

Art Central 2012-2015

Art Central was funded through the Australia Council's Community Partnerships program and Go Goldfields. The overall objective was to make art with communities to open up possibilities, aspirations and choices.

The initial Australia Council application recognised that there was art of all varieties happening in the Central Goldfields Shire, but it was not necessarily connected, nor visible to other residents.

Art Central, was named to highlight both art being made in the **Central** Goldfields Shire, as well as, for making art central, or to at least move it from the margin, in Central Goldfields Shire residents lives. To make central is also to make more visible, to become more valued.

Art Central focused attention on art, art-making and artists - in the broader community.

The long-term outcome was for arts activities to be an integral part of community life and acknowledged and supported by local government, schools, business and recreational organisations.

Over the 3 years Art Central has had its challenges, like the Shire and its residents or any community arts project.

The Art Central team of artists: Geoff Bonney, bernie m janssen and Forest Keegel, joined by Anna Ashton, in a mentored role, in 2014/2015.

Using art as a tool and collaboration as a method is fundamental to Art Central's making art with people. It was our strategy to enliven creativity, unlock possibilities, help people to find their voice, a positive sense of self, make connections, and enrich a sense of community



2013 Year 1. Foundations: Meet, talk, learn, share, make.

Overview

The first year of Art Central introduced art to the community and the community to Art Central. It was a time to learn about each other. There was a focus on creating collaborative artworks utilising text and image. The artistic team worked 2 days a week.

Projects

Art Central Studio established in a vacant shop in High Street, the centre of Maryborough. The Artspace was set up to be welcoming, creatively stimulating and conducive to art-making.

Community Workshop Program:



Imagine Play Create. Weekly arts workshops for youth, parents and toddlers, and wider community.

Art on Demand: One off/introductory arts engagement developed with and for a particular group.

Mad Hatters. An arts activity in a public event to introduce Art Central and artmaking to the public. Hats were made from recycled materials.

Seven primary school residency projects focussing on text and image created books and games.





Youth Engage Space Workshops in poetry, visual arts resulting in Murals at the local youth centre and an Exhibition "Opening Doors on Youth" at Art Central Space.



Scroll, text-based project presented as part of Words in Winter. Short poems presented in a poetry installation at Art Central and in Dunolly. Small poetry scrolls distributed at coffee shops and various other public locations around the Shire.





Banners for the atrium of Maryborough Education Centre. Created with students investigating heraldry and identity.



Vases 'n' Verses, a public art project with text and image. Created for Spring Fling, community based cultural events calendar and exhibited in public places like Centrelink, farms, fences and building hoardings. 50 2- dimensional Vases (2 x 1.5 metres) were painted by 200 people in small groups of all ages and all walks of life. Everyone from council executives to parents and toddlers. Short poems and vox pops about Spring were collected and hand cut out of vinyl.



2013 Retrospective Exhibition. Celebrated the achievements of 2013, shared them with the wider community to demonstrate the scope of the Art Central work.

Food for Thought Community Consultation sessions, for feedback and input from community members and organisations. Gathered around an enormous table, people put their reflections and visions down using paint, pens and stamps onto a blank tablecloth. Which was subsequently used for meetings and celebrations.

People and Organisations that engaged with Art Central in 2013.

Asteria
Goldfields A Cappella Choir
Street Harvest
Shutterbugs
Zonta
True Foods
Maryborough and District Health Service Youth Connections
Maternal Child Health Mothers Group
Youth Engage Space
Go Goldfields Staff
Central Goldfields Shire Executive and Councillors
Neighbourhood Renewal staff
Neighbourhood Renewal Getting Ahead program
St Lukes First Steps Program
St Lukes Mental Health Program
Words in Winter
Maryborough Library
Maryborough Mens Shed
BRIT VCAL
Maryborough Education Centre
Bealiba Primary School
Carisbrook Primary School
Dunolly Primary School
St Augustine's Primary School
Talbot Primary School
Timor Primary School
and many people of all ages and walks of life from across the Shire.
Over 1500 people participated.



Outcome

The community embraced Art Central enthusiastically with a growing understanding in the Shire of what participatory arts practice is, and how it can contribute to a stronger, more connected community. The process for building the project remained very dynamic - trialling ideas, reviewing and adapting programming in response to community interests.

