

**Leisa Riggs**  
**"Kids in Catchments"**  
Email: leisa@communityrites.com

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Leisa Riggs**

#### **Ongoing**

Leisa conducts workshops in shadow and large performance puppetry, lanterns, craft and instrument making in various Schools, Libraries and for Community groups, festivals and events. She writes environmental education books and material for various groups, tailored to deal with local issues. Leisa also designs sets for corporate trade shows and paints murals & backdrops for stage shows.

#### **2003 Splash! Artistic team member (visual arts)**

**2003 Gone Froggin'** Street theatre troupe (duo). Costumed endangered Cascade Tree Frogs spreading the environmental message through performance. Performed at Woodford Folk Festival 2002/2003, Noosa Regional Gallery, Education and Social Action conference Sydney, 2002. Yagubi multicultural festival, National Science Teachers conference,

**October 2002** Artistic team for Splash! Representing the Noosa River. Including shadow puppet performance with special needs students from Noosaville State School and the construction of "The Ship of Forgiveness" procession piece, which was then lit and floated on the Maroochy River.

**June 2002 - Ongoing employment Stormwater Education Officer** Noosa Council for the Noosa Estuary Stormwater Quality Improvement Project. Encompassing education to Businesses, Schools and visitors. Developing a "Code of Best Practice" manual for businesses, surveys of businesses, research and monitoring litter and behaviour, and water monitoring.

**June 2002** 2 weeks private tuition in Vietnamese Water Puppetry. Funded by Noosa RADF and Arts Council quick response grants.

**May 2002** A 4 week residency Burnside High. The "Big Beasties" sculpture project with year 8 students.

**April 2002** Environmental education program for Caloundra schools and Community groups. Funded by Eco Ed.

**March 2002** Member of the artistic team and community workshops for Splash! celebration Oct 2002. Commission sculpture piece 'The Ship of Forgiveness'.

**Dec 2001** The Kid's Ship Building project for the Noosa Regional Gallery. The construction, over two weeks, of an 18 metre fantasy ship. The subsequent burning was the final event for Centenary of Federation celebrations. Closed by Peter Beattie. Other Artists Tamara Kirby and Ali Bates. Funded Noosa Council and Festivals Australia.

**Nov 2001** Commission construction of 2 metre Brahminy Kite sculpture, 2 mangrove propagule costumes and mangrove tree costume. Funded by Coast Care and RADF.

**Oct 2001** Gympie Gold Rush. 3 weeks construction of large performance puppets for street procession. Facilitate community workshop making 220 lanterns. Culminating in an evening performance including 260 community performers, supported by professional musicians, puppeteers and a fire twirler. Funded Festivals Australia.

**Sept 2001** Construction of 2.5 metre Green Tree Frog performance puppet as the mascot for the Buderim Street Parade and Party. Artist in residence at Lindsey Gardens Retirement Village. Funded by Maroochy RADF.

**Sept 2001** Set design and construction for the main stage "Greatest Earth on Show" expo, Nambour.

**Aug 2001** "Fantasy Ship" maquette built on site at the AMP expo for Noosa Regional Gallery as promotion for the Kid's Ship Building Project Dec 2001.

**August 2001** Mural commission Noosa Library. 9m x 3m landscape of the Noosa River. Co-funded by RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund) and Noosa Library.

**July 2001** 3.5 metre performance platypus puppet. Commissioned by Petrie Ck Catchment Care Group. Funded by the Westpac Bank

**June 2001** Commission construction of Mary River Cod and habitat diorama for the Mary River Cod Community Network. Funded by NHT (Natural Heritage Trust)

**Nov 2000-Feb 2001** Director of the "Humpback Symphony" Fire Event Yag'ubi  
Multicultural Festival, Hervey Bay.

Encompassing coordination and facilitation of community workshops in lantern and large puppet making (the construction of a 5 and a 3.5 metre Humpback Whale lantern/puppet), choreography, media, budgeting, programming. Culminating in a 45 minute performance by 32 community members backed by professional musicians and the local Choir.

**May 2001** Facilitator Shadow puppet workshops PAKTI conference, Sunshine Coast University.

**May 2001** Facilitator "Catchment Care Activity" Science Teachers Assoc Qld. Biodiversity Conference, Sunshine Coast University.

### **Dec1999-May 2001**

Project officer for the "Mary River Cod Community Network," a Natural Heritage Trust funded project hosted by Barung Landcare.

This project encouraged students to be involved in their community through the arts (including performances at the Gympie Gold Rush procession, the "Splash Celebration of the Waterways" and various school fetes and events.)

Other components to this project include "Adopt A Riverbank" where students and landholders work together to improve riparian vegetation. They also participate in In-schools activities such as "The Mary River Cod Great Word Search" and the "Catchment Care Activity" developed by Leisa specifically for this project.

The Great Word Search is an Educational Activity book, co-written by Leisa Riggs and Sandra Griffith of the QLD Biodiversity network. 3000 copies have been produced.

**June 2000**

Commission (QLD Biodiversity Network) for the construction of a two 3 metre sculptures (Fleay's Frog and Ground Parrot) to raise awareness of some of the Sunshine Coast's endangered species. Exhibited at Noosa Regional Gallery, Noosa Library, & State Landcare Conference 2000.

**Jan-Oct 2000**

Member of the Artistic team for the creation of "SPLASH" A celebration of Communities and Waterways.

Facilitator of 4 In-schools and community workshops (from Gympie to Buderim) in large puppet making, choreography and performance skills. Including 2 human puppet frogs, a 10-metre "procession dragon" type Red Bellied Black snake, many huge insects and a 5 metre Mary River Cod.

**Nov 1999**

Artist in residence "The Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival" CERES, Brunswick, Melbourne. Working with the Indigenous and larger community in the Creation of "The Mindi" (a legendary Aboriginal Law keeper in the form of a performance puppet.) for the closing ceremony. Funded by RADF.

**May 1999**

Community workshops, "The Guranasaurus" a large performance puppet for the Cooran Festival Fire Event.

**May 1999**

Three-week tour of remote Far Western Qld schools conducting Shadow Puppet making and performance workshops. Funded by Priority Country Areas Program.

**Pre 1999**

**1997** Key Note Speaker (for Noosa Shire) S.E.Qld Cultural Summit, Brisbane.

**1997** Recipient-Australia Day Award. Community Events Noosa.

**95-97** Director "Cooroy Street Festival" encompassing funding & sponsorship, media, programming, workshops, coordinating volunteers & community liaison.

**1997** Foundation member of the "Gumnut Creek Puppet Theatre." Performing various venues on the Sunshine Coast.

**1996** Stage management "Out of the Box" Children's Fest, Brisbane.

**1995** Bridge crew and Musician " The Big Marimba" project. Brisbane Biennial. 10 days on the Victoria Bridge. Set up/break down, daily supervision and playing music to and with the citizens of Brisbane.

**Pre 1995 Maleny Folk Festival** workshops, design entrances, banners, murals etc.