



We welcome the support of Bass Coast Shire Council

Inspiring
Environmental
Stewardship

For Our Future

Final Project Report September 2023



The Eco Arts Cultural Hub (TEACH)
Phillip Island Conservation Society

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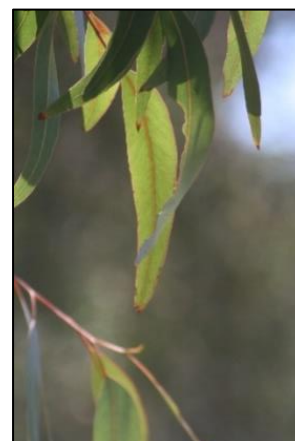


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Executive Summary of Project Outputs

From November 2022 to September 2023, the 'For Our Future' project facilitated a program of intergenerational, intercultural and interdisciplinary activities and events across the Bass Coast community and beyond. It built relationships, deepened connection to Country and inspired environmental stewardship in people of all ages.

The project delivered 131 activity and documentation outputs.

6 x Eco Arts Exhibitions

1. 'Eco Arts in Community' - 12 Bass Coast Stories, Wonthaggi Library
2. 'Eco Arts in Community' - Inverloch Library
3. 'Eco Arts in Community' - Sam Remo Library
4. 'Exploring Art' Bass Coast Adult Learning Gallery
5. 'For Our Future' - Bass Coast College Library, San Remo Campus – Book Week
6. 'Ocean Messages' ArtSpace Wonthaggi

7 x Deep Listening Circles

1. Wonthaggi Library - in association with 'Eco Arts in Community' Exhibition with Aunty Sonia Weston and Mark Finsterer
2. ArtSpace Wonthaggi – in association with 'Daniel Church' Exhibition with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and Mark Finsterer
3. ArtSpace Wonthaggi – in association with 'Ocean Messages' Exhibition
4. Bass Coast College, San Remo led by Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
5. Eel Dreaming with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Sustainability Festival 2023
6. Living Water Ways with Meg Humphrys, Sustainability Festival 2023
7. Ocean Messages International Deep Listening Circle, Wonthaggi ArtSpace

21 x Community Activities/Workshops

1. Message Exchange between Children from Newhaven College and First Nation Elders
2. Island Whale Festival - Activities included Whale Sculpture and Whale Head-Bands over two days
3. Kids Thrive 'Rubbish Sucks' Project and Sculpture with Newhaven Primary School
4. Community Art Mural with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker at the Phillip Island Board Riders Club
5. Bass Coast College, 'Living Water Ways' - Bass Coast College Library, San Remo with Ed Thexton
6. Stencil Making and Print Workshop with Susan Hall, Wonthaggi ArtSpace with 3 follow-up sessions
7. Inverloch Ukulele Group Rehearsal
8. Wonthaggi Ukulele Group Rehearsal
9. Newhaven College – Junior School Choir Rehearsal
10. Newhaven College - Middle School Choir Rehearsal
11. Bass Coast Adult Learning Practice Music Group Rehearsal
12. International Creative Message Exchange facilitated with artists, First Nation Elders and children from Cortes Island, British Columbia, Calgary, Alberta, Boulder, Colorado and Norfolk Island
- 13 - 21. Bass Coast Adult Learning 'Exploring Art' with Special Guest Artists x 9 Sessions

6 x Conservation Walks, Talks and Activities

1. Phillip Island Nature Park, Summerlands Beach led by Pip Cleeland
2. Bass Coast College, San Remo Campus – 3 x Millowl Beaches led by Aileen Vening
3. Bass Coast Adult Learning - Western Port Woodlands led by Tim Herring
4. Bass Coast Adult Learning – Screw Creek led by Ed Thexton
5. Tree Planting #1 Inverloch Childcare with Ed Thexton and John Cuttriss
6. Tree Planting #2 Inverloch and District Preschool with Ed Thexton and John Cuttriss

3 x Community Concerts/Eco Arts Celebrations

1. Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, with First Nation Elders, Children and Community Musicians
2. Bass Coast Land Care Sustainability Festival 2023 – Lunchtime Concert
3. Ocean Messages, Wonthaggi ArtSpace led by children from Bass Coast Children’s Centre

40 x Photostories

1. For Our Future: The Launch
2. Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Field Trip
3. Daniel Church Exhibition at Wonthaggi ArtSpace 'This is My Story'
4. Island Whale Festival 2023
5. Sustainability Festival 2023
6. Artspace Ocean Messages Workshop with Susan Hall
7. Susan Hall's Studio Printing Workshop
8. Library Exhibition and Deep Listening Circle
9. Gidja Walker - Ecologist, Educator, Artist
10. Bass Coast College Deep Listening Circle
11. BCAL Exploring Art #1
12. BCAL Exploring Art #2
13. BCAL Exploring Art #3
14. BCAL Exploring Art #4
15. BCAL Exploring Art #5
16. BCAL Exploring Art #6
17. BCAL Exploring Art #7
18. BCAL Exploring Art #8
19. BCAL Exploring Art #9
20. BCAL Exploring Art Exhibition Opening
21. BCAL Migrant English Class in the Woodlands
22. Creative Message Exchange Introduction and Invitation
23. Creative Message Exchange - Visual Conversation between Melanie Yazzie and Susan Hall
24. Ed Thexton, Yarra River and Yellingbo Creek
25. For Our Future - Eco Arts in Community Overview
26. Ceremony and Song - Project Launch
27. Children and First Nation Elders Message Exchange
28. Environmental Arts - Wonthaggi ArtSpace Community
29. Collaborative Art-Making - Whale Journey Songline with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
30. Art and Poetry of Place - People of all Abilities at Bass Coast Adult Learning
31. Cultural Connections - Deep Listening to Country at Bass Coast Adult Learning
32. Coastal Landscapes - Our Special Places with Bass Coast College Students
33. Conservation and Creativity - Bush Regeneration with Gidja Walker
34. In the Flow - Freshwater Saltwater Connections with Daniel Church
35. Living Waterways - Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival
36. Love of the Living World in Action - Working Together with the Western Port Woodlands
37. National Tree Day with Inverloch Childcare
38. Tree Planting with Inverloch and District Preschool
39. Ocean Messages Exhibition
40. Eco Arts Community Celebration at Wonthaggi ArtSpace

6 x Films

1. For Our Future: The Launch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vCa-tObeGo&t=1009s>
2. Daniel Church – Artist-in-Profile
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XeDhbem13o&t=7s>
3. Uncle Steve Ulula Parker: Artist-in-Profile
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdxEI9GHt_M

4. Aunty Sonia Weston: Artist-in-Profile
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MRURO6Q-Nc>

5. Susan Hall: Artist-In-Profile
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH8x4Y23d9Q>

6. Ed Thexton: Conservationist-in-Profile
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNIZobjAygQ&t=6s>

38 x Project Reports and Articles

1 x Mid Project Report

10 x Monthly PICS Meeting Arts Working Group Reports

8 x 'For Our Future' Working Group Meeting Reports

4 x PICS General Meetings

3 x PICS Newsletter Articles

8 x Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group Meetings

4 x Takso Reports – Cultural Development Network

3 x Bass Coast Post Articles

Creative Conversations from Afar

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/creative-conversations-from-afar>

Opening Arts and Minds

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/opening-arts-and-minds>

Moments of Inspiration

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/moments-of-inspiration>

1 x Final Project Report



1 Acknowledgement

We honour the Bunurong/Boonwurrung of the Kulin Nation who have cared for this Country for tens of thousands of years. We recognise First Peoples' continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders. We recognise the wisdom of First Nation Peoples here and across the world who have taught us the importance of being in relationship with Country and caring for the Living World.

2 Project Summary

For Our Future was a significant community-based project facilitating an environmental program of Eco Arts events and activities for the Bass Coast community and beyond. It was supported financially by the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS). The project was launched on 21st October 2022 and was completed on 30th September 2023.

Project events and activities were all underpinned by the practice of Deep Listening and were designed to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the Living World. The program brought together the Arts, Science and Culture and was intercultural, intergenerational and interdisciplinary.

For Our Future was structured around four projects, Country is Listening, Living Water Ways, Ocean Messages and an Eco Arts Community Celebration. The projects were led by artists supported by interdisciplinary teams of Eco Arts Collaborators. A series of six short films were produced, documenting the projects and the creative, cultural and ecological practice of community members.

For Our Future offered community activities and an educational stream of Eco Arts activities and events across the Bass Coast region. Members of an interdisciplinary team comprised of artists, musicians, conservationists and First Nation cultural educators facilitated environmentally-focused activities and learning experiences. All activities and events were an invitation to listen more deeply and respectfully to the Living World and to recognise ourselves as part of it. The Program of Events included Deep Listening Circles, intercultural collaborations, performances, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, conservation walks and talks and an international Creative Message Exchange.

For Our Future activities and events aligned with the Australian Curriculum 9.0.

The key goal of *For Our Future* was to facilitate environmental stewardship and learning in the community through creative community engagement and Eco Arts collaborations which wove together Art, Science and Culture.

3 Inspiring Environmental Stewardship

For Our Future was created to inspire environmental stewardship through Eco Arts events and activities. Its purpose was to connect us with each other and the natural world through the practice of Deep Listening. *For Our Future* drew on a shared love of place and a deeply felt desire to protect it for the future.



The *For Our Future* project has taken place at a time when the planet is on fire. With the urgency of climate change and ecological collapse ever-present, we have moved into new territory, not knowing what will emerge from these days. We don't know if our environmental actions are going to be successful, but we're doing it anyway, because we must. We're facing these times as members of a community. We're working together and inspiring each other. Author and psychologist Tara Brach believes that when we recognise that we all belong to the natural world, we widen our sense of identity. We remember that we belong to something larger and there is huge creativity and shared love of the natural world on which we can draw.

We live close to the natural world in Bass Coast. It connects us to each other and to the ancient lineage of the people who have cared for this Country for thousands of years. It also connects us to the generations to come and to our responsibilities to protect the environment for the future.

There is a lot of collaborative and creative environmental action happening right now in the conservation space. People are coming together in multiple ways through different networks. Alliances are forming and people are sharing knowledge and pooling their expertise, creating communities with positive ecological focus. Examples of these collective actions can be found in the development of the Western Port Bay Framework designed to protect Western Port from industrialisation into the future, the Phillip Island Land Alliance (PILA) and the educational and community groups that comprise Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI). Phillip Island Conservation Society and the South Gippsland Conservation Society are supporting each other's work in raising awareness of coastal erosion issues, restoring ecosystems along creeks, repatriating Aboriginal artefacts, and providing strategic advice on environmental campaigns, such as Save Western Port Woodlands.

These kinds of creative ecological collaborations strengthen our relationships and our environmental stewardship, helping us find our place in the wider community of living beings.

4 Project Management

The *For Our Future* project was developed by members of the PICS Committee of Management's Arts Working Group, Dr Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Jeff Nottle and Michelle Maes. They established The Eco Arts and Cultural Hub (TEACH) to manage the *For Our Future* project. The guiding principles of TEACH align with those of the Phillip Island Conservation Society. Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) has been the auspicing organisation for the *For Our Future* project. TEACH was the signatory of the Partnership Agreement between PICS and the Bass Coast Shire Council for the delivery of *For Our Future*.

A *For Our Future* Working Group was drawn from community members representing a cross-section of interests and expertise. The role of the Working Group has been to:

- Provide guidance and oversight for the *For Our Future* project from start to completion
- Contribute to the selection of Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators
- Offer support and advice on the delivery of project processes and outcomes, and
- Provide input into project evaluation.

The Working Group met nine times over the course of the project, using a hybrid model of Face-to-Face and Zoom. The venue of the Working Group meetings were the Phillip Island Information Centre and Wonthaggi ArtSpace. Meetings were chaired by Laura Brearley, Coordinator, The Eco Arts Culture Hub (TEACH). Members of the Working Group received an agenda prior to each meeting and minutes after each meeting.



4.1 Dates of Working Group Meetings

Friday 14 th October 2022	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 2 nd December 2022	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 20 th January 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 24 th February 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 14 th April 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 19 th May 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 22 nd July 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 1 st September 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm

4.2 Working Group Membership

Dr Laura Brearley (Chair)

PICS Arts Working Group, Creative Researcher, Musician, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Anne Davie OAM

PICS Arts Working Group, BCSG Reconciliation Group, Conservationist, Arts and refugee advocate

Michelle Maes

PICS, Educator, Project Management

Aunty Sonia Weston

Bunurong Land Council, Traditional Custodian, dancer

Rhonda Renwick

Philanthropist, Intercultural Educator, Board Member of The Cape Eco Village

Geoff Ellis

VP Bass Coast Artists Society, The Waterline News, Co-Chair BCSG Reconciliation Group

Rev Ian Turnnidge

Minister, St John's Uniting Church, Cowes, Chaplain, Newhaven College

Craig Barrie

General Manager, Community Music Victoria

Jessica Berry

Manager, Wonthaggi/San Remo / Cowes Branch, Myli – My Community Library

Ed Thexton

Conservationist, Riparian zone specialist, President South Gippsland Conservation Society

Bron Dahlstrom

Organic Farmer, Conservationist, Refugee advocate, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Sue Lindsay

Theatre-maker, Educator, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Terry Melvin

Film-Maker, Photographer

Special Advisors

Joey Thompson

Student, Year 9, Newhaven College, Organiser School Strike 4 Climate, Kids Teaching Kids

Lisa Wangman

Education, Training and Communications Manager, Bass Coast Landcare Network

Meg Humphrys

Climate Change and Environment Advisor, Westernport Water.

4.3 Project Coordination

For Our Future was coordinated by Dr Laura Brearley. Laura coordinates community-based Eco Arts events and is a singer and song-writer. Laura founded and coordinated the award-winning Shearwater Festival on Phillip Island, the Intercultural Arts Program of the Island Whale Festival and Bass Coast's 'Coastal Connections' project. Laura collaborates closely with First Nation community members, building on 20 years of relationship-building which began with her establishing Koori Cohorts of Researchers at RMIT, Monash and Federation University.



Laura has been an Associate Professor at Monash University (Education), an Adjunct Professor at Swinburne University (Design) and an Adjunct Professor (Research and Innovation) at Federation University.



Laura is a member of the Management Committee of the Phillip Island Conservation Society and leads its Arts Working Group. A collection of thirty of her environmental songs called 'Songs of the Living World' is available through Community Music Victoria.

5 Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators

The Eco Arts events and activities within *For Our Future* were facilitated by Lead Artists, and supported by teams of Eco Arts Collaborators. The role of Lead Artists was to offer creative ideas with an ecological focus that inspired positive environmental action in the community. The role of Eco Arts Collaborators was to enrich creative ideas through multiple ways of knowing and being together.

The Working Group selected Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators whose creative ideas, vision and practice met the following criteria:

1. Inspiring environmental stewardship and action
2. Working collaboratively in community
3. Deepening our sense of connection with the Living World
4. Incorporating different ways of knowing
5. Engaging people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Teams of Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators were appointed by the Working Group.

Project One - Country is Listening

Lead Artist and Cultural Advisor – Uncle Steve Ulula Parker

<https://millowlculture.com/>



Uncle Steve Ulula Parker is a Traditional Custodian of Boonwurrung Country. He is an artist, musician, performer, cultural educator and a mentor of Indigenous youth. He has lived on Country most of his life and has spent the last twenty years living on Millowl. He is a descendant of the Boonwurrung, Yorta Yorta and Erub people. The four pillars he works with in his professional practice are Country, Culture, Health and Climate. He brings in dance, art, story-telling, ceremony and regenerative land management practices into the work he does. He wants to inspire environmental stewardship and action by drawing on ancient songlines and passing on messages that facilitate walking together and working together.

Project Two - Living Water Ways

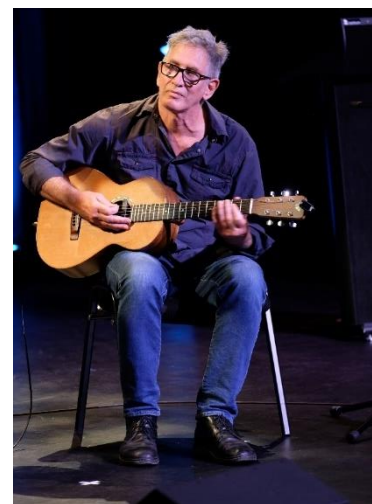
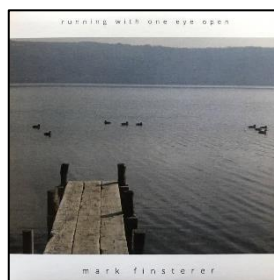
Lead Artist – Mark Finsterer

<https://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/artist/finsterer-mark>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/06YRsNdbQ1suNWtMCEB0TP?si=gU3YaoOERGy8SV5P3x6V4w>

Mark Finsterer is a guitarist, composer, sound artist and producer of ambient minimalist instrumental songs and soundscapes using acoustic and electric guitars and electronic processing - loops, delays and reverbs. Mark has been playing guitar for a long time and has appeared with a wide variety of artists from different genres, performing locally, nationally and internationally. Mark improvises across different creative genres and facilitates others to compose music.

He has composed, performed and improvises music for the Coastal Connections project. Mark has also taught guitar in many institutions including Geelong Grammar, Trinity Grammar, Charles Sturt University, NSW Conservatorium of Music and Wonthaggi Secondary College.

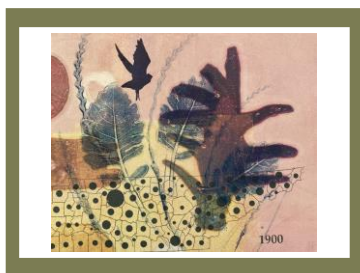


Project Three - Ocean Messages - Lead Artist - Susan A. Hall

www.susanahall.com.au

Susan A Hall is an artist based in Inverloch who paints in acrylics and oils and also works in printmaking, small sculpture and charcoal. She volunteers and curates exhibitions at the Wonthaggi ArtSpace. Susan has completed a Master of Visual Arts, Monash University, Gippsland and has curated a print exchange with American and Australian printmakers, entitled 'Our World of Plastic'. Susan has long-term relationships with artists locally and internationally. In the Ocean Messages project, Susan will facilitate print-making workshops and a Creative Message Exchange, building an intercultural, intergenerational community across the oceans. Susan undertakes collaborative print-making exchanges with Prof Melanie Yazzie, a Navajo artist, printmaker, sculptor and painter who is the Professor of Printmaking at the University of Colorado.

Artworks from Susan Hall's and Melanie Yazzi's Recent Visual Conversation



Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir - Eco Arts Collaborator

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aunty-fay-stewart-muir>

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir is a highly respected Elder who has demonstrated strong leadership and committed community service for over forty years in Victoria in the fields of health, Koori prisoner programs, language revival, cultural advocacy and education. Aunty Fay is a freshwater and saltwater woman, with Boon Wurrung heritage on her mother's side and Wamba Wamba heritage on her father's side. Aunty Fay provides cultural guidance to students and teachers at all levels of the Victorian Education system, providing cultural and curriculum advice in pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education contexts. She contributes to professional learning and resource development and is a published author. In 2018, *Nganga: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Words and Phrases*, which Aunty Fay co-authored with Sue Lawson, was published by Black Dog Books. *Nganga* is an authoritative and concise collection of words and phrases related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and issues. Aunty Fay was appointed by the State Government to undertake the role of Koori Court Elder.



