

GALLERY SUNSHINE EVERYWHERE

2014 REPORT

During 2014, we held twelve EXHIBITIONS at the Granary Café in Sunshine:

Feb 22 – Mar 22: Inspiring Kids to Create Primary Arts Program (facilitated by Carmen Borg)

Mar 22 – Apr 26: Ink Art Studies Community Drawing (facilitated by Richard McLean)

Apr 26 – May 24: Photography and Jewellery (VU, RMIT, Monash universities)

May 24 – Jun 21: Furlong Park School for Deaf Children

Jun 21 – Jul 26: Young Art Teachers (facilitated by Charlotte Clemens)

Jul 26 – Aug 9: Fairbairn Road and Dorothy Carlton kindergartens

Aug 9 – Aug 23: Our Lady's Primary School

Aug 23 – Sep 27: Sydenham Hillside and Mackellar Primary Schools

Sep 27 – Oct 25: Ardeer South and St Theresa's Albion, Primary School

Oct 25 – Nov 22: Sunshine College

Nov 22 – Dec 13: Diversity and Disability Art Group

Dec 13 – Feb 2015: Marian College

BRIMMING OUT OF THE FRAME:

This project, funded by Brimbank Council was coordinated by Debbie Qadri, working with artists, Robert Jackson, Rhiannon Thomas, Charlotte Clemens and Paola Balla and was located on several sites: AMES, St Albans/St Albans Library, Sunshine Harvester Primary School, Sunshine Primary School, Sunshine College, Mother of God Primary School and the SAIL (Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning) Program.

<http://www.brimbank.starweekly.com.au/story/1803922/brimming-out-of-the-frame-art-speaks-all-languages/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GallerySunshineEverywhere/posts/818917988132604>

<https://www.facebook.com/GallerySunshineEverywhere>

<http://amesnews.com.au/local-ames-news/art-helps-youth-make-connections-communities/>

MEMORIES IN MOTION:

This project was funded by the CASS Foundation, was located at Sunshine Primary School and facilitated by Karen Charman, Debbie Qadri and Nigel Gillies. A book and a short film were produced as part of the project which centred round the new Sunshine Station. Art work produced in the project was displayed there and at Sunshine Primary School.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIOesYW_i-Q

DEER PARK HISTORY MOSAIC MURAL:

Debbie Qadri led this massive project, funded by Brimbank Council, involving over 600 school and community members in the production of a wonderful mural in Deer Park.

<http://deerparkhistorymural.blogspot.com.au/>

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/west/deer-park-arcade-mural-created-by-school-children-officially-open/story-fngnvmj7-1227154130143?nk=0dcbd705de2b49375bfef9efb44eea8d>

http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/News_and_Updates/Media_Releases_2014/December_2014/Deer_Park_Arcade_Revitalisation

<http://www.brimbank.starweekly.com.au/story/1829881/deer-park-s-history-captured-in-ceramics/>

SAIL (SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN INTEGRATED LEARNING) PROGRAM:

Gallery Sunshine Everywhere facilitated its annual four week Arts Xtend program with SAIL. This year we were joined by Jayson Cooper, Debbie Qadri, Alessandra Azzone along with some Victoria University College of Education students.

PUBLIC PEDAGOGIES DAY:

An inaugural Public Pedagogies Day was held at Victoria University in November 2014, facilitated by Karen Charman and Maureen Ryan and including several regular Gallery Sunshine Everywhere members, Debbie Charman, Trevor Donoghue and Alessandra Azzone along with Dean Michael, Brimbank Council Arts and Culture Director.

PRESENTATIONS:

During the year, several presentations were given about Gallery Sunshine Everywhere including to Sunshine Rotary and at the International Association for Education Through the Arts which was held in Melbourne in July 2014. An abridged version of that paper is appended to this report.

INSIGHT: SPOTLIGHT ON CREATIVITY IN BRIMBANK:

To conclude the year, Gallery Sunshine Everywhere was delighted to be one of the seven organizations profiled in this booklet released by Brimbank Council late in 2014.

THANKS:

We extend huge thanks to our wonderful Board and to all those who support Gallery Sunshine Everywhere in so many ways with a special mention to our curator-extraordinaire, Trevor Donoghue.

ONWARD TO 2015:

We have drafted the following dates for exhibitions:

Feb 15 – Mar 1: Inspiring Kids to Create Primary Art Program

Mar 1 – Mar 22: Young Art Teachers

Mar 22 – Apr 26: Neighbour Day in Brimbank

Apr 26 – May 24:

May 24 – Jun 21: Story Writing in Remote Locations (SWIRL) 20th anniversary

Jun 21 – Jul 26:

Jul 26 – Aug 23:

Aug 23 – Sep 27:

Sep 27 – Oct 25:

Oct 25 – Nov 22:

Nov 22 – Dec 13:

Dec 13 – Feb 2016!