2014 Year 2: Collaborate / Public / Inclusive

Overview

In 2014, Art Central's artistic program was inspired by an over-arching theme – the notion of truth / lies, fact / fiction, reality / fantasy, resulting in the Museum of Truth and Lies (MOTAL). This theme informed much of the work created with local schools, organisations and members of the Central Goldfields community. Most of the art created fed into MOTAL.

This created an open framework for artists, as well as community groups and individuals to engage in. There were structured collaborative projects that people could plug in to, and individual artists could create work for MOTAL with support of the Art Central team.

The Museum of Truth and Lies activated a disused space at the Historic Maryborough Railway Station, a treasured place for the local community.

The artistic team worked 2 days a week.

Projects



Art Central Studio. A place to drop in, have a yarn, a cup of tea, meet, learn, explore, have fun, connect.

Play me. Piano. A piano placed outside of the Art Central Studio was a simple way to keep the arts accessible and visible in the Shire. Lots of people stopped to tinkle and play.

Yard Project. A mural painted with students from Beckworth Maryborough Education Centre.



Shipping Container. With Maryborough Community House. Worked with children and adults to design and paint a Shipping Container used for storage.

Art on Demand One off introductory arts engagements devised with the groups.

Community Collaborations Organisations and groups develop small projects with the Art Central team.



Community Engagement, professional development and Information Sessions

Rag Book. Story, text and images created by toddlers and parents. Silk screen printed onto calico in 8 colours and stitched into a book.



Mini Library Book Boxes. With With Go Goldfields Literacy Co-ordinators and community groups.



Art Resource Book Test Kitchen

A book of arts activities for parents and children (0 – 5 years) that can be done at home with minimal resources. A dedicated group of parents drove the project from developing structure and ideas to be tested, through to making the book. In a weekly ‘test kitchen’ parents and toddlers trialled and finessed arts activities, documented the process and distilled the instructions.

Art and About. Bag a Monster. Dog Tales. NAIDOC week





Story Op Shop An installation dedicated to collecting, passing on and sharing stories, housed in Art Central for Words in Winter. People could contribute their stories in a variety of writing mediums: on typewriter, by hand, computer, on postcards, file cards. A group of stories collected later became a part of MOTAL along with hundreds of postcards.



Open Studio Local artists were supported by Art Central artistic team to create artworks for Museum Of Truth & Lies (MOT&L).

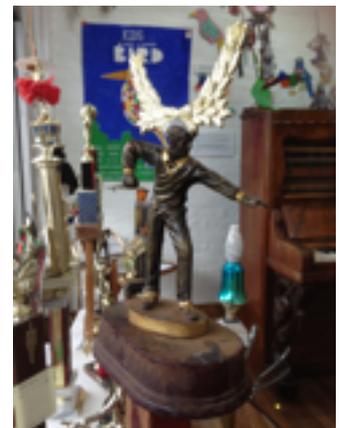
Imagine Play Create arts workshops for youth; kids; art games for parents and toddlers



Workshop Program developed work for inclusion in Museum Of Truth & Lies



Mentorship. A mentorship program in community and cultural development practices. employed 2 local artists to work alongside the Art Central team. This occurred formally and informally.



The Museum of Truth and Lies

MOTAL

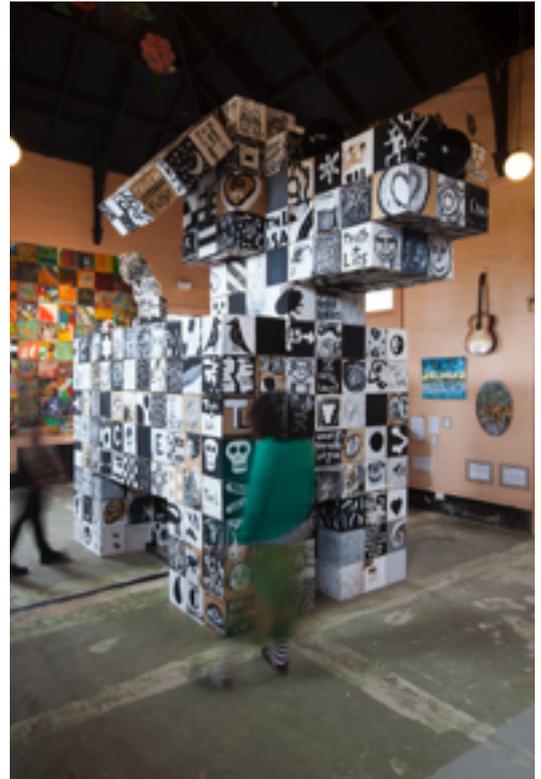
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAY4MkBcyOQ>

