

Waste to Art Project. A Report

28th September- 24th November 2017

By RealArtWorks.Inc

At the Lismore City Council's Recycling and
Recovery Centre

REAL ART WORKS

WASTE TO ART

Community workshops creating exciting artworks from reused and recycled materials.

**GRAFFITI
SCULPTURE
PUPPETRY
PAINTING
MULTI MEDIA**

Lismore Revolve Precinct -
Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre, 313 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore.

Workshops start
28 September and run until end of November.
Check website for details.

Bookings and enquiries to Sunita

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An Overview

The Waste to Art workshops, a collaboration between RealArtWork.Inc and Lismore City Council's Recycling and Recovery Centre encompassed a series of free community workshops where participants were facilitated by professional artists 'in residence' to create exciting artworks from reused and recycled materials on site at the Waste Centre. These workshops relied on using discarded or low value items from the Revolve Shop to repurpose into new art pieces. The focus for participants was to engage in their creativity, learn new skills and learn more about the facilities at the Waste Centre. The workshops were open to all ages and were fully accessible. A sculpture created by master sculptor Keith Cameron using donated and found pieces of metal by Waste patrons and the general public was created to commemorate the role of the Lismore Waste Facility workers in the 2017 Flood Recovery process; The Sculpture has been placed on site on the grounds of the Recycling and Recovery Centre.

Creative Workshops

A total of 9 workshops held during the week and on weekends engaged 101 active participants with ages ranging from as young as 5 years old.



Welcome to the (Graffiti) Jungle!

28 September/30 September

Facilitators; Julla Livingston Mick Bidders and Tim Fry

Using the skills of graffiti/ street art, Julla, Justin Livingston and co- facilitators worked with 16 participants over three days drawing on their stories and artwork to give 5 Waste Container Studios a new lease of life! The artwork created by participants, some as young as 5 years old followed the theme of renewal. Participants also created original work on small canvases to take home.

'Thanks Realartworks and to Justin. So much fun' My first ever graffiti workshop, decolonize your mind' Naomi



Junk Pile Puppetry

4th October/5th October

Facilitators Lara Cruikshank, Francis Damon,

Lara Cruikshank one half of the multi award-winning Krinkl Theatre facilitated 34 participants over two days through the basics of puppetry created from a variety of found objects. The workshop which started with the basics of puppetry movement included forming small groups to make a number of larger than life puppets found from objects from the waste centre and that performed to the group as well as a time for the making of individual plastic bag puppets that also performed to an audience. There was also a special opportunity for aspiring puppet makers to form part of a small crew to be part of a public performance at Artstate 2017 that took place in November. The opportunity was taken up by 7 workshop participants, some of whom attended the puppetry workshops as part of a disability led dance troupe.

'My daughter and her friend had a great time with making plastic bag puppets. Performing for the adults was lovely. We took lots of photos' Melissa

'Our guys with disability loved the workshops that allowed them to express themselves. What a Cack!' Sue W, Alstonville Dance Company



The Overtopping

24th /25th October /19th November

Facilitators Keith Cameron, Zeb Schulz Mathew Daymond

Master Welder and Sculptor, Keith Cameron facilitated two workshops on site with 30 participants over 2 days to create wired and bolted sculptures from metal. Participants were taken through the basics of cutting and rewiring metal brought in or picked up from the Revolve shop that resonated with them, giving special consideration to form and aesthetics. The workshop attracted a home schooling group with ages as young as 7 who would not have normally attended during school holiday times and were keen to be part of further non –school holiday creative activities.

A call out for community to donate metal for a commemorative sculpture saw metal donated from the farm of William Wilson , the first settler in Lismore.

