

MEDIA RELEASE

City's forgotten estuary rediscovered at Museum of Brisbane

Museum of Brisbane will explore Queensland's most urbanised catchment with an evocative collection of short films in its new exhibition, *Navigating Norman Creek*, opening on 19 June.

The intimate series invites visitors on a journey along Norman Creek, one of Brisbane's hidden sanctuaries, which neighbours almost 100,000 residents.

Once an aquatic playground and hub for the boat-building industry, today, the waterway is challenged by flood, pollution and urban development, but is slowly being revitalised by the community.

Since 2011, filmmaker, historian and creekside resident Trish FitzSimons has captured life in the catchment, from the people living in timber boats and longstanding residents through to charting its changing history and cherished childhood memories of playing on its muddy banks.

Museum of Brisbane Director Peter Denham said the exhibition looked at the creek from a contemporary community perspective.

"*Navigating Norman Creek* is a view of the natural environment and community surrounding the tributary, with its personal stories and focus on its environmental importance complementing our other current exhibition, *The River*," Mr Denham said.

"The six films form a beautiful, emotive series that will connect viewers with the characters that live on and around the Creek, as well as revealing the natural beauty still to be found in this secret urban haven.

"Many Brisbane residents have had the experience of playing at their local creek during childhood, so the exhibition is sure to evoke some wonderful memories. We also hope the exhibition encourages people to go out and learn more about their local waterways."

The exhibition builds on work undertaken by Trish FitzSimons originally funded by a Community History Grant from Brisbane City Council.

Navigating Norman Creek will run until 11 October 2015. For more information visit museumofbrisbane.com.au.

William Bustard: Painting with light, an exhibition paying tribute to the prolific artist and one of the pioneers of Queensland's art scene, will also open on 19 June.

Museum of Brisbane is open daily from 10am to 5pm, on level three of Brisbane City Hall - entry is free.

Events

A program of events will accompany the exhibition, including curator talks, workshops, and panel discussions.

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