

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Spark\_Lab Partner School 2015 Launch**



**Two Places, One Space: PICA and Warnbro Community High School Join Forces in 2015.**

PICA is taking art to the outer suburbs of Perth with Spark\_Lab, its groundbreaking education program. This month sees the launch of a two-year partnership between PICA and Warnbro Community High School.

Through the Spark\_Lab program PICA undertakes a series of intensive partnerships with primary and secondary schools, taking contemporary art out of the gallery and into the classroom. The only arts learning program of its kind in Australia, it was developed from an intensive research project conducted in partnership with Edith Cowan University that investigated ways in which contemporary arts organisations can educate for innovation. The programs that grow out of the relationships between PICA and its partner schools are bespoke in their modes of delivery, student led and artist driven, and empower teachers to ensure ongoing sustainability.

The theme for the two year partnership between PICA and Warnbro Community High School is 'Two Places, One Space'. This collaboration seeks to unite the locations of outer-metro Perth with the Perth Cultural Centre through a series of projects fostering excellence in education and developing skills for innovation in students.



The partnership will see Warnbro Community High School’s students developing openness in their appreciation of the arts and skills for a variety of media as well as celebrating different perspectives and solidifying personal creative identities.

Warnbro students from from years 9 -12 have already visited PICA several times this year, experiencing internationally renowned Australian artist Tracey Moffatt’s exhibition *KALEIDOSCOPE* and the boundary-breaking theatre work *From The Rubble* by Perth Theatre Company.

Last month, Indigenous artist & filmmaker Curtis Taylor, Indigenous spoken work/sound artist Brian Lloyd (AKA Bryte) and filmmaker Poppy van Oorde-Grainger headed to Warnbro for an epic three-day workshop. Indigenous and non-Indigenous students learned different forms of story telling and filmmaking techniques, in the creation of their own film inspired by Tracey Moffatt’s artworks. These workshops sought to increase students’ creative confidence, teach them new skills and introduce them to inspiring young professional artists.

The students’ film will be premiered at Warnbro Community High School during the Spark\_Lab Launch Party, celebrating the beginning of the two year PICA-Warnbro relationship. Preceding the launch, PICA staff members will give a series of talks to students, uncovering the variety of professional roles within the arts with the goal of giving insight into the many career pathways for creative and innovative thinkers.

Taking place Friday, 22 May, this launch event aims to bring awareness to the Spark\_Lab program amongst the wider-school and education community as well as local community leaders. It is a celebration of the cross-disciplinary learning opportunities provided by engagement with innovative organisations such as PICA.

**For all media enquiries please contact  
PICA Communications Manager Renae Coles via:  
e: [communications@pica.org.au](mailto:communications@pica.org.au)  
ph: 08 9228 6307  
m: 0423 846 099**

**PICA** PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS | Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Northbridge  
Tue–Sun 10am–5pm | +61 8 9228 6300 | [pica.org.au](http://pica.org.au)

Principal Education Partner

**RioTinto**

Education Partners



Automotive Partner



Major Sponsor



Partner School



Government Partners



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts



PICA's ongoing programs are primarily supported by an investment from the State of Western Australia through the Department of Culture and the Arts in association with Lotterywest, assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. PICA is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Images: Warnbro DREAMSCAPES workshops, 2015. Photo: Poppy van Oorde-Grainger.

## **ABOUT PICA**

Housed in a large and striking heritage building in the Perth Cultural Centre, PICA is the city's focal point for those wishing to experience the best of Australian and international visual, performance and interdisciplinary art.

PICA is both a producing and presenting institution that runs a year round program of changing exhibitions, seasons in contemporary dance, theatre and performance and a range of interdisciplinary projects. PICA is an icon of contemporary thinking – it is a catalyst for innovative and ground breaking art and culture. Not constrained by convention, PICA gives artists and audiences a glimpse of what is possible.

## **ABOUT SPARK\_LAB**

Spark\_Lab brings students and teachers up close and personal with contemporary artists, dancers, theatre makers, musicians and innovators across a wide range of disciplines through an exciting program of events, activities and on-line resources.

It was informed by Growing Future Innovators, a ground-breaking research project conducted in partnership with Edith Cowan University that investigated ways in which contemporary arts organisations can educate for innovation.

Spark\_Lab has created a 21st century learning environment that is seen by schools as innovative. It is the only arts learning program of its kind in Australia. Evidence has shown that Spark\_Lab has had a positive impact on fostering the innovation competencies of creativity, self-efficacy, energy, risk-propensity and leadership.

Deeply embedded in PICA's artistic program, Spark\_Lab has expanded the experience of our artists and our audiences heightening PICA's reputation as a 'playground for new ideas.'

## **ABOUT WARNBRO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

Warnbro Community High School is a co-educational secondary public school comprised of over 1000 students from Year 8 to 12. Located in the growing suburb of Warnbro, the school has access to many of the educational facilities the City of Rockingham provides, including Murdoch University and Challenger TAFE.

Warnbro's school motto – "I am because we are," a quotation from South African playwright, Fatima Duke – embodies the school's emphasis on community and interrelatedness.

Warnbro is recognised by the Department of Education for their approved specialist programs in Creative Arts, Advanced Technology and Design, and Recreation.

Warnbro's Creative Arts Specialist Program has two streams: Studio Arts (Visual Arts, Multimedia/Electronic Art) and Media and Performing (Drama, Dance and Music). Students are encouraged to take risks, explore, engage in constructive play, acknowledge different perspectives, develop openness, and construct their own personal aesthetic.