

September 2022

**Submission to Byron Arts & Culture Committee**

Dear Committee,

In 2016 I was commissioned by the Byron Council to produce four artworks across the Sewer pump station infrastructure, including the site at Bayshore Drive, which has recently become the Pocket Park. A similar concept to Pocket Park was proposed six years ago to the former Utilities Manager, Peter Rees to build on the public artworks which were created at this time.

**BEFORE (2016):**



*Bayshore Drive near Depot*

**AFTER (2016):**



LHS: Heathgraf II by Bryan Jeffs (2016); RHS: Tropical Bird by Danny Gretscher (2016)

The larger work at the Bayshore Drive site, 'Tropical Bird', was created by well known Berlin artist, Danny Gretscher, who has produced several murals in the Shire, including at Wategos (part of the sewer pump project), Lateen Lane (Elysium project) & Habitat. Danny's works in Byron have received coverage in Design Boom (<https://www.designboom.com/art/creative-road-fullerton-creative-elysium-murals-byron-bay-08-02-2017/>), Byron Arts Magazine (<http://www.byronartsmagazine.com.au/blog/tag/Danny+Gretscher>) & The Echo (p9, <https://issuu.com/echopublications/docs/byronecho3322>).

Following the commissioning of these works (as graffiti prevention measures), I raised with both Council and the Public Art Panel (of which I was part in 2017-18) that these works would likely be tagged if Council continued to leave the areas in disrepair, with rubbish bins and unkempt grasses etc at both the Rec Grounds and Bayshore Drive sites. Unfortunately, these areas continued to be unmaintained, and the work at the Rec Grounds, by Troy O'Keeffe, aka Birdman, who passed away in the floods earlier this year, was destroyed several years ago, and the work at the Bayshore Drive site by Danny Gretscher, more recently.

I note the current activations of the Pocket Park, against the backdrop of a defaced former commission. I would like to propose that the Arts & Culture Committee may wish to commission Danny Gretscher to create a new work on this wall. The project would require funding to cover the artist fee and materials, which the artist would be willing to offer for \$5,000 (substantially below his more recent commissions).

Happy to discuss further if this is at all of interest. Whilst I'm aware that the Committee may prefer to engage a local artist, I feel that the return of a Gretscher work would be welcome by the many locals who know his work. The German-born artist spent two years working and living in the Shire between 2016-2019 until Covid made travel impossible.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Kelly Reiffer

[society-beta.com](http://society-beta.com)

PO Box 768, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

0437518716

**Society**<sup>Beta</sup>