And there are a few other things falling into place:

NEIGHBOUR DAY in conjunction with Brimbank Council

SPARKLE: Brimbank Council Community Grant Project 2014/5.

SUDAN: drawing and writing project linking children in schools in Kassala in south eastern Sudan with children in schools in Brimbank.

SWIRL (Story Writing in Remote Locations): celebrating 20 years of VU Education students working with Central Australian schools.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOL STUDENTS' ART WORK

MAUREEN RYAN

INSEA CONFERENCE

10 JULY 2014.

Since 2007, Gallery Sunshine Everywhere (www.galleriesunshine.com) has been framing the art work of pre-school, primary and secondary school students' art work and issuing invitations and having opening events for each exhibition: combining formality with the accessibility of the exhibitions being held in an accessible suburban café space, the Granary Café in Sunshine. Gallery Sunshine Everywhere is wholly volunteer run: we collect the work, photograph it for the web site, frame, hang and take it down, write thankyou notes and return the work to the schools. Our frames have been used for around 80 exhibitions.

Gallery Sunshine Everywhere provides the opportunity to display and exhibit students' art work, for families and the broader community to share and value the art of young people, to celebrate their talents, to tell individual and community stories....

Recently, we invited members of our e-mailing list and visitors to the Granary café to share their thoughts about displaying the art work of school students in this way....

The responses fell into three main categories:

1. Encouraging young artists
 - Encourages them to pursue art
 - Rewards self expression
 - Enhances self esteem
 - Promotes artist identity

- Shows the work is valued
- Not many young children get the opportunity to experience gallery openings and exhibitions or to have their work framed and placed in a community space that is welcoming and comfortable to visit anytime.

2. Enjoyment

- Cute, colourful
- Promotes social connection through art
- Enriches the environment
- Everything from big events to deeply personal thoughts
- The bold colours and naïve styles that epitomise drawing on butchers paper

3. School and community links

- Students' art is placed in a community space and the community space is the interface between school and the wider public. This has many benefits for school-community relationships and provides learning that is impossible behind school gates
- In a public venue, creativity as a vital part of learning and school activity is validated for families and students.
- Public exposure in an exhibition gives an understanding of the impact of art work on others
- Students and families experience a sense of occasion when work is framed and exhibited

The owners and the customers at the Granary Café put up with us scrambling around, hanging and taking down the frames, organising big and tiny opening events, bringing in music and the odd shaped cardboard robot or house or wire or glass sculpture that we attempt to hang in such a way that it won't drop into anyone's soup.

Exhibition Openings have included a range of performances from schools, from local performers and especially from Ambient Orchestras, a group with which we've developed a special relationship. Led by the wonderful John Edgar, the group made up of people with significant physical disabilities play gentle poignant music.

There have been many proud parents, grandparents, teachers and artists.

But there are other surprises like the twins. When we collect the work from the schools and kindergartens, all we ask for are first names and year levels.

Sometimes, given the amount and size of the work we hang more than one piece in a single frame ... on one occasion, we'd framed together the work of twins without any idea we'd done so!

There have been many special visitors and memorable exhibitions:

Zeynep was part of the very first exhibition, showing a portrait she'd done of a children's author, made up of the words from one of his books. Then in Year 12 at Sunshine College and having also completed a TAFE Certificate in fashion design while at school she went on to study architecture. In a later exhibition, she combined her many skills in an exhibition of dresses, shaped in architecture and even made from architectural planning paper.

Paola is a talented local artist and winner of major Indigenous art. We got talking at an exhibition of adult Indigenous artists as swarms of tiny children ran by about organising an exhibition of the artists' children. With a grant from the Melbourne City Council, Paola facilitated workshops with the children of the Western Indigenous Artists' Collective and the work was exhibited at the Granary and subsequently at Art Play in the city where Paola conducted accompanying workshops for children attending Art Play events.

Not joyful but certainly thought provoking were the paintings created in a local school, far from the bushfires fires in Victoria in 2009.

We've had children's authors and even an AFL footballer open our exhibitions. Less high profile but to great acclaim the most valued visitor to one exhibition opening was the Lollypop Lady who had looked after the same school crossing for around thirty years. She came as the new special friend of a recently arrived Bangladeshi family.

And then unexpectedly we've had international exhibitions ... from Soweto, Timor Leste, Saudi Arabia and Croatia: all the result of the Gallery Sunshine Everywhere networks created in an area with many artists and few galleries.

The local council where the Granary Café is based has held many festivals over the years and Gallery Sunshine Everywhere has been a part of these: painting, kite making, housebox making and lots more

The festivals bring many stories and one of my favourites is the **Metaphor Story**.

