

sculpture by the sea

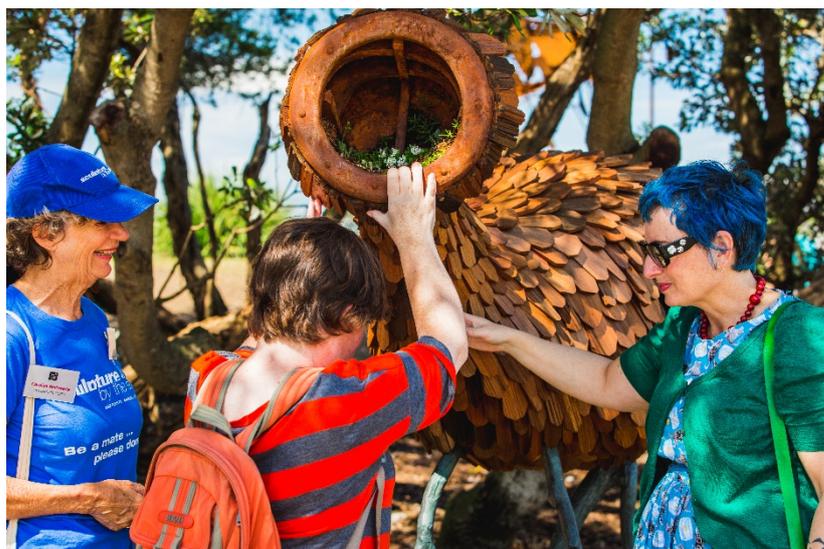


Access & Inclusion Program Report *Sculpture by the Sea Bondi, 2019*

Thank you to the Australia Council for the Arts, Waverley Council and the AGNSW Access Guides for their invaluable support in maintaining the delivery and development of the *Sculpture by the Sea* Access & Inclusion Program 2019.

Photo: Afford Clients and participants of our Transition to Work Program with Tactile Tour Coordinator at Sculpture by the Sea Bondi 2019. Photo: Charlotte Curd

Sculpture by the Sea Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation that produces major free to the public sculpture exhibitions in Perth and Sydney that transform beautiful and popular coastal locations into large temporary sculpture parks, accessible for all to enjoy. The exhibitions aim to engender a greater sense of community while introducing the public to a broad spectrum of sculpture.



Access & Inclusion Program: Introduction

Our Access Program was introduced at Bondi in partnership with the Art Gallery New South Wales (AGNSW) and Access Volunteer Guide Coordinator Carolyn Bethwaite in 2009, offering 'Touch Tours' to six participating adults who were blind and/or vision impaired. Renamed 'Tactile Tours' in 2010 they have continued to provide a unique opportunity for adults and children with a range of disability to experience sculpture 'hands-on' through touch and informed dialogue with experienced AGNSW Access Volunteer Guides, *Sculpture by the Sea* Educators and the Artists themselves.

Tactile Tours also offer audio description to participants that are blind or vision-impaired. A trained audio describer produces a verbal version of an image, a narration of all the visual elements of sculpture – colour, form, scale, texture, etc. – using words that are succinct, vivid and imaginative to convey an image of the work. This provides participants with all of the visually engaging elements of sculpture including critical pieces of information.

We have established valuable relationships with local schools and community groups and we actively promote the program to new audiences with disability. Each year we aim to increase accessibility and inclusion, develop the diversity of participants and manage a more efficient booking and communication system to ensure the program runs smoothly and safely for everyone involved.



Tactile Tours 2019

6 *Sculpture by the Sea* Educators together with 10 specialist AGNSW Access Guides delivered 59 Tactile Tours to 191 student participants from 10 schools, 100 participants from 12 organisations, and 66 individuals.

460 people in total participated in a Tactile Tour.
(356 participants and 104 carers/teachers/supervisors)

The age range of the participants was between 7 and 94 years old.