Camille Monet - Eco Arts Collaborator

<http://www.camillemonet.com/>



Camille Monet is a community development artist who specialises in visual art and decorative earthenware ceramics using underglazes and ceramic sculptures fired using the raku technique. Camille graduated with honours in fine arts from Griffith University in Queensland, going on to major in ceramics at RMIT in Victoria where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1997. After working as a pottery teacher, where she taught students from age 3 to 80, and directing an annual Children's Art Carnival, she began devoting full time to her art. She's exhibited in Melbourne, Queensland and on Millowl (Phillip Island). The daughter of an artist and a piano teacher, Camille was raised in a creative world. Her early experiences of living in countries including Fiji, Malta, England, and Bali helped shape her bold use of colour, while inspiring her often-used tropical motifs. Camille facilitates creative and educational activities in order to deepen connection, understanding and love of the natural environment.

Ed Thexton - Eco Arts Collaborator

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ed-thexton-8189261b/?originalSubdomain=au>

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

Ed Thexton is the President of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and Company Director of Riparian Australia. He is country-bred, educated in horticulture and ecology with a skill range extending from practical on-ground works to catchment scale planning. Ed is identified with one of the earliest large-scale urban waterway rehabilitation projects on the Darebin Creek and the successful rural rehabilitation project on the Genoa River in far East Gippsland. Ed has pioneered the use of indigenous vegetation in waterway rehabilitation, whole of catchment waterway rehabilitation planning and the use of aerial video in waterway assessment.



Helen Matthews - Eco Arts Collaborator

Helen Matthews has lived on Phillip Island since 1974. She is a retired Primary School teacher. She has worked with many community groups and has served on various committees as a member and in executive positions. She has taught all grades from Prep to Grade 6 as a classroom teacher as well as Art, ITC, Science and Drama as a



specialist. Helen has been a community volunteer at the Phillip Island Arts Fiesta. She coordinated school workshops for the Oceans of Delight and Enchanted Island Festivals. She has participated in a number of Shearwater Festivals, coordinating the creation of Street Parade costumes and art pieces, working with the whole school. She established and coordinated the Newhaven Primary Art Show, as well as contributing children's artworks to other art displays in the community. She has coordinated and edited 13 additions of the annual Newhaven Primary School magazine. She has been the Newhaven Arts Coordinator, coordinating art, teaching, incursions and sourcing performers, including artist in residence, timetabling, setup, costumes, props, and stage management.

6 Collaborating Organisations/Groups

The *For Our Future* project collaborated with a range of organisations and community groups including:

- Wonthaggi ArtSpace
- Westernport Water
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Phillip Island Nature Park
- Destination Phillip Island
- Bass Coast Schools
- Kids Teaching Kids
- Community Music Victoria
- South Gippsland Conservation Society
- Save Westernport Woodlands
- Yes Youth Hub
- Millowl Dreaming
- Overwintering Project
- Myli Libraries
- Bass Coast Adult Learning
- Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group
- Island Festival of Stories

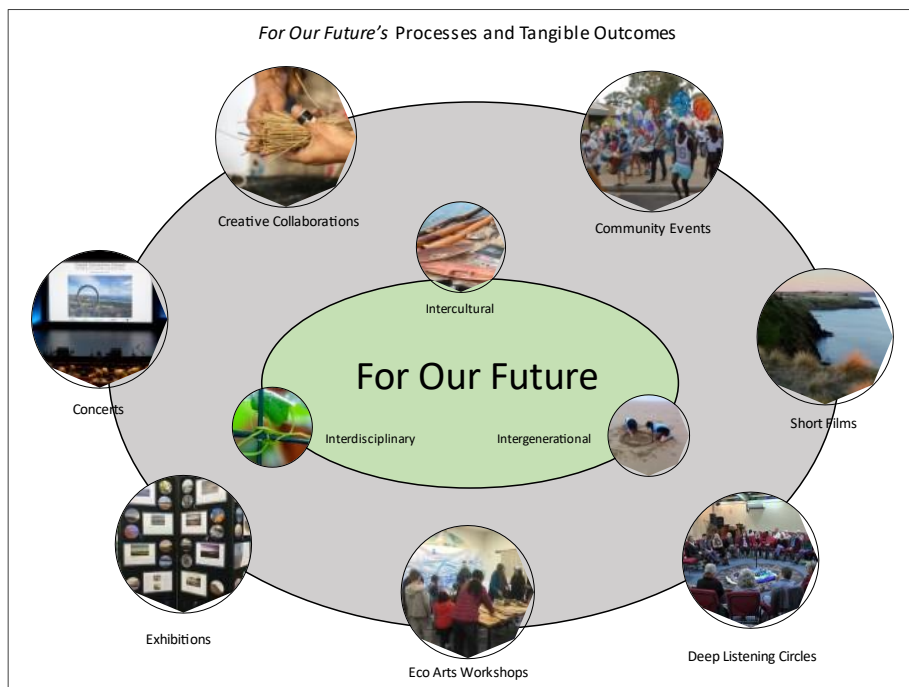
7 Action Plan 21st October 2022 – 30th September 2023

Timeframe	Stage of Project / Deliverables
<p>Commencement: October 2022</p> <p>Completion: November 2022</p>	<p>Stage 1: Planning and Preparation</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going liaison with key stakeholders • Scope project and develop detailed project plan • Mutually agreed timelines established • Planning for the development of infrastructure for project • Local links established with artists, conservationists and scientists • Membership of Working Group finalised • Regular meetings of the Working Group commence • Calendar of Events and Activities developed
<p>Commencement: November 2022</p> <p>Completion: September 2023</p>	<p>Stage 2: Implementation</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Working Group meetings continue • On-going liaison with key stakeholders • Establishment of project support Infrastructure • Expressions of Interest for Artists-in-Residence program • Eco Arts Collaborators identified • Calendar of Events and Activities implemented: • Project One: ‘Country is Listening’ 1st October – 30th September 2023 • Project Two: ‘Living Water Ways’ 9th January 2022 – 30th April 2023 • Project Three: ‘Ocean Messages’ 1st May 2023 – 13th August 2023 • Project Four: ‘Eco Arts Community Celebration’ 14th Aug - 1st Sept 2023
<p>Commencement: October 2022</p> <p>Completion: September 2023</p>	<p>Stage 3: Evaluation and Dissemination</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going documentation and evaluation of project • Six short films completed • Monthly reports presented to PICS Committee • Formative Evaluation Project Report 30th April 2023 • Summative Evaluation 30th September 2023 • Presentation of project outcomes PICS General Meeting August 2023 • Dissemination of Final Project Reports 30th September 2023

8 Overview of Projects

- Country is Listening 21st October – 30th September 2023
- Living Water Ways 9th January 2022 – 30th April 2023
- Ocean Messages 1st May 2023 – 13th August 2023
- Eco Arts Community Celebration 14th August – 1st September 2023

No.	Project	Lead Artists	Collaborators/ Artists	Partner Organisations/Groups
1	<p>Country is Listening</p> <p>Dates 21/10/22 – 30/09/23</p> <p>Key Themes Respect Protect Connect</p>	Uncle Steve Ulula Parker	Camille Monet Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir Helen Matthews Matua Arnold Tihema Aurelio Denasha Daniel Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westernport Water • Phillip Island Nature Park • Bass Coast Schools • Kids as Catalysts • Community Music Victoria • Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group
2	<p>Living Water Ways</p> <p>Timeframe 09/01/23 – 30/04/23</p> <p>Key Themes Reflect Reveal Revive</p>	Mark Finsterer	Ed Thexton Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir Camille Monet Helen Matthews Matua Arnold Tihema Aurelio Denasha Daniel Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westernport Water • South Gippsland Conservation Society • Phillip Island Nature Park • Bass Coast Schools • Kids as Catalysts • Myli Community Library • Community Music Victoria • Wonthaggi ArtSpace
3	<p>Ocean Messages</p> <p>Timeframe 01/05/23 – 13/08/23</p> <p>Key Themes Release Return Re-member</p>	Susan A. Hall	Prof Melanie Yazzie Uncle Steve Ulula Parker Camille Monet Mark Finsterer Marj Rennie Daniel Church Lisa Kennedy Colin Funk Sue Pearson Jane Newman Karen McDiarmid Lisa Kennedy Wonthaggi ArtSpace Artists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonthaggi ArtSpace • University of Colorado • Bass Coast College, San Remo • Newhaven Primary School • Kids as Catalysts • Bass Coast Children’s Centre • Rose Lodgee, Wonthaggi • Aatuti Art, Norfolk Island • Bass Coast Adult Learning • Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group • VNPA
4	<p>Eco Arts Community Celebration</p> <p>Timeframe 14/08/23 – 01/09/23</p> <p>Event 01/09/23</p> <p>Key Themes Communicate Celebrate Regenerate</p>	Special Guests	Uncle Steve Ulula Parker Aunty Sonia Weston Helen Matthews Camille Monet Susan A. Hall Ploen Gnamang Donita Large Joey Thompson Malgorzata Oakes Craig Barrie Dina McMaster Colin Funk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonthaggi ArtSpace • Community Music Victoria • Bass Coast Children’s Centre • Wonthaggi Primary School • Bass Coast Adult Learning • Kids as Catalysts • Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group • South Gippsland Conservation Society • Save Westernport Woodlands • Clean Oceans Foundation



Project One Country is Listening

The 'Country is Listening' project had a focus on culture and collaborative art-making and the music, and stories inspired by it.

Timeframe

21st October 2022 – 30th September 2023

Key Themes

Respect, Protect, Connect

Events in 'Country is Listening'

Deep Listening Ceremonies and Circles
 Community Mural Painting
 Creative Message Exchange
 Eco Arts Workshops
 Conservation Walk and Talk



Scope

The 'Country is Listening' project invited us to embed Deep Listening into our ecological and cultural development practices. Eco Arts experiences in this project strengthened our relationships and helped us find our place in the wider community of living beings.

In the 'Country is Listening' project, the cultural work of First Nation community members Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir and Aunty Sonia Weston-Hume informed our understanding of the importance of listening, reciprocity and responsibility in deepening our relationship with Living World.

Project Two Living Water Ways

The 'Living Water Ways' project integrated art, story, music, poetry, culture and science to deepen our understanding of water cycles and inspire environmental and climate action.

Timeframe

9th January 2022 – 30th April 2023

Key Themes

Reflect, Reveal, Revive

Events in 'Living Water Ways'

Exhibition
Deep Listening Circles
Eco Arts Workshops
Creative Writing: Rivers & Wetlands
Conservation Walk and Talk



Scope

'Living Water Ways' drew its inspiration from projects currently being undertaken in the Bass Coast region by Westernport Water, Bunurong Land Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Phillip Island Conservation Society and South Gippsland Conservation Society. These initiatives involved local community members working on the protection and preservation of rivers, riparian zones and coastlines through a range of creative, ecological and awareness-raising activities.

Projects that inspired 'Living Water Ways' included cultural heritage and story mapping along the Powlett River (Kugerungmome) and the use of art and story-telling with science to build connections, making the links between water and climate change at Westernport Water. Locally generated resources in living water ways include artist Meg Humphry's books 'When Water Lost Her Way' and video, 'Wave of Change' and Laura Brearley's 'Songs of the Living World'. They were used to bring people together through water activities including evapotranspiration with food dye and flowers, water cycle poems and water cycle art and song.

Project Three Ocean Messages

Using print-making and different ways of knowing, the 'Ocean Messages' project explored migratory birds, shared environmental concerns and local and global interconnectedness across the seas.

Timeframe

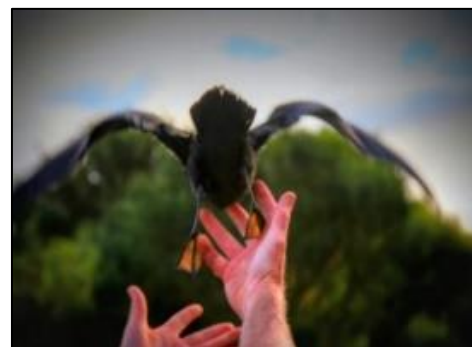
1st May 2023 – 13th August 2023

Key Themes

Release, Return, Re-member

Events in 'Ocean Messages' included:

Art Exhibition
Printmaking Workshops
Deep Listening Circle
Eco Arts Workshops
Creative Message Exchange
Conservation Walk and Talk



Scope

In Bass Coast, we have been facilitating an International Message Exchange between artists, children and First Nation Elders since 2012, based on the concept of birds as messengers.

These have included international print exchanges, visits and exchanges of artworks between Prof Melanie Yazzie (Navajo artist and printmaker), Susan Hall, Patrice Mahoney and other First Nation artists studying at Monash University and Federation University.

An International Message Exchange inspired by the flight path of the short-tailed shearwaters has also been taking place from Bass Coast since 2012. One million short-tailed shearwaters live on Millowl (Phillip Island). The birds migrate 15,000 kilometres each year, flying from Australia up the West coast of Canada (Turtle Island) to the Bering Sea between Alaska and Siberia. The short-tailed shearwaters are messengers about the health of our oceans. If there is a drop in the numbers of krill on which they feed in the Northern Pacific Ocean, the numbers of birds that make it back to Australia drops significantly. The birds have deep cultural significance for the Traditional Custodians, having brought the community together for thousands of years for feasts, gatherings and ceremonies.

The 'Ocean Messages' project continued the tradition of community members exploring and strengthening local and global interconnectedness through Message Exchanges based on the metaphor of birds as messengers.

Project Four Eco Arts Community Celebration

The 'Eco Arts Community Celebration' wove together the outcomes of Projects One, Two and Three at Wonthaggi ArtSpace.

Timeframe

Preparation

14th August – 1st September 2023

Event

1st September 2023

Community Celebration Team

Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators and members of the Bass Coast community and beyond.

Key Themes

Key Themes – Communicate, Celebrate, Regenerate

Venue

Wonthaggi ArtSpace



Eco Arts Community Celebration

An intergenerational, intercultural and international gathering held face-to-face and by Zoom in association with the Ocean Messages Exhibition. The event was opened by Traditional Custodians Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and Aunty Sonia Weston and featured the sharing of culture, art, story, song and dance.

Scope

The Eco Arts Community Celebration provided a public forum to celebrate creative collaborations in Bass Coast and beyond.

9 Benefits to the Community

For Our Future built on previous Eco Arts projects undertaken in the region. The Bass Coast Shire Council contributed funding to the award-winning intercultural Shearwater Festival (2012 – 2017), the Intercultural Arts Program of the Island Whale Festival (2018-2019) and the COVID-era project, Coastal Connections (2020-2021). These projects facilitated community engagement with environmental issues through a range of activities, including exhibitions, community concerts, creative writing activities, Eco Arts workshops, filmmaking and music compositions, all with a focus on community building and caring for the natural world.

For Our Future project drew on existing leadership in the environmental and intercultural space and took it to another level. It benefitted the Bass Coast region by:

- Actively promoting community engagement and commitment to environmental stewardship;
- Facilitating a place-based approach to deepening intergenerational and intercultural connections between community members;
- Demonstrating leadership in cultural development through intersectoral collaborations in the Bass Coast region;
- Strengthening relationships between Bass Coast community groups and organisations, with a shared focus on environmental stewardship;
- Creating resources for future use in Bass Coast Eco Arts and Cultural Development projects;
- Facilitating interdisciplinary and intercultural collaborations that aim to preserve and protect the natural environment;
- Demonstrating the power of the arts and culture to bring people together through a shared appreciation of the natural world;
- Deepening intergenerational and intercultural connections between community members;
- Actively promoting community engagement and learning about environmental issues; and
- Celebrating the natural environment of the Bass Coast region.



10 Deep Listening in Practice and Evaluation

Deep Listening describes a way of working and being together in community. It means listening in ways which draw on all of the senses. It connects us to Country and to stories, songs, silences and the spaces that lie between. It is underpinned by respect and a quality of care. Taking the time to invest in relationships lies at the heart of Deep Listening. The practice of Deep Listening underpinned the *For Our Future* project.

Deep Listening embraces multiple ways of knowing, encompasses all of the senses and makes space for interstitial awareness. From many years of theorising and facilitating intercultural projects, my experience has taught me that the media of film and photostories provide rich, multisensory reflections of experience that is congruent with Indigenous ways of knowing and emergent research and evaluation methodologies. An emergent Deep Listening Framework is the form of evaluation that was used in the *For Our Future* project.

See *For Our Future* Overview for a description of Deep Listening:

<https://picsvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/For-Our-Future-Overview.pdf>

Activities within the *For Our Future* project were evaluated within a decolonised, emergent Deep Listening Framework that:

- 1) Was adaptive, flexible and iterative
- 2) Recognised multiple ways of knowing
- 3) Focused on the nature of relationships and interdependencies
- 4) Reflected the non-linear and multi-directional aspects of activities and potential outcomes.



11 Alignment with Australian Educational Curriculum

Source: <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

Events and activities in *For Our Future* aligned with the Australian Curriculum 9.0 with a focus on:

1) Learning Areas

- The Arts
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences

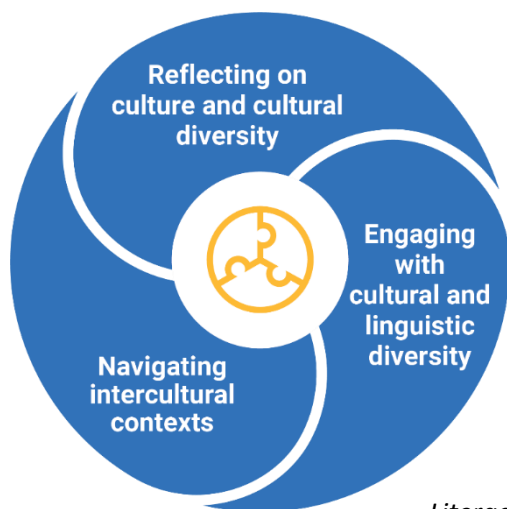
2) General Capabilities

- Intercultural Understanding
- Literacy
- Personal and Social Capability

3) Cross-curriculum Priorities

- Sustainability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.

General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum are addressed through the content of the Learning Areas. Students develop capability when they apply and skills confidently, effectively and appropriately in complex and changing circumstances, in their learning at school and in their lives outside school.



Intercultural Understanding Elements



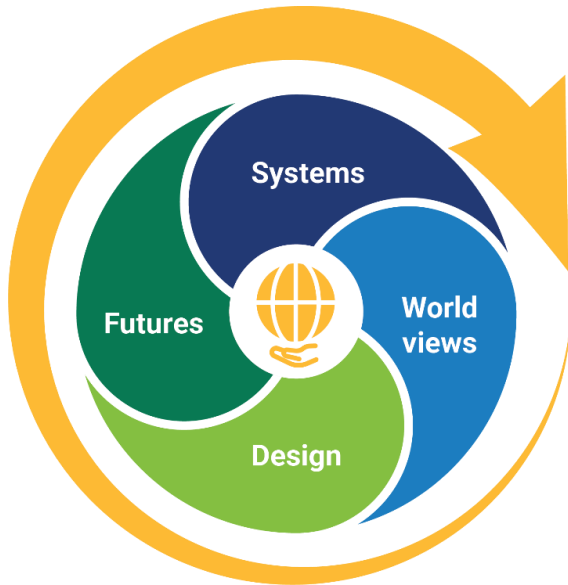
Literacy Elements



Personal and Social Capability Elements

Cross-curriculum priorities are addressed through learning areas and offer opportunities to add depth and richness to student learning. Learning area content that draws on cross-curriculum priorities and the general capabilities at the same time provide very rich learning experiences for students.

Framework for the Sustainability cross-curriculum priority



Framework for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority



For Our Future was designed to facilitate intercultural, interdisciplinary and intergenerational learning with participants of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The program of events and activities was adapted for groups of different sizes and occurred within schools and in community contexts.

