

Project Title

'BioSPHERE' – The domes ritual event in October 2025

Artist Statement that inspired 'BioSPHERE' by Creative Director Fleur Schell

Being immersed in nature is one of the most pleasurable experiences we can share. Imagine what our future would feel like without nature and the joy it brings to our lives. My arts practice centres around endangered species and creating a habitat in people's imagination for the creatures we are losing. I wish for a future where generations of young people have inspiring encounters in nature, just like the childhood I had, having been raised on a farm amongst nature in the wheatbelt of Western Australia. Re-wilding of our planet starts with re-wilding our imagination. We must come together as a species, unpick those social systems that separate us like religion, ethnicity or culture, and prioritise the more-than-human world. We are not separate from the biosphere, we are the 'BioSPHERE'.



The farm where Fleur grew up and the inspiration for the 'BioSPHERES' project in Goomalling.

'BioSPHERE' - A communal ritual gathering site.



The Goomalling Domes situated 140kms Northeast of Perth in WA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

In October 2025 the National Ceramics Triennial will be held in Western Australia. This is also an opportunistic time when the Grain Domes of Goomalling are empty of grain and accessible. This coincidence provides unique opportunity to invite the international ceramics community to join the people of Goomalling along with a team of internationally recognised interdisciplinary artists as we transform the surface and internal spaces of the Goomalling Grain Silos into a gigantic storytelling device. Acknowledged in the southern hemisphere as some of the largest man-made objects recognisable from space, the Goomalling Domes rest in the earth like gigantic half buried megafauna eggs. With the devastating loss of biodiversity right across the Wheatbelt, the domes provide a powerful external and internal canvas to project a transformative story of how we need to prioritise the remaining woodlands in this region. Through stewardship and re-wilding, we can bring back biodiversity to the region. There are far reaching benefits to consider a future where humans feel engaged with and part of nature. It is an illusion to think that what we understand about the natural world is all there is to know about the creatures that live amongst us. The Domes are a monumental narrative surface to remind us that in the sensory perception of other living creatures, we will find wonder in the familiar and magic in the mundane. Most importantly the Goomalling domes will tell a critical story of interconnectedness, that we need to come together as a species to prioritise other species in the biosphere. Art has the power to do this, to surprise people into a magical perspective shift. The ritual will conclude with an ancestral dreamtime story shared through the original custodians of Goomalling, the Nyungar Boodja of Balladong country, they acknowledge the significance of the 'Koomal' – the silver brush tail possum of which the Goomalling township was named after.

International Artists Involved in 'BioSPHERE'



International Acclaimed Projection Mapping Artist and Performer Artist Steven Alyian



International Renowned Ceramic Artist and Presenter Fleur Schell



WAAPA graduates\ Balladong Nyungar Mitchell Walley.



WAAPA graduate Cellist Heidi Hill.



Balladong Nyungar Elder Clive Walley - Director of Indigenous Education at Notre Dame University logistics advisor of the 'BioSPHERE' project.

Site Logistics and Potential Project Partners

Goomalling Shire Council.

Adam Elliot - Site manager and caretaker of the Goomalling Silo grounds and area manager of the CBH Group.

Danielle Antaki CEO CAN - Community Arts Network.

The Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Organisation.

Wedge – National Ceramics Triennial Conference Steering Committee.

Community Engagement

Commencing in January 2025, with a 9 month lead in time to the 'bioSPHERE', liaising with the Goomalling Shire Council Community Engagement Officer and community groups in the region we will Launch a series of expert team-lead creative workshops .These workshops will focus on the theme of biodiversity and species interconnection and involve sculpture production, dance, language sharing and storytelling. The results of these workshops will culminate in a variety of object and performance-based presentations during 'BioSPHERE' in and around the Goomalling Grain Domes in October 2025. The journey community groups undergo as part of 'Biosphere' project will be filmed and incorporated as part of the giant projection mapping presentation. Our hope is that there is a lasting legacy from this project. That 'BioSPHERE' is a catalyst for a permanent interdisciplinary venue in Goomalling where there is sustained sharing of knowledge and expertise across all arts and culture. A creative space, which acts as a vehicle to unpick the systems that divide the community such as race, gender, religion and class.



Fleur Schell 'BioSPHERE' Art Installation Statement

Goomalling is very important to Fleur Schell because she was raised on a farm near the township of Goomalling. As a child she had unbelievable freedom to explore nature, barefooted and accompanied by a merry band of crusaders including a white cockatoo, an emu, three sheep dogs and an orphaned kangaroo. They were all characters in a rebellion she concocted to defend her imaginary world. They would all track through knee-high wheat until they reached a giant granite outcrop. Fleur would sit on the highest point of these ancient moss-covered boulders and stare out as far as her eyes could see. This was her island surrounded by a vast ocean of wheat. There was something out there under that ocean, inexplicably moving the crop. Forming a ripple just below the surface, Fleur was convinced was a gentle giant which almost but never quite breached the surface. She never saw a fin, a spray from its blow hole or a tail slap, and in hindsight it was probably better that way. If she had actually seen it, all would have been revealed, closing the door on her imagination. The less we see the more we imagine the impossible. Fleur believed that out there under an ocean of wheat, a giant from the depths was slowly circling her island like a sentinel, protecting all other creatures.

Inspired by her childhood imaginings, Fleur is currently building a four-metre whale that will be suspended in the centre of one of the domes during 'BioSPHERE'. This whale will act as an arc for endangered native animals that represent many species that have disappeared from the rocky woodlands she played amongst as a child. The intention is for this large magical object to provide a leaping off point for our imagination. The wheatbelt is a critically endangered ecological community. The wheatbelt woodlands are home to more than 200 threatened animal species, including the Carnaby's Cockatoo, the Western Quoll, the Echidna, the Monitor Lizard and the Numbat.



Fleur Schell's work in progress for the art installation during 'BioSPHERE'.

Art Production and Demonstration Workshops.

Through demonstration workshops, Ceramic Artist Fleur Schell will inspire the community to build ceramic nest-like homes to encourage the re-wilding of displaced native endangered species of the area. These works will be installed temporarily in and around the Goomalling Domes as part of the international performance-based ritual gathering as the sun sets over the iconic spherical domes of Goomalling. Following the ritual these enclosures will permanently homed in Goomalling and the surrounding woodlands.



Story Telling and Language Sharing:

To understand how to re-wild the woodlands around Goomalling we will seek guidance and knowledge from the Nyungar elders who we respect and acknowledge are the original custodians of Ballardong country. A workshop series will share traditional language, storytelling, singing and dancing with Nyungar leaders. Their Ballardong songlines and understanding of Nyungar spirit animals are vital as we try to reimagine how our animal ancestors traversed, foraged and cohabitated with the Ballardong people for thousands of years. We hope to re-wild the imaginations of local communities through the physical act of dance, singing, acting and storytelling.



Nyungar Dance Ceremony



Ballardong Nyungar leaders Clive and Mitchell Walley