Photos from above: Touch Tour, *Sculpture by the Sea* Bondi 2009; Tactile Tour with AGNSW Guide and founding member of the program, Carolyn Bethwaite, and Artist Margarita Sampson *Sculpture* 2015 Photo: J Wyld
Tactile Tour *Sculpture by the Sea* Bondi 2019 Photo: Charlotte Curd



Photos: Tactile Tours at *Sculpture by the Sea Bondi* 2019 Photographer: Charlotte Curd

Celebrating the Tactile Tour program 2009-2011

A short film was created this year to document and explore the history of the program, how we prepare our staff, and the experiences of the program participants. Available for viewing on our website and e-newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/293fa453e167/donate-1166283>

Access & Inclusion Program 2019

52 out of 111 sculptures exhibited were accessible from Marks Park. Of these 52 works, 52% were deemed safe to touch by our site manager.

Tactile Tours provided:

- Free opportunities for visitors with disability and their carers to experience a unique interactive Tactile Tour with specialist staff and AGNSW Access Guides on weekdays and some evenings.
- Audio Descriptions of sculptures for visitors with a vision impairment.
- A poetic learning component was made available through a partnership with the Red Room Company for people with Alzheimer's and early onset dementia.
- Clear, friendly coordination and communication with all participants through a one-to-one booking system to ensure their safety and ease on arrival and departure from the exhibition.
- Accessible parking for participants in Marks Lane and in Tamarama Gully made possible through a partnership with Waverley Council.
- Opportunities for language development, joyful exploration, and increased self-esteem from involvement with a major public cultural event.
- An opportunity for people with disability to gain public access and for the public to be introduced to the varied and tactile ways people may enjoy and engage with sculpture.
- Free Exhibition Catalogues and Kids' Guides for participants.

Large Print Exhibition Catalogue

Loan copies were available from Information Kiosks for visitors with low vision.

Accessibility Information

- A map showing easy and moderate walking routes, distances, stairs and location of accessible toilets was designed and available on our website and at Information Kiosks.
- Descriptions of public transport directions was provided for visitors with vision impairment.

Post-exhibition Workshops with Exhibiting Artists

- An artist-residency and workshop for patients and visitors at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital with artist Barbara Licha took place during the Sydney Local Health District Region 'March Arts' event.
- Two exhibition workshops with artist Akira Kamada and students at Wairoa School took place at the school in Term 3, 2019.

'Transition to Work' Program:

Three young people from Northside Enterprises visited the Sculpture by the Sea offices and were introduced to staff and the 'behind the scenes' preparation that takes place to organise a major cultural event. They visited each week on site during the exhibition at the *Sculpture by the Sea* and prepared and presented their favorite sculpture in a 'My Perspective Tour' to a public audience.

As part of an employment scheme with Afford we have provided a six-month employment program for a previous Transition to Work participant from August 2019-February 2020.

Pre exhibition organisation

Bookings

Bookings for the Tactile Tours begin in July and are conducted by email or phone. The bookings system requires the School Education, Access & Inclusion Program Coordinator and Manager to gather as much information as possible about the groups' specific needs and requirements to ensure the smooth running and safety of participants during a Tactile Tour. A key component of this communication is developing relationships with each organisation through the bookings process which is an opportunity to address



concerns and clarify information and logistics for the day.

The Education Coordinator prepares the staff roster according to the confirmed bookings. Thanks to Waverley Council, we were able to extend the allocation of accessible parking. Parking for minibuses or smaller in the Tamarama Gully was made possible for Tactile Tour participants and when possible, parking was allocated in Marks Lane alongside Marks Park for our visitors who cannot walk without great difficulty.

Tactile Tour Team

Ten AGNSW Access Guides formed the basis of the Tactile Tour team together with experienced *Sculpture by the Sea* Educators. The Tactile Tour Coordinator was employed to manage the on-site day to day delivery of the Tactile Tours which included meeting and greeting participants and liaising with the Tactile Tour team, the Exhibition Production team, and the School Education, Access & Inclusion Program Coordinator and Manager. The Tactile Tour coordinator was also tasked with facilitating the on-site experience of the Transition to Work participants.

