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Waikerie silos artists announced!

Two prominent artists have been named to undertake Waikerie's \$150,000 silo mural painting project, which will reflect the theme "Healthy River, Healthy Community".

They are Garry Duncan, a world-renowned professional artist who has spent many decades living and painting in South Australia's Riverland area; and Jimmy Dvate, a Melbourne-based artist and graphic designer whose position in the street art scene is well established and admired on walls, canvas and in magazines both locally and internationally.

Garry Duncan is already well represented in regional South Australia with large-scale works including the 640-metre long mural on the Hindmarsh Island Bridge and the Ngurunderi Dreaming Mural on the Berri Bridge. The environment and the intrinsic designs found within nature, particularly water and light, have always been of great concern to him and represent a dominant focus of his art work. He is a prolific painter of the River Murray and its flora and fauna.

Growing up in Melbourne a stone's throw from a railway station, Jimmy Dvate was instantly drawn to the colourful work along the suburban railway lines. Jimmy's incredible talent is displayed through his incorporation of intense street compositions, amazingly realistic imagery and masterful graphic designs.

Silo art at Coonalpyn, Kimba and Tumby Bay in SA have generated tourism booms in those towns and it is anticipated that the Waikerie silo art will have a similar effect; the mural will also be unique in that the entire silos will be painted, giving different perspectives from the river and town sides.

Local community artist Liz Frankel has worked with project partners Nature Foundation SA, the SA Government, Viterra and others in securing the financing and managing the project. Wills & Co Mitre 10 in Waikerie and Taubmans Paints are also supporting the project.

"It is so exciting how the local community recognises the potential value of the project for Waikerie, and is generously coming on board to support it," said Ms Frankel. "We can confirm that the Waikerie Hotel is going to be a major sponsor and will provide accommodation for the artists, which is just wonderful news."

"The selection panel faced a difficult task in selecting the artists for this project but we are delighted with the outcome.

"Both are hugely talented with a wealth of experience and between them they will bring differing and fascinating interpretations of the river and its value to the community. I really feel that the Waikerie silo art project will result in something very special. It will undoubtedly attract tourists but it will also unite the local community and boost civic pride. It will be a focal point for the entire region with wide flow-on benefits," Ms Frankel said.

Nature Foundation CEO Hugo Hopton commented, 'Our Water For Nature program aims to educate people about the river and environmental watering, and gain commitment to sustaining the river's health. The mural will reinforce these aims and provide a beautiful interpretation of what river health means for the community'.

Victoria has a Silo Art Trail and as more South Australian communities establish silo art, there is a strong move to establish something similar here.

Juddy Roller, Australia's leading street art network, assisted with the selection process in conjunction with the Waikerie Silo Art Mural Working Group, and will continue to aid with the management of the artists throughout the project. The mural is funded by a grant provided by the Government of South Australia.

Work on the Waikerie silo art project is expected to begin in mid-October 2018, and be completed by the beginning of December 2018.

About Nature Foundation SA:

Over the past 37 years Nature Foundation SA has invested in conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes to ensure nature survives and thrives in our magnificent state. We do this by:

- restoring unique habitats and revitalising damaged ecosystems
- saving threatened species
- revitalising wetlands and floodplains along the River Murray with environmental watering
- working with local communities
- funding conservation research projects
- encouraging environmental education and citizen science
- nature-based tourism and geotourism on our Nature Reserves

Fast facts:

- Nature Foundation SA has helped protect over 1.1 million hectares of South Australia and is currently working on protecting the next 1.1 million!
- Over 400 post-graduate student grants awarded by Nature Foundation SA continue to yield amazing work and attract wonderful, bright minds to nature science
- Our Water For Nature Program has delivered more than 11gigalitres of environmental water to help revitalise 80 River Murray wetland and floodplain sites
- Nature Foundation SA manages six Nature Reserves with significant conservation value. This land protects threatened species, builds wildlife corridors and provides a base from which scientific studies can be undertaken.
- Hiltaba Nature Reserve was purchased in 2012. Adjoining the Gawler Ranges, the unique geological formations of this 78,000-hectare property are home to species such as the isolated western-most colony of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, the Slender-billed Thornbill and Desert Green-hood Orchid.

For media information, high-res images or to arrange an interview, contact:

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<https://naturefoundation.org.au/>

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