Guest Artists

Jim Coad, Rose Turtle Ertler, Melissa Proposch

List of works (see Program for details)

- Dog Ate my Homework
- Where does Truth Lie
- Just pullin' ya leg!
- Gallery of Flight
- Truth a painting in 200 parts
- Post. Golden
- Gallerie de Faux
- Masks. Trophies. Alter Egos
- Dig
- Local Identities
- Sunday Soapbox. A program of music, poetry and rants.
- Workshop and tour program
- Light Night Out



People and Organisations that participated in 2014

Asteria

Maryborough Community House

Go Goldfields Literacy Facilitators

Maryborough Education Centre Beckworth

Senior Citizens

Shutterbugs

PACT

St Lukes supported play group

Maryborough Mens Shed

Words In Winter

GELC VCAL

Federation University VCAL

Zonta

St Lukes and Literacy collaboration. Book-box Painting.

Kinder Gym. Mums and toddlers designed and screen-printed T-shirts.

Rotary. An introduction to Art Central and making art. Created Trophies with their backstory for MOTAL.

MOPS. (Mothers of Pre-schoolers.) Flying Creatures for MOTAL

Shutterbugs

Carisbrook Play Group.

D Sharps;

Maryborough and District Pipe Band;

Maryborough Writers Group;

Town Attached Productions;

Goldfields FM;

Maryborough Advertiser.

Girl Guides

Timor Primary School



Light Night Out:

Another key project of Museum of Truth and Lies was **Light Night Out, projections on significant buildings** in Carisbrook, Talbot, Dunolly and Maryborough. *Jim Coad* generated projections through an open Colouring Competition spread through the schools and in local newspapers. *Rose Turtle Ertler* created a sound-scape from stories, sounds and snippets gathered from hundreds of interviews and vox pops, that was broadcast on Goldfields FM 99.1. during the events.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbUpwqZiWdz-RBZa5Cpwnpg/feed>





Responses.

Some comments from visitors to the Museum of Truth and Lies

Magical

Fantastic, a great job from 'all'. The effort each and every one has put into this show is quite amazing.

Great effort from all concerned. So glad everyone was able to express their creativity in this unusual way.

Wonderful, Curious. A delight!

Awesome

Imaginations run wild. Fantastic!

Very original.

Thought provoking

Intriguing Ideas

Interesting Home Truths

Profound and confronting

WOW!

Made me laugh!

What fun!

Cooooool!

Absolutely fantastic.



2015 Year 3.

Overview

The aim of the third year was to ensure an artistic legacy within the communities of the Central Goldfields Shire:

One strategy was supporting local artists and communities to develop skills and knowledge of community and cultural development practice. This occurred through the projects "Imagination Station." and "The Arty Farty Fun Book"

The artistic team worked 1 day a week.

Projects

Art Central Studio People pop in for a chat and a cup of tea. Workshops and activities continue.

Play Me. Piano. The "Play Me Piano" engages the general public outside of Art Central in High Street. Many people stop to 'tinkle the ivories', There have been recitals and sharing of stories.

Open Studio Local artists supported to develop artworks. Feedback on works in progress was provided.

Delicious

Artworks exhibited in Maryborough and Ararat were created in community workshops in conjunction with Healthy Together, Grampians Goldfields and Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food.



Imagination Station

An outdoor gallery to exhibit artworks created by communities with artists.

Local artists worked with communities in Bealiba, Carisbrook, Dunolly, Maryborough and Talbot to create artworks for the Imagination Station. These artworks were exhibited in *From Art Central to the future* at the Central Goldfields Art Gallery in December.

A discussion "What is community art and why do we need it?" facilitated by Malcolm Sanders of Regional Arts Victoria.

The first Imagination Station outdoor gallery was installed at the Maryborough Resource Centre, exhibiting the artworks *Art Is Here!* and *Unlock Creativity*.