Publicity

Past Tactile Tour participants / organisations and schools were contacted with information about the exhibition and the Tactile Tour program and new ones were approached via email or phone and EDM. Information was also available via our website: www.sculpturebythesea.com/exhibitions/bondi/tactile-tours and via *Sculpture by the Sea* e-newsletter.

All publicity/information acknowledged funding and support from Australia Council, Waverley Council and the AGNSW Access Volunteer Guides.

Training

In August, the Education, Access & Inclusion Program Manager attended Arts Activated: Making it Happen Today 2019 at Sydney Olympic Park. The conference focus was on meaningful action that can be taken to empower and connect artists with disability with opportunity, development and career sustainability, and also to foster a creative, vibrant and inclusive arts community in which everyone can participate and thrive.



On-Site Staff Training

Education Consultant, Jo D'Antonio, facilitated an on-site team meeting that focused on inclusive learning. The team shared experiences and good practice in delivering tours to people with various disabilities including Autism spectrum.

The team were provided with Education resources and information about art works and artists prior to exhibition. Exhibition Catalogues, Kids' Guide, *Sculpture by the Sea* staff t-shirts and 'Tactile Tour Guide' badges. The day ended with an Exhibition Tour of works in Marks Park with Dr. Michael Hill, Head of Art History & Theory, National Art School, Sydney.

Photo: the access drop off and collection area on the corner of Kenneth Street and Marks Lane; *Sculpture by the Sea* Bondi 2018. Photographer: Gareth Carr; Still shot from 'Tactile Tours 2018-2019' Asaf Sultan



Risk Management

The Site Manager ascertains which sculptures are safe to touch, which can be touched with supervision and which sculptures cannot be touched. This information is available in the Kids' Guide catalogue in the form of colour coded icons and also indicated beside each sculpture on a plaque.

All staff and volunteers are made familiar with the Emergency Management Plan (EMP)

