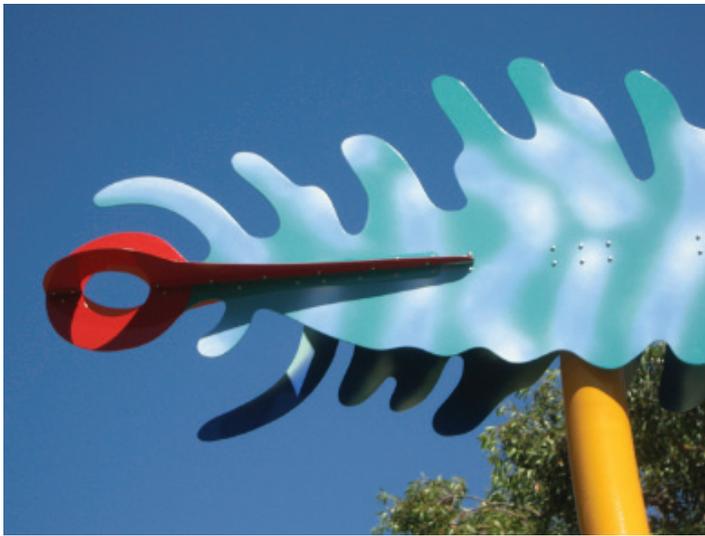


Government of Western Australia

PERCENT FOR ART SCHEME

KALAMUNDA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL





PERCENT FOR ART SCHEME KALAMUNDA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2011

Nucleus-Ripple and Splash

The inclusion of the Kalamunda Senior High School's upgraded facilities in the Western Australian Government's Percent for Art Scheme was embraced with enthusiasm by the school. The initiative was of particular significance, given the school's status as a Gifted and Talented Education Program School (GATE). Artists Dawn and Philip Gamblen were commissioned to create two individual, but linked sculptures for the school, one in the Cafeteria and the second in the Arts Quadrangle.

Philip and Dawn Gamblen, whilst each pursuing distinct, individual forms of arts practice, are regular collaborators when creating artworks for the public sphere. The sculptural forms created focus on nature, science and motion. For a GATE School with a special focus on the Visual Arts, the idea of commissioning artworks, which were more abstract than narrative in nature, was a comfortable paradigm. The artists chose 'Nucleus' as the theme, to reflect the school's stated ethos of: *Cultivating and nurturing a vibrant learning environment, a strong sense of community, place, local identity and belonging, for their students.*

The word 'nucleus' is defined as the positively charged centre of an atom. The artists drew an analogy between this and

the intent of the school-to create a rich core of learning and an environment of inquiry, intended to build in momentum as the students begin their journey outwards into a wider world.

Nucleus' can also be thought of as the initial splash (of a pebble in water) and its outward effects. A school is a hub for learning and development for young people. It is an important community gathering space, a place that specialises in reaching outwards to form connections between people and ideas - Dawn & Philip Gamblen

The artwork created for the Cafeteria is a kinetic sculpture, with 'fins' radiating outward from a central point or nucleus creating an important focal point. Ripple's design echoes water ripples and wind eddies. The aluminium 'ripples' are suspended at varying heights on branch-like supports and give the impression of something diving down or bubbling up, through water. Ripple is designed to float and create a sense of lightness and a bright, 'buoyant' space to be enjoyed by all. The organic outline of the concentric ripple patterns branching overhead are also intended to create a feeling of growth, expansiveness and connectivity to nature.

Coloured in smoky blues, greens and greys Ripple evokes the palette of the native forests and bush lands of the Darling Scarp, its creeks, streams and drifts of Acacia, Hakea and Eucalypts. The patterns and rhythms contained within this were a source of inspiration for the artists. (70% of the Kalamunda Shire is State Forest, national parks, water catchment and other open space).

The second, exterior sculpture, Splash, flies high above the students' heads as a rotating wind vane. It responds to the local environment by harnessing the power of the breeze and rotating accordingly. The position of 'Splash's' red 'cap' emphasizes the direction of the prevailing wind. Its form hints at the 'splash of water and its vivid colouring, the flash of the red capped parrots as they streak through the tree canopy.

'Ripple' and the free-standing kinetic sculpture in the Arts Quadrangle, 'Splash', both move in response to the same local wind conditions. The two forms are separate, but visually, thematically and environmentally linked. Through a simple electronic system, a wind direction sensor mounted on the roof of the Cafeteria sends signals to 'Ripple', which then rotates to keep itself constantly aligned in the direction of the wind, echoing 'Splashes' movements. It is possible to determine changes in wind direction whilst inside the cafeteria, by looking at the rotating sculpture overhead. Synchronized rotational movement of both inside and outside sculptures have been conceived to work together to 'bring the outside in' and to convey to the viewer, an increased awareness of their external environment.

There is an individuality to each sculpture, but also an overriding feeling of connectedness. Wind vane colours chosen for 'Splash' are bold and bright, inspired by the plumage of local parrots. 'Ripple' colours are cooler but link to the blue and turquoise in the 'Splash' palette. The colours assist in creating unified artworks. These sculptures not only make a significant statement, but add sparkle and visual appeal to the Arts Quadrangle and the new Cafeteria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artist:	Dawn & Philip Gamblen
Title:	Nucleus-Ripple & Splash
Architect:	Andrea Vechia Scavalli Matthews Architecture
Photography:	Dawn Gamblen
Art Coordinator:	Jenny Beahan
Client:	Department of Education
Client Representative:	Kathy Ritchie, Peter Robertson, Paul Heslop
Principal Project Delivery Manager:	Matthew Behn



Government of Western Australia
Department of Finance