

# NewsLetter from the Island #4

Creative Occupation - South Channel Fort Island 2020-2021

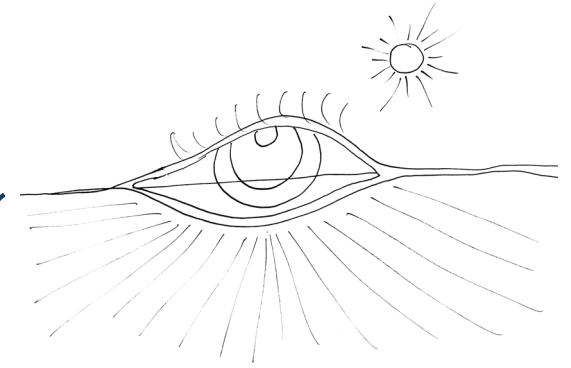
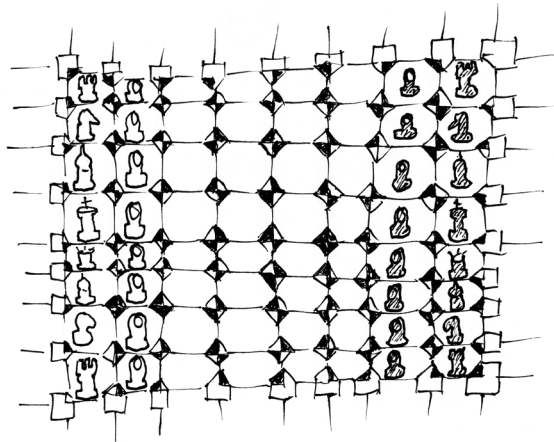
## Return to the Island

'New games'

with Michael

Journey 16/12/2020

SOP Chess setting  
and playing on the  
ground and in water



In the middle of  
water and skies...

Journey 17/04/2021

with Annie and Peter

Camera Obscura setup  
and viewing at the  
Observation Post

Dear Friend

14/05/2021

Welcome to the fourth NewsLetter from the Island. Last year, the Covid era influenced Creative Occupation journeys to the Island and they took different and unexpected forms. Those journeys were pictured in the previous two issues while the first issue captured a few visits just before the Covid wave escalated in Australia.

This NewsLetter is the 'return' to the Island in the post-Covid era: there are two more trips I would like to tell about in the final issue of the NewsLetter.

What kind of events occurred in these trips? Concrete chess by artist Michael Morgan was laid out for a short time as well as played resonating earlier games on the Island. A test of camera obscura at the top of the Island, as shown by artist Annie Wilson, captured the image of the sky, horizon, and birds through light reflecting inside it...

In the journeys since 2020, we found a new Island every time depending on what we 'brought' and what we 'received' from it on arrival. But we knew the Island better, and it was familiar as a friend.

Thank You for joining on board and/or following the journeys to the Island through this NewsLetter. Finally, I am pleased to invite you to the exhibition 'Unseen' by Creative Occupation to be held at Deakin Waterfront in July 2021 (information enclosed in the end). It concludes the project's course since 2018! Importantly, save the date - 24 July for Thank You event.

I hope to meet you there!

Marita Batna

Curator of Creative Occupation &  
PhD Student

Creative Occupation contributes to artistic research related to curatorial practice



Above from right: Annie Wilson, Peter Hearne, Marita Batna.  
Below from left: fellow visitors and Michael Morgan.

[16/12/2020 Journey](#) involves Michael and Marita meeting two jetskiers who kindly accept the invitation to play the SOP Chess (produced by Michael) on the Island. Thank you!

[17/04/2021 Journey](#) has Michael, Marita, and guests: artist, researcher, and educator Anne Scott Wilson (Annie Wilson) and singer-songwriter Peter Hearne. On the Island, we follow Annie's expert knowledge of camera obscura setup.

One day in December (16/12/2020) the Island sees the unfolding of Michael's SOP Chess. The pieces are constructed of rubble-sand concrete aggregate to reflect the Island's architecture.

*The chess pieces bring the next series of 'future artifacts' in the 'Standing Operating Procedure' (SOP) chapter of the Civilization's Entropy opus.*

The set is laid out on the sand amongst vigorous weeds, where the ensemble develops a strange likeness with the screeching birds and the rough walls.

