

Artist Morrison Polkinghorne Wins MAC 2025 Elliott Award



Mallee Track's very own Morrison Polkinghorne, Neighbourhood House Coordinator Murrayville, was honoured with the 2025 Elliott Award by Mildura Arts and Culture Advisory Committee on Sunday, April 26.

"We're extremely proud of Morrison for the vital work he does within the Murrayville community and is a valued member of the Mallee Track team," said MTHCS CEO Dr Frances Peart.

Among his many talents, Morrison Polkinghorne is an Australian artist who lived in Cambodia for almost a decade where his artist life began. His grey and black toned paintings are made with lotus stems and artisanal ink, which he distils from petals. His work

uses this sacred flower as both theme and application. It is the perfect imagery for Cambodia, as it symbolises the Lord Buddha's spiritual awakening, emerging from the muddy dark depths into light and becoming a flash of beauty.

"Of my artwork, I envision my pieces ecologically, holistically, and spiritually, with nature and culture as the inspiration. Lotus stems are my paintbrush, while its flowers create my tones.

"This award means so much to me as it's solidifying my return to Australia and the wonderful community of Murrayville our chosen home. My life partner Robert Carmack and I bought a church in Murrayville and have renovated it into our home and studio. The

people in Murrayville, many who are here today, have really embraced us warmly which I've come to know is the Mallee way.

"I would like to thank the Mildura Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for this award. It is an honour and will hopefully lead me on to more," shared artist Morrison Polkinghorne.

Morrison has recently launched an augmented reality historical art piece in the main street of Murrayville built with the help of community members and the Murrayville Museum and Heritage Society. Giving visitors and locals a window into the past and to celebrate its unique history. He is currently building a body of artwork with the Murrayville Community en-

titled 'Woven History of Murrayville'.

Kim Darley, MTHCS Rural Connection Team Leader, said "Morrison does great work engaging the Murrayville community, which reflects the core of what our Neighbourhood House programs strive to achieve.

"He brings a creative flair to developing new activities that connect people locally. We're thrilled for Morrison on receiving the 2025 Elliott Award, this recognition highlights the broader work Morrison has contributed to the community arts space and it is so very well deserved."

If you would like to view more of Morrison's artwork you can go to Instagram: [morrison_polkinghorne](https://www.instagram.com/morrison_polkinghorne)



• Robert Carmack (partner) and Morrison Polkinghorne (artist).



• Cr Helen Healy (Deputy Mayor MRCC), Morrison Polkinghorne (artist) and Cr Ali Cupper (Mayor MRCC).



• Kim Darley (MTHCS Rural Connections Team Leader) with Morrison.



• Morrison Polkinghorne with attendees at the presentation of the 2025 Elliott Award out the front of Mildura Arts Centre.