Border Crossings intro to Ambassador Noel White

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Date: Wednesday 2 March, 2016
Place: SASA Gallery Kaurna Building
Run Sheet

MC: Susan Luckman

6:30pm  MC welcomes audience, artists and introduces Indigenous AGSA curator Nici Cumpston

6:32pm  Welcome to country

6:35pm  MC introduces David Lloyd

6:40  David Lloyd speaks and introduces Ambassador Noel White

6:45  Ambassador White speaks and launches the exhibition

6:50  MC thanks David Lloyd and acknowledges industry partners
• Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David
  Ladies and gentlemen, hello, my name is David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli
  I’m not originally from this country but I am proud to call this my home.

• Ngai pudlunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapinthi
  And I’m telling you this in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of respect.

• The meeting this evening is taking place on Kaurna land.

• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the life of the Adelaide region.

• Good evening.

• As an Irish-Australian Vice Chancellor I am typical of the result you get when you work at collaboration between the two countries.
I think it has worked out quite well.

I am especially pleased tonight to be here at the opening of *Border Crossings*.

In which curators and visual artists from Ireland and Australia have used their extraordinary talents to explore some very deep issues that surround the legacy of colonialism and the challenges of reconciliation that are common to both nations.

The artistic team behind the exhibition tonight consists of Irish performance artists:

- Michelle Browne who is also one of the show’s curators, and Dominic Thorpe both of whom are Dubliners;
- and Sandra Johnston who comes from Belfast.
• The Australian artists are:
  o **Sue Kneebone** who, I’m delighted to say, is a graduate of UniSA;
  o **Yhonnie Scarce** also from South Australia; and
  o **Julie Gough**, a Tasmanian.

• *Border Crossings* was curated by **Mary Knights**, who’s Director of this gallery, the SASA Gallery at UniSA; and as I mentioned,

• Michelle Browne.

• As nations Ireland and Australia have significant shared history.

• We have a unique ability to be at home in each other’s countries,
And tonight you see that we also share a deep sense of loss.

The exhibition tonight was initiated and presented by our Hawke European Union Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations,

and the SASA Gallery,

with help from our partners: Trinity Long Room Hub in Dublin, Culture Ireland, and the Helpmann Academy.

The Hawke EU Centre was created to develop dialogue and cooperation between the European community and Australia

on the topics of mobility, migration (both freely chosen and enforced) and the global cultural transformations of our age.
• And this exhibition sums up their work in a beautifully meaningful way.

• *Border Crossings* has been supported as a part of Culture Ireland’s 2016 International Program which commemorates the centenary of the Easter Rising,

• Éirí Amach na Cásca

• And tonight, the Irish Ambassador, Mr Noel White has joined us to officially open the exhibition which has substantial government support from both sides of the planet

• through organisations such as Creative Ireland, the British Council, Arts SA and the Australian Council of the Arts.

• The exhibition is part of the Adelaide Festival of the Arts Vernissage Weekend Program and the Adelaide Fringe Festival.
• It will be restaged at the Galway Arts Centre at their arts festival in July where the same talented group of arts and curators will share their stories with an Irish audience.

• Now, please give a warm Irish-Australian welcome to our friend, His Excellency Mr Noel White, Ambassador to Ireland in Australia.