In good timing, two jetskiers approach from the jetty. We have a lovely chat and invite them to play. Accepted! Relaxed and intrigued they embrace this unexpected activity on their Island stop.

The next task is to have the chess underwater for a taste of a match intended in the future. It's a heavy job to lift the pieces in and out of the water. The weather turns from idyllic to dynamic. We reflect: great art requires pushing physical and mental limits!

The Island has seen us play before and says: 'New games.'





- Earlier games with artists on the Island -  
Creative Occupation on South Channel Fort Island, stock  
image from 2018. Foto: Lance Youston

Michael Morgan's Underwater  
SOP Chess Match Trailer, 2021



<https://youtu.be/evgUZ1849vs>



17/04/2021. Our path leads up and up again to the 'battery observation post'. The Island is like an eye: it is meant to observe, but today we have a special way in mind for viewing our surroundings...

Camera Obscura reflects the light magically capturing an image of the outside world through a pinhole within a dark concealed space. Thanks to Annie and Michael a setup is quickly made from a few materials and the magic is created. Blue sky, horizon, and silhouettes of birds can be seen through focused immersion. The experiment enlightens a potential and Annie sketches a vision for this special place where the horizon line and the canopy of the sky with birds can be mirrored within the camera.

The day is settling into a calm stillness. The gun emplacement rotunda on the edge of the Island hosts our picnic with sweet coffee. There are dark tunnels and spaces on the Island but today its space feels filled with light and open towards the sky. Our uplifted and wondrous feeling continues as we fly across the mirror-still water back to Queenscliff.



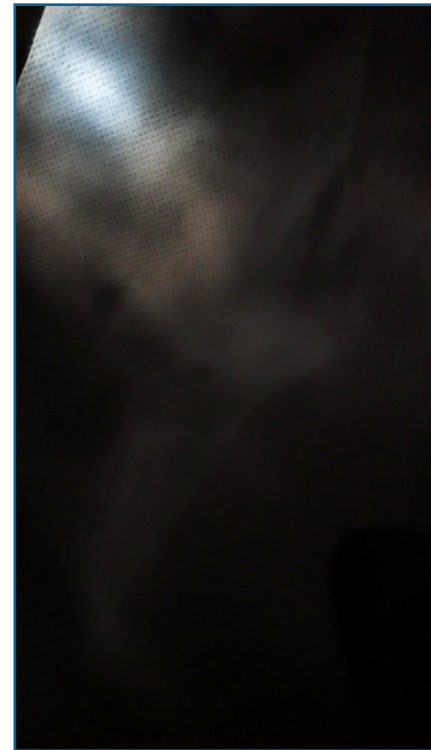
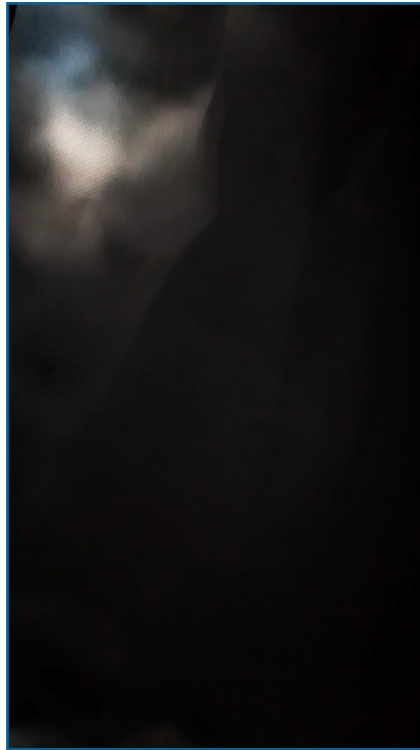


## BATTERY OBSERVATION POST

This small building located at the highest point of the island was added to improve range finding and fire control positions. It contains a plinth for a range finder and the original roof was unfortified, made of corrugated iron which sat on light timber rafters.