12 Project Activities

12.1 Establishment of Project Infrastructure

- A community-based project Working Group was established with regular meetings held, eight in all. Minutes of all the meetings can be seen at the end of this Report.
- Expressions of interest were sought and Lead Artists, Eco Arts Collaborators and Special Guest Artists were appointed.
<https://picsvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Lead-Artists-and-Eco-Arts-Collaborators-.pdf>
- *For Our Future* website content was developed and uploaded to Phillip Island Conservation Society website. (Huge thanks to PICS member Yvonne Lynch.)
<https://picsvictoria.org.au/for-our-future/>

12.2 Summary of Projects

12.2.1 Country is Listening

The 'Country is Listening' project began with the development of the *For Our Future* infrastructure and the planning and preparation for the Project Launch. 'Country is Listening' ran for the duration of the *For Our Future* project. Consequently, there is an overlap between 'Country is Listening' activities and events and those in 'Living Water Ways', 'Ocean Messages' and the 'Eco Arts Celebration' at Wonthaggi ArtSpace.

Community Concerts

- Project Launch - Penguin Parade Visitor Centre with Middle School Choir and Junior School Choirs Newhaven College, led by Mal Webb, Community Music Victoria Singing Leaders, Laura Brearley, Nina Prideaux, Diana Clark (5th November 2022)
- Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival 2023 (21st May)
Lunchtime Community Concert 'Caring for the Living World' with Laura Brearley and local musicians.

Deep Listening Ceremony and Circle

- Project Launch - Penguin Parade Visitor Centre (5th November 2022)
- Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival 2023 (21st May)
Three 'For Our Future' activities - two workshops and a concert
 - 'Eel Dreaming' with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
 - Eco Arts Workshop 'Celebrating Water Ways' with Meg Humphrys

- Lunchtime Community Concert ‘Caring for the Living World’ with Laura Brearley and local musicians

Conservation Walk and Talk

- Walk with PINP Education Ranger Pip Cleeland at Project Launch (5th November 2022)

Collaborative Art-Making

- Lead Artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker completed a mural depicting a Whale Journey Songline, with strong community engagement. The painting of the mural was undertaken at the Phillip Island Boardriders’ Club in Newhaven.
- 9 x Exploring Art classes held with NDIS clients at Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre. Their work was shown at an exhibitions (Myli Libraries and Bass Coast Adult Learning) and was featured in the Creative Message Exchange (3rd April – 21st June).

Creative Message Exchange

- Exchange facilitated between children and First Nation Elders with drawings made by children with First Nation artists’ responses to their artworks
- Contacts organised in Turtle Island (Canada and USA) to receive and exchange messages between school children, artists and community members.
- Artworks and messages from Bass Coast community prepared for Message Exchange.

12.2.2 Living Water Ways

9th January 2022 – 30th April 2023

The ‘Living Water Ways’ project supported students undertaking the Year 8 Unit, Coastal Landscapes, which examines the impact of human beings on the coast. *For Our Future* brought conservationist Aileen Vening from the South Gippsland Conservation Society into the project to support the teachers and enrich the learning of 140 students from Bass Coast College, San Remo Campus studying the unit. Students undertook an excursion to coastal beaches and an incursion of a Deep Listening Circle within the school.

A mural with strong community participation was facilitated by Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and completed at the Phillip Island Boardriders’ Club in Newhaven.

‘Living Water Ways’ also showcased the work of Special Guest Artist, Daniel Church, a Freshwater/Saltwater man from Darug Country who undertook a cross-genre, intercultural collaboration with Lead Artist, musician Mark Finsterer.

Collaborative Art-Making

- Mural undertaken with community participation of Whale Songline Journey, facilitated by Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Phillip Island Boardriders Club, Newhaven
- 9 x Exploring Art classes facilitated with NDIS clients at Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre to prepare material for exhibitions and Creative Message Exchange. (3rd April – 21st June)

Conservation Walk and Talk

- Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Excursion Phillip Island with guest conservationist Aileen Vening (South Gippsland Conservation Society)

Deep Listening Circles

- Bass Coast College (San Remo) - Deep Listening Circle with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Maori Elder Aunty Charmaine Schmidt, Laura Brearley, Camille Monet, Helen Matthews
- Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Deep Listening Circle with Special Guest Artist Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Aunty Elizabeth Dalton, Uncle John Crocker, Laura Brearley

Creative Message Exchange

- Exchange facilitated between children and First Nation Elders begun with drawings made by children with First Nation artists' responses to their artworks
- Visual Conversation between Navajo artist Prof Melanie Yazzie and local printmaker Susan Hall curated and completed for Wonthaggi Arts Space Exhibition (August-September).
- Contacts organised in Turtle Island (Canada and USA) to receive and exchange messages between school children, artists and community members.
- Message Circles developed from Daniel Church's artworks and poetic text in readiness for the Exchange
- Artworks and messages from children and BCAL Exploring Art participants prepared for Message Exchange.



12.2.3 Ocean Messages

1st May 2023 – 13th August 2023

Collaborative Art-Making

- 9 x Exploring Art classes facilitated with NDIS clients at Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre to prepare material for exhibitions and Creative Message Exchange. (3rd April – 21st June)

Conservation Walk and Talk

Walks undertaken in Westernport Woodlands and Screw Creek Nature Reserve

Deep Listening Circles

- Bass Coast College (San Remo) - Deep Listening Circle with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Maori Elder Aunty Charmaine Schmidt, Laura Brearley, Camille Monet, Helen Matthews
- Wonthaggi ArtSpace – Led by Laura Brearley and Susan Hall

Creative Message Exchange

A Creative Message Exchange took place between children, artists, conservationists and First Nation Elders in Bass Coast (Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country), Turtle Island (Canada/USA) and Norfolk Island. Messages were in the form of artworks, poetic text, songs, photographs and short films.

12.2.4 Eco Arts Community Celebration

An Eco Arts Community Celebration was held at Wonthaggi ArtSpace on 1st September 2023. It was an intergenerational, intercultural and international event. An intergenerational, intercultural and international gathering held face-to-face and by Zoom in association with the Ocean Messages Exhibition. The event was opened by Traditional Custodians Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and Aunty Sonia Weston and featured the sharing of culture, art, story, song and dance.

12.3 Summary of Activities

12.3.1 Deep Listening Ceremony and Community Concert

Over two hundred people gathered at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre to help launch *For Our Future*. The Phillip Island Nature Park generously donated the use of their venue for the event. A film of the event can be seen here ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vCa-tObeGo&t=7s>

The Launch began with a powerful and moving ceremony led by Traditional Custodian and long-time resident of Millowl, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker. Uncle Steve welcomed everyone with a Smoking Ceremony, paying tribute to his Ancestors and acknowledging the importance of caring for Country. At an emotional moment in the Ceremony, he honoured the memory of Cassius Turvey and spoke about the importance of looking after young people and keeping them safe.

A Deep Listening Ceremony followed, featuring First Nation Elders and artists, including poetic text from Uncle Herb Patten (Gunnai) and Lisa Kennedy (Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway). Matua Arnold Tihema from Aotearoa (New Zealand) sang a song about the Maori God of the Ocean, 'Tangaroa Whakamautai'. In full regalia, Aurelio Denasha, an Ojibwa dancer and cultural educator from Minnesota USA (Turtle Island) , performed a ceremonial dance, The Crow Hop.

Rev Ian Turnnidge was the Master of Ceremony for the event and created an inclusive atmosphere, welcoming and weaving together different elements of the community. Local artist, John Adam, read out a message gifted to him almost fifty years ago by Uncle Roy, an Aboriginal Elder from Roper River (Yugul Mangi). Uncle Roy's strong words affirmed an ancient and on-going connection to Country. Community artist Camille Monet decorated the room with whales painted by Aboriginal artists from the Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Centre and large shearwaters and frogs. Jessica Berry, Manager of the Cowes/San Remo branches of the Myli Library, set up a display of books relevant to the project's ecological and intercultural themes. Mayor Michael Whelan officially launched the project, speaking about the Council's deep commitment to environmental and climate-related issues.

An intergenerational Community Concert followed, bringing everyone together. The Middle and Junior School Choirs from Newhaven College, led by Diana Clarke and Nina Prideaux, performed a

number of environmental songs, supported by a House Band of musicians and singing leaders, led by Mal Webb. Phillip Island Nature Park's Ranger Pip Cleeland engaged the community with stories, poetry and dancing that celebrated bandicoots and penguins and demonstrated the richness of incorporating different ways of knowing. At the end of the Concert, Ranger Pip took visitors on a conservation walk and talk to Summerlands Beach while Terry Melvin showed two of his environmental films in the PINP theatre.

12.3.2 Collaborative Art-making

Lead Artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker completed a mural depicting a Whale Journey Songline, with strong community engagement. The painting of the mural was undertaken at the Phillip Island Boardriders' Club in Newhaven.



12.3.3 Eco Arts Collaborations with Special Guest Artists

We made arrangements with Save Westernport Woodlands to collaborate on Conservation Walks and Talks, Destination Phillip Island about activities for the Island Whale Festival, managers of Myli Libraries about hosting *For Our Future* Library Exhibitions and Prof Melanie Yazzi from University of Boulder, Colorado about the Creative Message Exchange.



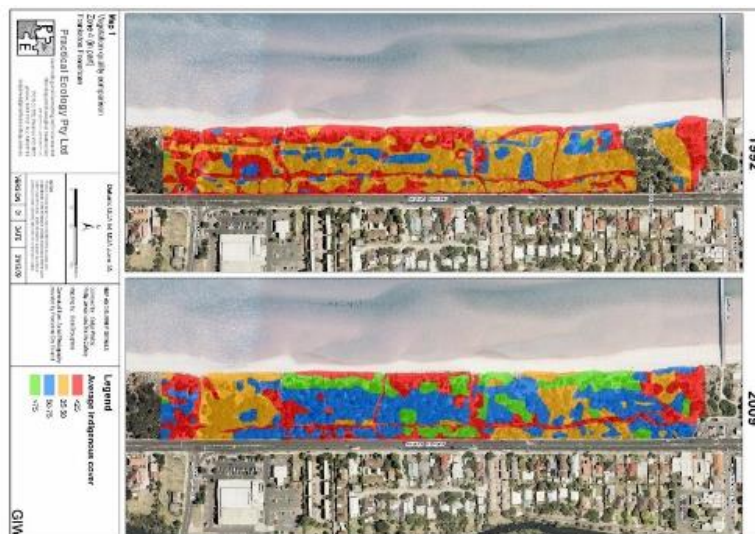
On Thursday 23rd March, Gidja Walker ran an informative and engaging Weed Management workshop at the Anderson Boat Ramp, Cowes for PILA, funded by Westernport Water. Gidja is an ecologist, educator and artist and believes that mixing creativity, art and nature together is an easy natural alliance. We made a film and a photo story about her weed management workshop and her approach to ecology as an artist.

In Gidja's words ...

'People don't necessarily want to learn in the same ways that were used to in the past. Hands-on learning and through storytelling and art is a far better way to retain knowledge. When you are making or creating something, you're looking at it from the other side of the brain and that gives you a different suite of solutions. I've learnt how to identify reeds by making string.'



Gidja provided a strong link with artists and activists from the Mornington Peninsula committed to protecting Westernport Bay.



12.3.4 Deep Listening Circle at Wonthaggi Artspace

Darug artist and sculptor Daniel Church was a Special Guest at a Deep Listening Circle held to accompany his exhibition 'This is My Story', held at Wonthaggi ArtSpace. Curated by Ursula Theinert, Susan Hall and Karin Ellis, the exhibition revealed Daniel's creative journey of recovery through trauma and heartbreak. Daniel has lost many people he has loved and has witnessed deaths in custody first-hand. His healing has come through the making of art, drawing on a deep well of connection to culture and Country.

Daniel Church is a mature artist, thoughtful and quietly spoken. He is able to hold sorrow and beauty together and his artworks express the texture and dynamic tension of that. They reveal a personal story of survival, made possible by the strength he derives from his culture and Country. Daniel's work also illuminates the universal story of suffering and the extraordinary human capacity to endure the unendurable.



Against the backdrop of colonisation and all that has been lost, Daniel is still here, making art, reaching out and telling stories. His generosity and courage are palpable in the work. His paintings, wood sculptures and poetry invite us into a deep appreciation of Daniel himself, his First Nations' culture and the healing power of connecting to community and Country.

Supported by The Torch Project, Daniel has been called on in his journey of creative healing and recovery. In turn, his artwork and his words call to us. In Daniel's words ...

Calling

Calling through this art

Connecting back to culture

Family and forgiveness

The journey continues

The Dreaming of our Ancestors

Creating still

Our culture



*True and strong
Flowing forever
Like the oceans
And the tides*



The focus of the Deep Listening Circle held in association with Daniel's exhibition was a key question: 'What is calling through this art?'

The Circle created time and space for participants to explore this idea through the sharing of stories, ideas, and the practice of deep and respectful listening.

Alongside Daniel Church, other Special Guests at the Deep Listening Circle included Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, artist and ceremony maker and musician Mark Finsterer. Uncle Steve and Mark were both Lead Artists of *For Our Future*. Laura Brearley, Coordinator of the *For Our Future* project facilitated the Deep Listening Circle.

12.3.5 Creative Message Exchange

A Creative Message Exchange took place between children, artists, conservationists and First Nation Elders in Bass Coast (Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country) Turtle Island (Canada/USA) and Norfolk Island. The Exchange was an invitation to connect with the Living World and to recognise ourselves as part of it, locally and globally. Messages were in the form of artworks, poetic text, songs, photographs and short films.

One of the Lead Artists in the *For Our Future* project was Inverloch artist and printmaker Susan Hall. Susan is a friend of Melanie Yazzie, a Navajo artist who is the Professor of Arts Practices and Head of Printmaking at the University of Colorado. Susan and Melanie are creative collaborators and have been active in international print exchanges over many years.

In Susan's words: 'A Creative Message Exchange shows what it's like to make an offer and for someone else to respond. Underneath it is trust and generosity. At the core of it is love. You just need a starting point, an opening message to begin the communication and connection. Melanie and I make conversation pieces. Melanie sends work to me which includes her stories and I respond to that with what is happening in my life. Melanie and I are on the same wavelength. When I first heard about the Eco Arts project *For Our Future*, I told Melanie about it. I said we could do conversations from afar and Melanie said 'OK. Let's start right now'. So we did. We created twenty prints each and sent the twenty prints to each other.'

Susan and Melanie's visual conversation and the poetic text generated from their artworks formed part of an exhibition that took place at Wonthaggi ArtSpace in August and September.

Here is a taste ...

Driftwood and trees

Seagulls flying in an afternoon sunset

Shearwaters on the clifftops of Cape

Woolamai

Flying on the wind

Bringing stories from the other side of the world



Another set of beautiful messages was exchanged between children and First Nation artists after the Launch of the 'For Our Future' project. The Launch included a Smoking Ceremony, a Deep Listening Ceremony and a Concert of environmental songs involving children and community musicians. 200 people attended the Launch which took place at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre.



After the Launch, Grade 4 students from Newhaven College drew images in response to their experience of the day. Three of the First Nation artists who helped facilitate the Ceremonies looked at the artworks and responded to the children's messages. They were Traditional Custodian Uncle Steve Ulula Parker (Boonwurrung/Yorta Yorta/Erub), Matua Arnold Thema (Maori), and Aurelio Denasha (Ojibway). The Creative Message Exchange revealed a strong sense of connection to Country and community shared by both the children and the First Nations' artists.

Here are some responses to the children's artworks from Uncle Steve Ulula Parker:

'As a First Nations Boonwurrung man, I have been moved by the way the images show the impact the Ceremony has had on young people. I see them understanding it in a visual way. The younger

generation are understanding First Nations' culture. Our culture, our Country. That's what it's all about. We can tell the truth of what has happened. We can pass that on down to non-Indigenous people and embed it in generations to come. It can change our ways of thinking. It's a way of moving forward.

I am quite amazed at what the Bubup (children) are seeing.
The beautiful sunshine that was out that day.
Waa (Crow) in the sky and Bunjil (Eagle) in the trees
Footsteps on the land
A meeting place around the campfire.



Bunjil was there before everybody came out to that ceremony.

Bunjil was flying around above us
Watching, listening, connecting.

Maori Elder and musician Matua Arnold Tihema sent the following responses back to the children:

'I appreciate these images.

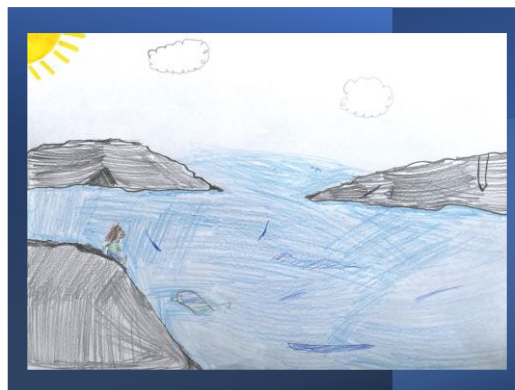
A younger generation has understood the need to care for Country.

There will be a continuation of what we have started.

Their interpretations say things in ways that words can't.

They are a response from the heart.

We need to appreciate what they've done and give them encouragement to go further into it.



The Deep Listening Ceremony was the opening of the invitation to engage

There was story, song, language, dance and poetry

There was such generosity

There was a sense of First Nations people connecting to offer this invitation

We pay respect to each other

Respect lies at the heart of Ceremony

It doesn't matter what religion you have what colour your skin is or what language you speak

We are all under the same sky.'

And finally, Ojibwa dancer and story-teller Aurelio Denasha from Turtle Island:

'I see life giving life

Being ready for birth

The birth of a new generation

A new generation is coming up

There are choices to make

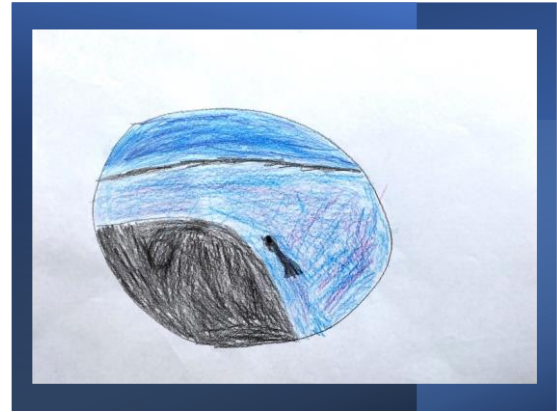
We have to be careful

What will we choose?

There is a sense of potential about to burst through

There is a message here

It is beautiful.'

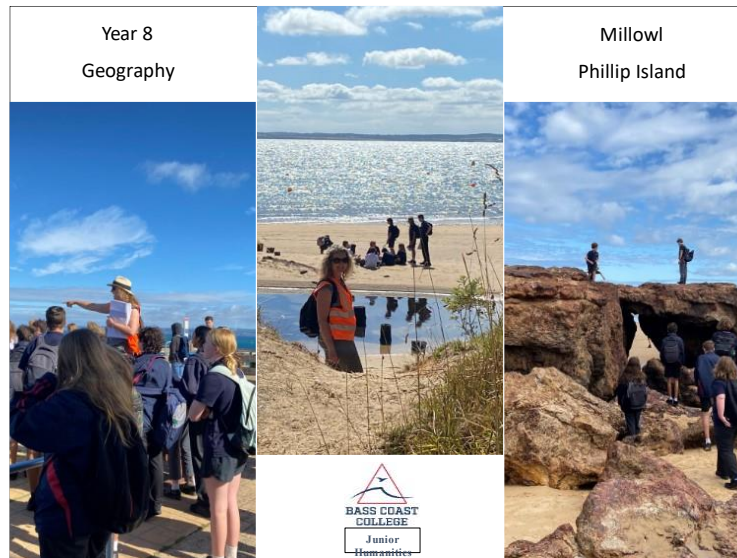


Messages from the Exchange were displayed at exhibitions in Myli Libraries in Bass Coast (June 2023) and at Wonthaggi ArtSpace (August – September 2023).

