

bimblebox: art – science – nature

# SECONDARY EDUCATION RESOURCE



*bimblebox: art – science – nature* is a touring exhibition partnered by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland and Redland Art Gallery in association with Bimblebox Nature Refuge. Assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Art, its arts funding and advisory body, the Gordon Darling Foundation and proudly sponsored by Artfully, Tangible Media, Planet Boab, Wotif.com, Platypus Graphics, artisan and At A Glance.

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This teacher resource kit has been developed to accompany the *bimblebox: art – science – nature* touring exhibition launched at Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland, Queensland. The exhibition has come about through an art project created to highlight the threat to the continuation of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge due to the demands of the coal mining industry.

## ABOUT BIMBLEBOX NATURE REFUGE

Bimblebox Nature Refuge is located in the semi-arid, desert uplands environment approximately 50km north west of Alpha in Central Queensland. It comprises of 8000 hectares of native bushland, most of which has never been cleared. Bimblebox also has a rich diversity of fauna including more than 150 species of birds, notably the endangered Black-throated Finch (*Poephila cincta cincta*).

Bimblebox is an example of how commercial production and biodiversity conservation can co-exist. A small herd of beef cattle assist in the control of exotic pasture grasses, and a number of long-term research projects are aimed at generating knowledge and management practices to improve outcomes for biodiversity across the region.

## ABOUT BIMBLEBOX ART PROJECT

Although legally recognised as a Nature Refuge and part of the National Reserve System of Protected Areas since 2002, Bimblebox is now under threat. This is due to the fact that in Australia mineral exploration and mining are granted right of way over almost all other land uses. Fearing the loss of Bimblebox to coal mining interests in the region, the Bimblebox Art Project was conceived with the aims to:

- highlight the threat to the continuation of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge,
- document Bimblebox creatively, and
- show Australians what we are at risk of losing in the wider context of habitat and biodiversity.

A diverse group of artists from various parts of Eastern Australia gathered at the Bimblebox Nature Refuge in September 2012 and 2013. They camped on Bimblebox, exploring and making art to document this part of Australia. The resulting artworks build a dynamic exhibition of installation, works on paper, painting, artist books, digital storytelling and sound.

## ABOUT *bimblebox: art – science – nature*

This exhibition explores the challenging subjects of coal mining, global warming, diminishing biodiversity, the changing socio-cultural dispositions of regional communities and the role of creativity in that process. Aiming to document and creatively interpret this unique place and time, *bimblebox: art – science – nature* may help to save this nature refuge from destruction or it will provide lasting testimony. The exhibition is divided into the five main themes:

1. A Nature Refuge;
2. A Future Coal Mine;
3. A Model for Environmental Sustainability;
4. A Recharge Zone for the Great Artesian Basin and
5. Changing Perceptions.

## ABOUT THE EDUCATION RESOURCE

Using the broad aims of the Australian Curriculum for The Arts this resource provides a framework for responding to the exhibition. The Arts curriculum states that students are expected, through making and responding to develop:

- creativity, critical thinking, aesthetic knowledge and understanding about arts practices
- arts knowledge and skills to communicate ideas they value and share their arts and life experiences by representing, expressing and communicating ideas, imagination and observations about their individual and collective worlds to others in meaningful ways
- use of innovative arts practices with available and emerging technologies, to express and represent ideas, while displaying empathy for multiple viewpoints
- understanding of Australia's histories and traditions through the arts, engaging with the artworks and practices, both traditional and contemporary, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- understanding of local, regional and global cultures, and their arts histories and traditions, through engaging with the worlds of artists, artworks, audiences and arts professions

The exhibition journal encourages students to analyse and interpret the artworks while reflecting upon the intentions of the artists. The aim of the resource is to provide students with a framework that can be used to organise their thoughts about an artwork in preparation for a written response (which would be completed at school).

The development of ideas for creating/making result from exposure to a variety of arts practices that develop visual literacy and understanding of ways concepts can be realised. Responding to this type of research through writing enhances students' abilities to translate their understandings into their creative products, be they visual or performance-based pieces.

An inquiry learning model underpins this resource which encourages students to move beyond fact finding to deeper understandings about concepts and focuses. Using concept mapping to explore an artwork in detail allows students to form links between ideas while providing the basis for an interpretive written response. This in turn may lead to ideas that will inform their making for future artworks. The booklet provides an example for creating a concept map that decodes an artwork in readiness for using it to inform further research and written and making tasks.

In this exhibition students are exposed to artworks that provide stimulus for further research about environmental issues that are of concern to students personally as well as showing how artworks can incorporate various technologies to emphasise their meaning. Of additional interest in this exhibition is the inclusion of a curiosity table that includes items from the artists' camp and some natural materials that were used in their art making.

Students experiences of the exhibition will be significantly enhanced by exploring The Bimblebox App (*Bimblebox* by E.L. Harm & G.J. Harm) that has been developed to accompany the exhibition. This 120-page interactive digital catalogue can be downloaded to iPad from the iTunes store at: <http://bit.ly/bimblebox>



SCAN to download  
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