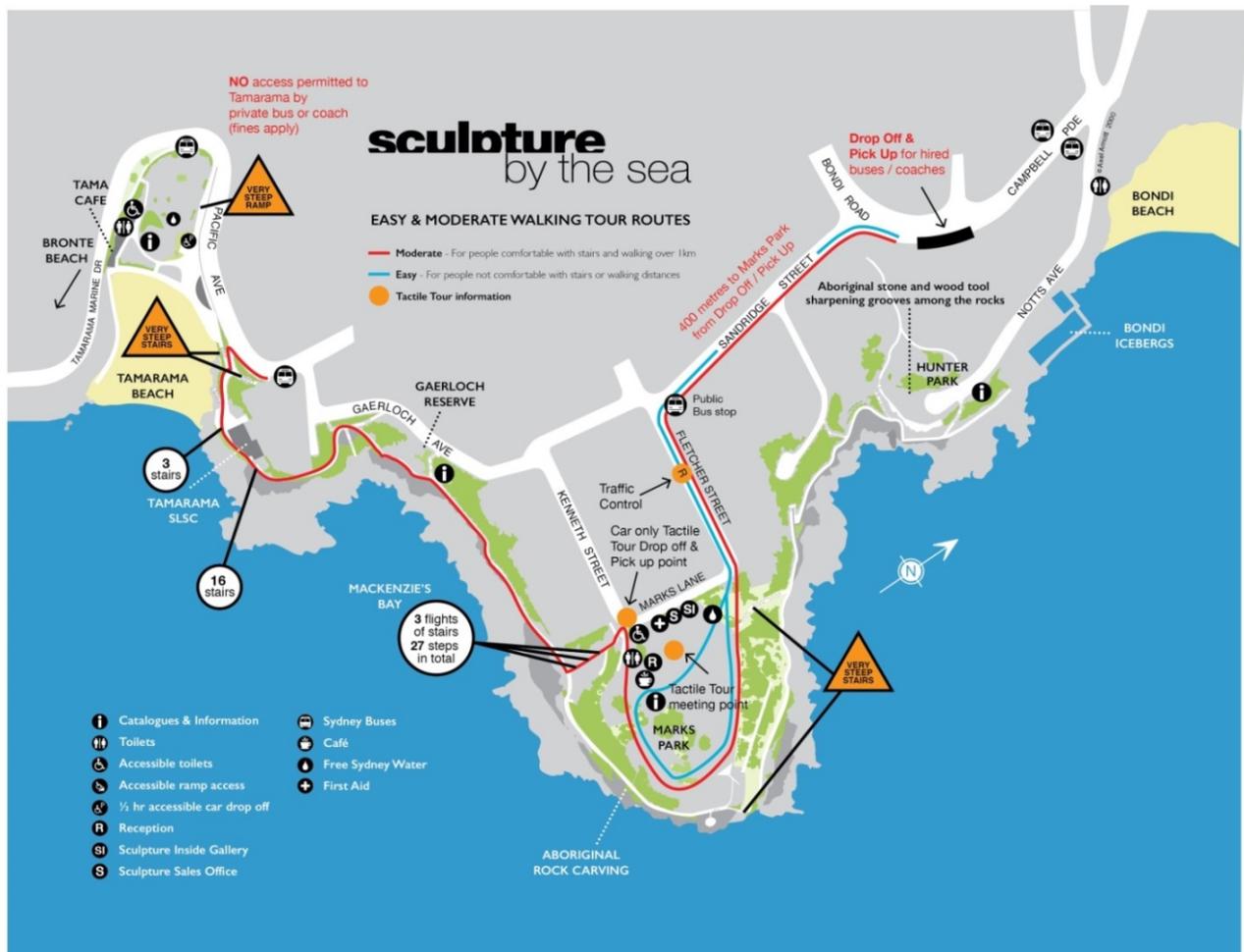
The free online Education Resources included Excursion Management and Venue Safety Information for teachers/group organisers.

NSW Working with Children Check (WWCC) details are required for all Education Staff, Education Program Artists and Volunteers working in the Education, Access & Inclusion Program. In accordance with the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian recommendations and guidelines, *Sculpture by the Sea* has a **Child-safe Child-friendly Policy**. This is presented alongside the information and handbooks distributed to Volunteers, Education Artists and Educators.

Prior to their visit to the exhibition, all schools and organisations are requested to ensure their students/clients have appropriate clothing for all weather conditions and water.

To ensure safe accessibility to Marks Park for Tactile Tour participants, transport arrangements, drop off/pick up areas and parking are clarified and confirmed prior to the exhibition. Additionally, thanks to Waverly Council, the disabled access toilets were opened daily during exhibition from 6:30am-6pm and no access key was required this year.

Sculpture by the Sea website Online Accessibility information <http://sculpturebythesea.com/bondi/accessibility-information/> includes a link to the Waverly Council map showing accessible parking places in the area and a *Sculpture by the Sea* designed map indicating easy and moderate walking routes and accessible drop off areas:



Tactile Tour with Red Room Company

In partnership with the Red Room Company, poet Mel Ree and Tactile Tour team staff facilitated a poetry workshop with residents from Yaralla House Concord Hospital who live with dementia and early onset Alzheimer's. Participants were introduced to the exhibition, viewed and engaged with sculptures in Marks Park all before working with Mel Ree.