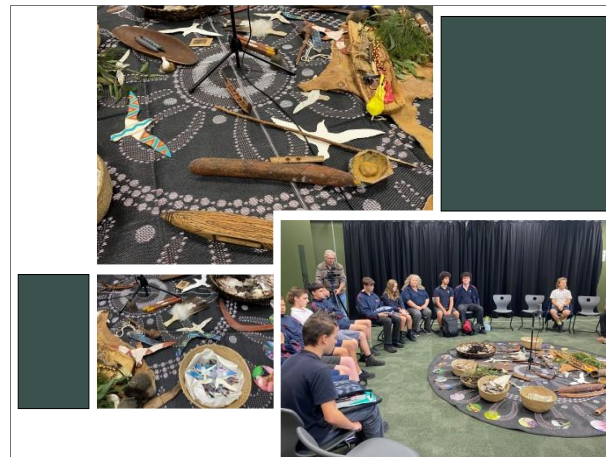


12.3.6 Coastal Landscapes

The *For Our Future* team worked with Bass Coast College on their Year 8 Coastal Landscape Unit and accompanied and filmed them on a Field Trip on 16th March when 140 students visited beaches at the Nobbies, Cowes East and Forrest Caves.



Uncle Steve Ulula Parker followed up the Coastal Landscapes excursion by leading a Deep Listening Circle attended by staff and Year 7 to 9 students from San Remo campus of Bass Coast College.



12.3.7 Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival

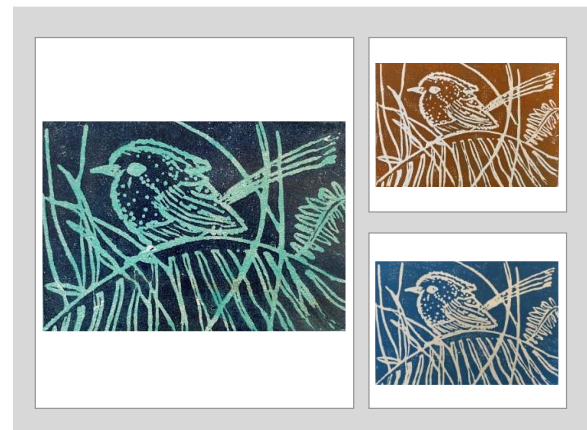
Three *For Our Future* activities were facilitated at the Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival on Saturday 21st May.

- 'Eel Dreaming' with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
- Lunchtime Community Concert with Laura Brearley and local musicians
- 'Celebrating Waterways' Eco Arts Workshop with Meg Humphrys.



12.3.8 Ocean Messages Workshop at Wonthaggi ArtsSpace

The Ocean Messages Workshop at Wonthaggi ArtsSpace on 27th May was fully subscribed with 17 participants. Led by Susan Hall, participants undertook mono-printing and stencil-making related to the Living World.





12.3.9 Eco Arts Printmaking Workshops in Inverloch with Lead Artist Susan Hall

Four follow-up Printing Workshops were subsequently held in Susan Hall's studio in Inverloch in June.



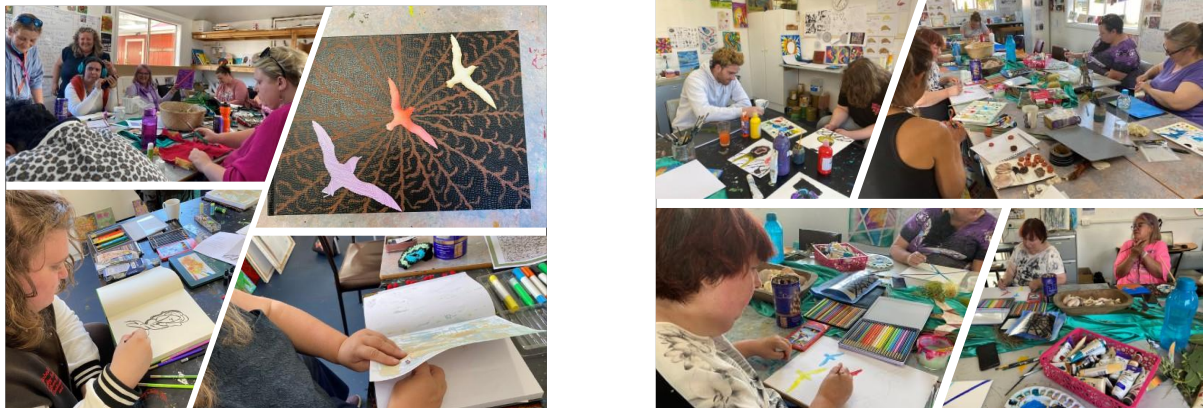
Susan Hall facilitated a series of print workshops at her Studio Gallery in Inverloch.

She offered them as follow-up sessions from her 'Ocean Messages' Workshop at Wonthaggi ArtSpace.



12.3.10 Exploring Art at Bass Coast Adult Learning

Over the course of nine sessions during Term 2, we worked with a group of NDIS students and support workers in providing a range of Eco Arts experiences within their 'Exploring Art' program. *For Our Future* supported a team of Special Guest Artists including Camille Monet, Susan Hall, Alisoun Neville, Helen Matthews, Aunty Sam Walker-Wilson (Yorta Yorta), Ronald Edwards Pepper (Gunaikurnai), Travis Wiltshire and Ursula Weinert. They facilitated activities in collage and jewellery-making with natural materials, mono-printing with feathers, shells and shearwater shapes, visual journalling, weaving with grasses, painting on pots guided by First Nation visitors, leaf rubbing and cyanotype printing with natural materials such as grasses and feathers.



An exhibition featuring the work of NDIS participants in BCAL's Exploring Art class are still on display at Bass Coast Adult Learning. The exhibition opened on Wednesday 19th July.

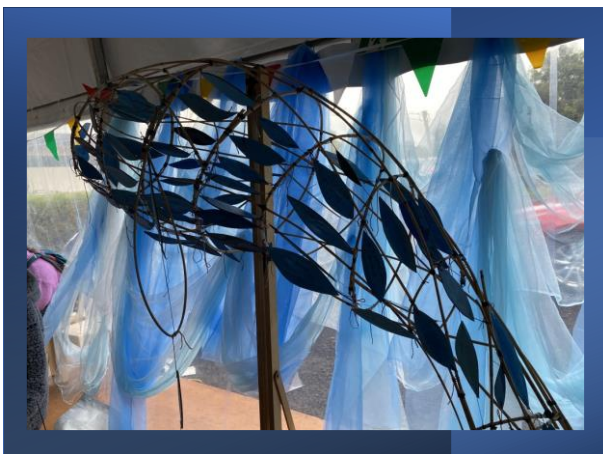


An article about the event and an accompanying photostory was published in the Bass Coast Post and can be seen at: <https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/opening-arts-and-minds>

The artworks created at BCAL also contributed to the *For Our Future* exhibitions which took place at the local Myli libraries (June 2023), Wonthaggi ArtSpace (August – September 2023).

12.3.11 Island Whale Festival 2023

The *For Our Future* project facilitated a series of Eco Arts activities at the Island Whale Festival held in Cowes, 30th June – 2nd July. Eco Arts Collaborators Camille Monet and Helen Matthews facilitated the making of whale head-bands and the sending of messages to whales, wishing them well on their northern migration. PICS shared an information table with the Victorian National Parks Association over the three-day Whale Festival.



12.3.12 Myli Library Exhibitions - Wonthaggi, Inverloch, San Remo

Wonthaggi Library

The 'For Our Future' exhibition featured twelve community stories from Bass Coast:

- 1 For Our Future - Eco Arts in Community
- 2 Ceremony and Song - Project Launch
- 3 Children and First Nation Elders - Message Exchange
- 4 Environmental Arts - Wonthaggi ArtSpace Community
- 5 Collaborative Art-Making - Whale Journey Songline with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
- 6 Art and Poetry of Place - People of all Abilities at Bass Coast Adult Learning
- 7 Cultural Connections - Deep Listening at Bass Coast Adult Learning
- 8 Coastal Landscapes - Our Special Places with Bass Coast College Students
- 9 Conservation and Creativity - Bush Regeneration with Gidja Walker
- 10 In the Flow - Freshwater Saltwater Connections with Daniel Church
- 11 Living Waterways - Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival 2023
- 12 Love of the Living World in Action - Working Together with the Westernport Woodlands



Getting ready for the 'For Our Future' Exhibition Opening and Deep Listening Circle



Traditional Custodian Aunty Sonia Weston performed the Welcome to Country at the opening of the exhibition in Wonthaggi Library. She is pictured here with First Nations artists Daniel Church (Darug) and Aunty Elizabeth Dalton (GunaiKurnai) whose works were featured in the exhibition.



Inverloch Library

After a month at the Wonthaggi Library, the exhibition moved to the Inverloch library. Pictured here is Laura Brearley with Myli Library Branch Manager Jo Bowler.



San Remo Library

Library Manager and Project Working Group member Jessica Berry curated a condensed version of the *For Our Future* Exhibition at the San Remo Library.



12.3.13 Bass Coast College San Remo Library Exhibition and Incursion

At the invitation of school librarian Julie-Anne Triesse, another version of the *For Our Future* exhibition was curated for the library at Bass Coast College, San Remo for Children’s Book Week. The theme for Book Week was Read, Grow, Inspire. Also as part of Book Week, Ed Thexton was a guest speaker at the school to talk about his work as a conservationist. We showed the new *For Our Future* film about his conservation work and then facilitated a lunch-time conversation with a group of children and staff.



12.3.14 Kids as Catalysts – Environmental Sculpture

Sponsored by *For Our Future* within the Kids as Catalysts project, a group of Newhaven Primary School students worked with Helen Matthews to make an environmental sculpture called ‘Rubbish Sucks.’ Their sculpture was displayed at Dalyston Hall and the children made a presentation about the importance of caring for the environment.





Thanks to Michelle Maes for representing PICS and *For Our Future* in supporting the students and the sculpture-making project.

The sculpture was shown as part of the 'Ocean Messages' exhibition at Wonthaggi ArtSpace. Following the closure of the Ocean Messages exhibition at ArtSpace on 17th September, Newhaven Primary School is now exhibiting the sculpture in the school foyer.

12.3.15 Conservation Walks and Talks

A walk in the Western Port Woodlands by the BCAL Migrant English class was filmed for the *For Our Future* project.



Ed Thexton led a group of Migrant English students and staff from Bass Coast Adult Learning on a Conservation Walk and Talk at Screw Creek, Inverloch. The conservation walk and talk was led by Ed Thexton, President of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and an Eco Arts Collaborator within the *For Our Future* project.

Ed led the group along the Screw Creek Townsend Bluff Estuary Walk and up Townsend Bluff overlooking Anderson Inlet to the big manna gum tree, known in the community as The Grandmother Tree.



12.3.16 Ocean Messages Exhibition

Preparation

In preparation for the Ocean Messages Exhibition and as part of the Creative Message Exchange, six USBs of Eco Arts messages and community stories were sent to artists and First Nation Elders in Canada, USA and Norfolk Island.



The messages were in the form of artworks, poems, songs and films which focussed on love and concern for the Living World. The USBs included an invitation to respond with environmental messages and artworks from their part of the world.

Contents of USB

An Introduction and Invitation to the Creative Message Exchange

Bass Coast Community Stories

- 1 For Our Future - Eco Arts in Community
- 2 Ceremony and Song - Project Launch
- 3 Children and First Nation Elders - Message Exchange
- 4 Environmental Arts - Wonthaggi ArtSpace Community
- 5 Collaborative Art-Making - Whale Journey Songline with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
- 6 Art and Poetry of Place - People of all Abilities at Bass Coast Adult Learning
- 7 Cultural Connections - Deep Listening at Bass Coast Adult Learning
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- 12 Love of the Living World in Action - Working Together with the Westernport Woodlands

Short Films

- 1 Eco Arts in Action
- 2 For Our Future: The Launch
- 3 Millowl Coast
- 4 Harmers
- 5 Our Special Blue and Green Place

Songs of the Living World

A Collection of Environmental Songs on the themes of Respect, Protect, Connect

In response to the messages sent, we received images from artists and First Nation Elders in Canada, USA and Norfolk Island which were displayed at the 'Ocean Messages' Exhibition.

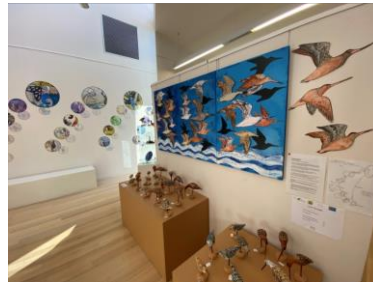


The image is a flyer for the 'Ocean Messages' exhibition. It features three vertical panels of artwork on the left. The top panel shows a butterfly with a globe as its body, with the caption 'Nanajo and Metanie Teale with Susan Hall'. The middle panel shows a blue bird flying over water, with the caption 'Messenger Bird, Susan Hall, Inverloch'. The bottom panel shows a yellow bird with a globe as its body, with the caption 'Sue Ferguson, Norfolk Island'. To the right of the artwork are logos for 'Eco Arts Collaborations For Our Future', 'FACS NORFOLK ISLAND', and 'ArtSpace Wonthaggi'. Below the logos is the title 'Ocean Messages'. The text of the invitation follows: 'You are invited to the "Ocean Messages" Exhibition, a component of the Eco Arts project "For Our Future". The Exhibition is showcasing artworks from a Creative Message Exchange taking place across the oceans between artists, children and First Nation Elders in Bass Coast (Boonwurrung/Bunurong Country), Norfolk Island and Turtle Island (Canada and USA). The purpose of the Exhibition and the "For Our Future" project is to inspire environmental stewardship. Susan Hall is curating the Exhibition which is opening on 13th August and running until 17th September 2023. Invitation to Opening When Sunday 13th August 2023 1.00pm – 3.00pm Where ArtSpace Wonthaggi, The Centennial Building'. At the bottom right is the 'BASS COAST' logo with the text 'Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council'.

Exhibition Opening

The 'Ocean Messages' exhibition opened at Wonthaggi ArtSpace with an Eco Arts Celebration on Sunday, August 13th. The exhibition showcased artworks, photographs and creative writing from a Creative Message Exchange across the oceans between artists, children and First Nation Elders in Bass Coast (Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country), Norfolk Island and Turtle Island (Canada and USA). Susan Hall, a Lead Artist of the 'For Our Future' project curated the show.

Boonwurrung Traditional Custodian Aunty Sonia Weston welcomed people to Country, offering a leaf to grant safe passage through Country. Camille Monet facilitated a whale and shearwater headband activity using recycled and natural materials.



John Gemmill, CEO Clean Ocean Foundation opened the Exhibition. Children from the Bass Coast Children's Centre led some singing and sign-dancing of environmental songs.



12.3.17 Eco Arts Community Celebration

An intergenerational, intercultural and international Eco Arts Community Celebration was held at Wonthaggi ArtSpace on 1st September 2023. Members of the Bass Coast community were joined by participants on Zoom: Craig Barrie – Musician, General Manager Community Music Victoria; Wonthaggi ArtSpace, Bass Coast; Malgorzata Oakes - Artist, Hudson Valley, New York State; Colin Funk Eco Theatre-maker Cortes Island, British Columbia; Donita Large - Cree Singer/Songwriter and Cultural Educator; Joey Thompson - Climate Activist and Environmental Leader, Newhaven College calling in from Seattle, USA.



The gathering included performances and presentations from Traditional Custodians Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Aunty Sonia Weston Kindergarten children from the Bass Coast Children’s Centre. Grade 5 children from Newhaven Primary School, Cree singer/songwriter Alberta and Ploen Gnamang from the BCAL Migrant English class told the story of the annual Buddhist ceremony held at the Inverloch Jetty on the full moon to thank the ocean and apologise for defiling it.





Members of the *For Our Future* Working Group were joined by Project Patron Kay Setches OAM and other community members in an open Working Group Meeting at the end of the Gathering.

L. To R. Michelle Maes, Cr Geoff Ellis, Susan Hall, Anne Davie OAM, Kay Setches OAM – Project Patron Laura Brearley, Ursula Theinert, Terry Melvin



13 Feedback and Evaluation

Project Patron - Kay Setches OAM

For Our Future has been such a success, involving so many people.

When it began it was a hard thing to pull off but as usual you excelled and from a local initiative it grew to an international exchange.

Thank you so much for your wonderful festive and creative spirit and energy.

I loved working with you.



Key Words from Evaluations of *For Our Future* Activities

Key words which described how people felt after *For Our Future* activities included:

Hopeful, Calm, Connected, Uplifted, Inspired, Optimistic, Heart, Healing, Comfort, Reconciliation, Anticipation, Resolve, Wonderful, Contented, Energised, Hopeful, Inspired, Joyous, Determine, Peaceful, Hopeful, Joyous, Uplifted, Hopeful, With Joy, Peaceful, Hopeful, Lighter, Delighted, Thankful, Elated, Grateful, Impressed, Encouraged, Supported, Determined, Included, Uplifted, Optimistic, Grateful, Expectant, Uplifted, Privileged, Uplifted, Joyful, Proud, Positive, Belonging, Centred, Peaceful, Engaged, Safe, Enriched, Fulfilled, Surprise, A sense of wonder, Security, Creative, Buzz, Happy, Uplifted, Inspired, Connected, Happy, Creative, Uplifted, Inspiring, Creative, Community, Stimulated, Motivated, Enlightened, Inclusive, Interesting, Joyful, Uplifted, Refreshed, Inspired, Excitement, Pleasure, Stimulation, Very Excited, Inspired, Included, Refreshed, Inspired, Included, Exhilarated,



Inspired, Creative, Belonging, Comfort, Supported, Blessed, Positive, Happy, Strong, Loving, Happy, Unity, Humanity, Love, Hope, Joy, Strength, Exhilarated, Special to have learnt so much, Heartfelt, Sincere, Empathy, Connection, Love, Sharing, Country, Togetherness, Aspirational, Forgiving, Awareness, Appreciation for works, Thankfulness, Inspiring, Aware, Confronting, Hopeful, Engaged, Reflective, Love, Hope, Inspiration, Community, Connection, Sharing, Embodied, Happy, Grateful, Inspired, Connection, Emotional, Empowered, Calm, Positive, Inspired, Sharing, Warm, Happy, Grateful, Lucky, Kind, Grateful, Community, Calm, Connection, Joy, Moved, Loved, Community, Blessed, Exhilarated, Stunned, Inspired, Incredible, Moving, Emotional, Joy, Motivated, Peaceful,

Compassion, Hopeful, Calm, Uplifted, Inspired, Contentment, Inspired, Optimistic, Heart, Healing, Comfort, Culture, Environment/Art, Wonderful, Fabulous, Dynamite, Reconciliation, Anticipation, Resolve, Moved, Close, Commonwealth, Welcome. Inspired, Appreciative, Love, Priceless, Hopeful, Heart-opening, Optimistic, Honoured, Grateful.

The three words used most frequently in evaluations were **Connected, Inspired and Engaged**.

Examples of Evaluation Comments in response to *For Our Future* activities are:

- It gives me hope that our world might be OK, when there are such creative people coming up with engaging ways to communicate positive solutions to environmental and climate problems. To engage people of all ages through the arts and sharing stories that empower people to take action, is really very powerful.
- A program that is intergenerational, intercultural and intergenerational and brings together arts, culture and science is such a sensible yet powerful way to connect people and environment
- I applaud the 'For Our Future project' for its aspirations to engage community and schools, to foster a greater sense of individual and community connections with the natural world and to create spaces in which greater awareness, understanding and respect between people of different cultures can flourish.



