



## Thancoupie Bursary Fund Newsletter



### THANCOUPIE BURSARY AWARD BREAKFAST 2022



Henrietta Fourmile an Elder of the Gimuy Walabara clan performed the Welcome to Country on the 7th July for the Thancoupie Bursary Award Breakfast. Aunty Henrietta Fourmile recognized the contributions and legacy of Thancoupie.

Also present for the event were Elders from Thancoupie's family, Maryann Coconut and Rita Moore, and visiting artists and mentors from Stradbroke Island, Townsville, Brisbane and the communities of Cape York.

The event was held next to the Thancoupie public art work, *'The Sphere'* on the Green, at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal. It was the first time the event has been held in 2 years due to disruptions of the COVID pandemic.

The Board of the Thancoupie Bursary fund would like to acknowledge the sponsorship and support of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and also make a special mention of the contribution of the outgoing Director of CIAF, Janina Harding who has been a constant champion of the event to honour the legacy of Thancoupie.

This year the Bursary was awarded to the Pompokuraaw Arts and Cultural Centre. Artists from the Centre will be able to advance their skills in printmaking by undertaking a printmaking workshop with master printer Theo Tremblay. The program for the breakfast event included speeches by previous bursary recipients, Natasha Davui and Paul Bong, TBF Board Directors, Jenny Isaacs and Craig Hoy and Theo Tremblay and Nerelle Nichol.

Following the conclusion of the speeches, and acceptance of bursaries by the Pompokuraaw artists, the artists led a touching tribute around the *'The Sphere'* by placing their hands on the sphere as if channelling Thancoupie's spirit. Very Powerful.

**Photo Left:** Maryann Coconut (seated left) and Nerelle Nicol.

**Photo above:** Bursary Recipients (front row kneeling L to R): Michael Norman, Syd Bruce Shortjoe and Theo Tremblay and (back row, from L to R), Meredith Arwookerum, Mavis Benjamin, Alma Norman, Marlene Norman, Lillian Jackson and Mylene Holroyd.





## Thancoupie Bursary Breakfast



The Lovers' Sphere



Rita Moore, Nerelle Nicholl, Maryann Coconut,  
Natasha Davui, Jennifer Isaacs



Theo Tremblay thanking TBF





## Thancoupie Bursary Stall at CIAF Art Market



Stall volunteers (&TBF Board Members): Val Schier, Paul Matthews, and Anthony Todd Weller

For the first time the Bursary stall was located in the Cairns Conference Centre as part of CIAF. A silent auction was held for the donated art works. Many thanks for the donated works from Natasha Davui, Sheryl J Burchill, Daphne de Jersey, Zoe de Jersey and Paul Bong. Theo Tremblay and Paloma Ramos donated works by Daniel O 'Shane, Heather Koowootha, Joel Ngallametta and botanical prints.

Merchandise also consisted of Thancoupie prints courtesy of her estate, T-shirts by Rita Moore's Daughter, Elizanne and face masks with artwork by Torres Sabatino .

We especially acknowledge the hard work and support of the Thancoupie Bursary Board of Directors.



Photo left Volunteer and TBF Board Co-Chair Rita Moore and above: some of the Napranum mob (and relatives of Thancoupie)

The Thancoupie Bursary Fund was established in 2012 in Cairns where Thancoupie had close links and lived at her studio in Trinity Beach for more than two decades.

The Fund is a registered public company under the Corporations Act, limited by guarantee.

Governance of the Fund is vested in the Board of Directors. The Directors ensure the Thancoupie Bursary Fund complies with legislation governing the management, operations and obligations of Australian Charitable Trust Funds as required by the Australian Taxation Office.



## INTERVIEW WITH NATASHA DAVUI THANCOUPIE BURSARY FUND RECIPIENT

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Natasha was awarded the 2019 Bursary to assist her studies for the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Arts at TAFE . She belongs to the Gungarri people of Taroom in South East Queensland and the Irukandji/ Djabugay people of Far North Queensland. She is originally from Rockhampton/Woorabinda. Natasha and her family have also called Napranum/Weipa home.

She attended the Bawjathl holiday art and culture camps that were organized by Thancoupie. Thancoupie gave her children language names.

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Image above: Swimming in the ocean - fluid art and acrylic paint

### How has the Bursary supported your Arts Practice?

Receiving the bursary allowed me to complete my studies at TAFE, where I expanded my skills in my art practice. I was able to try of a lot of different mediums and from these was able to create my unique style. Both the attached paintings show this. During the course we also researched our family stories, learnt how to prepare for exhibitions and the importance of staying connected with our mob and out culture. By moving out of my comfort zone, I actually moved into my new comfort zone. A zone of where I am more confident, prouder, and yet still eager to keep learning and growing in my arts practice.



Image above: Full moon over country - hand painted acrylic paint





## INTERVIEW WITH SHERYL J BURCHILL BURSARY RECIPIENT 2021

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### Can you tell me a bit about your background?