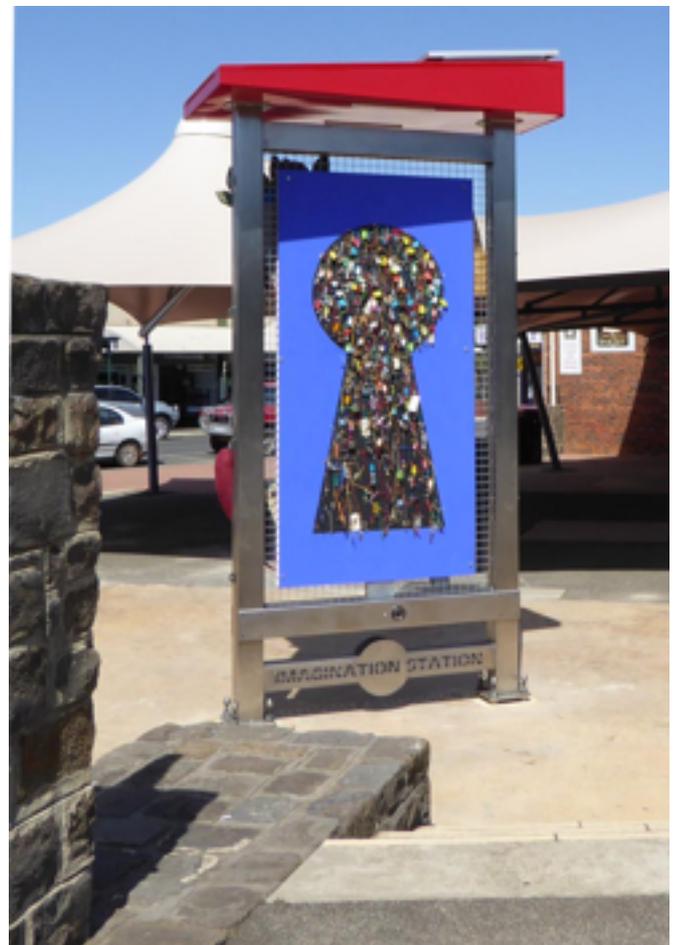
The artworks created in each community will be exhibited on this permanent structure.

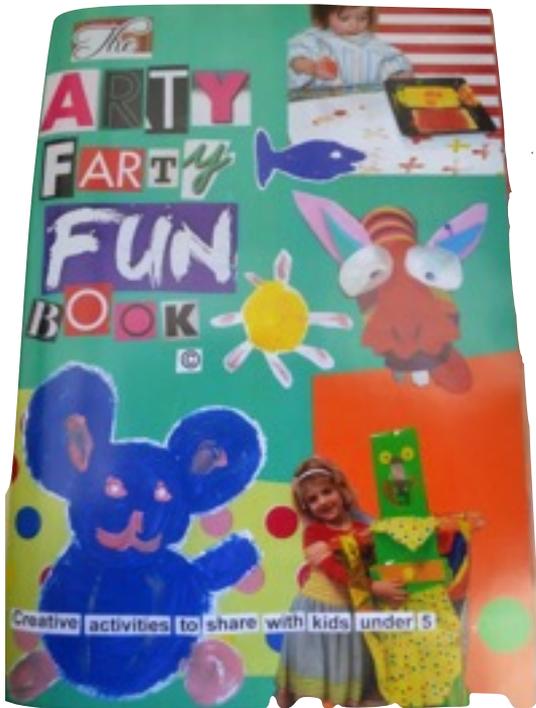


Training and mentorship of local artists in community and cultural development practice included 8 workshops covering key aspects of the practice, guest speakers and one on one mentoring. These artists worked in pairs to devise and develop artworks with local communities for Imagination Station.

Local Artists

Anna Ashton, Philip Ashton, Naomi Crew, Kerry Punton, Monika Roleff, Tiffany Titshall, Trish Walsh, Debbie Walter





Arty Farty Fun Book

Creative activities to share with Children under 5

A community driven development and creation of a book of arts activities for parents and children under 5. Originally 'The Art Resource Book' which was developed in a 'test kitchen' in 2014. In 2015, the book was designed and laid out by participants, using the traditional 'cut and paste' methods reflecting the DIY activities of the book.



People and Organisations engaged in Art Central in 2015

Jamie Olivers Ministry of Food
Bealiba CWA
Bealiba Historical Society
Carisbrook Historical Society
Dunolly Primary School
Dunolly Art Group
Dunolly Neighbourhood Centre
Talbot Primary School
Bryce's Bistrot,
Talbot Action Inc
Talbot Art Group
Maryborough Community House
Maryborough Education Centre
Maryborough Locksmith
KATESCASTLE BOOK EMPORIUM

The Future.

