

Friday, 8 April 2016

**Bunbury artist wants to take a dip in your pool**

Bunbury Regional Art Galleries is calling out for local pool owners to get in touch for an upcoming exhibition about Bunbury's aquatic lifestyle.

Volunteers can expect a visit from artist Mark Parfitt, who plans to jump in their pool in the name of art. He is hoping to meet Bunbury pool-owners to interview them, take some photographs and then swim a few laps.

Parfitt will then create drawings and paintings based on these experiences for the exhibition, to be held at BRAG in May.

Formerly a local lad Parfitt is now a Perth-based artist and lecturer at Curtin University's School of Art and Design. His work aestheticizes everyday experiences in an attempt to understand the contemporary suburban condition.

His past projects include building a bore in his backyard (*Dream Bore, Fremantle Arts Centre, 2010*) and outsourcing care of his front lawn to a series of lawn sitters (*Carlisle Buffalo, John Curtin Gallery, 2008*).

The group exhibition *So Long and Thanks for all the Fish* will be at Bunbury Regional between 14 May and 4 July 2016. This exhibition looks at Bunbury's identity from afar, inviting six contemporary artists who have a strong connection to the place but have in recent years had some distance from which to consider the town.

Taking dolphins as a departure point, the exhibition takes an interest in unusual cultural artefacts and icons that perhaps exist outside of historical accuracy. It encourages an investigation of place through the lens of mythology, popular culture, nostalgia and the absurd.

Other works include a meditation on Bunbury's nautical markers, paintings and sculpture of significant landmarks, and an instructional video on homing pigeon care.

The exhibition will open on Friday 13 May at 6pm.

BRAG is open daily, 10am to 4pm.

**ENDS**