

**Exhibition Title: Elemental**

The Goldfields Printmakers proposes the exhibition ‘Elemental’, based around the theme of four natural elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

Central Victoria's unique landscape, with its predominately dry environment shaped by mountains, hills and flat plains provides rich material for artists living and working in the area. Artists observe the world around them noticing changes in animal and plant behaviour and weather patterns. Artists explore the landscape and the forces of nature as they shape the land, water and sky. We research; gathering observations and memories of place and time and translate them into visual imagery. As printmakers we make marks, using various techniques, all in an effort to map out and make sense of the interdependent relationships and ever-changing trajectories of our world.

The Goldfields Printmakers was born from an idea; a *‘Eureka’* moment by Federation University Printmaking Lecturer Jimmy Pasakos whilst participating in IMPACT7 the international Printmaking Conference in Melbourne in 2011. The concept was to bring together printmakers from the historic and significant Goldfields region and to provide a portal through which dialogue and diversity could evolve in a supportive and enriching environment. Our first meeting was held in Daylesford in November 2011 and artists travelled far and wide to attend this meeting. It was a liminal moment and the beginning of a new journey.

Our recent journey was a traveling exhibition titled ‘Borders & Crossings’ at the Art Gallery of Ballarat followed by the International Printmaking Conference ‘IMPACT8’ at Dundee Scotland and at Art @ Wharepuke Gallery, Kerri Keri, New Zealand.

We feel strongly that our work should be seen within the context and environment in which it was created, connecting with local communities through reflections of history and the elements of our natural surrounds. Through exhibiting in the Goldfields themselves, we aim to engage the local community in reflections of the elements of their surrounding environment, both natural and social. We seek to reach out to fellow printmakers, to those interested in printmaking and to introduce printmaking to people who have not had the opportunity to view an entire exhibition of prints. Travelers of the past brought a rich culture with them to the Goldfields, which in turn shaped the collective identity of the region.

The aim of the Goldfields Printmakers is to embark on our own journey and to tell our story through print, molding our own identity and leaving a legacy for new printmakers who come through the region. Our journey has just begun.

The Print Council of Australia celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2016 and celebrations of print will be held throughout Australia. We therefore apply for exhibiting dates within the first six months of 2016 so together we may be included in such celebrations. Advertising for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations will have an Australian wide coverage and we aim to ensure the Goldfields to be well represented.

The fourteen Goldfields printmakers who will participate are:

David Fraser, Di Longley, Deborah Klein, Anne Langdon, Val Mc Cann, Rosemary Eagle, Jimmy Pasakos, Barbara Semler, Kim Barter, Leonie Auld, Jackie Gorring, Jan Palethorpe, Amanda Lawler and Josephine Walsh. Please find attached CVs for each member of the Goldfields Printmakers as well as a selection of images for your consideration.