The Imagination Station has left a pool of local artists who are more skilled in working with communities, members of communities excited by artmaking, and a physical structure - an outdoor gallery for the exhibition of artworks; and a process by which that gallery will have works regularly supplied.

It is important that this energy and enthusiasm for artmaking generated over the three years is built upon.

Acknowledgements

A Big Thank You to...

All the workers at organisations who recognised the value of art-making for the people they worked with. It is their vision that enabled many people who do not usually make art to be involved.

All the wonderful people who came to Art Central Studio, whether it was to have a cup of tea and a chat, to make art, to play the piano, to drop off bits and pieces that they thought we could use or to share information, help and expertise.

Cultural Development Network, John Smithies, Kim Dunphy and Cynthia Lam

Central Goldfields Shire
Arts Manager Kay Parkin
Go Goldfields team

The local artists

Members of the community leadership group who attended meetings and popped in to offer support, suggestions and local knowledge.

A special thank you to some very dedicated people who grasped Art Central and the opportunities it offered - Took advantage of us - and pushed us, the artists further.

A very special thank you to Bill and Nic Gianacopoulos and First National Maryborough who provided a vacant shop rent free for the Art Central premises for 3 years. It was a good home, a vibrant, creative space and made art more visible on the street and accessible to the community.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Feedback from participants

Appendix 2 Reflections on a 3 year community arts project

Appendix 3: Art Central Guiding Principles for making art with communities.

Appendix 4: Why we need community art

Appendix 5 word cloud of responses to the question Why do we need community art?

Appendix 6 MOT&L Program (separate pdf)

Appendix 1: Feedback from participants

I have learnt so much about a lot of things.

I worked with Berni as editor on **A child's lament**, and we completed it. We achieved that. I am writing now with more clarity.

I would have liked to have spent more time in the PACT workshop. I enjoyed it, but I found some of the people and their attitudes difficult to be with. I have learnt about others through the meetings and workshops. I have lots of ideas through working. Thanks for including me in the Museum of Truth and Lies. I really enjoyed it.
Bryan Cronin

Injection of life, colour and creativity that tapped into people who had not previously had access to arts. It gave them a chance to find a creative voice, and have their creative spark recognised.

Running the eight week therapeutic program – the Community Collaboration - at Art Central with all the other different groups was brilliant. For the people involved it was empowering, gave them agency.

Within the organisation there's a greater insight into the transformative benefits of participating in the arts. Denise Smith St Lukes

I think it has done good work in the Shire. Matt Broad Go Goldfields

Art Central .

Well it was 2013 I remember as Cherry had just come to us. We, my partner and I were excited to be at this new arts space we were hopeful to have a place to make magic. Many known faces had come and the artists employed by the council filled us with hope and imagination about a bright arts future for our shire. The meeting was well received and as it came to a close contact details were left and we hoped to hear about things happening and how we could be involved. After this I received some information regarding activities happening at the space but my partner received nothing. We felt a little bit annoyed as activities requiring artist never seemed to be on the agenda and eventually we lost interest.

So for that first year we didn't really get involved in the happenings at Art central. A position opened at art central as one of the Council employed Artists had left. I contemplated applying for that position but found that a close friend was also applying and only posted an expression of interest but didn't pursue it. I was interested in the happenings at art central and enjoyed watching the vases appear

in the shire, unfortunately my partner was not interested in it at all and felt that it had been a meeting full of empty promises.

I was still receiving a newsletter occasionally so followed along with what was happening. Another position was advertised and again I placed an expression of interest. This time my close friend gained employment and it was through her that I decided to return to the art space and check out what was happening. After talking with the Artists I was again inspired to encourage community art. So in conjunction with my Kindergym class and the Artists we designed and printed our own Kindergym tops.

