical dishwashers
use less water than good old-fashioned
Washing Up.

Don't get me started
When dishwasher romantics croon
About how little water they use
and water
that went into making them?

Digging up the minerals for the metal,
Besides, what's wrong with doing
something yourself?
Is outsourcing antisocial?

Don't forget the production of those funny little high-tech

multi-coloured
"dishwasher tabs".
Probably a small session of
Digging Up
would reveal the winner
to the Man-vs-Machine question
once and for all.

But another angle on this
is around taking responsibility
for our own shit.

So
Washing Up
(following the plates
following the cutlery
following the food scraps
along their journey
from soil to soil)
can be a metaphor, no?

Yes!
Let's wash up together
With a faded and fraying
Tea-towel draped
Over our shoulders
and tell each other stories
about our grandmothers
and
our future.

WASHING UP

A JOYFULLY WASTEFUL BIENNALE -v

MORE ARTISTS = A BETTER BIENNALE -v

FESTIVAL MODEL (EVERYTHING CRAMMED INTO A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME) -v

UPHOLDING "PROFESSIONAL" MUSEUM STANDARDS -v

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IS CONSIDERED AN "EXTERNALITY" -v

AESTHETICS COME FIRST -v

"BUSINESS-AS-USUAL" BIENNALE -v

DEPARTMENT STORE → TRASHCAN MODEL -v


MASSIVE TURNOVER OF STAFF BASED ON SEASONAL LABOUR = LOSS OF CORPORATE MEMORY -v

SOPHISTICATED & GLAMOROUS -v

ARTISTS ARE WELCOME TO DO ANYTHING THEY LIKE (LIBERTARIANISM?) -v

ART = EXEMPT FROM ORDINARY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY -v

A GAZILLION INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS -v

- S- A HAIR SHIRT-WEARING, "HOLIER-THAN-THOU" BIENNALE
- S- MORE ARTISTS = MORE WASTE
- S- DISTRIBUTED MODEL (THINGS HAPPEN IN THEIR OWN TIME & AT THEIR OWN PACE)
- S- DIVERSIFYING STANDARDS OF PRESENTATION
- S- TRIPLE-BOTTOM-LINE MODEL (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IS INCORPORATED INTO THE BALANCE SHEET)
- S- ETHICS COME FIRST
- S- "PLASTIC-FREE" BIENNALE
- S- COMMUNITY GARDEN  COMPOST BIN MODEL
- S- LONG-TERM RETENTION OF STAFF WHO "BUY INTO" THE ORGANISATION'S ETHICS
- S- DAGGY & AMATEURISH
- S- THE BANNING OF POLLUTING MATERIALS & PROCESSES (AS POLICY?)
- S- COME ON, CUT THE CRAP, ART IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF HUMAN CULTURE & NOT A "SPECIAL CASE"!
- S- "F.I.F.O. ART" BECOMES A SOCIAL PARIAH.



Helen Ramoutsaki, aka MC Nannarchy. Excerpt from MC Nannarchy's *COVID-19 Sydney Biennale Plastic Wrap*



MC Nannarchy was scheduled to make a special appearance at Cockatoo Island. However with the COVID lockdown this wasn't possible, so the geriatric MC recorded this video rap for us. You can watch it on YouTube via the QR code on the left. On the following page is a short excerpt of Nannarchy's lyrics.

MC Nannarchy COVID-19 2020 Sydney Biennale Plastic Wrap

I'm Nannarchy the MC,
cutting the red tape to put you shipshape.
You got your pearls of wisdom
but I'm the grit what sits inside your shell, swelling,
I'm telling what these seasoned eyes see so well.
With so much stored in me record hoard, we've gone overboard.
Even a commoner can infer we've too much polymer.
I'm the Queen of the Plasticene Marine
building me memorial into time immemorial.
I'm giving up mankind, giving up men,
for the plastic delights of me dragon's den.
You mind your time in the ticking of clocks
but I'm reckoned in geological epochs.
They say it's the human-made Anthropocene
but we aint so clever at keeping it clean.
When we take stock of our hidden middens,
we'll get shell shock at bottle tops
transformed to rocks in the Plasticene Epoch.

Cos like bakelite on a baking tray,
we got takeaway spooning with sand on the strand,
to concentrate in plastiglomerates,
hard shards jarred inter rocks.
There is no impediment to the technofossil sediment.
That's right, this aint a load of old coprolites.
I aint taking a dump, I'm passing a motion
to keep the plastics from the ocean.





In late 2019, we ran a Microplastics Field Trip to Belmore Basin with Creative Arts students from the University of Wollongong and staff from the Biennale of Sydney. The citizen science activities were led by Dr Hugh Forehead and PhD researcher Nuwanthi Kanchana, who are looking for ways to isolate and identify indigenous microbial assemblages that could break down the microplastics present in the water and sediments of Lake Illawarra.