- Loved all the elements - of conservation, visual art, story, movement, music and indigenous caretakers. Our responsibility woven together aurally, spatially, visually - very powerful.
- The coming together across generations, culture, and social background was truly a great experience and showed how truly we are connected to each other and our ecosystems, regardless of hemisphere, or race.
- I think it is so important that the 'For Our Future' project creates such powerful opportunities for non-Indigenous community members to experience First Nations peoples' culture and stories first-hand. Such opportunities are critical for our communities to move forward together.
- Such events are not only important, enjoyable and special. They are essential to our understanding of our connection to everything and everyone. They are essential to the continuing health and life of not only us but to future people and to the planet itself.

- A wonderful multi-dimensional experience.
- Opportunity to listen whole-heartedly and learn from beautifully rich culture was an honour.
- I want to know more. I feel privileged to have had this experience.
- First Nation's people although different there is the same connection with Nature
- Learning about the Indigenous and local caretakers and knowledge of the island's current journey with climate crisis and stories of local wildlife.
- Eco Arts is a wonderful concept. Community uniting to protect what we love in a positive way through music and art
- It was wonderful to have the opportunity to be with other First Nations people and have an audience of different nationalities and age groups who want a safe future for our flora and fauna. Listening to people from all over the world you realise that we are not alone and our numbers are increasing for the benefit of the whole human race.
- We are all connected as one. Beautiful gathering of beautiful souls



- In this place where sea meets sky and people meet country with voice and heart, I feel connected and empowered to connect – to reach out, to find my place and help others find theirs.
- This is encouragement and energy to engage and to make change
- Being part of the community you pulled together around the super important narrative of the living world.
- The sense of community and spirit connection created in the space - held me up for days afterwards, thank you
- I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to be here and share and witness such uplifting and significant work.
- Warm and welcoming event
- The joy of others and the emotions explored

- Would like to thank Laura for her ability to bring out a deeper discussion
- Most thoroughly enjoyable
- Thank you for facilitating this wondrous experience
- Would like to come to another class
- Wonderful, thoughtful and honest genuine facilitators, thank you :-)
- Thank you Laura for your generosity of spirit and gift of your time and energy for the community
- Art inspiration centres for me on our coastal and intertidal landscape



- Interesting to become aware of differing approaches and thought processes of others
- Confidence-boosting - we are all equals
- Supportive and engaging environment
- Music and quiet discussion added to the creative experience
- Words uplifting, art enticing, learning and sharing
- Loved it all - so moving and thoughtful
- All of the above are mandatory for a complete experience and understanding of the deep responsibility we are charged with
- Thank you for creating this wonderful opportunity to listen deeply
- Gratefulness to Laura Brearley, tapping into the spiritual, the loving the learning of people in community and acknowledging the bonds we all have together
- Caring for Country is very important
- Thanks for making it possible
- Congratulations to Laura for leading community in creating connections within and beyond

- Involvement of children is always a bonus
- Do another shared experience
- Food was beautiful, so much care and effort
- Well done. Laura is amazing
- It was lovely
- The beautiful artwork
- Laura Brearley has inspired literally hundreds of local people to connect and express themselves creatively. These are life changing experiences. For Our Future has been a staggering achievement.
- Loved it. Would love to be a part of it again, next time.
- Thank you to all involved in the program. We would love more of the program.
- More like this please
- More of this please
- Thank you



Examples of Participants' Comments about Highlights of *For Our Future* Activities

- The depth of everyone's connection
- Everyone joining in
- Because of my involvement with the Phillip Island Conservation Society since its formation in 1968, I was extremely proud and excited about the delivery of the magnificent 'For Our Future' event. It was such a powerful experience to be in the same space with people who love and cherish the natural environment.
- Seeing the children fully engaged with the stories and dancing
- Singing with pride and watching different cultures sing and dance

- The contributions from the various first nations showed how connected we all are “to Country” regardless of how it is expressed or from where one is born.
- The way so many people had been drawn into this wonderful celebration of arts and nature.



- The sharing of our feelings about the cards
- Experiencing the generosity of the Indigenous leaders
- Seeing the paintings first, and then reflecting on them at such depth, and exploring everyone else’s appreciation
- Listening and learning from my Elders
- Taking opportunity to listen wholeheartedly and learn from a beautifully rich culture was an honour.
- All of it.
- The yarning circle was amazing. Took me back to the Dreamtime.
- The depth of everyone’s connection.
- Sharing and listening to each other’s thoughts as to why they were drawn to the art pieces and the descriptions
- I have always felt connected to nature and appreciate it. I think I will listen more carefully now.
- Amazing artwork.
- To listen to everyone’s stories and reflections on Daniel’s art.
- Community like-minded people
- I realised how fortunate I am to live in a community where these things are valued.
- This was a profound experience.

- The sense of the diversity of community including First Nations People from Australia, NZ and Canada, the young children who formed the choirs and who sang so beautifully, the adult choirs, the stories, symbolic of so much and the importance of Deep Listening.
- Loved listening to all the different music from various cultural backgrounds and joining in with dance, clapping and singing.
- Just a wonderful event and so refreshing to have this built around our entanglement with the living world, an earth first approach to narrative, creativity and community.
- This event was so wonderful, thank you. I love the way we can bring community together and connect to Country.



- The powerful Welcome to Country brought everyone together in a respectful silence.
- I'm so very grateful that I was able to attend. It was a very special privilege.
- Just a wonderful event and so refreshing to have this built around our entanglement with the living world, an Earth-first approach to narrative, creativity and community.
- To see the diversity of talent in our local community!
- To put my mind in a different space for a while
- The roundtable discussion whilst participants showed their works
- Meeting people exploring a new art form
- Listening to others talk about their experiences and stories
- The chance to meet other artists in my community
- Learning printing techniques
- Meeting lots of creative people
- Meeting people was the highlight
- Hearing about people's creative journey, their connection with nature and the work they produced



- A welcoming accepting environment that enabled new connections and the sharing of experiences and knowledge, personally and artistically
- Being able to share so many different ideas
- Meeting like-minded people
- Talking and communicating was the highlight
- Being creative in terms of the art
- Learning more about printing and printmaking
- Lovely lunch, really enjoyed it.
- Meeting new artists. Meeting new people
- Interacting with creative people and interesting people and sharing ideas
- Connecting with other creatives and experimenting with material
- Meeting and connecting with printmaking friends from the past
- Sharing new ideas about art in our discussions
- Excitement to engage in something together
- The dance with signing
- The art, music and sharing
- The movements at the end, the stories, the poems
- Creativity, connection the wonderful exhibition of the stories making up For Our Future
- The Deep Listening was extraordinary – fabulous

- Sharing and connecting more deeply with our community
- Loved Mary Mutsaers reciting the last insightful spiritual poem



- The community togetherness
- The variety of artwork
- Seeing old friends and chatting. Connecting with people
- Singing to the children
- Deaf sign language incorporated into song
- Community, children, hopefulness, singing acknowledgement and presence of First Nations Elder and community – fantastic creative expression in arts
- The art, the people and welcome
- The organisation seamless heartfelt holding the space by Laura
- Sharing the experience of singing aloud and signing
- Sharing and embodied value of caring for Country
- Laura's songs and Aunty Sonia's Welcome
- Having others speak about their art practice, community involvement and culture (Aunty Sonia)



- The art, the people/community, the exchanging
- The singing and signs. Also the poems
- Seeing the community coming together – learning – appreciating Country
- Seeing community come together
- Appreciative to be part of such a wonderful project
- Supporting the community
- This was an insight into the breadth of For Our Future, from the kinder kids performing their Acknowledgement of Country to local artists and musicians sharing their ideas, skills and practice between Bass Coast and North America.
- Heartwarming and inspiring to witness such an amazing and moving experience
- I want to know more. I feel privileged to have had this experience.
- Living where we do in and around Wonthaggi we are very privileged to be surrounded by natural beauty. it was nice to be reminded.
- A wonderful multidimensional experience
- Connection through story, song, and art that ripples out of community.
- The exhibition was deadly
- The opportunity to reflect and have a space held to reflect was much appreciated. My only sadness was the limited numbers in the conference room – I wanted to hear the wind, the water, the birds and the grass speak.

- Have more Aboriginal art exhibitions.
- This was a profound experience, but it's hard to measure how much one short experience would impact my appreciation of the natural world
- Awareness of the cycle of life
- The cultural use a few but strong words used well.
- Wonderful listening. Loved the relaxing to our loved spot
- The coming together of community
- The community and connection created cross-culturally and intergenerationally
- Multigenerational, inclusive. Everyone is important and contributions are equal
- Gratitude to be part of something so deeply moving



Connecting to Country & the Natural World

Having had this experience, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would rate your sense of connection to Country and the natural world?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all									Most imaginable
10		7		9		10		10	
10		10		10		10		9	
10		9		10		10		10	
9		8		10		6		10	
7		8		7		10		8	
8		10		8		10		10	
9		8		8		10		10	
8		8		8		10		10	
10		8		10		10		10	
10		8		9		9		9	
10		9		8		10		10	
10		8		9		10		10	
7		9		10		8		8	
10		6		10		10		10	
9		9		10		10			
10		8		10		10			

Average 9.1

Belonging to Community through Eco Arts & Creative Collaborations

Having had this experience, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would rate your sense of belonging to community?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all									Most imaginable
9		9		9		8		10	
10		8		10		10		10	
7		5		10		10		8	
10		10		10		9		10	
9		7		7		7		10	
8		8		8		10		10	
8		8		6		7		8	
10		10		10		10		9	
8		9		9		8		10	
8		7		10		10		10	
8		9		10		9		10	
10		9		8		9		10	
9		10		9		10		10	
10		5		10		9		10	
7		9		10		10			
10		6		10		9			

Average 8.9

14 Documentation and Media

A full record of the project is available on the website of the Phillip Island Conservation Society.

<https://picsvictoria.org.au/for-our-future/>

Documentation for the project has been extensive and includes:

- Monthly Project Reports made to PICS Management Committee
 - Monthly Project Reports made to Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group
 - Three presentations about the *For Our Future* project made at PICS General Meetings (January, April and August 2023)
 - Three articles in the Penguin PICS Newsletter (December, March and September)
 - Three articles in the Bass Coast Post
1. Article in Bass Coast Post 'What is Calling Through This Art?'
<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-breareley/what-is-calling-through-this-art>
 2. Article in Bass Coast Post 'Creative Conversations from Afar'
<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-breareley/creative-conversations-from-afar>
 3. Article in Bass Coast Post 'Moments of Inspiration.'
<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-breareley/moments-of-inspiration>

Full details of the documentation are listed in Section 15 of this report, 'Summary of For Our Future Outputs'.



The brochure features the following text and images:

Eco Arts Collaborations For Our Future | **PICS** | **Inspiring Environmental Stewardship**

We honour the Bunurong/Boonwurrung of the Kulin Nation who have cared for this Country for thousands of years.

The Eco Arts Culture Hub of the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS), supported by a grant from the Bass Coast Shire Council, is presenting *For Our Future*, an environmental program of Eco Arts events and activities for the Bass Coast community.

For Our Future is offering community activities and an educational stream of Eco Arts activities and events across Bass Coast. The Program brings together the Arts, Science and Culture and is intercultural, intergenerational and interdisciplinary.

The Program of Events includes Deep Listening Circles, intercultural collaborations, performances, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, an international print exchange and conservation walks and talks. Activities and events align with the Australian Curriculum 9.0.

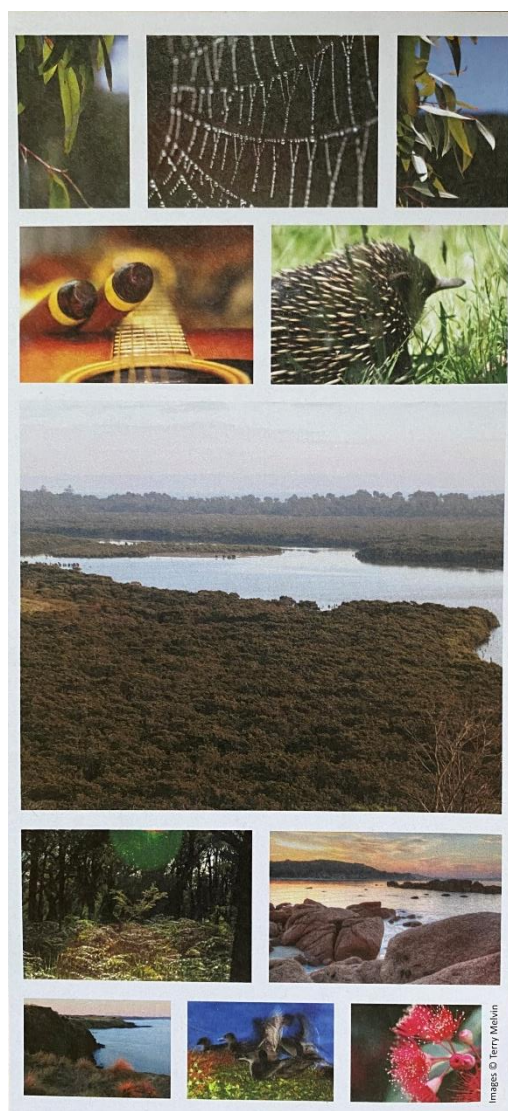
For Our Future is underpinned by the practice of Deep Listening and is designed to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the Living World.

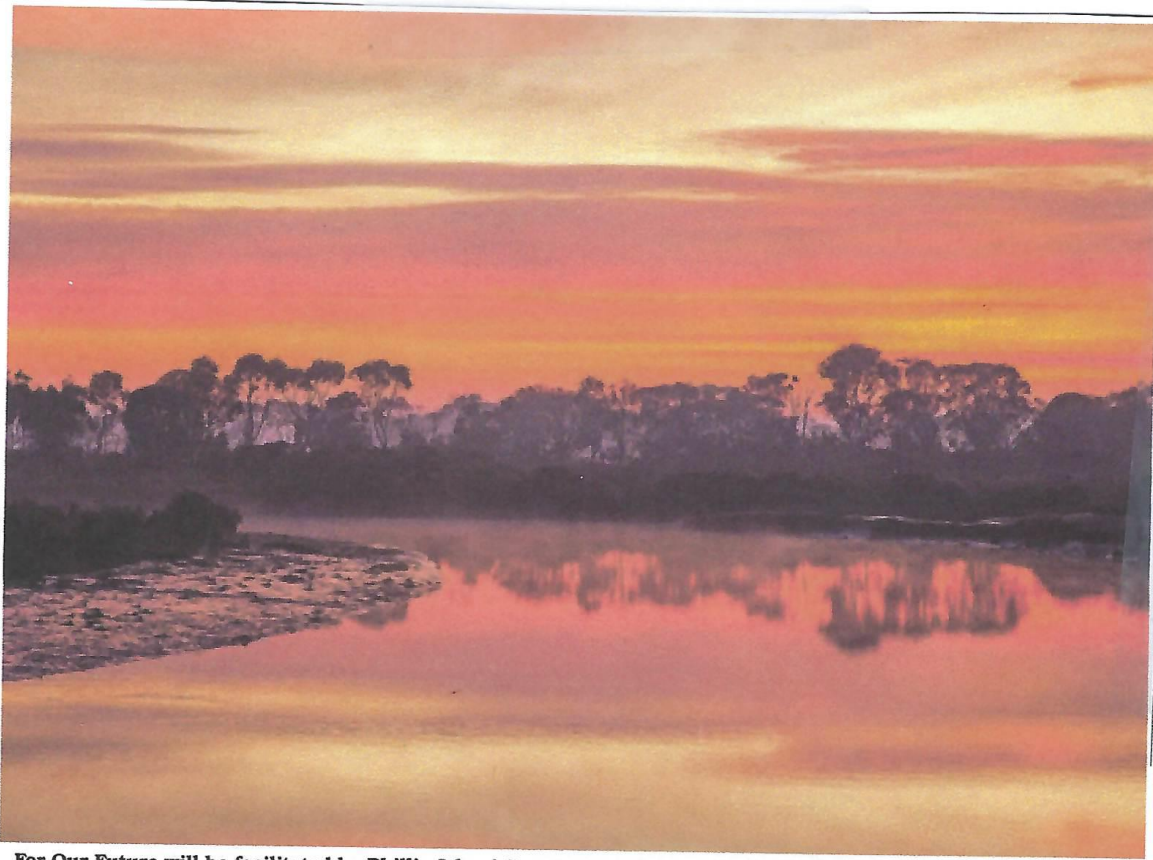
More information about For Our Future projects and events can found on the PICS website www.picsvictoria.org.au

Educators, organisations, artists and conservationists interested in Eco Arts collaborations should contact

Dr Laura Breareley, Coordinator
The Eco Arts Culture Hub (TEACH)
Phillip Island Conservation Society
laura.breareley@tlc21.com.au

We welcome the support of Bass Coast Shire Council





For Our Future will be facilitated by Phillip Island Conservation Society and bring together an interdisciplinary team comprised of artists, musicians, conservationists and First Nation cultural educators.

Exciting program to bring arts, science and culture together

A NEW environmental program of Eco Arts events and activities for the Bass Coast community is about to begin.

It's called 'For Our Future' and it brings together the arts, science and culture.

Supported by a grant from the Bass Coast Shire Council and funding from the Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc. (PICS), who will also be facilitating the program.

For Our Future is designed to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the Living World.

The program is structured around four projects: Country is Listening, Living Water

Ways, Ocean Messages and an Eco Arts Community Celebration at the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

The projects will be led by artists supported by interdisciplinary teams of Eco Arts Collaborators. Four short films will be produced, documenting each of the projects.

For Our Future is offering community activities and an educational stream of Eco Arts activities and events across Bass Coast.

Members of an interdisciplinary team comprised of artists, musicians, conservationists and First Nation cultural educators will be brought together to facilitate

a program of environmentally focused activities and learning experiences.

The program will include intercultural collaborations, performances, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, an international print exchange and conservation walks and talks.

For Our Future has been developed by members of the Phillip Island Conservation Society's Committee of Management's Arts Working Group, Dr Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Jeff Nottle and Michelle Maes.

They have established The Eco Arts and Cultural Hub (TEACH) to manage the program.

The program builds on

other intercultural and environmental arts projects which have taken place in Bass Coast over the last 10 years, including the Shearwater Festival, the Intercultural Arts Program of the Island Whale Festival and the Coastal Connections project.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Whelan will be launching the For Our Future at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre on Saturday, November 5.

For more information about For Our Future, contact Dr Laura Brearley, Coordinator, The Eco Art Culture Hub (TEACH), Phillip Island Conservation Society laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au



Newhaven College Junior School Choir with Laura Brearley.

Community gathers at the launch of PICS' Eco Arts project

MORE than 200 people gathered at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre to help launch Phillip Island Conservation Society's new Eco Arts project 'For Our Future'.

'For Our Future' is facilitating a series of events and activities in the community and in schools. Its purpose is to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening our sense of connection with each other and the living world.

The program is intercultural, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary. It brings together the arts, science and culture and is structured around a series of projects designed by lead artists and dedicated teams of eco arts collaborators.

The launch began with a powerful and moving ceremony led by traditional custodian and long-time resident of Millowl, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker. Uncle Steve welcomed everyone with a smoking ceremony, paying tribute to his ancestors and acknowledging the importance of caring for country.

At an emotional moment in the ceremony, he honoured the memory of Cassius Turvey and spoke about the importance of looking after young people and keeping them safe.

A deep listening ceremony followed, featuring First Nation Elders and artists,

including poetic text from Uncle Herb Patten (Gunnai) and Lisa Kennedy (Pairre-beene/Trawlwoolway).