Image shows Yaralla House residents and poet Mel Ree discussing Tetsuro Yamaski's *Circle – Door to the Future* (C-41)

Photographer: Sally Marwood Red Room Poetry

Poem Created with Yaralla House residents and poet Mel Ree in response to their experience visiting *Sculpture by the Sea Bondi*:

This feeling is very strong
Feels like the ocean
Or a pebble
Rippling through time
Past present and future
A time capsule
Rough or smooth no preference
It's all life
The weather looks pure
Cool shadows dissolving
A place to have gin and tonic
Bombay sapphire the Queen Mother's favourite
I'll play piano
(I've played for 17 years)
If the weather stays good, I'll take my shirt off
Dream on
Or
embrace everything
Is it too late?

Post-Exhibition: Working with Schools and the Community



Artist Workshops with Wairoa SSP

Exhibiting Artist, Akira Kamada, with support from *Sculpture by the Sea* Education, Access & Inclusion Program Coordinator, Ally Chuang, delivered sculpture making workshops at Wairoa School in North Bondi

The aim of the workshops at Wairoa SSP was to develop and extend the student's experience of visiting *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*. Both the Tactile Tours and the Workshops provided students with unique experiential learning opportunities designed to support their classroom learning in areas such as problem solving, exploring new materials, realising forms in three dimensions, and developing verbal and visual communication skills. As a result, teachers reported increased confidence and self-esteem amongst the students.



Students worked with the artist to explore the theme 'shake rattle and mould' exploring a huge selection of natural flora and seed pods. Two workshops over two weeks allowed students to extend their learning of creative process and materials on their own time frame. Students explored and dissected natural materials and considered shapes and sounds. They then used cards and tape to construct natural forms.

Sculpture in residence Royal Prince Alfred Hospital March Arts 2019



Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) was the recipient of Sculptor In Residence Barbara Licha's *Hospitalscape*, as part of March Arts 2019. *Sculpture by the Sea* has collaborated with Arterie @ RPA for the past two years, by sponsoring sculptors as part of its Health + The Arts program.

Established in 2018, March Arts is a celebration of The Arts in health across all Sydney Local Health District facilities. The month-long festival highlights the benefits of integrating The Arts into the design and delivery of health services and is an opportunity to showcase the wonderful range of art programs across the District including exhibitions of patient and staff artwork, live music, poetry readings, performances, classes,

workshops and guided tours with all events open to patients, visitors, staff and the broader community.

"Hospitalscape sculpture will be my expression of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, its atmosphere of the buildings and people involved in it. I wish to combine the new and old, research the inside and outside and the intensity and balance. My idea is to discover connections between spaces as well as between people in the space. I'll try to describe significant rooms, buildings, corridors and steps as a symbol of passages, as well as connections between patients, staff and visitors". Barbara Licha 2019.

Photos from above, Akira Kamada and School Education, Access & Inclusion Program Coordinator, Ally Chuang at sculpture making workshops with Wairoa SSP school students; Artist Barbara Licha at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital March Arts residency.

'Transition to Work' program



Introduction

The 'Transition to Work' program was initiated in 2017. The aim is to positively include people with disability in our organisation during and out of the exhibition period. In providing work experience and an opportunity to develop skills, we hope the program will lead to employment opportunities in our organisation or other work places. The program is also an opportunity for our staff to learn how to develop a more inclusive work environment.

The program also offers participants the opportunity to join the *Sculpture by the Sea* Volunteer Program during exhibition. This is a well-established program involving over one hundred people of all ages and abilities and is vital to the organisation of *Sculpture by the Sea* during exhibitions. The participants of the 'Transition to Work' program are also invited to prepare and deliver their own program of 'My Perspective Tours' to audiences during exhibition with support and training from our staff.

Other aims include; collaboration and team work; increased self-esteem and confidence; ownership and a sense of belonging through active participation in organising a public cultural event.

2019-2020

Three young people from Northside Enterprises visited the *Sculpture by the Sea* offices in August. They were introduced to staff and their roles in administrating a major exhibition and had a 'behind the scenes' experience.