*Constructed around 1905*

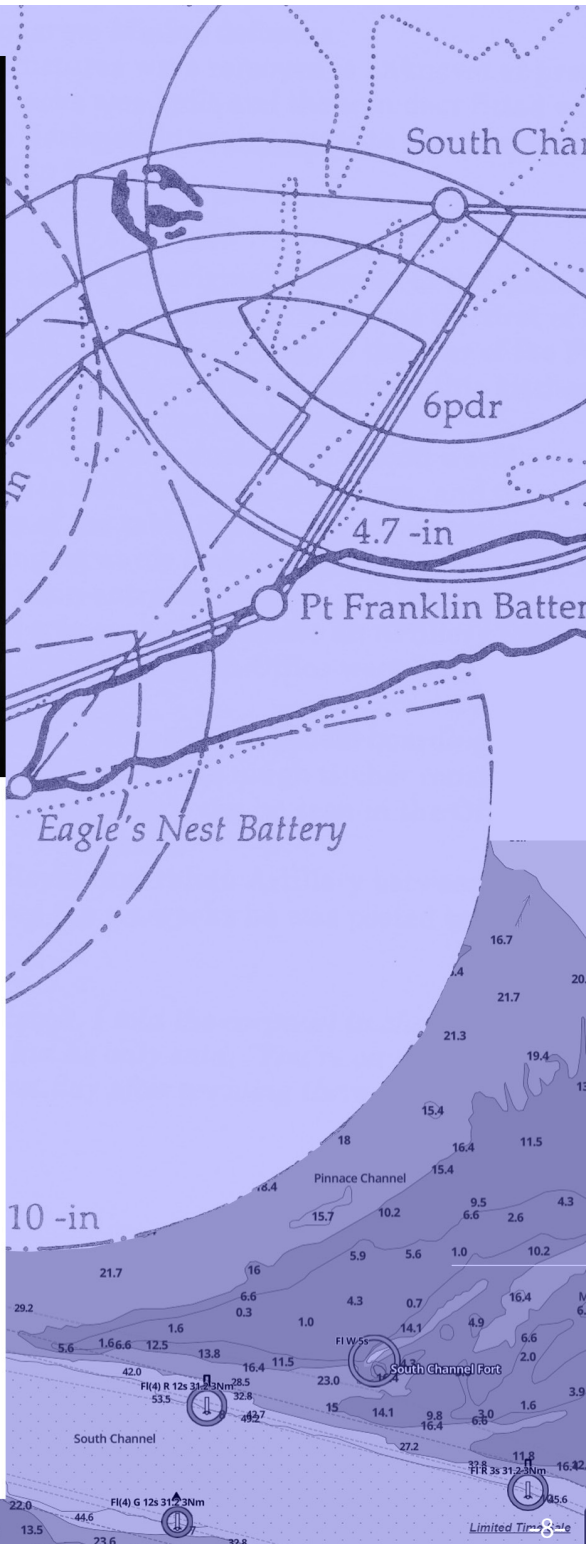




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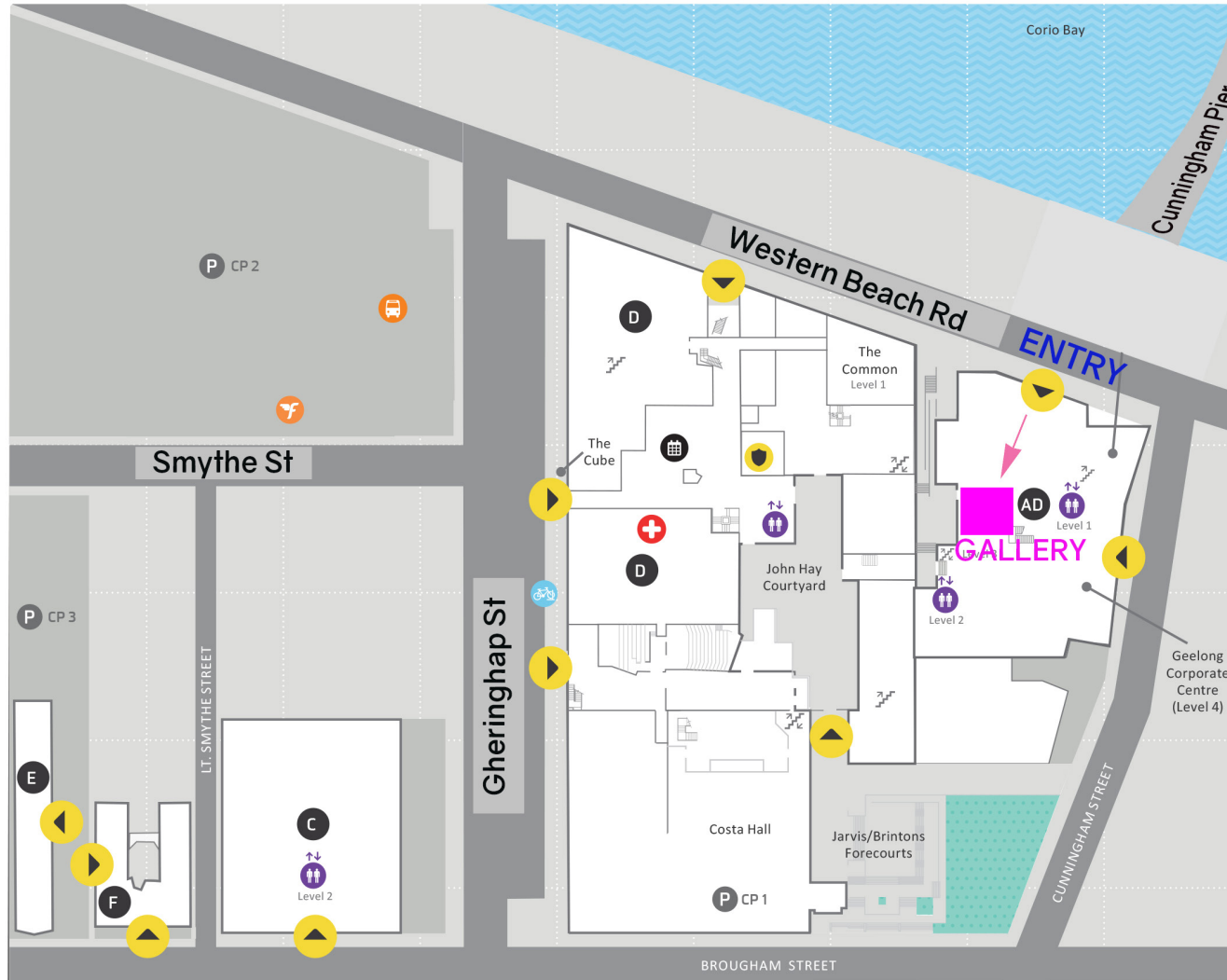


Please be invited to  
**UNSEEN**  
 by Creative Occupation  
 2-30 July 2021  
 Exhibition at Deakin Geelong Waterfront - Sally Walker Building  
 Mon-Fri 11am-4pm + Sat 24 July 10am-1pm  
 Thank You Drinks: 24 July 1pm-4pm (RSVP for time slot 21 July)  
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 The small, little-known, and isolated Island of South Channel Fort was uncovered creatively through Creative Occupation in 2018, but after that, it also allowed us to perform new 'visibilities' (ideas, experiences, meanings) through the creative process.  
 This leads to 'performing' the Island's 'man-made' narrative based on its colonial roots as well as its new imagination - aligned with the present and future.  
 Join this process, see the 'unseen' Island!  
 Curated by Marita Batna. Staging of artists' work 2019-2021.

Collage images:  
 Google maps,  
 fishing-marine online charts  
 Port Phillip Bay,  
 'Arcs of Fire, 1892' from Michael Kitson's  
 Port Phillip Defences -  
 South Channel Fort (1988).  
 Art image:  
 Michael Morgan,  
 Civilization's Entropy -  
 Life Support II, 2021.



# Exhibition Venue MAP



Map: Deakin Geelong Waterfront, Deakin University

**Official address:**  
1 Gheringhap St, Geelong  
(Deakin Waterfront Campus)

**Entry:**  
Western Beach Rd /Waterfront:  
**Sally Walker Building (AD)**  
opposite Cunningham Pier  
Note: not The Project Space

**Gallery:**  
Alfred Deakin Library's  
Exhibition Gallery on ground floor

**Suggested parking:**  
a) Smythe St (1-2h free)  
b) Cunningham Pier (meter)  
c) Gheringhap St along Deakin (meter)