



## **ARTBACK AUSTRALIA**

### **GALLERY CAFE FUNCTIONS**

#### **Media kit**

*“Our mission and the source of the Artback name is the desire for everyone, old and young alike, to have an opportunity to “get back to art.”*

#### **ARTBACK AUSTRALIA**

In 1996 a group of friends with art backgrounds – artists, illustrators and designers – got together to produce artwork at Willow Point Station in southwest New South Wales. Every year since there has been another gathering in an outback environment.

Artback Australia has now developed into art camps and art workshops for everyone. Directors, Steve and Anne Hederics continue the Artback experience by producing their own artwork and encouraging people to share an art excursion in scenic river outback bush settings. An experience anybody can enjoy and be inspired by while learning and developing art skills.

The Artback Australia gallery opened in 2009 and features regularly changing displays by a number of resident artists. The gallery, café and function venue is located on the main street of the historic Wentworth township.

The 1882 building now houses a creative and adaptable space for exhibitions and functions. The café terrace overlooks the Darling River and a wide front verandah surrounds the building. The sheltered courtyard is a great place to sit and chat with friends, or many people take pleasure in relaxing and reading the paper on the comfortable and cozy couches.

Visitors can take to the café for coffee, tea, fresh cakes, light lunches and Sunday all day breakfasts – with most of the products made from locally scouted produce, including fresh vegetables from the Wentworth school’s ‘Stephanie Alexander’ garden. The café also uses locally made fresh bread and local country-made preserves.



On the outskirts of the town, at the artists' residence, is Shearers quarters and a studio situated on the banks of the Darling River. The property, known since 1865 as Tara, is a three and a half acre olive grove and orchard. Tara is a perfect location for aspiring artists, visitors and students – to take lessons, develop skills and gain inspiration.

Tara is the home base for art retreats, camping and art classes or workshops. Art retreats and workshops offer subjects for diverse styles and mediums. Art camps have also been held at the Grampians, Port Campbell, French Island, Nap Nap Station and Silverton.

### **Artback Australia features:**

- Art camps and retreats in outback bush settings
- Located at the gateway to the outback
- Gallery and café housed in a 1882 heritage listed building
- Café terrace overlooking the Darling River
- Rainforest Alliance Certified™ coffee
- Café courtyard
- Peaceful and relaxing atmosphere
- Sunday all-day breakfast
- Locally sourced food
- Weekend music events
- Fully licensed bar
- Wi-Fi available in café
- Contemporary space with high ceilings
- Special events
- Catering for meetings
- Local products for sale
- Local market day events
- Functions venue
- Weddings
- Art studios
- Resident artists
- Paintings, drawings, textiles and wearable art for sale
- Art classes and workshops
- Textile and writing workshops in the cellar studio
- Art camps and retreats in sustainable environments
- Local knowledge
- Art teachers
- Children's art classes
- Tara art retreat
- Artist accommodation
- Tara olive grove
- Tara artist studio on the banks of the Darling river
- Camping
- Local events



## About the Directors:

### Anne – artist/writer/teacher

Anne is an artist with a rich history in writing that widens into and influences her textile work. She has a background in graphic design, photography and as a teacher in fabric enhancement techniques.

Anne uses textures and she encourages experimentation in her teaching. As a teacher, Anne believes in teaching people interested in art as a profession or for their own enjoyment. She also creates wearable garments and jewellery from natural fibres available at the Artback Australia gallery.

### Steve – artist/teacher

Steve is an experienced teacher. He taught art at a Secondary and Tertiary level for over thirty years and is an accomplished artist. As a teacher he brings together drawing and painting skills complemented with a strong knowledge of design. Steve exhibits regularly and his work is represented in public and private collections. He designed the bridge flags displayed on the bridge over the Darling River that you see as you drive into the township. Steve also created the art feature at the Wentworth Primary School.

He holds art classes at Tara art retreat and at harvest time he can be found in the olive grove. His knowledge of the Wentworth area is vast. At the Tara property he has identified over 71 species of birds. After classes, he likes the ambience of relaxing with friends, good food and wine.

**Anne and Steve** have worked in the community on many and varied projects including the East End Community House, colourful Mardi Gras floats, and Red Cliffs Players sets and costumes. Anne and Steve see “*art as a tool*” and “*art as a way of life*”. They envision continuing to educate people through art and enlighten them with the experience.

Their work is on display in the Artback gallery.

