

Engaging rural and remote schools through the Snapshots project



snapshots of
remote
communities

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What is *Snapshots of Remote Communities*?

- Initiated by the National Museum of Australia in 2003, Snapshots of Remote Communities is a partnership venture between:
 - **National Museum of Australia**
 - **Regional museums and galleries**
 - **Regional and remote primary schools**
- Students **document their communities** through photographs.
- Photographs are exhibited at a **school exhibition**, **collaborative exhibition** at the local museum or gallery, and an **online exhibition** – Snapshots website.

Main Aims and Objectives

- To explore and depict the **diversity of Australian cultures** and **identities** through investigating the history and uniqueness of their local community.
- To **share and support the voices, photographs and stories** of young people through exhibitions.
- To **build relationships** between schools and local museums and the National Museum of Australia.

History of Project

- Initiated and managed by the National Museum of Australia Education, the Snapshots project began in 2003.
- Each year a **new remote region** in Australia is selected and applications are sought from schools in the region.
 - 2003/04 **New South Wales** and **Tasmania**
 - 2005/06 **Northern Territory**
 - 2007 **Victoria**
 - 2008 **South Australia**
 - 2009 **Queensland**
 - 2010 **Western Australia**

National Museum role

- **financially support, mentor and celebrate** with students and teachers throughout the project, eventually **providing a national forum** for their stories and photographs on the museum's website.
- draw cultural institutions in the states and territories **into partnerships**.
- provides a **flexible curriculum based unit of work** for teachers.

Partner Institution role

- The aim of the partnership is to develop lasting relationships with educators in museums and galleries across Australia.
- Involves a **transfer of knowledge** and **skills** in meeting the needs and expectations of regional primary schools around Australia.
- Partner institutions provide **significant local expertise** in the selection of schools, negotiating agreements, and visiting communities.
- Fostering greater, sustainable relationships between partner institutions and local schools.

Some Partner Institutions



Remote School role

- The project provides a platform to represent and support young peoples' voices at the National Museum in **actively shaping knowledge** and **representations** of Australian communities.
- Students select and photograph parts of their community: local characters and home life, natural features or historical landmarks, and daily life in a rural community.
- The project has links **across the curriculum** including social studies, visual arts, media and technology, and civics and citizenship.
- The project encourages **links between schools** and **productive ongoing partnerships** with cultural institutions.

Schools and their Communities

- Eungella State School, Queensland, recorded oral histories, photographs, and digital films as part of a **'Step Back in Time'** event.
- Kondinin Primary School, Western Australia, are displaying their exhibition in conjunction with the town celebrating its **Centenary in 2010**.
- Tambellup Primary School, Western Australia, are expanding their 2009 oral history project **'Stories of the People of Tambellup'**.

Outcomes: School Exhibition

- **Students create an exhibition** about, and for, their community.
- Students become curators, exhibition designers, publicity officers, marketing and sponsorship officers and public programs staff.
- The exhibitions are **thoughtful** and **inspiring celebrations** of the students' work and communities.
- Community exhibitions are well attended by families and community members.





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The Mt Allan/Yuelamu Aboriginal Community is 280 kilometres north west of Alice Springs. Mt Allan/Yuelamu is a small community of 300 people on the edge of the Tanami Desert.



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Outcomes: Regional Museum Exhibition

- Schools contribute to a collaborative, regional exhibition showcasing the Snapshots project.
- This provides an opportunity for a **wider audience** to experience and engage with the students' voices.
- Partner institutions have appreciated this opportunity to interact with students and schools in their communities in creating a combined exhibition.







Outcome: Snapshots Website

- Students choose 40 photos to represent their community in an online exhibition, the Snapshots website.
- Photographs from previous years are exhibited online at the *Snapshots of Remote Communities* website at www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/community/snapshots/snapshots. Students can use the website in subsequent years and for documenting their community.

snapshots of remote communities

NMA Homepage > Education > Snapshots

Snapshots of Remote Communities celebrates the uniqueness and diversity of Australian communities, drawing on photographs created by primary school students.

Featured schools

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[Oakenden, QLD](#)



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Teacher's Reflection

“I thoroughly enjoyed the program - it was a challenge for me but I learnt a lot and enjoyed it. The students got a lot out of it and really enjoyed things; it reinforced their knowledge of the local community”.

Teacher Michael Cacciola from Oakenden State School,
Queensland

Student's Reflection

“We learned that we have so many beautiful things in our community that we didn't know about before...cities forget about the little places and think we just don't matter but this [exhibition] shows we're just as important as them.”

Chelsea, aged 11, a Year 6 student from Tasmania