During this time we became involved with the printing of a material book and then the 'museum of truth and lies' with a weekly visit to art central with cherry we embarked on this journey. The time spent in the arts space became a time of enjoyment and cherry grew in confidence as time passed. Cherry painted many boxes We helped with the test kitchens and finally we helped with the book construction. During the test kitchen phase we returned weekly to the arts space and along with other community mums we tested the activities that had been earmarked for the book. It was great fun with many new faces dropping in to try their hand at different activities. Cherry and I began to feel like part of the art central family and will miss the regular activities if they are not continued on. During this time the governance of the art space went through a revamp and threatened the finish of the book. The artists and the parents took the stance that the book needed to be completed after all the effort that had already gone into collected the information. As such the process of making 'the arty farty fun book' began and we all worked tirelessly week after week until it was complete. I look forward to the launch of the book and it's being received by the community. I believe the experience of Art central as a community space to make art and be creative was a great idea and reached widely into the community I think that the first meeting with the artist was the right way to start the process unfortunately that should have been continued throughout the whole process, not just re introduced in the final year. Cherry and I will support arts in the community into the future.
Maree and Cherry

My involvement with Art Central started when I wandered past the Art Central shop face and saw "art games for babies and toddlers" scheduled on the time table.

Interested in an art-ish activity for my then pre-schooler we went along, and attempted to drag some friends along with us. We had a great time, doing lots of different things over the course of a few different sessions, the box cubbies that filled the shop front is a fond memory for my children.

We started the creation of a cloth book, and while the process could be refined if we did it again it was an awesome experience that I would happily recreate. It was definitely a steep learning curve, for both the parents and the Art Central artists.

When we explored the idea of creating what is now the Arty Farty Fun Book we began to run a 'test kitchen' to test out the ideas and activities that we wanted to include. This was so much fun! Each week we would do something different, learn new things and explore different art processes.

The test kitchen gave us an opportunity to work out how we would get our ideas organised and presented on the page of a book. We tried and tested lots of different things and while the book has loads of activities we have limited what we included! There is just soooooo much one can do with little people and the arts.

Having Art Central in such a central and accessible position in Maryborough has allowed anyone to join in, the door is always open (figuratively!) and anyone is welcome. We had some families join us for only one session, some come to a few and some come to lots. And that's ok. It is hard to judge the 'success' of a project like art central. What is gained from one family attending only one session will never be known, but maybe they walked away with a few extra things to talk about with their child and if that's the only thing they took, then that is awesome.

The arty farty fun book is about adults being present for children, about adults talking with and listening to their children, it is about fun, it is about art, it is about getting messy, and helping to clean up, it is about experimenting with words, paint, dough, sounds, smells, nature and sticky tape.

In my opinion art for little people is all about the process and not the product, but for me as an adult, having a product like the Arty Farty Fun Book at the end of months and months of effort is AMAZING!

I hope that the Arty Farty Fun Book brings art play into lots of local homes; I hope it gives the adults some easy and cheap (or free!) ideas of what they can do with their little people, which in turn hopefully extends the conversations they have with them because underpinning all our time and effort of running the test kitchen, creating the text, refining the text, refining it again, putting together the pages and refining the text again (much to Geoff's dismay) is the anticipation that adults actually talk more with their children.

Caitlin, now 6, fondly wears her "hairy spider" t-shirt (despite it being a size 4), and she will be very sad when she grows out of it!!

Caroline Thoroughgood

The Central Goldfields Arts & Culture Project in Dunolly - "The wisdom of hindsight"

It is exactly four years since I was contracted with Berni Jansen to prepare the submission to the Australia Council that resulted in funding for the Central Goldfields Arts and Culture Project. John Smithies had led a series of discussions with a diverse group of potentially interested and supportive people in the district. There were many good ideas, but the whole project needed to be constructed around arguments about how this particular arts and culture project could be distinctive from most community arts experiences and how it may contribute to valuing and using the expertise and creativity of artists in our community. The project nominated community arts as one avenue through which the cultural experiences of our communities might be expanded and "naturalised" as a regular part of community life. It took a further year for the project to eventuate and to morph into what came to be known as "Arts Central".

In many ways, Arts Central has not lived up to the project's early optimism and potential. Too many resources were redirected to administering what was supposed to be a project with "a light touch" administration. As a result, the artists had limited opportunity to develop and direct community arts initiatives in conjunction with

local artists and communities. Classes, group activities and studio experience certainly enabled many local people to participate in new visual, written and mixed media opportunities, but the test of such a well-funded, three year project must be the legacy of arts activities that are embedded in community life.