Matua Arnold Tihema from Aotearoa (New Zealand) sang a song about the Maori God of the Ocean, 'Tangaroa Whakamautai'. In full regalia, Aurelio Denasha, an Ojibway dancer, and cultural educator, performed a ceremonial dance, The Crow Hop.

Rev Ian Turnnidge was the master of ceremony for the event and created an inclusive atmosphere, welcoming and weaving together different elements of the community.

Local artist, John Adam, read out a message gifted to him almost fifty years ago by Uncle Roy, an Aboriginal Elder from Roper River (Yugul Mangi). Uncle Roy's strong words affirmed an ancient and on-going connection to Country.

Community artist Camille Monet decorated the room with whales painted by Aboriginal artists from the Wulgunggo Ngalu learning centre and large shearwaters and frogs. Jessica Berry, manager of the Cowes/San Remo branches of the Myli Library, set up a display of books relevant to the project's ecological and intercultural themes.

Mayor Cr Michael Whelan officially launched the 'For Our Future' project, speaking about the council's deep commitment

to environmental and climate-related issues.

An intergenerational community concert followed, bringing everyone together. The middle and junior school choirs from Newhaven College, led by Diana Clarke and Nina Prideaux, performed several environmental songs, supported by a house band of musicians and singing leaders, led by Mal Webb.

Phillip Island Nature Park's Ranger Pip Cleeland engaged the community with stories, poetry and dancing that celebrated bandicoots and penguins and demonstrated the richness of incorporating different ways of knowing.

At the end of the concert, ranger Pip took visitors on a conservation walk and talk to Summerland Beach while Terry Melvin showed two of his environmental films in the theatre.

'For Our Future' is being supported financially by the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Phillip Island Conservation Society and is working closely with a wide range of community members and partner organisations along the way.

The project will culminate in a community celebration at the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre in 2023. More information about PICS' 'For Our Future' project is available at:

<https://picsvictoria.org.au/for-our-future/>

Eco-arts events set for launch

A series of new environmentally-inspired arts events, including short films, concerts, exhibitions and workshops will be held around Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

The event program, called For Our Future, will be launched on November 5 at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre by Bass Coast Shire Mayor Michael Whelan.

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) president Jeff Nottle said the eco arts program was supported by a \$50,000 grant from the shire as well as PICS funding.

"For Our Future is designed

to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the living world," Jeff said.

He said artists, musicians, conservationists and First Nation cultural educators would create performances, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, an international print exchange and conservation walks and talks.

The program will be around four projects: Country is Listening, Living Water Ways, Ocean Messages and an Eco Arts Community Celebration at the new Cowes Cultural and

Community Centre.

"Four short films will be produced, documenting each of the projects," Jeff said.

For Our Future has been developed by PICS arts working group including Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Jeff Nottle and Michelle Maes and builds on other similar projects in Bass Coast in the last decade, including the Shearwater Festival, the intercultural arts program in the Island Whale Festival and the Coastal Connections project.

Details: Laura Brearley, Eco Art Culture Hub (TEACH): laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au

PISIA W.d. 26th October 2022



The community art exhibition at the San Remo library brings together 12 community stories, and is part of the Phillip Island Conservation Society's eco arts project For our Future.

Eco art on display at San Remo library

EXHIBITION

An eco-arts project is on exhibition at San Remo library from mid July.

The community art exhibition brings together 12 community stories, and is part of the Phillip Island Conservation Society's eco arts project For our Future.

Organiser Laura Brearley said the project is designed to

"inspire environmental stewardship, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the living world".

The exhibition has already been on display in the Wonthaggi and Inverloch libraries.

For more information on the For our Future project: picsvictoria.org.au/for-our-future/

www.myli.org.au/locations/san-remo/

19 July 2023 Phillip Island San Remo Advertiser

Mayor's message



Cr Michael Whelan



AS Mayor you rightly spend a lot of time prioritising critical service delivery, but it is also a privilege – and personally rewarding – to be able to help promote and celebrate our thriving arts community.

Over the recent long weekend, I opened the ASPIR Art Show in the new performing arts building at Newhaven College where I was particularly pleased to see young artists being encouraged.

Later I attended the opening of the John Adams retrospective exhibition at the Leeson Gallery. John has made a life of teaching and practising art. The Artspace Gallery in Wonthaggi is about to celebrate its 10 year anniversary with an exhibition of past and present work starting on 6th November.

I was heartened to see in both instances that our senior artists are encouraging our new crop of artists in Bass Coast. A thriving arts and culture community is important to the health of our general community.

The arts are a good barometer of how our entire community is successfully bouncing back from the pandemic.

It is also important to see how art and conservation can combine to inspire and educate our community. Recently, Council supported the For Our Future launch. It was a fabulous event organised by the Phillip Island Conservation Society and The Eco Arts Cultural Hub (TEACH). It was incredible to see this team of artists, musicians, scientists and educators collaborate in providing an overview of the practice of Eco Arts in the Community.

At this time of increasing climate crisis, cultivating stewardship and love of nature through culture is crucial to change. It was deeply powerful to witness how For Our Future connects us to each other and the ancient lineage of First Peoples of this Country - through Deep Listening. I'm excited to see how the program inspires our community and deepens connection to each other and the Living World. To find out more visit www.picsvictoria.org.au

The Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre has a fabulous program of events coming up alongside playing host to numerous school events, dance concerts and awards ceremonies as we close out the year. Why not check out a film one Wednesday or take in a show. I'm interested to see how a comedian and opera singer can swap roles in David Hobson and Colin's Lane theatre performance of 'In Tails.'

It's fabulous to see a thriving arts scene across Bass Coast.

Eco arts launch

More than 200 people attended the launch of the Phillip Island Conservation Society's new eco arts project last week.

The launch, at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, launched For Our Future, which is designed to inspire environmental stewardship "deepening our sense of connection with each other and the living world," according to PICS president Jeff Nottle.

"PICS will be supporting lead artists and teams of eco arts collaborators to facilitate community and educational events across Bass Coast," Mr Nottle said.

"The project will culminate in a community celebration at the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre in 2023."

Mayor Michael Whelan launched the project, speaking about council's commitment to environmental and climate issues.

Uniting Church Reverend Ian Turnidge was the Master of Cer-

emonies, with Newhaven College choirs performing, and traditional custodian and local resident Uncle Steve Ulula Parker welcomed attendees with a smoking ceremony.

Details: picsvictoria.org.au/for-our-future/



Phillip Island Nature Park Ranger Pip Cleeland with an Eastern Barred Bandicoot.



Local musicians who performed at the launch of For Our Future, left to right: Tanya Nolan, Ruth McKittrick Chambers, and Lyndal Chambers.



Diana Clarke and Newhaven College's middle school choir.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

\$1.80 Incl. GST



A whale of a time

Thousands of people flocked to Phillip Island to enjoy the weekend's Whale Festival. Activities at the festival hub gave everyone a chance to escape the wintery weather and unleash their creativity. Harry and Dylan from Frankston got busy at the Whale Crown Creations workshop with local artist Camille Monet. For a full roundup and photos from the Island Whale Festival, turn to page 8.

WHALE FESTIVAL 2023



The Whale Crown Creations workshop was run by PICS for the 'For Our Future Arts Project' and celebrates the whales and recognises the importance of caring for the living world. Amelia, Sarah and Elizabeth from Langwarrin came for the day to enjoy the Festival.

15 Thanks and Acknowledgments

Deep thanks to Bunurong/Boonwurrung Ancestors for caring for this Country for thousands of years and for showing us how to be in right relationship with the Living World.

Special Thanks to ...

Phillip Island Conservation Society Committee Members:

Jeff Nottle, Matt Ingham, Anne Davie, Bruce Wilson, Carmen Bush, Jane Jobe, Meg Anderson, Michelle Maes, Sharyn Cornthwaite, Penny Manning, Pauline Taylor, Phil Wright, Terry Nott

For Our Future Working Group and Advisors

Laura Brearley (Chair) Michelle Maes, Anne Davie OAM, Aunty Sonia Weston, Rhonda Renwick, Geoff Ellis, Rev Ian Turnnidge, Craig Barrie, Jessica Berry, Ed Thexton, Bron Dahlstrom, Sue Lindsay, Terry Melvin, Joey Thompson, Lisa Wangman, Meg Humphrys

PICS member Yvonne Lynch for her invaluable work on the 'For Our Future' website.

Cultural Advisors, Lead Artists, Eco Arts Collaborators of 'For Our Future':

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Aunty Sonia Weston, Susan Hall, Camille Monet, Mark Finsterer, Ed Thexton, Helen Matthews

Artists in Bass Coast and beyond, including Creative Message Exchange participants:

Prof Melanie Yazzie, Lisa Kennedy, Ursula Theinert, Karin Ellis, Deb Watson, Alisoun Neville, Aunty Sam Walker-Williams, Ronald Edwards Pepper, Travis Wiltshire, Elder Tom Crane Bear, Colin Funk, Connie Brill, Jane Newman, Karen McDiarmid, Sue Pearson, Steve Kirkbright, Jenni Kirkbright, Trish Hart, Jenny Manhal, Genevieve Manhal, Maree Gullock, Helen Broad, Kathy Wiltshire, Linda Senhenn, Joanne van der Heyden, Wendy Fletcher, Caroline Poynter, Sue Woolley, Jenny McDonald, Rosemary Chan, Caroline Anderson

Community Organisations' staff, students and volunteers:

Bass Coast Shire Council Councillors and staff, especially, David Burrows and Greg Box, Wonthaggi ArtSpace, Bass Coast Adult Learning, Bass Coast Children's Centre, Kids as Catalysts, Newhaven Primary School, John Gemmill, Dina McMaster, Myli Community Libraries, Phillip Island Land Alliance, Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, Community Music Victoria, Bass Coast Schools, South Gippsland Conservation Society, Save Western Port Woodlands, Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre Phillip Island Nature Park, Destination Phillip Island, Victorian National Parks Association, Community Music Victoria, Bass Coast Landcare, Westernport Water, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Bass Coast Post, The Waterline News and San Remo Print it Fast.

Appendices

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 21st October 2022

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre

895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven



Attendance: Dr Laura Brearley, Terry Melvin, Anne Davie, Michelle Maes, Craig Barrie, Sue Lindsay, Geoff Ellis, Kate Adams, Brohn Dahlstrom, Jessica Berry, Ewan MacLeod, Ed Thexton

Apologies: Rhonda Renwick, Aunty Sonia Weston, Rev Ian Turnnidge

Acknowledgement of Country

We honour the Bunurong/Boonwurrung of the Kulin Nation who have cared for this Country for thousands of years. We recognise First Peoples' continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.

1 Welcome and Introductions- Dr Laura Brearley, Coordinator of For Our Future
Attendees introduced themselves and Laura Brearley welcomed the group to the project.

2 Project Overview- Dr Laura Brearley

The Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) For Our Future project will be rolled out in schools and the community to inspire environmental stewardship. The program brings together the Arts, Science and Culture and is intercultural, intergenerational and interdisciplinary. Output will include artist residencies, concerts, Deep Listening Circles, nature walks, exhibitions, Eco Arts workshops and short films, and more.

For Our Future 2022-2023 is structured around four projects:

1) Country is Listening 21st October 2022– 31st January 2023

The 'Country is Listening' project has a focus on culture and collaborative art-making and the music, and stories inspired by it.

2) Living Water Ways 1st February 2023 – 30th April 2023

The 'Living Water Ways' project integrates art, story, music, poetry, culture and science to deepen our understanding of water cycles and inspire environmental and climate action. Westernport Water will be a partner, engaging an indigenous artist to beautify their substations with artworks.

3) Ocean Messages 1st May 2023 – 31st July 2023

Using print-making and different ways of knowing, 'Ocean Messages' explores migratory birds, shared environmental concerns and interconnectedness across the seas. There will be communication across the world with other First Nations communities. An international print exchange will be one of the Ocean Messages projects.

4) An Eco Arts Community Celebration at Cowes Cultural Centre 1st August 2023 – 30th September 2023

The 'Eco Arts Community Celebration' will weave together the outcomes of Projects One, Two and Three in the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

(See attached FOF Program Overview pdf for more information)

For Our Future is designed to facilitate learning with participants of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The program of events and activities can be adapted for groups of different sizes. The project has explicit links to the Australian Curriculum 9.0 and has Learning Area content that draws on cross-curriculum priorities and the general capabilities at the same time provide rich

learning experiences for students. This will assist schools in their programming.
Learning Areas - • The Arts • Science • Humanities and Social Sciences
General Capabilities- • Intercultural Understanding • Literacy • Personal and Social Capability
Cross-curriculum Priorities- • Sustainability • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.
(The FOF Program Overview pdf provides more information.)

3 Project Logistics

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Working Group

An informed, wise group with deep community connections.

Members of the 'For Our Future' Working Group are:

Dr Laura Brearley PICS Arts Working Group, Creative Researcher, Musician, Facilitator, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Anne Davie OAM PICS Arts Working Group, BCSG Reconciliation Group, Conservationist, Arts and refugee advocate

Michelle Maes PICS Arts Working Group, Educator, BCSG Reconciliation Group, Project Management Aunty Sonia Weston Bunurong Land Council, Traditional Custodian, Dancer

Rhonda Renwick Philanthropist, Intercultural Educator, Board Member of The Cape Eco Village

Geoff Ellis President Artspace, VP Bass Coast Artists Society, The Waterline News, Co-Chair BCSG Reconciliation Group

Joey Thompson Student, Year 9, Newhaven College, Organiser School Strike 4 Climate, Kids Teaching Kids

Rev Ian Turnnidge Minister, St John's Uniting Church, Cowes, Chaplain, Newhaven College Craig Barrie General Manager, Community Music Victoria

Jessica Berry Manager, Wonthaggi/San Remo / Cowes Branch, Myli – My Community Library Ed Thexton Conservationist, Riparian zone specialist, President South Gippsland Conservation Society

Bron Dahlstrom Organic Farmer, Conservationist, Refugee advocate, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Sue Lindsay Theatre-maker, Educator, BCSG Reconciliation Group

Kate Adams Visitor Experience Manager, Phillip Island Nature Park

Ewan Macleod Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Phillip Island Nature Park

Terry Melvin Film-Maker, Photographer

3.2 BCSC/PICS Partnership Agreement

Bass Coast Shire have provided \$50,000 funding for 2022/2023 year through a Community Submission. The Shire values the project as a grass-roots community-driven project. There is hope that this funding will continue in 2023/2024. The Partnership Agreement between BCSC and Phillip Island Conservation Society will be signed today. PICS is also making a financial contribution to the project.

3.3 Insurance arrangements- Michelle Maes

PICS has obtained insurance coverage from Regional Arts Victoria for the For Our Future project.

3.4 Compliance/ OHS- Michelle Maes

All volunteers and contractors will require a Working with Children Check (WWCC) to participate in FOF activities. The PICS organisers will request a copy and hold these on file. All schools require volunteers and contractors to have a WWCC and it's a requirement of our insurance policy.

Artists and collaborators will be paid as contractors and will need an ABN.

Action: PICS to receive and store copies of WWCC's for all volunteers and contractors

4 Project Launch/Ceremony

Saturday 5 November 2:00pm Phillip Island Penguin Parade. Venue provided by Phillip Island Nature Parks.

The Deep Listening Ceremony and Community Concert will launch the project 'For Our Future'.

The event will feature children, conservationists, musicians, First Nations Elders and 'Songs of The Living World'. The community concert will be followed by a ranger walk and afternoon tea.

Saturday 5 November 2:00pm Penguin Parade. Registrations by invitation.

Musicians will attend at 11:30 for sound-check. PNP ranger Pip Cleeland will lead a walk after the ceremony at 4:00pm, there will be an option for film-viewing if the weather is unfriendly.

Afternoon tea for Special Guests following.

Kate Adams- Phillip Island Nature Parks will provide a steward and induction for volunteers at the Penguin Centre.

Action: Working Group members may register on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/423086000617>

5 Community Engagement

As noted in the program overview, we will be connecting with arts and cultural communities in Australia and internationally. Laura, Terry and Ed Thexton recently visited FNQ for a Cassowary conservation event. Ed shared his experience of the visit. The Working Group is drawn from a diverse Bass Coast community which provides us with links in many relevant spheres. The PICS Arts Working Group has been connecting with Bass Coast schools and community groups.

6 Expression of Interest process

Expressions of Interest will be called for each project from artists and collaborators. As there is not much time remaining in 2022 and schools are tired there won't be a huge amount of activities in 2022, schools interest is mainly for 2023. Consequently, there will be a limited EOI process for Project 1 2022 and we will use our existing connections to engage a Lead Artist and Eco Arts collaborators.

7 Planning and Evaluation

Laura and Michelle have been participating in a planning an evaluation exercise with the Cultural Development Network via their TAKSO process in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council who are introducing this process. Laura flagged the complexity involved in evaluating arts and cultural activities and BCSC shared examples of evaluation cards which can be used across the For Our Future program. It's also possible to send pre and post-event surveys through Eventbrite.

Craig Barrie noted that evaluation could be viewed as a connection opportunity with our participants.

8 General Business

None

9 Next meeting Friday 2nd December 2022 11.30am – 12.30pm

DATES OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Friday 2 nd December 2022	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 20 th January 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 24 th February 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 14 th April 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 19 th May 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 21 st July 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 1 st September 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 2nd December 2022

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre

895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven



and via videolink.

Acknowledgement of Country

We honour the Bunurong/Boonwurrung of the Kulin Nation who have cared for this Country for thousands of years. We recognise First Peoples' continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.

Attendance

Dr Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Terry Melvin, Michelle Maes, Craig Barrie, Geoff Ellis, Ed Thexton

Apologies

Kate Adam, Ewan MacLeod

Minutes of Meeting 26th October 2022

Accepted: Ann Davie

Seconded: Terry Melvin

4 Project Update – Overview

For Our Future has been officially launched by the Mayor of Bass Coast on 5 November. Bass Coast Shire Council has transferred \$50,000 funding + GST to PICS. PICS has contributed \$5,000 in addition to significant voluntary support from its members.

Thanks to Phillip Island Nature Parks for their generosity in providing the venue, everyone who attended the launch, performers, First Nations representatives, students and the many PICS volunteers and Nature Parks staff who enabled the smooth running of the event.

5 Community Engagement

2.1 Community

Consultations are in progress with Westernport Water, Victorian National Parks Association, Phillip Island Nature Parks, and South Gippsland Conservation Society, ArtSpace Wonthaggi, YES Youth Hub, Wonthaggi.

South Gippsland Conservation Society: Ed Thexton offered to collaborate with PICS/For Our Future via their education program. South Gippsland have employed an education officer for 11 years mainly running programs across summer. They have the capacity to run some sessions for For Our Future project, either in their existing program or possibly, bespoke. Example themes include palaeontology and Ayr Creek habitat and restoration.

ArtSpace Wonthaggi: Laura has been in touch with ArtSpace Wonthaggi, they have two spaces remaining in 2023 program and will block one out for us for an exhibition.

Laura and Steve Parker met with Westernport Water staff Geoff Russell, Meg Humphrys, Gareth Kennedy, Jess Deery and Katrina Knight. They discussed a number of potential collaborative projects with cultural, educational and conservational outcomes that aligned closely with the For Our Future program. These included public art projects and collaborations on projects facilitating healthy wetlands and native planting.

Westernport Water has eight sub-stations which they would like painted with murals with a cultural dimension. Steve Parker's vision is to engage community in this project. If funding for all substations is forthcoming, For Our Future would invite Bass Coast schools and community members to submit drawings on the theme Country is Listening, situated in place. Students with selected entries would be invited to attend the site with their parents to weave their painting into the mural. Westernport Water would paint substations black as a backdrop for murals. Geoff Russell, Manager Communications and Engagement, is meeting with the Westernport Water Executive to present this proposal on 5th December 2022, Laura has provided details of our program.