Scan the QR code to watch a short documentary we made with WayWard Films, featuring Nuwanthi Kanchana.



FOAMS



BOTTLE CAPS



PARTY FUN



HAIRCARE



ABJECT GOOP



REFRESHMENTS



WOUNDS



BEACH PLAY



**YOUR SMOKING
PLEASURE**



MISCELLANEOUS



SMALL FRAGMENTS



TINY FRAGMENTS

Plastics found on morning walks along Port Kembla beach, January 2020.



IKEA PACKAGING



PAINT TRAY



**DRILL BIT
PACKAGING**



**UNUSED
KETTLE CABLES**



BUBBLE WRAP



**"FRAGILE"
PACKAGING TAPE**



**DISPOSABLE
COFFEE CUP**



WOVEN SACK BAG



INSECT CONTROL BOMB



ZOOPER DOOPER



**PAINT BRUSH
PACKAGING**



PLASTIC CUP

Plastic items fished out of the Biennale skip bin at Cockatoo Island, March 2020.

Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd or *Dominus regit me*

Capitalism is my shepherd, and my consumerism means I shall not want.

He maketh me to pursue imported & home grown plastix. I adorn my skin with plastic paint. He maketh me to need plastic lunch boxes, dental floss, and plastic oil cans. He maketh me lie down in plastic pastures, bathtubs, and bed sheets.

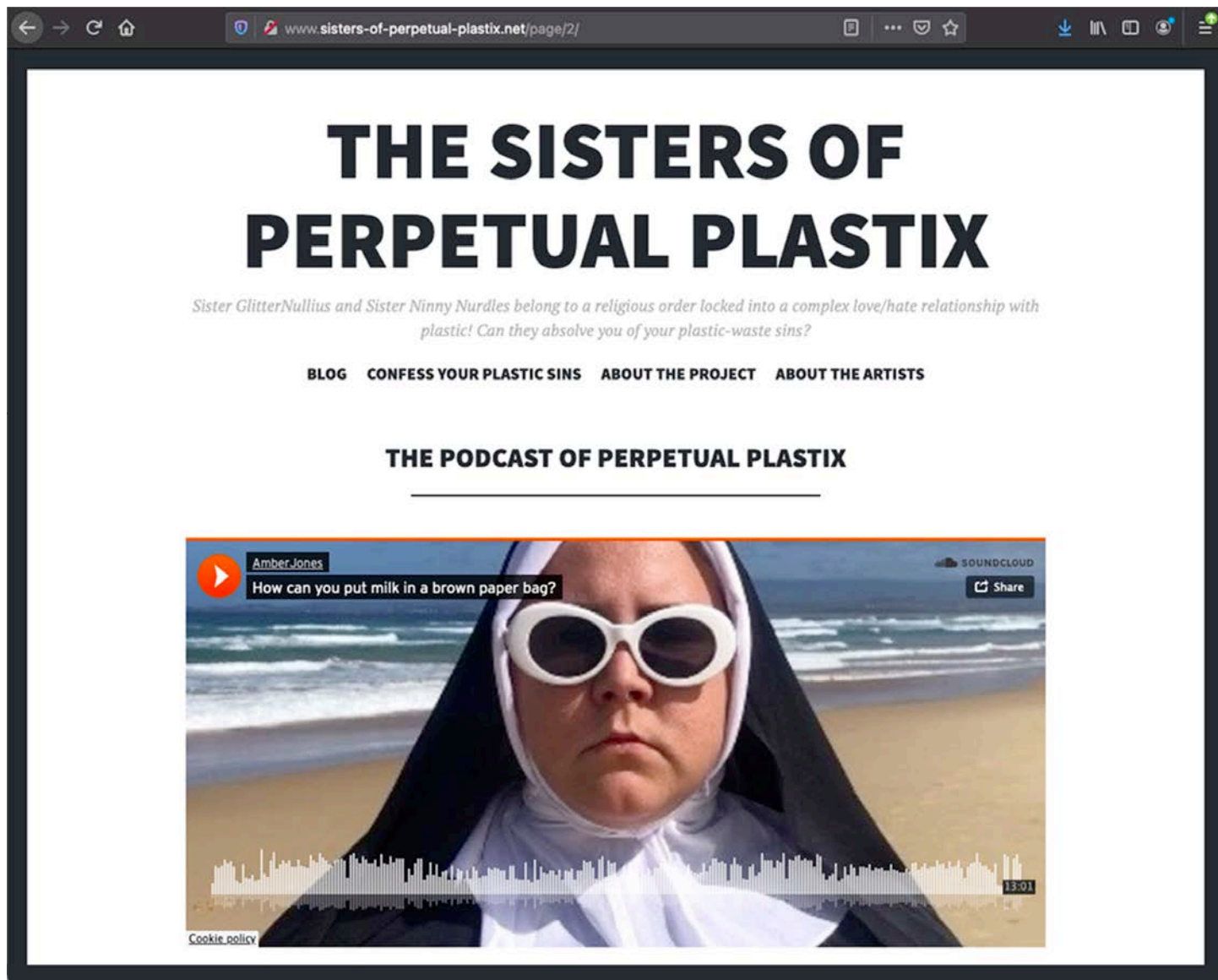
He leadeth me to destroy the earth and all living creatures, and poison all waters.