Perhaps the one outcome of the Central Goldfields Arts and Cultural Project that best represents its potential is what we have installed in the Dunolly Historic Precinct – the beautiful, zany, collaborative and fun sculptures and constructions that have taken the notion of the Installation Station to a new level. Why am I optimistic that the arts and culture project will live on in Dunolly? Over its final year, the project has provided a little funding to interested artists in the community to take the initiative. The Dunolly project leaders have the credibility to involve a host of local people – adults and children – to devise and deliver the bicycle-based display. The local school is enthusiastically involved. Community members share resources, such as Rachel's shed, to house and build stuff. Perhaps most importantly, this project is one catalyst for the arts group that is emerging from the Neighbourhood Centre to stretch its wings and set its sights on future plans and activities with more confidence. What we are seeing is that the essence of sustainable, quality and democratic arts activities in our community is first, for artists and project leaders to know our community; second, to have some local credibility and third, to be able to work with others.

Projects may vary in scale, target groups and art forms, but the common element is to both challenge and engage people. The foundations are here in Dunolly, especially with the longstanding work and expertise of Anna and Philip Ashton, but what is most encouraging, is how their experience is shared with so many new people through this project. I am confident there will be many more successful arts projects in our community.

Fiona Lindsay
23.11.2015

Now people expect arts. There has been a shift in consciousness. I think people have found self-expression and feel empowered through working with Art Central.
Melissa Proposch.

Appendix 2: Reflections on a 3 year community arts project

Art created was great and presented professionally

Using good quality materials leads to great results

People were surprised by what they were capable of

We supported imagination and energised participants minds

We set up an art studio bursting with life and full of art and was inspiring. The space was vibrant and people wanted to be in that space.

The studio had lots of people from all ages and walks of life popping in, attending workshops. There was a lot of variety of groups and often several groups working on different projects at the same time. Good for building connection.

We have seen change of perceptions in town with people embracing art

None of the artworks in public were vandalised, great public response. Art in the community will work if its good art.

Shopkeepers dropped in with things they thought we could use.

The last project unlocking imagination generated a huge response in the form of donated keys.

Working with participants who engaged long term or intensively on a project was rewarding

Working with babies and small children and their families stretched the team. It was always fun, inspiring but the little ones kept us on our toes.

Had a fantastic time working with people and workers from other agencies that "got" what we were doing. Good projects developed, good relationships made.

The mentorship was an important component in the project. Working with Anna over a longer period was fabulous. She was able to see the day to day of the work. Not always pretty. As the mentorship didn't start when it had been proposed to, and without a strong relationship within the community artists, and with a smaller pool of artists who were interested in the work than had been initially suggested, the mentorship didn't have the broader impact that it had aimed for. Anna has been fabulous. We couldn't have done the work without her, but it would have been far

better to have more artists working with us over a period of time rather than cramming the 'training' into the third year. It feels a little like Anna has been left with the responsibility to carry community arts into the future.

Necessary Ingredients for success

At the commencement of the project an induction for artists and council staff to introduce each other, language and processes.

Good Project Manager. Someone who can swing between council community and artists, who is able to be hands on with the day to day details and also act as an advocate and strategist.

Transparent management style. processes and communication

Clarity of roles. Artists took on many of the Project Management jobs/tasks. Default position, otherwise nothing would have happened. The job descriptions allowed tasks to fall through the cracks. This impacted on the time available for making art with community.

Artists need to be respected as professionals, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in their field. They need to be allowed to carry out their work without interference from management.

Community Champions

Actively engaged community leadership group to ensure a conduit between project and community and vice versa. Lack of juice from community leadership group e.g. MOTAL schools program not well attended and lots of the opportunities for community members to engage with the open framework of MOTAL were not taken up, perhaps if there had been some champions of the project encouraging others to get involved uptake would have been greater.

A project needs to be appropriately resourced. Funding needs to match project design.

Greater flexibility in project design.

- In the early days the gathering feedback, ideas and making connections with people phase may have led to unmet expectations- people offered the world but felt it was not delivered to them.

Appendix 3: Art Central Guiding Principles for making art with communities

Art Centrals' guiding principles are based on beliefs of equality, social justice and democracy. The focus is to enable people to express themselves, to collaborate and to collaboratively express.

Inclusion 'All welcome' Non-judgemental.

Safe Space A space where vulnerability, privacy and confidentiality are respected. What is said there remains. People feel safe to take a risk.

Respect Valuing people, their contributions, perspectives, differences: age, culture, their different ways of doing and making.

