

# LIVING STORIES

La Perouse Museum

an exhibition by La Perouse  
Aboriginal artist **Craig Shepherd**

28 October 2022 – 5 March 2023



**Craig Shepherd**  
*1960s Beach Time At La Perouse, 2022 (detail)*





Randwick City Council  
and La Perouse Museum  
acknowledge the Bidjigal  
people who occupied the  
Sydney Coast as the Traditional  
Custodians of the area on which  
the Museum stands and serves.  
We acknowledge and pay our  
respects to the Elders past,  
present, and emerging.

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La Perouse (Lapa) is a special place. Our families  
have a long and enduring connection to this place.

Craig's artwork in depicting 'old Lapa' is a treasure  
to our community. These artworks bring to life the  
cherished memories and stories of our Elders, and  
allow them to reconnect to a time gone by and  
retell the special stories that connect us all.

These are truly beautiful images, presented in all  
their vibrancy, colour, and energy. They show what  
many of us remember about growing up in Lapa,  
and remind us of a more carefree time.

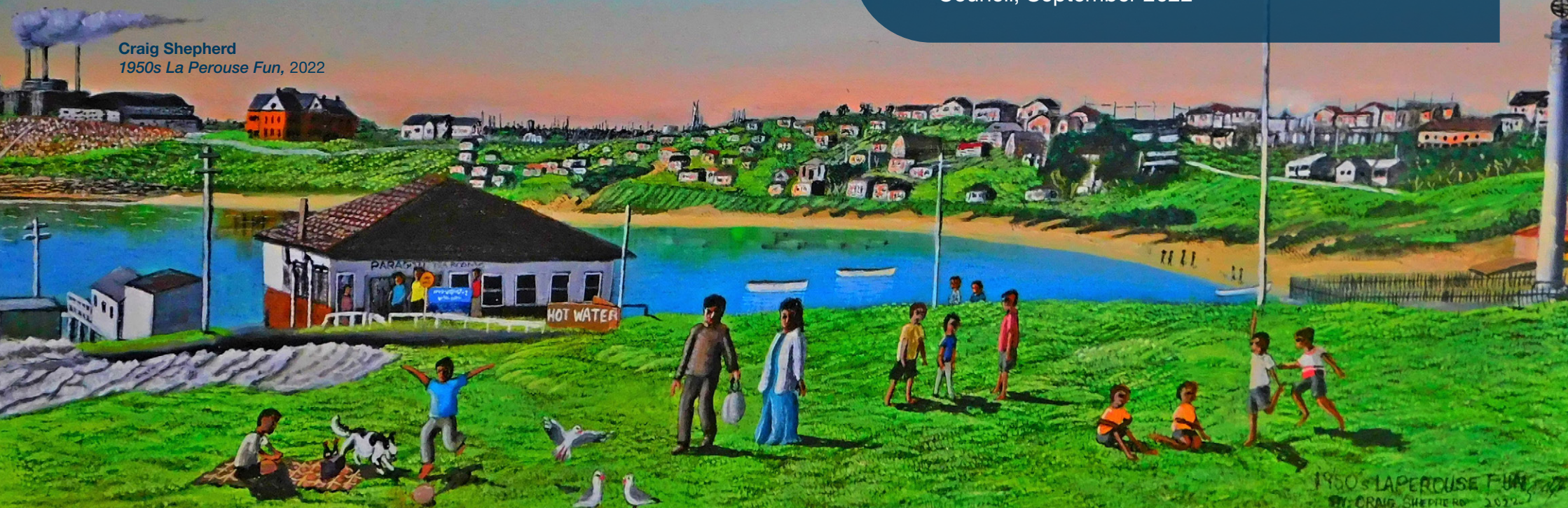
I for one love Craig's artwork, and I hope you  
do too.

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**Noeleen Timbery,**

Chairperson La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land  
Council, September 2022

Craig Shepherd  
1950s La Perouse Fun, 2022







Craig Shepherd  
*Paragon Days La Perouse*, 2018 (detail)

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The La Perouse Museum first showed Craig Shepherd's distinctively vibrant art in 2018. Members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community are highly visible throughout his work, unlike in many historical black and white photographs of La Pa. Craig's figurative paintings show the community picnicking, walking down to the beach, playing with their dogs... not only giving vivid colour to the Elders' memories, but also symbolically returning ownership of the depictions of La Perouse back to the Aboriginal community

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**Roxanne Fea,**  
Head La Perouse Museum

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I happened to be doing land and seascape painting on small size canvases. I was running out of ideas. One day, I overheard my mother, Cheryl Shepherd and her sister, my aunt, Clara Shepherd talking about growing up in La Perouse. Like myself, my mother and aunt also grew up in La Perouse. They were born in the early 1950s. Listening to them talking about “Old Lapa,” was awesome. I decided to do some research on La Perouse back in the 1950s. I found some black and white photos of various areas in La Perouse.

I wanted to surprise my Mum and Aunt. So I grabbed a spare canvas and started to do a painting of La Perouse from the 1950s era, in colour. I already knew the colours for grass, water, sand and trees. I asked my mother and aunt if they could remember the colour of the old Paragon and boat shed buildings. Once I finished the painting, I showed my mum and aunt. I could see them trying to hold back tears. They began telling me stories about Lapa. I started to paint more areas of La Perouse. I showed my latest artwork to many others in the La Perouse community, and received a lot of positive feedback. This made me want to continue on and do much more of La Perouse.

**Craig Shepherd, 2022**

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**ARTWORKS  
ARE  
FOR SALE**



Craig Shepherd  
1980s La Perouse, 2022



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I like the idea of bringing old La Perouse back to life and in colour on a canvas. Whilst painting, I can imagine my mother, aunt and other family members, especially those family members who are no longer with us, in that particular picture. I can imagine them walking along La Perouse Beach, going to the old wharf to dive into the water. I am also seeing La Perouse the way my mother saw it...I want people to know that there was more to La Perouse than what they see today. I want them to know where certain buildings/landmarks were. To show how much La Perouse has changed over the years. That way, they can pass that knowledge on their children and their children's children and so on.

My artworks are an educational tool and an important part of La Perouse history, not only for us, but for future generations. I hope for my paintings to remain that way, especially when we are all gone.

Craig Shepherd, 2022

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ARTWORKS  
ARE  
FOR SALE

1980S LAPEROUSE 3047  
BY CRAIG SHEPHERD 2022



Craig Shepherd  
*Old House of La Perouse, 2022 (detail)*