I have a Diploma in ATSI Cultural Visual Arts through Tropical North Queensland TAFE. Media studied include screen printing, batik, lino printing, textile printing and etching. I have also undertaken many creative workshops. I aim to use my Kuku Yalanji culture to inform my knowledge of our traditional stories and life style and to use contemporary means to express my ideas. My artwork is represented in local, national and international collections.

### How has receiving the bursary been helpful ?

I am very privileged to have received the Thancoupie Bursary Award. From this award I was able to be mentored by Printmaking Pioneer Theo Tremblay and to print some of my best works to date. To know of Dr Thancoupie Gloria Fletcher James AO is to know a true inspiration - not only to her people but to me. I am humbled and thankful.

### Can you tell me a bit more about your practice In the last couple of years?

The last couple of years were slow due to the Covid 19 but once that had settled, Inkmasters did a call in out in 2021 for upcoming Indigenous Artist to join an Artistic Workshop called Upside Up. I travelled to Cairns every Friday and this enabled me to get back on track with relearning how to print again. From the workshop and the art space I was able to produce new pieces which were showcased in exhibitions in Cairns and to eventually win a few Awards including the Thancoupie Bursary Award (2021), Inkmasters - Anna Eglitis Award (2021) and the 74th Cairns Art Society Annual Awards 2022 - Best Works on Paper.

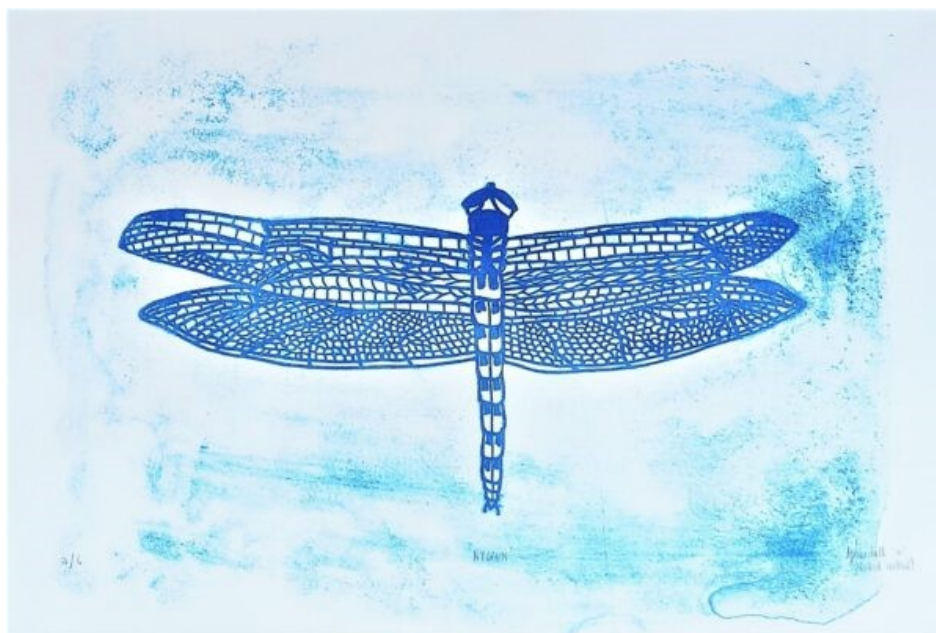


Image: Nyubun (blue) lithograph from stone (image courtesy of Canopy Art)



## Torres Sabatino's Artwork for Face Mask design and Elizzanne Christie's T-shirt design

In 2019, the *Thancoupie Bursary Fund* supported a Children's art competition at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF). Torres Sabatino entered an artwork in the art competition and received a Merit Award. He described his artwork :

*'4WDDriving' around the Cape in my Brother's '79 series Land Cruiser*

The *Thancoupie Bursary Board* selected and purchased his artwork to be used as a design for a face mask. The purpose of the masks is to promote safety for children and adults from COVID19 and are available for sale from the *Thancoupie Bursary Fund*.

[www.thancoupiebursary.com](http://www.thancoupiebursary.com)



Image above Artwork for face mask by Torres Sabatino



Above: Rita Moore TBF Board member holds t-shirt printed with Elizzanne' Christie's artwork



Above: Elizzanne Christie proudly holds the colourful 'dingo' artwork used for the t-shirt design

Thank you to Elizzanne Christie who is Thancoupie's Granddaughter. She created an engaging artwork of a dingo that was printed on to t-shirts. The t-shirts were used for fundraising to support the Thancoupie Bursary Fund the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. The t-shirts are available for purchase for \$20.00 each.

The face masks are also available for purchase at \$20.00 each. They have been manufactured by Bright Promotional Products to comply with the Australian Standards for the Manufacture of face masks. The masks are made from polyester, cotton and spandex that's washable and reusable.

Thanks to Kate Wolfe for mask layout design and production support.

