

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy
Minister for Equality



Friday, 3 March 2023

BACKING CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS ART GALLERY'S TRANSFORMATION

The redeveloped Central Goldfields Art Gallery is set to reopen its doors to the public tomorrow, bringing more arts and cultural events to Maryborough.

The project was backed by an investment of almost \$2.3 million from the Andrews Labor Government to deliver upgrades to the building's lighting, air conditioning and flooring, offering a better visitor experience with improved accessibility.

The new gallery is located in Maryborough's historic fire station built in 1861 and has maintained its iconic red doors and 19th century ceiling beams, combining the historic features with a modern open-plan design.

The refurbished gallery will provide more space for art exhibitions and permanent displays, a fitted-out collection store, and an overhauled workshop area to encourage more engagement from students, groups and creatives.

The gallery's reopening begins with a headline exhibition from Maryborough artist Dean Bowen - *Ladder to the Stars: Dean Bowen Sculptures* – featuring 35 bronze sculptures that explore human potential and imagination.

Maryborough has a growing arts scene and the gallery will be a drawcard for the town to attract more visitors each year.

Planning is also underway to deliver the Indigenous Interpretive Garden near the gallery, which will acknowledge and celebrate the Dja Dja Wurrung People.

The project was part of the Labor Government's record investment of more than \$36 billion across regional and rural Victoria since 2015. For more information, visit rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif.

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing

"We backed the Central Goldfields Art Gallery redevelopment because it created critical jobs throughout construction and will continue to deliver a boost to Maryborough's economy and vibrant creative scene for years to come."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events and Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos

"Maryborough is already a great place to visit and has a growing arts and cultural scene. The redeveloped Goldfields Art Gallery will help attract more visitors to town and encourage them to stay a little longer."

Quote attributable to the Member for Rippon Martha Haylett

"This gallery means so much to the Maryborough community and it's great to see it reopening to the public after our support to make it better than ever for more locals and visitors to enjoy."

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