

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery

# Afternoon Art Club at Home

## The Big Merino



Goulburn Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW government through Create NSW

# About Afternoon Art Club at Home

The Afternoon Art Club at Home has been developed to support all of our art clubbers during the COVID-19 closures. It is prepared by Janet Gordon, Outreach Officer. Gordon has a Bachelor of Teaching (birth to 5yrs) and a Diploma in Children's Services (Centre based care), with 20 years experience in early childhood education. Gordon has several years experience in relief-teaching the afternoon art club at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery.

This Afternoon Art Club at Home explores The Big Merino.

The Big Merino is documented as the 'World's Biggest Merino'. There are other BIG sheep in Australia - the Big Ram in Queensland and The Giant Ram in Western Australia but neither measure up to our Rambo. We love him.

## What is The Big Merino?

The Big Merino is a large scale sculpture, made from a metal frame, covered in shaped wire mesh that has been detailed with sprayed reinforced concrete. He stands 15.2 metres tall and weighed 97 tonnes when originally built in 1985, with a gift shop for a belly. In 2007 he went for a little drive. He was carefully loaded on to a low-loader truck and slowly moved 800 metres up the road to where he stands today. He needed 3 extra legs added and a



Big Merino photo taken at it's original location in 2003



Big Merino photo taken at it's new location in 2015

belly, which added 3 tonnes to his original weight.

The Big Merino was built to celebrate Australia's fine wool industry and is a life-like model of a stud Ram from a local property 'Bullamallita'. That is where he gets his nickname RAMBO from, his life-like model.

## Explore the Paintings

Many artists have created art works based on the Big Merino.

Here are two works that are in Goulburn Regional Art Galleries permanent collection.

One is an oil painting on flattened beer cans and the other is an enamel painting on wood.

Write or draw your ideas

**Do you think the artists painted from memory or a photography?**



Waratah Lahy, *Big Merino*, 2003 oil painting on flattened beer cans

**Why do you think people like to paint The Big Merino?**



Jasper Knight, *Big Merino*, 2011, enamel on wood

## Thinking . . .

Express your ideas and thoughts in creative ways . . . Write or draw

**Think about the texture of The Big Merino compared to a real Merino sheep**

Is it the same? Is one soft? Is one hard? Lumpy? Oily?

### What do you think sheep see?

Draw what you would like to see if you were a sheep



Katthy Cavaliere, *Gaze of the masked philosopher*



If you want to read more about The Big merino,  
visit [The Big Merino website](#)

## **Create . . .**

Create a textured art piece based on the Big Merino . . .

. . . . maybe scrunched up foil or paper sculpture, cotton ball or wool collage, a sand painting . . . .

**Take some time to sketch your ideas and a plan here first**

We'd love to see your completed artworks. You can email a photograph to [artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au) or tag us on Instagram or Facebook