YES Youth Hub: Laura and Michelle dropped in to the Youth Hub a couple of months ago to let them know about the program and invite participation. Bass Coast Council Mayor Michael Whelan contacted Laura this week to let us know that the Youth Hub members want to contribute some Rap Songs to the project. The youth could possibly also contribute to the murals.

2.2 Schools

Communications have been taking place with a number of schools in the region including Bass Coast College, The Village School, Newhaven College, Wonthaggi Primary School, San Remo Primary, Cowes Primary, Wonthaggi North Primary School, Bass Coast Special School about potential involvement in the program in 2023. Two Newhaven College choirs participated in the For Our Future Launch. Bass Coast College is interested in engaging with our Lead Artists once appointed. We will also be connecting with Kids Teaching Kids (Earthwatch) who ran an extensive environmental program in Bass Coast schools this year.

3 Country is Listening

3.1 Lead Artist Expression of Interest

Laura has put together a draft contract for artists and collaborators. A requirement for Employee Working with Children Check and ABN will be added to the document.

Steve Parker, a local First Nations artist has submitted an EOI which was circulated to this working group with today's agenda. Laura summarised Steve's vision for the project which included focus on whale songlines, eel dreaming and using the Dance Circle at Scenic Estate. As previously discussed, Steve would potentially also be involved across the project in creating murals on pumping stations for Westernport Water. Steve is interested in working with school students, TAFE, unemployed youth (BCAL) with an interest in health and wellbeing.

Action The meeting unanimously supported the engagement of Steve Parker as Lead Artist. Laura to arrange contract.

3.2 Eco Arts Collaborators

Camille Monet has submitted an EOI for Eco Arts Collaborator. Camille contributed to the staging of the FOF launch, creating a backdrop to the staging at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre venue.

Camille's interest is in being an Eco Arts Collaborator on the For Our Future project.

Camille has extensive experience in the Arts and Community Development, completing social and community arts projects across Melbourne and interstate. Camille grew up on Phillip Island and has deep connections with local schools, home school networks and the Bass Coast arts community.

Action The meeting unanimously supported the engagement of Camille Monet as an Eco Arts Collaborator. Laura to arrange contract.

Helen Matthews, retired Cowes Primary school art teacher has connected with Laura and is interested in contributing to the project.

Budget: \$12,000 for Lead Artist and \$12,000 for Eco-Arts Collaborators for whole project ie approximately \$3000 for each artist and collaborator.

Terry Melvin is bookkeeper for the project and will consult with PICS Treasurer on accounting.

Thanks to PICS, Matt Ingham, Treasurer and committee members for input to setting up a dedicated PICS bank account and organising permissions.

Craig wished to acknowledge the significant contribution PICS and community volunteers will make to the project. Dr Laura Brearley is volunteering her services as Coordinator of For Our Future.

4 Project Launch Feedback

4.2 Evaluation Documentation

For Our Future is being evaluated through Cultural Development Network (CDN) framework in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire's David Burrows, Cultural Development and Programme Coordinator. For Our Future is a pilot project for the framework. Laura has worked extensively with CDN with meetings over several months and time spent developing criteria which fits the framework. It's been challenging to fit our projects to a colonial model of evaluation. Laura explained the concepts of Deep Listening and First Nations ways of story-telling which are difficult to fit to this form of evaluation.

She is advocating evaluations of For Our Future activities within a decolonised, emergent Deep Listening Framework that is: 1) adaptive, flexible and iterative 2) recognises multiple ways of knowing 3) focusses on the nature of relationships and interdependencies 4) reflects the non-linear and multi-directional aspects of activities and potential outcomes.

Evaluation of the launch has been submitted.

Laura talked about a project further afield. City of Yarra have been seeking expressions of interest for grants related to their Climate Emergency goals and have been disappointed with the response. Laura and Craig (Community Music Victoria) are talking to City of Yarra about involvement in this. Ed Thexton made the point that here we're much more proximate to our community and to the environment than city-dwellers. Laura mentioned CERES, Yarra River Keepers and Abbotsford Convent as actors in this space.

4.3 Film of Launch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vCa-tObeGo&t=7s>

Terry Melvin has produced a wonderful film of the For Our Future launch which is available on YouTube and has been widely distributed. Please share with your networks.

5 General Business

None

Next meeting Friday 20th January 2022 11.30am – 12.30pm



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 20th January 2023

Multi-purpose Room
Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre
Mitchell House 6 Murray St, Wonthaggi



Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8302813269?pwd=bG1BWWxqc2pxT1dZVm9BaDV0UTkyZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 281 3269 Passcode: CMVic

Acknowledgement of Country

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Attendance

Geoff Ellis, Anne Davie, Brohn Dahlstrom, Jessica Berry, Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Terry Melvin, Michelle Maes, Craig Barrie, Ed Thexton

Apologies:

Kate Adam, Ewan MacLeod, Aunty Sonia Weston, Rhonda Renwick

Minutes of Meeting 2nd December 2022

Approved: Geoff Ellis

Secunder: Anne Davie

1 Project Update

Children from Newhaven College who attended the launch event have responded with drawings. Laura has shared their images with First Nations community members who opened the event - Uncle Steve Ulula Parker (Boonwurrung), Matua Arnold Thema (Maori) and Aurelio Denasha (Ojibway). Their responses to the artworks have been recorded and are being shared with the children. The images and responses are part of a Creative Message Exchange within the *For Our Future* project.

1.1 Country is Listening

Lead Artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker will facilitate mural painting, an Eel Dreaming event and Whale Songline activities, with community engagement facilitated by Camille Monet. He will also participate in school visits, the Creative Message Exchange and the Wonthaggi ArtSpace exhibition.

1.2 Living Water Ways

Meg Humphries and Geoff Russell from Westernport Water are keen to support the For Our Future project in a range of ways including mural paintings on Westernport Water substations and an interdisciplinary Celebrating Wetlands collaboration. This collaboration will involve scientists from Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab, CSIRO as well as artists, musicians and First Nation community members.

1.3 Ocean Messages

An exhibition is planned at Wonthaggi ArtSpace which will include works from the community as well as artworks produced jointly from a visual conversation between artist Susan Hall (Inverloch) and Melanie Yazzie, a Navajo artist, printmaker, sculptor and painter. Melanie is the Professor of Printmaking at the University of Boulder, Colorado. Laura is writing a letter of invitation to the University to support Melanie to visit Bass Coast and facilitate creative and intercultural activities in Bass Coast and attend the opening of the ArtSpace exhibition on 13th August (details below). Jessica Berry (MYLI) has proposed activities including exhibitions and Deep Listening Circles in library spaces in Inverloch, Wonthaggi and San Remo to precede the exhibition at ArtSpace.

Action: Jessica to request event and display spaces at Bass Coast libraries.

1.4 Eco Arts Community Celebration

Laura and Michelle have met with Malcolm Russell, the newly appointed Events and Cultural Development Officer at the Bass Coast Shire Council. Malcolm will be planning events around the opening of the Cowes Culture and Community Centre and is aware of our plans to stage a celebration. The entire Centre will be activated at opening and there are opportunities for the For Our Future project to contribute to these activities.

2. Lead Artists and Eco Arts Collaborators

Expressions of Interest have been received from six potential artists and collaborators and distributed to all Working Group members.

The meeting considered Expressions of Interest and the following decisions were agreed.

2.1 Mark Finsterer

Motion: Mark Finsterer be appointed as Lead Artist for Living Waterways

Moved: Michelle Maes, Seconded: Brohn Dahlstrom

Motion unanimously passed.

2.2 Susan Hall

Susan Hall be appointed as Lead Artist for Ocean Messages

Moved: Geoff Ellis, Seconded: Brohn Dahlstrom

2.3 Ben Cavender

Motion: Ben Cavender be appointed as Lead Artist for the Eco Arts Community Celebration

Moved: Jessica Berry, Seconded: Michelle Maes

Motion unanimously passed.

2.4 Ed Thexton

Motion: Ed Thexton be appointed as Eco Arts Collaborator Living Waterways

Ed Thexton left the meeting during the discussion.

Moved: Craig Barrie, Seconded: Brohn Dahlstrom

Motion unanimously passed.

Ed accepted the appointment as Eco Arts Collaborator and decided to step down from the For Our Future Working Group to focus on the role. The Working Group thanks Ed for his contribution and welcomes his involvement as Eco Arts Collaborator.

2.5 Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

Motion: Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir be appointed as Eco Arts Collaborator

Moved: Brohn Dahlstrom, Seconded Geoff Ellis

Motion unanimously passed.

2.6 Helen Mathews

Motion: Helen Mathews be appointed as Eco Arts Collaborator

Moved: Michelle Maes, seconded Craig Barrie

Motion unanimously passed.

Action: Laura to notify artists and collaborators of acceptance of their Expression of Interest and prepare contracts. All contractors to provide evidence of an Employee Working with Children Check, essential for our insurance compliance.

3. Exhibition at Wonthaggi Artspace Booked

8th August 2023 – 18th September 2023 Opening 13th August 2023

Laura asked everyone to please put 13th August in the diary for the opening.

Action: All Working Group Save the Date for Art Space opening Sunday 13 August 2023.

Geoff Ellis suggested the function area at ArtSpace would be a good space for Deep Listening Circles and other FOF events.

Bron Dahlstrom talked about Groundswell Bass Coast and the arts event she organised to inspire community interest in climate action. The event involved art exhibition, song, poetry. Jessica thought some similar activities could be conducted at libraries.

4. General Business

None

Next meeting Friday 24th February 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm

DATES OF FORTHCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Friday 24 th February 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 14 th April 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 19 th May 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 21 st July 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 1 st September 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 24th February 2023

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre

895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven



Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8302813269?pwd=bG1BWWxqc2pxT1dZVm9BaDV0UTkyZz09>
Meeting ID: 830 281 3269 Passcode: CMVic

Acknowledgement of Country

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Apologies

Jessica Berry, Rhonda Renwick, Aunty Sonia Weston

Minutes of Meeting 20th January 2023

Accepted: Moved: Terry Melvin **Seconded:** Geoff Ellis

6 Project Updates

6.1 Country is Listening

Steve Parker is interested doing a ceremony at the Whale Festival in NAIDOC week.

Deep Listening Circle at ArtSpace Wonthaggi with Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Parker, Mark Finsterer is fully subscribed

Last week Laura met with the ArtSpace staff, special guest artist Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Parker, Uncle John Crocker and other community leaders for a pre-event briefing and welcome to Country.

Laura showed the meeting some of the Message Circles of Daniel's work which will facilitate discussion and reflection in the Deep Listening Circle.

6.2 Living Water Ways

Terry and Laura are making a film about the Snowy River and visited the source during January.

Ed Thexton will be organising conservation walks and talks at Ayr Creek and also Westernport Woodlands. Walks also at PINP.

6.3 Ocean Messages

Print workshops will be run in May by Susan Hall at ArtSpace, and in her home studio, which can accommodate six people. Susan and Melanie are collaborating on printmaking for the exhibition at ArtSpace. Newhaven College students made images about Country following the launch which have been shared with Uncle Steve Parker, Matua Arnold Tihema and Aurelio Denasha (Ojibway).

Laura shared some of these responses with the meeting. A conversation continues between the children and First Nations people.

6.4 Eco Arts Community Celebration

It's hoped that the celebration will be at the opening of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre on Sunday 15th October with an afternoon concert and other activities. We may also have films on Saturday or Sunday.

Laura has spoken to David Burrows BCSC about Kate Gorringer-Smith's, printmaker and coordinator The Overwintering Project. Kate has offered to support FOF in creating a 'Wall of Wings' with the Bass Coast Community for display in the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre

6.5 Calendar of Events

A Calendar of Events has been created In handout form and as an Annual Year Planner.

7 School Visit Program- Partnership with Kids Teaching Kids

School Visits program schedule was shared with the agenda prior to this meeting.

Kids Teaching Kids is keen to partner with FOF to work with schools in Bass Coast.

We met with For Our Future school visits coordinator, Helen Matthews and Lorretta Leary from Kids Teaching Kids (Earth Watch). Kids Teaching Kids was funded by DAL to work with schools in all the DAL designated regions. In Bass Coast groups of students worked on environmental projects and presented at a 'conference' at the Penguin Visitor Centre.

Loretta shared contacts with Helen Matthews who is contacting all Bass Coast Schools to invite engagement in FOF. Terry Melvin will be making films with schools.

8 Partnerships

A list of partner organisations and community groups with whom For Our Future is collaborating was shared with the meeting. These include:

- Wonthaggi ArtSpace
- Westernport Water
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Phillip Island Nature Park
- Destination Phillip Island
- Bass Coast Schools
- Kids Teaching Kids
- Community Music Victoria
- South Gippsland Conservation Society
- Save Westernport Woodlands
- Community Music Victoria
- Yes Youth Hub
- Millowl Dreaming
- Overwintering Project
- University of Colorado
- Cortes Children's Forest Trust
- Myli Libraries
- Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group

Laura mentioned that Bass Coast Adult Learning should be also be a partner. She has also been talking to Geoff Ellis and Lisa Ovejero about collaborative opportunities. Geoff will speak to Lisa about opportunities to work with BCAL.

9 Project Patron Invitation

Kay Setches, former Victorian Environment Minister and Surf Beach resident has deep connections with current government members, including the Premier.

We've extended an invitation to Kay to be Patron of FOF and awaiting approval from BCSC.

5 Evaluation

Laura shared evaluation cards for participants of activities eg Deep Listening Circles and spoke about the challenges of evaluating creative activities in the Shire system (TAKSO)

Terry Melvin suggested participants could film a message on their phone to send post-event.

10 General Business

Look at meeting dates for September/October- should we revise given extension of program?

Next meeting Friday 14th April 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 14th April 2023

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre

895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven



Acknowledgement of Country

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Apologies

Craig Barrie, Jessica Berry

Attendance

Rhonda Renwick, Anne Davie, Bron Dalstrom, Laura Brearley, Terry Melvin, Geoff Lewis, Michelle Maes

Minutes of Meeting 24th February 2023

Moved: Anne Davie

Seconded: Geoff Ellis

Follow-up from Minutes

Project Patron Invitation to Kay Setches AM has been accepted

Laura presented a quick project overview for new attendees.

11 Project Updates - Schools and Community Engagement

- 1.1 February - March - Community Mural of Whale Songlines with Uncle Steve Parker, Newhaven. It is hoped that Westernport Water will fund the painting of five other Westernport Water pumping stations throughout the Shire continuing the Whale Songlines theme.
- 1.2 1st March - Deep Listening Circle with Special Guest Artist Daniel Church and FOF artist and Traditional Custodian Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Wonthaggi ArtSpace to coincide with his exhibition. Musical improvisation was provided by FOF Lead Artist Mark Finsterer.
- 1.3 16th March - Coastal Landscapes Excursions Bass Coast College (San Remo and Dudley St Campus) 200 Year 8 Geography students visited beaches on Millowl, Bunurong Coast and Inverloch.
- 1.4 30th March - Deep Listening Circle with Uncle Steve Parker Bass Coast College (San Remo Campus) Helen Matthews and Camille Monet, Eco Arts Collaborators in 'For Our Future', guided the students in creative activities within the Deep Listening Circle held at Bass Coast College. 25 students worked in small groups making mandalas with teachers David Graves and Jodi Fokkens and librarian Julie-Anne Trease.
- 1.5 January – April – Creative Message Exchange, Bass Coast – Turtle Island (Navajo and Cortes Island) Melanie Yazzie, Navajo artist and Professor of Printmaking and Arts Practices from University of Colorado, Turtle Island and Susan Hall have participated in a creative print exchange. Laura showed message circles created from the images and words shared between FOF Lead Artist and printmaker Susan, and Melanie.
- 1.6 Terry Melvin has been filming activities throughout the project.

2 Exhibitions

- 2.1 10th – 23rd June - Myli Libraries, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, San Remo (10th June – Deep Listening Circle) Meeting with Jessica Berry next week. We thank Wonthaggi Neighbourhood House for donating use of exhibition boards.
- 2.2 8th August – 18th September, Wonthaggi ArtSpace Will feature Susan Hall and Melanie Yazzie's print exchange with as well as other creative contributions from school children and the Bass Coast community
- 2.3 15th October, Exhibition/s including school and community artworks, creative writing, Wall of Wings

(Overwintering Project) and decorated laser cut-outs of endangered flora and fauna from Westernport Woodlands, at Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

3 Coming Up - School Visit Program and Community Engagement

- 3.1 Music Videos, Puppet-making, Mandalas, Creative Writing, Digital Story-telling,
- 3.2 Film-Making – 4th – 6th August, Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival - Closing date 30th May, Wonthaggi Bass Coast Schools, Bass Coast College students are making a rap video for Bass Coast Shorts, also opportunities for other groups to produce work for this.
- 3.3 6th May – 3rd June, Stencil-making Workshops and Deep Listening Circles, Wonthaggi ArtSpace
26th April – 21st June Bass Coast Adult Learning – Exploring Art with FOF Guest Artists x 10
- 3.4 1st July - Island Whale Festival, Intercultural and Creative Activities including Whale Blessing Ceremony, Collaborative Whale Decoration, Individual Whale Headbands, Deep Listening Circle. Steve Parker is doing a Whale Blessing Ceremony on the Saturday. Camille Monet and Helen Matthews are facilitating a collaborative whale-making activity and running two workshops for children. FOF is also running a Deep Listening Circle-registrations will be required. Activities in St Phillips Hall in Cowes.
- 3.5 4th and 5th August - Island Festival of Stories with FOF Guest Artists, including Panel Presentation with Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Uncle John Crocker and Aunty Fay Stewart Muir. Deep Listening Circle and Exhibition, at Newhaven College on Friday night with Daniel Church as well as an exhibition of some of his work.
- 3.7 FOF Guest Artists who will participate in programs and events: Gidja Walker, Ecologist and artist from the Mornington Peninsula; Kate Gorringer-Smith, artist; Puppeteer, Ian Cuming; Daniel Church, Darug artist.

4 Eco Arts Community Celebration, Cowes Cultural and Community Centre

15th October - 1pm – 3pm Community Concert (date tbc, dependant on building completion)

- Short Films
- Exhibition/s
- Parade with Ocean Boogie and Puppets (including Weedy Sea Dragons and Seagrass)- on the day of Community Celebration, including Guest artists and musicians.

5 Documentation

- Films focussing on the three project themes.
- Photostories
- Articles
- Message Circles
- Takso (Bass Coast Shire Council/Cultural Development Network)

6 General Business

Rhonda Renwick shared a new video featuring Aunty Sonia Weston-Hume and other local community members that has recently been produced by the Eco Village at Cape Paterson.

Next meeting Friday 19th May 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm

DATES OF FORTHCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS (note new meeting date Oct)

Friday 19 th May 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 21 st July 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm
Friday 1 st September 2023	11.30am – 12.30pm



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 19th May 2023

No Zoom

Wonthaggi ArtSpace 1 Bent St, Wonthaggi



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Apologies

Terry Melvin, Anne Davie, Craig Barrie

Attendance

Geoff Ellis, Laura Brearley, Susan Hall (Artist), Ursula Theirnet (Guest), Kate Harmon (Guest), Bron Dahlstrom, Judy Pile (Guest), Michelle Maes

Introductions around the table- 'a special place'

Minutes of Meeting 14th April 2023

Moved: Geoff Ellis, **Seconded:** Laura Brearley

Guest: Kate Harmon

Read poems to accompany slides of her artworks which were created at BCAL with Laura Brearley and various For Our Future artists.