He restoreth my soul, He keeps me up with the plastic Joneses, David Jones, and the Dow Jones. And He leadeth me in the paths of eternal economic growth, for his own capitalist sake.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of multi-species extinction I will fear no evil or urgent need to change, because Capitalism, thou art with me! Thy false fingernails, phone chargers & spray tan, they comfort me, all the days of my life!

Thou preparest the earth on a plastic TV table before me, upon which to feast and gorge with mine enemies. Thou annointest my head with foils, hair conditioner and hair dye. My cup runneth over with the blood of all species.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me and my millions of tonnes of plastic all the days of my life, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord of Capitalism, Colonialism and Consumerism in eternal plastic life, four gods forever and ever, Amen.



Left: *Plastic-psalm 23*,
performed by the Sisters at
Cockatoo Island, August 2020.

During the 2020 Biennale, we expanded our team, inviting The Sisters of Perpetual Plastix (emerging artists Juundaal Strang-Yettica and Amber Jones) to come on board, spreading their holy message through podcasts, videos, blogs and performances.







Left: The Sisters of Perpetual Plastix hold a COVID-safe plastics confessional on Cockatoo Island, August 2020.

Below: the Sisters at the beach foraging for microplastics, Belmore Basin, Wollongong, August 2020.

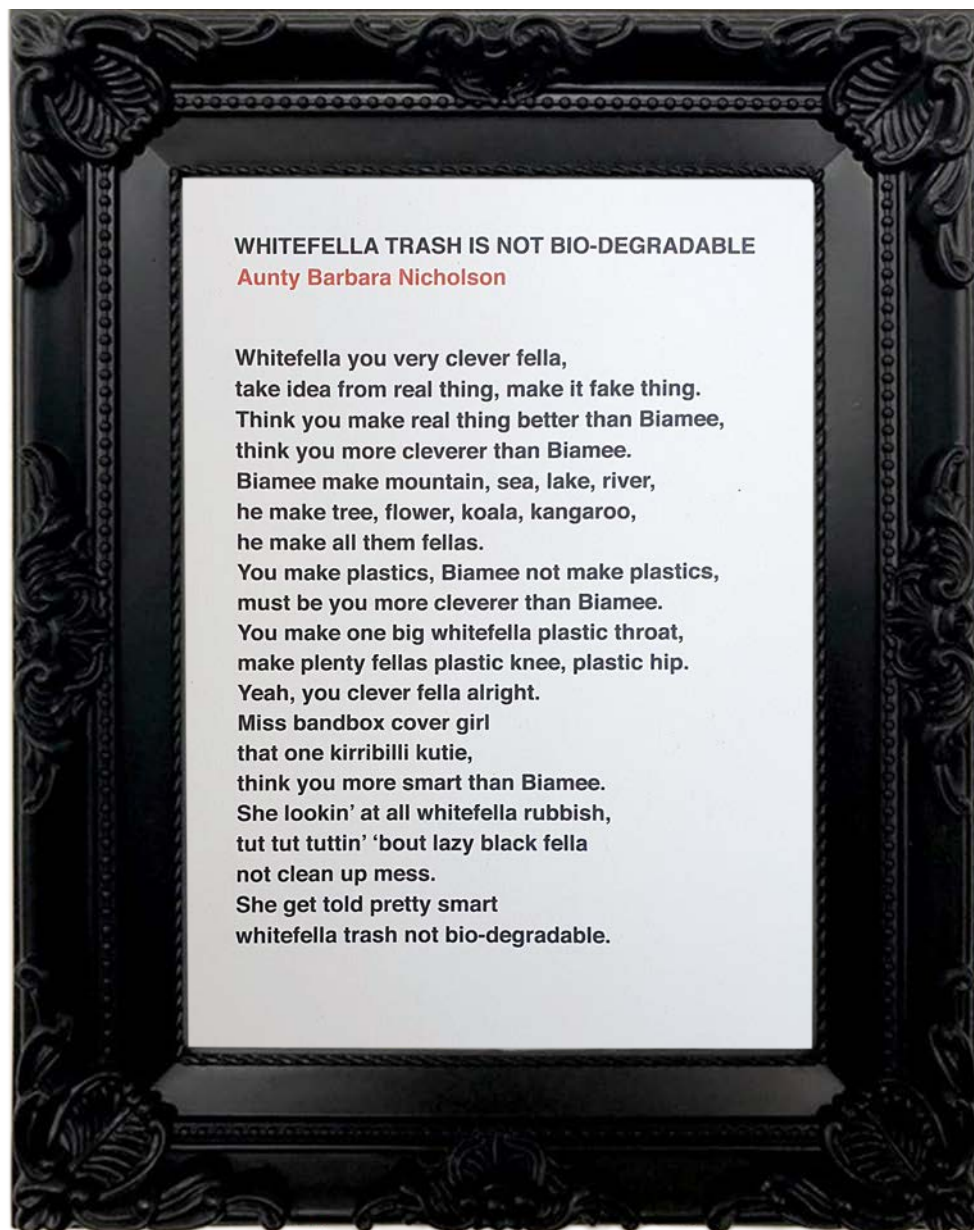




PLASTIC-FREE
BIENNALE

BUILDING
101

Lucas Ihlein and Kim Williams at the
Plastic-free Biennale installation,
Building 101, Cockatoo Island.



WHITEFELLA TRASH IS NOT BIO-DEGRADABLE

Aunty Barbara Nicholson

Whitefella you very clever fella,
take idea from real thing, make it fake thing.
Think you make real thing better than Biamee,
think you more cleverer than Biamee.
Biamee make mountain, sea, lake, river,
he make tree, flower, koala, kangaroo,
he make all them fellas.
You make plastics, Biamee not make plastics,
must be you more cleverer than Biamee.
You make one big whitefella plastic throat,
make plenty fellas plastic knee, plastic hip.
Yeah, you clever fella alright.
Miss bandbox cover girl
that one kirribilli kutie,
think you more smart than Biamee.
She lookin' at all whitefella rubbish,