## The Artback artists (Artbackers):

Stephen Hederics

Graham Brindley

Vincent De Gouw

Anne Hederics

Myriam Kin Yee

Garry Deverson

Sally Hederics

Cathy Van Ee

Emily Flett

Tom Hederics

Andre V. Schmidt

Vanessa Flett

Heather Jean Towns

Kate Olive

Graeme Galloway

Angjelic Beyer

George Apostolidis

Brent Godkin

Trevor Flett

Fredd Briggs

Ed Fella

Mimmo Cozzolino

Geoff Cook

Lucy Bates

Nikita Burt

Chris Parks

Fysh Rutherford



## **Artback gallery building history:**

First owned by GM Perry, Land Commissioner for Albert in 1860, ownership of the building was taken over by WJ Holding in 1879. Mr. Holding was the provisional director of River Darling Navigation Company. In 1881-1882 the development of the building was of two lots including an iron shed, offices and shops. Over the years it saw, jewellers, traders and professionals as tenants. In 1920 it became Wentworth's first picture theatre – the Lyric. It continued to have businesses pass through until it was sold when Miss Holding (who had inherited it from her parents) died in 1947. The property was purchased by Mr. FW Cooke and was a butchery for many years until it closed in 2001. It was renovated in 2004. For some time it sat vacant until Anne and Steve Hederics bought it to life with Artback Australia in 2008.

Source: Wentworth Historical Society.

## **2010/11 timeline of art events with Artback:**

June 2010:	Mimmo Cozzolino and Fysh Rutherford at Tara art camp
July 2010:	Pitjinjara Culture Camp
August 2010:	Mildura Youth Group "Body Image" cartooning class
September 2010:	Cathy Van Ee at Tara art camp and Artback studio
November 2010:	Kate Olive exhibition at Artback Gallery "Go Ask Alice"
January 2011:	Summer school classes for kids
March 2011:	"How do you make that" workshop Exhibition "Because you Can Can" with the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival

## **Artback gallery and café facilities:**

- courtyard
- wine cellar
- art room/studio
- cellar studio
- toilets
- bathroom
- disabled toilet
- mezzanine with terrace
- licensed bar
- function venue
- kitchen (available to professional caterers)
- ample street parking
- private dining areas

## **About Tara property**

Tara is the home of Artback Australia and is the artists' residence as well as the base for art retreats. On the property is Shearers quarters, the focal art studio and residence all situated on the banks of the Darling River and nestled in the olive grove.



Tara is the original name of the property, which was first settled in 1865. Remnants of the original Tara buildings remain on the property and the Darling River flanks one side of the property.

Always known for its garden, Tara produces delicious olive oil, herbs, fruit and vegetables. The property is plentiful with birdlife including the recent spotting and home to 12 Apostle birds.

The property has been described as having massive river gums guarding the banks and the uninterrupted skies at night are humbling.

**Accommodation** is available with Artback Australia for art retreats in the Shearers quarters or camping style accommodation both with accessible kitchen, communal lounge and bathroom facilities.

### **Testimonials:**

*"Fantastic workshop & Moroccan lunch. Thanks Heaps."  
– Elizabeth's Hens Party*

*"So beautiful – the finishing's, the artwork, the coffee, the people. Sorry we couldn't stay longer." – Tony & Susan Hunt, Albuquerque, NM, USA*

*"Great Art." – Crafers SA*

*"Awesome night! Yummy food, friendly welcoming service and what a show. Words can't describe the originality, quirkiness, skill and talent of Blu Guru. Outstanding! Thanks to Anne, Steve and the team at Artback." – Belinda*

### **10 things to do with Artback Australia:**

1. Take a private art class at Tara with Artback resident artist Steve
2. Visit Artback Gallery to view the resident artists' work
3. Take a textile or writing class with Anne in her studio cellar
4. Have fresh coffee and a homemade country style cake in the café
5. Ask Steve about 71 species of bird life identified at the Tara property
6. Enjoy a glass of wine and light lunch on the gallery mezzanine terrace
7. Join Sunday summer afternoon live music events
8. Join monthly Friday night functions – from live Jazz to BBQs to themes
9. On Sunday head to the Artback café for an all day breakfast
10. Make a booking for the next offered art retreat camp

### **Environmental sustainability:**

Artback looks at all opportunities to maintain an environmental sustainable environment. Art retreats are held in the natural environment of the outback bush land throughout Australia with little or no change to the environment. The café recycles food waste; all food leftovers go to farm animals, which provide the produce served for the weekend breakfasts.



