



Reef Study 2017 Jan Ross-Manley

LOOK  
BOOK

# Reef on our Mind:

The Great Barrier Reef in the Australian Psyche

AN EXHIBITION HELD AT GLADSTONE REGIONAL ART GALLERY MUSEUM  
14 DECEMBER 2019 - 29 FEBRUARY 2020

ARTIST/CURATOR: Jan Ross-Manley

ECOSYSTEMS  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
CORAL DNA  
BIO-INDICATOR

CULTURE  
ART  
PSYCHE



Jan Ross-Manley talks about her Reef referenced artwork. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Submission for World Heritage listing dated 1980 is in the first display box. Vintage Great Barrier Reef badges and pennants fill the other cases.





Above is a panorama of the 22 metre long Reef Kitsch Wall featuring vintage table and bath linen as well as a Ken Done sarong and scarf set. A Queensland Centennial table cloth from Semco dated 1959 is at right.

The tea towel set at left shows a Gladstone Billboard proclaiming the city as 'the Gateway to the Barrier Reef'. It dates from the 1970's.





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A view either way over the Great Barrier Reef themed entertainment layout.



A full set of chromolithographs from William Saville-Kent's opus on the Great Barrier Reef 1893.

9



At left a recent satellite photo taken in sections over 365 days of zero cloud cover collaged to form the composite. The Reef stretches for 2300 kilometres down the eastern coast of Queensland and is considered to be the largest living organism on the planet, clearly discernable from space.

The linework map at left is a fold out British Admiralty chart that is surprisingly accurate in correlation to the satellite image. The chart is dated 1893, from Saville-Kent's book 'The Great Barrier Reef, It's Products and Potentialities'.

On the right is a set of small digital art images by Jan Ross-Manley relating to the crisis of global warming. After 200 years of burning fossil fuels for energy, the atmosphere has heated exponentially. The ocean absorbs 93% of this heat, and as the waters warm the coral dies. The Great Barrier Reef is experiencing heat stress events at an alarming rate. This impedes the ability that coral has to regenerate; and is causing widespread reef bleaching. For corals to survive in future, sustainable energy solutions must be implemented. This signals a dire warning for humanity; if the Reef dies, life on Earth will follow suit.

Jan Ross-Manley 'Reef on Our Mind Series' #1-#4.  
Pigment ink on matte archival paper; 210mm x 297mm.





Great Barrier Reef themed dinnerware, with a Heron Island tea set dating from the sixties and teaspoons sporting fish embellished handles. The oven place mat was designed by Olive Ashgrove, whilst the drink coasters are iconic Ken Done. The souvenir coffee mugs date from the 1970's and the serving trays made from melamine, from the eighties. The Arnott's Biscuits set dates from 1957 when the Womens Weekly ad first appeared. The powder blue tin Arnott's sign is print dated 1957, but harks back to the Victorian origin of the parrot logo in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Arnott's continued to use the Barrier Reef theme for the next 40 years right up to the year 2000 Centennial tin. The Reef inspires a message of healthy outdoors Australia; an idea that was a potent selling force for pantry products.

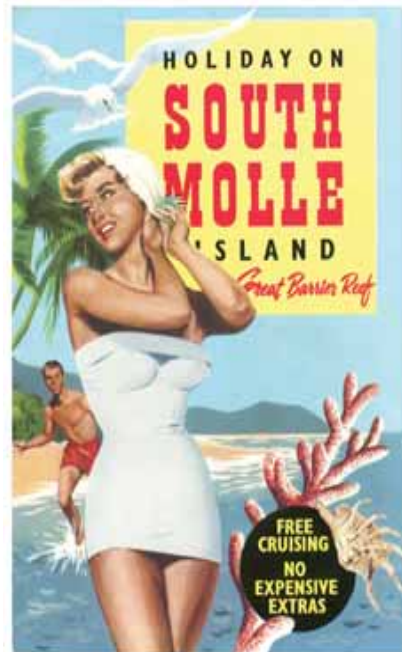
Post war Australian families learnt about the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef over the dining table. Weet Bix made by Sanitarium, used cereal cards to inspire brand loyalty. The gaudy table linen was screaming the Reef souvenir message, as was the TV where Bob Dyer regaled his audience with stories of his big game fishing exploits in the glorious Whitsundays at Brampton Island. Bob and Dolly Dyer were the longest running TV show comperes, fronting the Quiz Show 'Pick a Box'. Baby Boomers grew up along with the Reef and expected the Reef to be a permanent mainstay in their lifespan. Oz DNA was imprinted with Reef symbiosis via these early nurturing experiences.

At right the June 1957 Womens Weekly ad.





1940's tourist related ephemera; luggage label above and travel brochure.



Great Barrier Reef stereoscope, 1904. Manufactured in New York for the burgeoning market in educational novelties.





William Saville-Kent Great Barrier Reef Anemone # 1 Chromolithograph 1893, litho size 301mm x 230mm



William Saville-Kent 'The Great Barrier Reef of Australia, It's Products and Potentialities'. 1893 London, cloth bound, 350mm x 270mm x 50mm 387pp



The artist holding a recent work self titled 'Wreath for the Reef' 2019. Mixed media textile collage; linen, cotton, silk and tulle.

All photos by Jan Ross-Manley except the photos listed below.

Photos by William Dubois appear on P3, the P4 & P5 spread, the P6 & P7 top spread, the P8 & P9 spread and P18 & P19.

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This exhibition is available for tour to other gallery venues.

Contact the artist via Gladstone Regional Art Gallery Museum.

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This exhibition acknowledges the support of the following agencies:

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