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# Gruffling

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# Bilateral

/// art / exchange / events / re-enactment ///

## GRUFFLING

GRUFFLING is a whimsical project about goats. It is part of the [West Brunswick Sculpture Triennale \(wBST\)](#).

GRUFFLING began as an intuitive response to visiting one of the wBST sites, [a slightly shabby, middle-sized, grassy suburban backyard](#). I have always wanted to work with a goat, but have never had the opportunity, and I figured this might be the right time to begin.

The project has evolved through [this blog entry](#) – and encompasses personal stories, poetic analysis, chance encounters with goats, and many contributions from readers passionate about goats. Goats seem to draw up strong feelings within people. As my friend [Raquel says](#), “I believe that there are two types of people in the world- those with a goat story and those without.”

As it has trotted along, the GRUFFLING project has wended its way towards the phenomenon of keeping goats in the inner-city. [My meeting with Steve and his goat Maxi](#) was particularly enlightening in this regard.

At the wBST, I plan to go for a walk with a goat through the suburb of west Brunswick on the weekend of March 21-22, 2009.

This plan may or may not come to fruition. The lucky thing about being a blogger is that whatever happens (even a failure to achieve my not-very-lofty ambition) is able to be considered a part of the project. Life is long, and one day I will work with a goat, for sure.

(I thank Claire Orrell for the word “GRUFFLING”, which she introduced to me [here](#). I like GRUFFLING’s undertones of snuffling and browsing around the feeding trough, which I find akin to the rough but sociable “research methods” which this project employs...)



[UPDATE! The walk, with Bob The Goat, was a success! Read all about it [here](#).]

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PS:

Here's an article that came out in Melbourne's The Age newspaper, featuring Bob the Goat!

## VISUAL ARTS Penny Modra



Image of the work *Get My Goat* by Lucas Ihlein, 2009. Picture by Bianca Hester.

### WEST BRUNSWICK SCULPTURE TRIENNIAL

Locations around West Brunswick. See [osw.com.au/wbst](http://osw.com.au/wbst).  
Weekends until April 12.

Why does "the first West Brunswick Sculpture Triennial" sound so funny? It makes me want to laugh like I did the time Geelong was campaigning to build a Guggenheim. But why shouldn't West Brunswick have a sculpture triennial? It's very on-trend to locate new sculptural works in a place — linking art to actual community experience. And all the better to do it somewhere most of us have never visited. In fact, seeing West Brunswick through the eyes of the wBST reveals it to be a profoundly odd place. Across five sites (three of which are people's houses), the works vary wildly from sound installation to aperitif drinking. As a mental warm-up, study the online documentation of Lucas Ihlein's *Get My Goat*, in which he walked a goat around West Brunswick to see what would happen. (The goat met a lot of new people, ate some grass, and generally pooped on the idea of suburban normality.)

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