The café also sources and uses local farm produce whenever possible. Most of the vegetables come from the local 'Stephanie Alexander' garden at the Wentworth primary school and Artback vegetable garden. Coffee used in the café is Rainforest Alliance Certified™. The gallery and café building is designed to let in natural light. Windows on the mezzanine level let in morning sun, which warms the building in the winter. These windows have blinds that block the summer heat and, therefore the use of heating, cooling and lighting can be minimized.

In the office, Artback uses recycled paper for printing and documents. And as well as the in-house policy of turning off all equipment at the power points when not in use or when not open for business, Artback is involved in the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program and has sourced energy assessors to visit for energy assessments that has resulted in cutting the usage of electricity by one third, assisting with making an impact on the carbon footprint. Artback continues to work on creating an environmental sustainable business.

We encourage feedback and suggestions to maintain a sustainable environment.

**Artback website:**

[www.artbackaustralia.com.au](http://www.artbackaustralia.com.au)

**Artback blog:**

<http://artbackaustralia.blogspot.com/>

**Getting there:**

Wentworth is located in the southeast corner of New South Wales, near the borders of Victoria and South Australia. The town has a Latitude of 34.1°S and a Longitude of 141.9° E.

By air: The nearest commercial airport is Mildura Airport. Wentworth is located 34 km from Mildura. Flights are available through airlines including Qantaslink, REX and Virgin Australia.

**By car:**

Wentworth is –

1,039 km from Sydney – approximately 11 ½ hours driving

571 km from Melbourne, a seven-hour drive

404 km from Adelaide, a five-hour drive

**By bus:**

V-line train then bus transfer is available from Melbourne arriving to Mildura.



## [Additional accommodation in Wentworth](#)

Caravan Parks  
Hotels/Motels  
Units/Houses  
Houseboats  
Homestays and Bed & Breakfast

### **Local weather:**

Wentworth average climate temperatures:

Winter (June-Aug): 17C / 62F

Spring (Sep-Nov): 24C / 76F

Summer (Dec-Feb): 32C / 90F

Autumn (Mar-May): 24C / 76F

### **About Wentworth and local culture:**

Population: 1500

Distance from Mildura: 34 km

The oldest town in the Sunraysia district

Visit Wentworth to see the confluence where the Darling and Murray rivers meet, board an old riverboat, take a drive or walk tour around the town, and explore the historic Wentworth Courthouse, Old Gaol and St John's Anglican Church (all National Trust-classified). Wentworth has a strong community spirit, well-preserved historic buildings, green and leafy streetscapes, and a village atmosphere.

Things to do in Wentworth:

- Visit Murray and Darling River Junction Park
- Board the restored paddle steamer P.S. Ruby
- Explore the Old Wentworth Gaol
- Discover local history at the Pioneer World Museum
- Wander through the historic cemetery and historic buildings
- See the 'Fergie' Tractor Monument
- Explore the Junction Island Nature Reserve and Thegoa Lagoon Reserve
- Drive to the remarkable Perry Sandhills  
(6 kilometres from the Wentworth post office)

History:

Once the busiest inland port in New South Wales, Wentworth was one of the locations considered for the Australian capital at the time of Federation (1901). With the arrival of the river steamers in 1853, the small settlement made an ideal administrative and commercial centre for the untapped wealth of the vast outback. Throughout the prosperous river-trade days, the area enjoyed the good times of huge wool clips, but also suffered floods, droughts, and rabbit plagues and overstocking, yet the settlements continued to thrive and grow at a rapid pace. By 1929, a series of locks and weirs to help navigation and pumping had been completed on the Murray River.



## **Wentworth Visitor Information Centre**

66 Darling Street  
Wentworth NSW 2648  
Phone: 0350 273 624  
Fax: 03 5027 2403  
Email: [tourism@wentworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@wentworth.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au)

### Facilities in Wentworth:

Banks - Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank  
ATM  
Supermarket  
Fuel  
Accommodation  
Visitor Information Centre  
Police  
Public library  
Taxis  
Outlets for fishing tackle and licenses

For more: [Visit NSW](#)



### **Artback Australia contact:**

Anne Hederics  
Director **Artist** Teacher  
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Gallery/café/studio: 6-8 Adelaide Street, Wentworth, NSW, 2648  
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Postal address: PO Box 408, Wentworth, NSW, 2648  
Website: [www.artbackaustralia.com.au](http://www.artbackaustralia.com.au)  
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\*Artback Australia images available on request