The participants visited the Bondi exhibition each week. With support from Access & Inclusion staff they viewed and discussed a selection of sculptures in Marks Park. They were encouraged to develop personal responses to their experience of the artworks and they were supported in preparing and presenting their favorite sculpture in a 'My Perspective Tour' on site to a public audience.



Employment:

As part of an employment scheme with Afford we have provided six-month employment for Sarah as a Transition to Work Office Assistant, from August 2019-February 2020. She was a previous Transition to Work participant, so the employment outcome is considered an indication of the program's success.

Last year, Sarah felt nervous to present her favorite sculpture to an audience as a My Perspective Tour during the exhibition last year but was keen and motivated to give it another go this year. With the support of our staff, she wrote her own responses to a selection of artworks, liaised with her disability service provider, Afford, to invite a group of visitors to attend the exhibition and experience a Tactile Tour delivered by herself and one of our guides. She followed up

this visit by gathering feedback of visitor experience. Additionally, in the lead up to the exhibition, she assisted our education and exhibition production staff with administrative tasks. While on site, during the exhibition, Sarah worked with our reception office staff with tasks such as organising the staff and volunteer catering as well as data collection and data entry for numerous visitor experience surveys.

Sarah wrote in her feedback:

I enjoyed working at the exhibition. It was really great fun meeting all the volunteers and shadowing tours, to experience what would it be like working in that kind of environment. Doing my own tour was an experience, I really enjoyed building my public speaking skills and confidence in front of the audiences. All the staff are helpful and kind to me. They have all been supportive and generously been there for me since when I first started here at Sculpture by the Sea. I enjoy coming to work, and like learning new activities and being in a comfortable environment. I really appreciate coming to work. Sarah

Photo from above: participants from Northside Enterprises visiting Sculpture by the Sea offices; on-site at the exhibition enjoying the sculpture. Sarah employed as Transition to Work Office Assistant in the Sculpture by the Sea office.

Feedback from Tactile Tour participants

Via Email correspondence, online survey, conversation, and observation:



I didn't know you could go inside a sculpture. I feel so inspired...I just want to make something!

Maili, student from Beverley Hills Vision Support Team

Participants were very encouraged to share their thoughts during discussions. Staff that attended who had not attended the event in previous years were very surprised by the outstanding level of engagement of the volunteers guides educators and the poet. All of our needs as a group were met; and those that were requested were also met.

Our residents gained the experience of engaging with the community, being able to interact with the artwork, being educated about the art work and learning about the artists processes. Being listened to in discussions was also of benefit.

Yaralla House, high care residential facility of Concord Hospital



With the support of our guides and Tactile Tour coordinator, we trialed an optional art-making activity after the delivery of Tactile Tours. Participants were offered an opportunity to reflect on their experience through drawing or sculpture. Materials offered included oil-pastels and paper or play-dough, collected natural materials, and malleable coated garden wire.

The open-ended nature of this activity with little adult intervention allowed students to freely explore and play with the materials. Amongst the blind and vision-impaired students, some work was inspired by what they had experienced that day, others were inspired by interactions with classmates. Some work was representational ("My art work is of a snake looking in a mirror"), fantastical, and bizarre. All students were then allowed time to "install" their work in the ground where they were sitting and "exhibit" their work while sharing a few words about their creations with an audience of peers and teachers listening.

...it was eye opening for our students. Many of them had never experienced sculptures in a park by the sea. At one point during the tour they were inspired and encouraged to create their own small sculptures.

North Sydney Vision Support Team, Dept of Education

Photo from above: interview between Ally and Maili after their Tactile Tour, screen shot from 'Tactile Tours 2009-2019' by Asaf Sultan North Sydney Vision Support Team students' sculpture making activity after their Tactile Tour.