Enablement People learn new skills to be able to express themselves, to find their 'voice.' 'Voice' as identity.

Empowerment Learn new skills, find confidence in their ability to make art, to act in different ways in the world. "Yes, I can ..."

Experimentation Play. Try things out. Do things differently. Go beyond your comfort zone.

Opening people's minds Think outside the box. Go beyond the Cliche. See things differently "No wrong way. No such thing as a mistake. No wrong question" A process of asking questions to continue opening up possibilities.

Sneaky Learning Learning through stealth. Learning through experience.

Encouragement Framing things in a positive and constructive manner.

Exchange We all learn from each other.

Ownership "It's your work" You decide how it should be. Important for people to feel pride in their work.

Good quality materials necessary

Quality of Work Important People are provided with a structure where ideas are stimulated; skills are learnt; knowledge enhanced; to enable them to make the best work possible.

Artwork to be presented professionally Valuing the artwork.

APPENDIX 4: Why do we need community art

What is community art and why does it matter?

A discussion held on December 9, 2015 at the Central Goldfields Art Gallery.

Program

1pm

What is community art?

Malcolm Sanders facilitate a panel session and provide an overview of community art and a few example projects.

Local examples panel session each speaker or pair of speakers has been asked to speak about their project for 5 minutes and there will be time for questions from the facilitator and floor.

Caroline Thoroughgood Local early childhood educator, parent, active in Carisbrook playgroup and toy library and has been instrumental in the Arty Farty Fun book

Kerry Punton and **Naomi Crew** created artwork for Imagination Station with Maryborough community members at East Maryborough neighbourhood house and Maryborough Education Centre.

Anna Ashton and **Judy Meldrum** created artwork for Imagination Station with the Bealiba community

berni janssen and **Forest Keegel** are from Art Central which has just come to the end of its 3 year project.

1.45- Activity lead by Art Central- Why do we need community art?

Step 1. people write one word on a post it note in response to the question Why do we need community art? Then stick their post it note to the wall. (5 mins)

Step 2. Small groups of 3-4 people discuss Why do we need community art? a chance to elaborate on the one word and discuss with others. Statements or words can be written on post it notes and stuck to the wall. each person is given 3 coloured dots which they can stick on to the needs/ reasons for community art that resonate most with them(10 mins)

Refreshment break

2.15 pm

John Smithies (10 minutes) Global perspective of why community art matters

How do we make it happen? Resources etc.

Questions from the floor about how to initiate projects directed to a panel of **Kay Parkin, John Smithies, Malcolm Sanders, Geoff Bonney**

3pm close

Responses from participants to 'Why do we need community art?'

Connecting with each other

connections, strengthening community bonds , connections interaction-12
belonging 4

community-1

inclusion

and help us meet new people. to be part of a community -4

coming together interaction,

to connect us with each other avenue to make

community development-1

Creativity

to introduce the creative process, creativity,creativity, creation, encouraging people to be creative -5

creative outlet, community involvement (Art)What do you create with your hands?
What can you make?-1 to expand our creative capacity- 1

inspiring

creativity and connections outside the norm- 4

Communication

to be able to communicate

communicate ideas to groups

art is a form of communication

to express/feelings/thoughts/emotions/no matter the individual/groups ability

Involvement express by what ever means what you want to say-1

communicate ideas-1

giving the community permission to interact

Enhancing our lives

Community Art is important so we don't die of reality- 7

To help us survive the hard stuff-4

we need art to enrich our lives, make life more interesting

Create opportunity, many levels -3

enrichment-3

opportunity to showcase and practice talents- 3

busy

engaging

expansion of life-1

endeavour-1

motivation tool-1

Heal-1

What community imagination and skill can produce for public display

income

because because-1

hope

Respect

Respect

Respecting all forms of artistic expression equally within the community. Respect to all that create-1

Fun, happiness and enjoyment

happiness, happiness, happiness-5

enjoyment fun fun fun for fun-3

to make life sweeter- 2

happy children making Happy Art

enjoyment

Elements of Community Art

fun

doing it together

engaging everyone and anyone

finding meaning in the doing

Expanding experience

enrichment

Accessible

Encouraging

Guided by skill

openness and good facilitation

flexible

resourced enough

collaboration and merging of skills to produce a display- 1

use of printed media to get response does not work- 1