tut tut tutt' 'bout lazy black fella
not clean up mess.
She get told pretty smart
whitefella trash not bio-degradable.

Wadi Wadi elder and local Illawarra resident Aunty Barbara Nicholson responded to an invitation by the Biennale to write a rejoinder to our *Plastic-free Manifesto* for the *NIRIN NGAAY READER*, an artist book by Stuart Geddes and Trent Walter. Here is her poem *Whitefella Trash is not Bio-degradable*, 2020 (limited edition offset lithograph printed on polypropylene paper at Big Fag Press).



Rox de Luca makes artworks with plastics gleaned from Sydney beaches. This has led to a connection with our merry band of artists/nuns and a group show called *Plastic-free Kandos* planned for WAYOUT Artspace, Kandos in 2022.

Left: Rox de Luca, *Green Bundle* (Cassata), 2020, found plastics, wire, dimensions variable.
Photo: Ian Hobbs Media

Below: Rebecca Prince-Ruiz (founder of Plastic Free July), Sister Ninny Nurdles, artist Rox de Luca, Sister Glitter Nullius and Kim Williams mask up at Rox de Luca's exhibition *Still Gleaning for Plastic*, August 2020, *On the Beach*, Articulate Project Space, Leichhardt.
Photo by Meryn Martin.



Acknowledgements



22ND BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

NIRIN

DETACHED



Aden Wessels, Adrift Lab, Albie Muller, Alex Robinson, Amber Jones, Auntie Barbara Nicholson, Barbara Moore, Belle Morgan, Ben Davies, Big Fag Press, Brook Garru Andrew, Cherie Schweitzer, DETACHED Cultural Organisation, Ed Horne, Elkie Peacock, Emily Gardner, Emma Bombonato, Geoffrey Cassidy, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Hannah Gee, Harper Masters, Hazel Henchion, Helen Ramoutsaki, Hugh Forehead, India Sweeney, Jad Katalinic, Jade Kennedy, Jarvis Peacock, Jennifer Lavers, Jeremy Skellern, Jesse Tyssen, Jessyca Hutchens, Jodie Polutele, Juundaal Strang-Yettica, Kai Wasikowski from 4A, Lisa Polten, Lizzie Muller, Mailin Suchting, Michael Bugelli, Mickie Quick, Milton Politis, Morgan Way and Sam Doyon from WayWard Films, Natalie Saunders, Nuwanthi Kanchana, Pangolin Associates, Paschal Dantos-Berry, Penny Clive, Rox de Luca, Sahar Nabinik, Samantha Jones, Sebastian Henry-Jones, Société Overboard Café, Sydney Opera House SEALS (Sustainable and Environmental Action Leaders), Tim Barker, Tracey Clement.

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