Lots of families came by during the day, including Braydon, his brother Tyler and his grandmother. Braydon said he was off to a party at 1pm so couldn't use paints. Tyler didn't have that constraint and painted away happily.

Using texta pens, Braydon drew a figure I didn't recognise. Talking with him, I found out it was "Rey Mesterio" who is evidently a well known television wrestler.

Braydon explained, "He's small (like me), but very strong and beats the big guys".

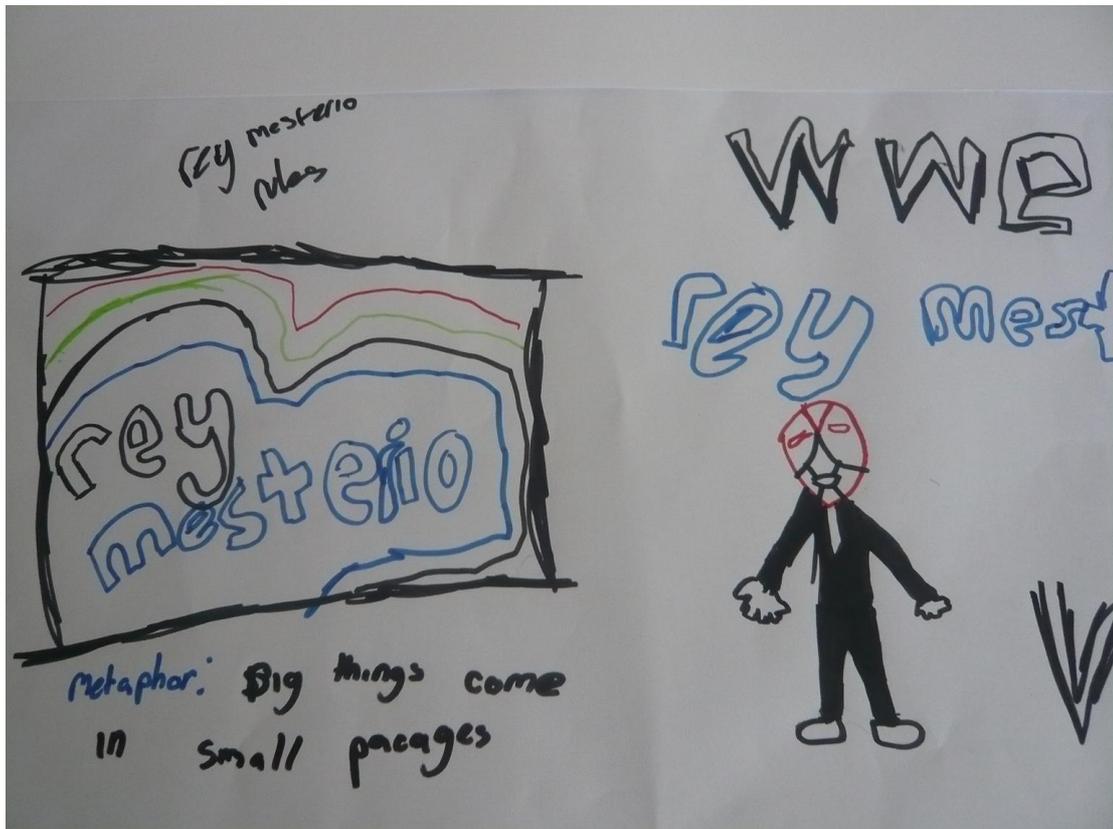
Braydon wrote, "Big things come in little packages" and called me over, asking "How do you spell metaphor?"

Impressed, I told him and asked, "Why do you want to know?"

Pointing to "Big things come in little packages" he said, "Because that's one".