Participants were also able to find pieces from the Waste Centre to add to the commemorative sculpture which was welded on site at Keith Camerons studio. Participants who had a keen interest in welding were encouraged to attend Keith's studio and welded their own sculpture that was exhibited on the family day



Re-create, Re-vive & Re-cover Art Project

23th/24th November

Facilitators Joanna Kambourian, Patricia Anderson

Led by Lismore based graphic designer, printmaker and visual artist Joanna Kambourian, founder of Lismore Art Space, 21 participants over two days gave objects sourced from the Revolve Shop a new lease of life by painting second hand ephemera with their own design or imagery based on the theme of renewal. The project theme reflected and responded to the positivity and resilience that our community continues to embody throughout the flood and recovery effort and similar to the other workshops instigated much discussion with people of all ages sharing their own stories and ideas about recycling and sustainability. Whilst all the workshops engaged a wide demographic of people, this workshop attracted many participants who did not normally consider themselves creative and were surprised at what they could create in a space of a few hours

'I'm not an arty person. I came for a friend. I thought I would just stay and watch but I stayed for the day making a present for my daughter. Lots of fun to play with paint and the group were nice and supportive' Margi



Family Day

Friday 24th November

A family event organised by Lismore City Council saw many workshop participants come back to the Waste Centre site to reconnect and enjoy the other creative activities of the evening including markets, creative workshops, live music and food

Many of the workshop participants attended with their families and many bought back their work to exhibit for the family day

Creative activities provided by RealArtWorks workshop facilitators were another Re-create, Re-vive & Re-cover workshop that was well attended and Water Words which was also very popular where participants created their own lines of poetry or observations with semi permanent materials that saw their words appear 'magically' on the ground when wet.

My favourite part was the magic wizard water words. I liked them' Brandon Age 7



Overall feedback on Waste to Art project

The workshops engaged a wide demographic of people. Promotion of the event through Lismore City Council happened through print posters/ council newsletter, local papers and through Social media platforms. Through RealArtWorks, a facebook events page was created. Many of the initial participants were familiar with the work RealArtWorks.Inc did, but this soon spread to word of mouth and engaged people who had never attended a RealArtWorks.Inc event. Many workshop participants had never been to the Waste Centre before or knew that the Revolve shop existed.

In retrospect, the workshops were probably best run later in the morning, perhaps from 10am-1pm.

The 9am start saw many people turning up late as they had to negotiate school runs, morning traffic and on days when the Waste centre was open for general public, a long wait to enter the complex. Signage 'Waste to Art workshops here' on the main road leading into the site would have also helped orientate a number of people that had never visited the Waste Centre before.

Workshop participants were impressed with the facilities at the Waste Centre and many said they would visit the Revolve Shop again or attend an event at the Waste centre.



Successful elements contributing to the success of the workshops included;

The opportunity for participants to scour the revolve shop and find their own materials. Many participants had never done this before.

The free workshops that focused on recovery, resilience and renewal were themes that participants said resonated with them and were timely in regards to The Flood recovery.

The variety of workshops offered by skilled facilitators
Many of the participants had never tried puppetry, street art or sculpture before and were keen to learn from a facilitator skilled in running workshops for all ages and levels of confidence

The inclusiveness of the workshops meant that homeschooled children were still able to attend the workshops and there was also a representation from the disability community who travelled as far as Ballina to attend.

The opportunity to reconnect with each other at the family day and exhibit work to family and friends

'I learnt alot about what people are doing around recycling from being part of this group. It's hard not to fill guilty about all my waste and feel like it's not worth doing anything. Seeing what is being done, gave me greater hope for the future. I'm suprisd how much the young ones know about recycling and landcare' Janet

During the school holidays, participants from other states who were on school holiday in Lismore saw these workshops as unique and hoped to replicate something of the same in their own home towns.

In conclusion, The Waste To Art project which used recyclable or discarded objects demonstrated that creativity is an effective tool to engage a wide demographic of people who in the beginning had little in common other than wanting to try something free and new.

Not everyone who initially attended the workshops considered themselves a creative or had an understanding around environmental issues but through engaging in creative activity that is inclusive, well facilitated and provokes thought, participants were able to explore concepts around recycling and our compulsion to consume. This led to many honest discussions and questions around preservation and sustainable practices and a greater shared and individual awareness about our global and local environment, that was both relevant and meaningful to the Waste to Art Participants and Facilitators.



Costings

Cash Funds

A total of \$5000 from Limsore City Council contributed to artists fees and the making of a commemorative sculpture

In Kind

Artist hours 44

Art Materials \$450

Project Management hours 41

(F) Waste to Art [F] Waste to Art -the next round

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