Participants

Schools	area	postcode	students	carers	year/age	tours
Beverly Hills Vision Support	South West Sydney	2209	11	8	primary-secondary	2
North Sydney Vision support team	Northern Suburbs	2112	24	8	primary	4
Endeavor SHS	Sydney South	2229	27	4	teens	4
Picnic Point HS	South West Sydney	2213	15	4	14-17	2
Sydney Secondary College Balmain	Inner West	2041	20	2		2
Rose Bay Secondary	Eastern Suburbs	2029	21	7	age 13-19	2
William Rose School	Western Suburbs	2147	11	8		1
Wairoa School	Eastern Suburbs	2026	15	6	primary-secondary	2
Moriah War Memorial College	Eastern Suburbs	2022	6	3	age 7-11	1
JJ Cahill Memorial HS	Sydney South	2020	40	11	yr 7-12	5
		total:	190	61		22

Organisations	area	postcode	participants	carers	year/age	tours
Afford	Western Suburbs	2560	16	2	adults 18-25	2
DARTS Your Side	North Shore	2067	12	8	young adult	3
Flintwood Disability Kingswood	Western Suburbs	2747	15	5	ages 35-60	2
Pecky's Ltd	Western Suburbs	2147	4	2	ages 40-60	1
Flintwood Disability, Pennant Hills	Hills District	2120	3	2	ages 25-45	2
Flintwood Disability, Penrith	Western Suburbs	2750	16	11	adults	3
Northside Enterprise	Northern Beaches	2100	3	1	young adult	1
Sunnyfield	Northern Beaches	2100	7	3	adults	3
Waverley Community Living	Eastern Suburbs	2022	6	1	adults	1
Windgap	Eastern Suburbs	2018	9	4	Adults	2
Yaralla House	Inner West	2046	6	3	adults	1
Randwick Waverly Community Transport	Eastern Suburbs	2026	12	2	elderly	1
		total:	100	41		20

Individuals	area	postcode	participants	carers	year/age	tours
Rachel	Eastern Suburbs		1	1	adult	1
Robert	Sydney		2		adult	1
Keith	Wollongong		1		adult	1
Coral	Inner West		6		adult	1
Susan	Western Suburbs		1	1	adult	1
James			2		adult	1
Others			53		adult	11
		total:	66	2		17

Total participants: 356

Total carers: 104

TOTAL: 460

Access & Inclusion Program Statistics

Total participants 2009-2019 = 1,095

2019 Tactile Tours: 356 + 105 carers = 460 total participants

2018 Tactile Tours: 401 plus 155 carers = 556 total participants

Individuals and Community Groups:

2019	166 participants + 43 carers
2018	128 participants + 59 carers
2017	226 participants + 77 carers
2016	197 participants + 85 carers
2015	83 participants + 21 carers
2014	40 participants + 13 carers
2013	132 participants + 25 carers
2012	70 participants
2011	18 participants
2010	29 participants
2009	6 participants

Primary and Secondary students:

2019	190 students + 61 carers
2018	273 students + 96 carers
2017	191 students + 58 carers
2016	208 students + 41 carers
2015	193 students + 44 carers
2014	146 students + 42 carers
2013	109 students + 40 carers
2012	58 students
2011	28 students



Access & Inclusion Tactile Tour Team 2019

Education, Access & Inclusion Program Manager: Petra Pattinson

Education, Access & Inclusion Program Coordinator: Ally Chuang

Tactile Tour Coordinator: Shallal Bader

Tactile Tour AGNSW Access Guides:

Pamela Blacket, Wen-Li Chen, Gillian Diamond, Anna Duggan, Catherine Muir, Edwina O'Donnell, Wendy Payne, Judi Redelman, Susan Urwin, Cilla Warre,

Tactile Tour *Sculpture by the Sea* Access & Inclusion Educators:

Tomas Cole-Nunez, Jo D'Antonio, Julius Labay, Prateek Shorey

Photo above: Tactile Tour guides taking notes during the exhibition walk through with Michael Hill, screen shot from 'Tactile Tours 2009-2019' by Asaf Sultan