

Q&A

What inspired you to participate in the Who Are You exhibition?

My main focus as an artist is portraiture and the Who Are You exhibition provided a great opportunity to show my skills in this area.

Can you describe the story or concept behind the piece you contributed?

The Huntress was finished in May 2021 whilst going through a difficult divorce. I first drew a self-portrait with an idea to simply focus on patterns across my face and into the background. However after I started painting, the background looked like fire, and then the body began to look like feathers. I then imagined myself as a warrior with a giant wing over my head. This artwork piece transformed me ready for battle, The Huntress.

How does your work explore ideas of identity and self-perception?

At the time, I thought this piece was somewhat far-fetched and perhaps a little egoic. However, now that a few years have passed, I have come to appreciate that it was created during a challenging period of my life when I was in fight mode. Painting myself as such a bold and inspiring persona gave me a sense of courage and strength that I needed at that moment.

What do you hope audiences will feel or think when they see your piece?

I hope people see a warrior with inner strength and the determination to fight for what they want. That the audience, too can create their own unique hero identity through use of their imagination and self-belief.

Did this project challenge or change the way you see yourself as an artist?

This piece showed me that imagination has no limits and a painting doesn't need to follow its initial plan to succeed. Embracing the unpredictable creative process can bring rewarding outcomes, making unpredictability a key part of artistic growth.



Casey artist Joanne Dixon.

What is your biggest accomplishment that you are most proud of?

Spending the past few years on a self healing journey to heal from CPTSD and rediscovering who I truly am. Being both an Artist and Reiki Healer brings me genuine joy and personal satisfaction. Learning to embrace my emotions again so I can truly enjoy life's journey.

What events or activities would you recommend to people?

I have found that practising self care is very important for maintaining balance and well-being. I recommend spending time outdoors in nature, engaging in meditation and listening to healing frequencies to soothe the mind and body. I notice that my most creative ideas come to me when I am feeling calm and relaxed.

What's something you're currently working on or excited about?

I am currently in the process of adding a selection of original artworks for sale onto my website and planning a photoshoot with a female model to help bring more of my creative concepts to life.

with Casey artist Joanne Dixon

THREE ...

ways to be kind to others

1 Listen without interrupting: Truly listening shows respect and care. Put away distractions, make eye contact, and let the other person speak without jumping in. It can make someone feel valued.

2 Offer help without being asked: Look for small ways to assist — opening a door, picking up something someone dropped, or checking in on a friend. Unprompted kindness is powerful.

3 Speak kindly — even when it's hard: Words have impact. A kind compliment or a gentle tone during a disagreement can significantly improve someone's entire day.

NEWS

AgriFutures unleashed

By Afraa Kori

The 2025 AgriFutures Stakeholder Summit was the largest and most ambitious yet, tripling in scale and relocating to Canberra for a week of powerful connection and collaboration among Australia's leading and emerging voices in agriculture.

Held last month in Canberra, the Summit brought together more than 150 participants from across the country, including Horizon Scholars, AgriFutures Rural Women's Award (RWA) Finalists, industry innovators, MPs, Ministers, Senators, research leaders and key representatives from AgriFutures Australia's levied and emerging industries.

This is the first time these voices have come together in one place, working side-by-side as

part of the Summit's unique program to tackle some of the greatest challenges and opportunities for Australia's rural industries.

AgriFutures General Manager, Workforce, Communications and Adoption, Jennifer Galloway, said this year's Summit was deliberately positioned in Canberra to elevate the reach and influence of rural leadership.

"Canberra isn't just a backdrop. It's part of the design, placing young leaders and grassroots industries face-to-face with national decision-makers, departments and other Research and Development Corporations, Ms Galloway said.

"We're creating opportunities for genuine engagement that leads to real outcomes."

At the heart of the program was the National Hackathon, where cross-disciplinary teams of past and present Horizon Scholars worked on urgent issues identified by AgriFutures Australia's levied and emerging industries, such as sharing the story

of Australian agriculture to garner ongoing community support, climate-smart rice production and transforming poultry research careers.

The program included a candid panel on systems change hosted by Ms McGowan, featuring Troy Williams, CEO of the National Farmers' Federation, and Senator Susan McDonald, Shadow Minister for Resources and Northern Australia.

This was followed by a morning tea connecting Scholars, RWA Finalists, and AgriFutures Levied and Emerging Industries with parliamentarians and senior public servants.

The Summit's Stakeholder Showcase Dinner featured industry leaders past and present, including Jory Kitsch (Flux Robotics), Tanya Egerton (RWA 2024 National Winner and Op Shop Project) and Dr Mary Wu (Chicken Meat Federation). Together, they reflected on how courage, collaboration and innovation shifted systems and unlocked opportunity.

Dr Mary Cole, Victorian finalist for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, attended the Summit and reflected on the unique gathering.

"It was the first time the Rural Women's Award state finalists, summit for new and emerging industries and the Horizon scholars were all together and interactive for the week," the Garfield resident said. "The horizon scholars are young leaders in their fields in university still studying some aspect of agriculture. Brilliant young minds. The future of Australian agriculture will be in good hands."

"It was a very well organised but exhausting week. The Rural Women's Award state finalists made their pitches for the National Award on Tuesday. The national winner will be announced at the gale dinner at Parliament House on October 28."



CARDINIA BUSINESS

Lunch

OCTOBER

FRIDAY

10

2025

11.30 AM

THE VALUE IN A PURPOSE-DRIVEN BUSINESS

Join us for an exclusive business lunch featuring keynote speaker Ian Ash from OrgMent Business Solutions. Discover how cultivating a purpose-driven culture can transform your ability to attract, engage, and retain top talent in today's competitive market.

Following Ian's presentation, participate in a panel discussion with industry leaders who will share proven strategies for building workplace cultures that reduce turnover and boost employee satisfaction.

This event includes lunch, drinks and networking opportunities with local businesses!

CARDINIA CLUB

71 RACECOURSE ROAD, PAKENHAM

Booking link for tickets: or scan the QR code

<https://www.trybooking.com/DDFYZ>

Tickets \$35 each or \$300 table of 10

Early bird discounts apply before 31st August!



BOOK YOUR SEAT BY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025



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