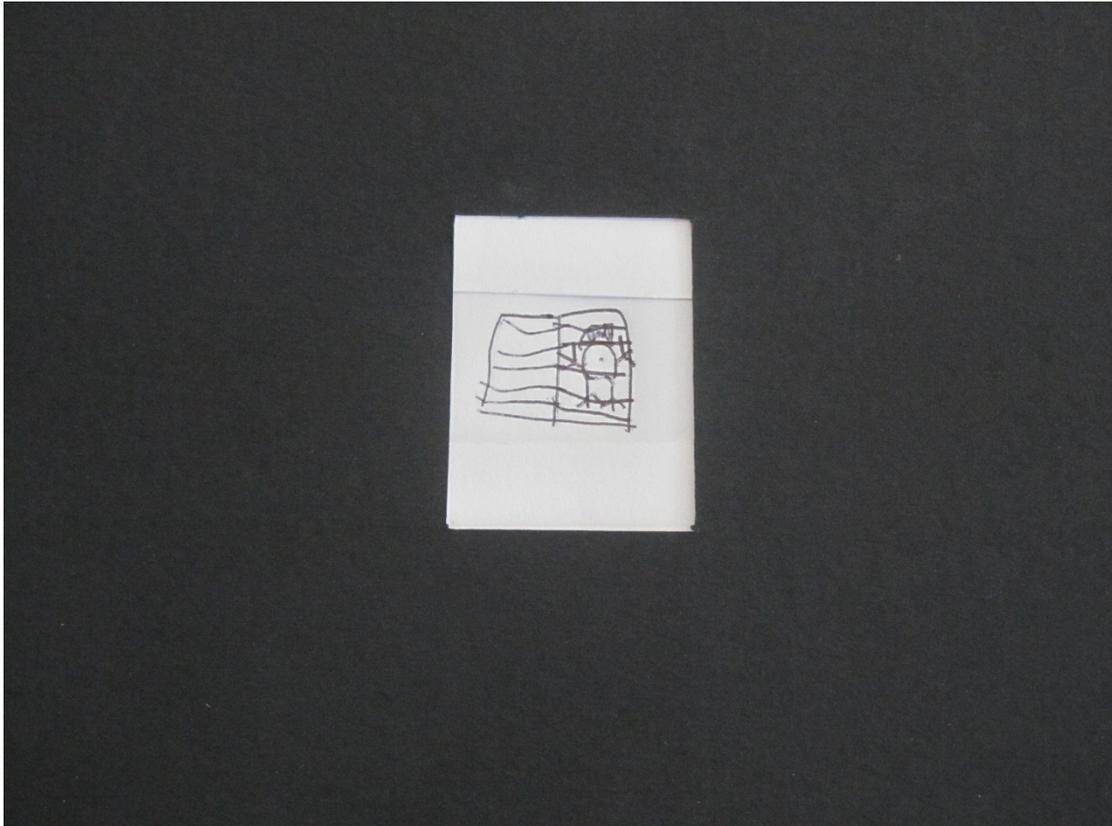
I had another question, "How do you know?"

"Because our teacher uses them all the time."



As a long-term teacher educator, I asked Braydon about the school he went to and his teacher's name.

With this exchange still in my mind, we started to collect children's work from local pre-schools for the next exhibition at the Granary Café in Sunshine. When we visited one of the pre-schools to collect work this time, one teacher said to another, "Shall we give her the storybook?" and there on the wall was the tiny pen and ink drawing by The Vinh. As I looked at this, hardly bigger than a postage stamp, showing such control by a four year old, I thought about Braydon and our conversation about metaphors.



I decided then and there I needed to track down Braydon so that we could display his work with The Vinh's A quick ring around and the help of the school principal and we found Braydon in Year 3 at a local school ...and were delighted to display his work with The Vinh's along with from the metaphor story.

Houseboxes

Probably our most ambitious project, this grew out of an idea by Mira Vuk-Nikic to turn one thousand cardboard boxes into houses with the idea that each house would reveal a community story (where I live, go to school etc) on the outside and a family story (languages spoken, family celebrations etc) inside and that the houses would hang in such a way that people could look up inside them.

So many people were involved across schools and the broader community. A magical project but one not without its ... especially hanging them in the local shopping centre and prior to that storing them ... in the beginning the boxes folded flat and could be stacked in my car and elsewhere but as they became more elaborate with mosaic rooves and the like we had to find storage space...wonderful irony of storing cardboard houses in a sealed cabinet among many that housed the bits and pieces from real houses!

The houseboxes were colourful, imaginative, magical and lantern like ... but so much more....

Cardboard boxes turned into houseboxes, they captured hearts and imagination, highlighted love, peace, freedom and revealed favourite poets, love of reading, preferences for rugby, bike riding and camping, for the beach, AFL teams (Richmond, Western Bulldogs, Sydney Swans, Adelaide Crows and of course, the Magpies), music, gymnastics, Little Athletics, dancing (especially rap), soccer, motorbikes, computers, scooters, Guides, shopping, bikes, choir, television, tennis, films, toys, cross country running, animals, Maths, cricket, books, horse riding, netball, karate, pottery, swimming, gardening, badminton, ballet, Lego, car racing....

They told about school uniforms, friends, zodiac signs, flags, religion, food, languages, national costumes, family celebrations, festivals, recipes and “being best at day dreaming and being silly”.....

They described family backgrounds including Indigenous Australians and tales of grandparents who met on trams, went to war, travelled to Australia as refugees and from many countries: Cambodia, Chile, China, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, England, Eritrea, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Samoa, Scotland, Serbia, Seychelle Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and more....from the oldest to the newest

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