12 Project Updates - Community Engagement, Exhibitions and School Visit Program

12.1 Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival 2023 (21st May)

Planning for three *For Our Future* activities:

'Eel Dreaming' with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker

Lunchtime Community Concert with Laura Brearley and local musicians

'Celebrating Waterways' Eco Arts Workshop with Meg Humphrys

12.2 Island Whale Festival 2023 (1st - 2nd July)

For Our Future activities with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Camille Monet, Helen Matthews and Laura Brearley:

Blessing of the Whales Ceremony- Uncle Steve

Collaborative Art-making -Two days of activities led by Helen Matthews and Camille Monet

Deep Listening Circle with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and Laura Brearley

12.3 Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Stencil-making and Deep Listening Circle (27th May) with follow-up

Printing Workshops in Inverloch (1st and 5th June) Artist: Susan Hall. Deep Listening- Laura Brearley

Places still available from PICS on Eventbrite. Promoted on PICS socials. ArtSpace socials?

12.4 Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Ocean Messages Exhibition (8th August-19th September) and

associated Deep Listening Circle (11th August)

- 12.5 **Creative Message Exchange** between Bass Coast and Turtle Island underway (January – October)

Susan Hall discussed her message exchange with Melanie Yatzee from Turtle Island. The meeting viewed some examples of the work. The works will be exhibited at ArtSpace in the Ocean Messages exhibition (see above).

- 12.6 **Bass Coast Myli Library Exhibitions** arranged for Libraries - Wonthaggi, Inverloch, San Remo Cowes (October) with Deep Listening Circle to open with For Our Future patron Kaye Musician Mark Finsterer (10th June)

- 12.7 **Bass Coast Adult Learning – Exploring Art** with *For Our Future* artists x 10 sessions (April – June)

Laura shared images of work completed by the participants of the group. Collages, prints, visual diaries and verse to accompany their artwork.

Laura will invite members of this group and parents and other significant people to the last class on 21 June.

- 12.8 **Island Festival of Stories 2023** (Date Change: 12 August) - Panel and Deep Listening Circle Convenor of Panel Laura Brearley with First Nations guests Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Auntie Fay Stewart-Muir, Uncle John Proctor

- 12.9 **Opening of Cowes Cultural and Community Concert** Planning (October 2023 TBC)

Planning underway for possible activities include a Community Concert, Parade, Exhibition in Library, Showcase of Films

- 12.10 **School Visit Program** underway with ongoing School incursions and excursions with Bass Coast Schools including Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival, Music Video Film-Making Bass Coast College. Bass Coast College San Remo Maori student has written a Rap. Kids As Catalysts, Newhaven PS.

13 Documentation and Evaluation

- 13.1 **Mid-Project Report**

<https://picsvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/For-Our-Future-Mid-Project-Report-010523.pdf>

A photostory of a 'For Our Future Project Update' including images of the project is available at: https://picsvictoria.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/For-Our-Future-Update-200423_reduced.pdf

Thanks to Yvonne Lynch for all the work she has done on the PICS website.

2.2 Films and Photostories *Activities*

Film – Community Mural - filmed with editing in process

Film – Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Excursion – filmed with editing in process

Film – Deep Listening Circle Wonthaggi ArtSpace – filmed with editing in process

Film – Deep Listening Circle Bass Coast College - filmed with editing in process

In Profile Films

Film - Daniel Church (Artist-in-Profile) – completed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XeDhbem13o&t=366s>

Film – Uncle Steve Ulula Parker (Cultural Educator-in-Profile) - in process

Film – Mike Cleeland (Naturalist-in-Profile) - filmed with editing in process

Film – Auntie Sonia Weston (Cultural Educator-in-Profile) in process

Film – Ed Thexton (Conservationist-in-Profile) in process

Photostories

Photostory - Community Mural with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker - completed

Photostory - Daniel Church (Artist-in-Profile) – completed

Photostory – Gidja Walker (Ecologist/Artist-in-Profile) – completed

Photostory – Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Excursion – completed

Photostory – Bass Coast College Deep Listening Circle– completed

Photostory – Exploring Art – Bass Coast Adult Learning x 10– ongoing - three completed

2.3 Articles

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-breareley/creative-conversations-from-afar>

Article request about ‘For Our Future’ from Jane Daly San Remo and Phillip Island Advertiser

2.4 Takso (Bass Coast Shire Council/Cultural Development Network)

Key Words from Evaluation of *For Our Future* Activities

Key words which described how people have felt after *For Our Future* activities have included:

Hopeful, Calm, Connected, Uplifted, Inspired, Optimistic, Heart, Healing, Comfort, Reconciliation, Anticipation, Resolve, Wonderful, Contented, Energised, Hopeful, Inspired, Joyous, Determine, Peaceful, Hopeful, Joyous, Uplifted, Hopeful, With Joy, Peaceful, Hopeful, Lighter, Delighted, Thankful, Elated, Grateful, Impressed, Encouraged, Supported, Determined, Included, Uplifted, Optimistic, Grateful, Expectant, Uplifted, Privileged, Uplifted, Joyful, Proud, Positive, Belonging, Centred, Peaceful, Engaged.

The three words used most frequently have been **Connected, Inspired and Engaged.**

14 General Business

Next meeting Friday 21st July 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm – Newhaven Information Centre

DATES OF FORTHCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Friday 21st July 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm

Friday 1st September 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm

6th October 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

11.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 21st July 2023

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre
895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven

No Zoom



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Apologies: Bron Dahlstrom, Craig Barrie

Attendance: Anne Davie, Jessica Berry, Terry Melvin, Laura Brearley, Michelle Maes, Geoff Ellis

Minutes of Meeting 19th May 2023

Moved: Laura Brearley

Seconded: Michelle Maes

Business

15 Project Updates - Completed Activities (See also report and photostory attached)

15.1 Bass Coast Sustainability Festival 2023 (21st May)

Uncle Steve Ulula Parker presented an Eel Dreaming Circle which was well attended.

Feedback from Lisa Wangan that we were "the heart and soul of the Festival". FOF/BCAL Concert, and BCAL participant artist Kate Harmon read poetry to accompany her work.

Thanks to PICS volunteers for assistance (Sharyn Cornthwaite, Carmen Bush, Michelle Maes)

15.2 Island Whale Festival 2023 (1st - 2nd July)

FOF artists Camille Monet and Helen Matthews ran workshops over 2 days with children. They offered whale headwear workshops, and children wrote messages to whales which were attached to a whale sculpture created by Camille Monet. PICS volunteers supported the artists. The whale sculpture will be hung at the 'Ocean Messages' exhibition at Wonthaggi ArtSpace (August/September).

15.3 Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Stencil-making and Deep Listening Circle (27th May) with 4 follow-up

Printing Workshops at Susan Hall's Studio

Workshop at ArtSpace was well-attended and received positive feedback. Some work will be exhibited at the Ocean Messages exhibition. Participants commented on the benefits of meeting other artists.

15.4 Bass Coast Adult Learning – Exploring Art with Special Guest Artists x 9 sessions (April – June)

FOF guest artists supported NDIS participants in art workshops, culminating in an exhibition at BCAL. Art works were supported by the creation of accompanying verse. Students completed works in a range of media, including a stencil-making workshop was run by Susan Hall.

A student reflection:

“The only other artist in our family is my aunty, Misch - she's an art teacher and encouraged me to go to art classes. The teacher brought in pictures that we had to copy or things we had to sketch. I never had the chance to discuss my art in depth till Laura (came here). I thought poetry had to rhyme so it was too hard, I never tried.

With Laura and the guest speakers we tried different things and made our own images - we didn't have to copy.

In the country we all have to work. I'm nineteen and don't know which career to choose. I chose hospitality for now and I do front of house till closing and then I clean. I want to be a barista or a kitchen hand but I always get put at front of house. And cleaning.

Before Laura I never thought about the backstory of what I was painting - now I'm thinking of galleries and artists' statements. (Writing) poetry that doesn't have to rhyme. And wearing black, white and green.”

- 15.5 **Bass Coast Myli Library Exhibitions** Wonthaggi, Inverloch, San Remo
Exhibition Opening and Deep Listening Circle at Wonthaggi with Kay Setches, Catherine Watson and Mark Finsterer (10th June)

The exhibition has been touring MYLI libraries from Wonthaggi to Inverloch and is now at San Remo.

- 15.6 **Bass Coast Adult Learning – Exhibition Opening** (19th July)
An exhibition of artworks produced by NDIS Exploring Art students and support workers.
The exhibition in the BCAL Gallery is open to the public and will be there for 2 months.

2 **Current Activities**

- 2.1 **Creative Message Exchange** between Bass Coast, Turtle Island and Norfolk Island underway

Packages sent and artworks now being received in response.

Content of packages sent included:

- An Introduction and Invitation to the Creative Message Exchange
- Bass Coast Community Stories
 - 1 For Our Future - Eco Arts in Community
 - 2 Ceremony and Song - Project Launch
 - 3 Children and First Nation Elders - Message Exchange
 - 4 Environmental Arts - Wonthaggi ArtSpace Community
 - 5 Collaborative Art-Making - Whale Journey Songline with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
 - 6 Art and Poetry of Place - People of all Abilities at Bass Coast Adult Learning
 - 7 Cultural Connections - Deep Listening at Bass Coast Adult Learning
 - 8 Coastal Landscapes - Our Special Places with Bass Coast College Students
 - 9 Conservation and Creativity - Bush Regeneration with Gidja Walker
 - 10 In the Flow - Freshwater Saltwater Connections with Daniel Church
 - 11 Living Waterways - Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival 2023
 - 12 Love of the Living World in Action - Working Together with the Westernport Woodlands
- Short Films
 - 1 Eco Arts in Action
 - 2 For Our Future: The Launch
 - 3 Millowl Coast
 - 4 Harmers
 - 5 Our Special Blue and Green Place
- Songs of the Living World
A Collection of Environmental Songs on the themes of Respect, Protect, Connect

- 2.2 **Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Ocean Messages Exhibition** (8th August bump-in - 19th Sept. bump-out)

Exhibition Opening (1.00pm August 13th)

Display of work by artists from the Creative Message Exchange between Bass Coast, Turtle Island and Norfolk Island, along with community artwork from students and local artists.

- 2.3 School Visit Program** underway with ongoing School incursions and excursions with Bass Coast Schools including Bass Coast College, Newhaven Primary School (Kids Thrive – 8th August final, Year 5 students are making a sculpture), Cowes Primary School (August 14th tbc). Ongoing work with Year 9 Bass Coast College Maori student.

- 2.3.1 Walk in the Woodlands - Bass Coast Adult Learning Migrant English Class** 24th July
Laura and Terry will film the group walking in the Western Port Woodlands, led by Tim Herring.

3 Project Completion

- 3.1 End Date of Project** - Needing discussion and decision
BCSC can't confirm a date for Cowes Cultural Centre activation. See 3.1.1

- 3.1.1 Opening of Cowes Cultural and Community Concert** (Date TBC)
Possible activities include a Community Concert and Parade (Centre Activation) Parade, Films, Community Concert.
Can we extend the project?
Working group decided the project will complete on September 30 which is the conclusion of the contract with BCSC. We're very interested and willing to contribute to the opening of the Cultural Centre in Cowes when the date is confirmed.

- 3.1.2 Island Festival of Stories 2023** (Date changed to November tba)
Panel and Deep Listening Circle. Convenor of Panel Laura Brearley with First Nations guests Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, Daniel Church, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Uncle John Proctor

4 Documentation

- 4.1 Photostories**
'For Our Future' Updates for PICS General Meeting (Oct, April, July) - completed
Community Mural with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker - completed
Daniel Church (Artist-in-Profile) – completed
Gidja Walker (Ecologist/Artist-in-Profile) – completed
Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Excursion – completed
Bass Coast College Deep Listening Circle – completed
Exploring Art – Bass Coast Adult Learning x 9 sessions - completed
Bass Coast Sustainability Festival - completed
Island Whale Festival - completed

Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Stencil-making and Deep Listening Circle - completed

Follow-up Printing Workshop with Susan Hall - completed
Myli Library Exhibition Opening and Deep Listening Circle - completed

- 4.2 Films, Articles and Media – Ongoing**
Terry showed his film Aunty Sonia Weston 'Artist-in-Profile'

- 5 General Business**
No General Business



Next meeting Friday 1st September 2023 11.30am – 12.30pm Wonthaggi Venue TBA

For Our Future Working Group Minutes

12.30pm – 1.30pm, Friday 1st September

Wonthaggi ArtSpace Board Room

1 Bent St Wonthaggi



No Zoom

Acknowledgement of Country

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Apologies

Rhonda Renwick

Attendance for meeting

Dr Laura Brearley, Susan Hall, Kay Setches (OAM), Anne Davie (OAM), Cr Geoff Ellis, Ursula Theinert, Sue Lindsay, Jen Rutherford, Terry Melvin, Michelle Maes

Minutes of Meeting 21st July 2023

Moved: Laura Brearley **Seconded:** Anne Davie

16 Project Updates - Completed Activities (21st July – 22nd August)

Laura Brearley provided an overview of the events and activities delivered since the last meeting.

- 16.1 Creative Message Exchange Bass Coast, Turtle Island and Norfolk Island (May – August)
The Creative Message Exchange has culminated in the Ocean Messages exhibition at ArtSpace (see opening below).
- 16.2 Newhaven Primary School Presentation – Kids as Catalysts – Eco Arts Sculpture (8th August)
Year 5 students from Newhaven Primary school were sponsored by PICS For Our Future to deliver a project speaking to environmental stewardship in their local environment. The children developed a sculpture made from found materials on beaches and surrounds to educate people about dropping rubbish. The project was presented at a large event at Dalyston Hall and is on display at the Ocean Messages exhibition. Newhaven PS have requested PICS involvement in 2024.
- 16.3 Bass Coast Children's Centre – Rehearsal for Exhibition Opening (9th August)
Laura taught the children a song which they performed at the For Our Future event at ArtSpace today.
- 16.4 Ocean Messages Exhibition Opening and Community Eco Arts Celebration (13th August)
This event at ArtSpace gathered together artists, conservationists, community members, children from Primary schools and an early childhood centre, who were welcomed by local indigenous leaders in an uplifting musical celebration of Ocean Messages in a visual exhibition of an international Message Exchange.
- 16.5 Bass Coast Adult Learning– Migrant English Class Conservation Walk (14th August)
For Our Future's Ed Thexton led a walk through the Western Port Woodlands for newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- 16.6 For Our Future Myli Libraries Exhibition San Remo Library (July - 16th August)

- 16.7 The touring exhibition moved to San Remo via Wonthaggi and Inverloch libraries.
Bass Coast College San Remo Book Week Exhibition and Presentation (21st August)

17 Current

- 2.4 Wonthaggi ArtSpace - Ocean Messages Exhibition (19th Sept. bump-out)
2.5 Bass Coast College San Remo Book Week Exhibition and Presentation (31st August bump-out)

6 Documentation

3.1 New Photostories

- 6.1.1 Ocean Messages Exhibition Opening and Community Eco Arts Celebration
6.1.2 National Tree Day in Inverloch (Parents Advisory Group – Inverloch Pre-school)
6.1.3 Caring for Country – Tree Planting in Inverloch (Inverloch Childcare)
6.1.4 Bass Coast College, San Remo Campus Message Circles to accompany Library Exhibition

3.2 New Article

Bass Coast Post - Moments of Inspiration

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-breareley/moments-of-inspiration>

3.3 Films

Ed Thexton – Conservationist in profile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNIZobjAygQ&t=19s>

Aunty Sonia Weston – Artist and Cultural Educator in Profile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MRURO6Q-Nc&t=14s>

Films in Progress

Filming complete, now in editing and post-production phase.

Mark Finsterer to add music

- 1) Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
- 2) Susan Hall
- 3) For Our Future Project Film

3.4 Project Reporting

In Progress - due before 30th September

- 1) Final Project Report -in progress
- 2) TAKSO Reporting for Bass Coast Shire Council -in progress

Laura Breareley will complete the final reporting for the For Our Future Project by the project end-date of 30 September. This will distil all the previous reports in a final report to funders. Reporting will include written, qualitative (photo-stories and films) and quantitative (TAKSO evaluation in the Bass Coast evaluation system). Laura explained the complexity of evaluating creative work into a quantitative format required by TAKSO (ref Cultural Development Network).

7 For Our Future Summary – 131 Outputs

From November 2022 to September 2023, the 'For Our Future' has facilitated a program of intergenerational, intercultural and interdisciplinary activities and events across the Bass Coast community and beyond, building relationships, deepening connection to Country and inspiring environmental stewardship. The project has delivered 131 activity and documentation outputs.

6 x Eco Arts Exhibitions

7. 'Eco Arts in Community' - 12 Bass Coast Stories, Wonthaggi Library
8. 'Eco Arts in Community' - Inverloch Library
9. 'Eco Arts in Community' - Sam Remo Library
10. 'Exploring Art' Bass Coast Adult Learning Gallery

11. 'For Our Future' - Bass Coast College Library, San Remo Campus – Book Week
12. 'Ocean Messages' ArtSpace Wonthaggi

7 x Deep Listening Circles

8. Wonthaggi Library - in association with 'Eco Arts in Community' Exhibition with Aunty Sonia Weston and Mark Finsterer
9. ArtSpace Wonthaggi – in association with 'Daniel Church Exhibition with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker and Mark Finsterer
10. ArtSpace Wonthaggi – in association with 'Ocean Messages' Exhibition
11. Bass Coast College, San Remo led by Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
12. Eel Dreaming with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Sustainability Festival 2023
13. Living Water Ways with Meg Humphrys, Sustainability Festival 2023
14. Ocean Messages International Deep Listening Circle, ArtSpace (Pending)

21 x Community Activities/Workshops

13. Message Exchange between Children from Newhaven College and First Nation Elders
14. Island Whale Festival - Activities - Whale Sculpture and Whale Hat Bands over two days
15. Kids Thrive 'Rubbish Sucks' Project and Sculpture with Newhaven Primary School
16. Community Art Mural with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker at the Phillip Island Board Riders Club
17. Bass Coast College, 'Living Water Ways' - Bass Coast College Library, San Remo with Ed Thexton
18. Stencil Making and Print Workshop with Susan Hall, ArtSpace Wonthaggi with 3 follow-up sessions
19. Inverloch Ukulele Group Rehearsal
20. Wonthaggi Ukulele Group Rehearsal
21. Newhaven College – Junior School Choir Rehearsal
22. Newhaven College - Middle School Choir Rehearsal
23. Bass Coast Adult Learning Practice Music Group Rehearsal
24. International Creative Message Exchange facilitated with artists, First Nation Elders and children from Cortes Island, British Columbia, Calgary, Alberta, Boulder, Colorado and Norfolk Island
- 14 - 21. Bass Coast Adult Learning 'Exploring Art' with Special Guest Artists x 9 Sessions

6 x Conservation Walks, Talks and Activities

7. Phillip Island Nature Park, Summerlands Beach led by Pip Cleeland
8. Bass Coast College, San Remo Campus – 3 x Millowl Beaches led by Aileen Vening
9. Bass Coast Adult Learning - Western Port Woodlands led by Tim Herring
10. Bass Coast Adult Learning – Screw Creek led by Ed Thexton
11. Tree Planting #1 Inverloch Childcare with Ed Thexton and John Cuttriss
12. Tree Planting #2 Inverloch and District Preschool with Ed Thexton and John Cuttriss

3 x Community Concerts/Eco Arts Celebrations

4. Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, with First Nation Elders, Children and Community Musicians
5. Bass Coast Land Care Sustainability Festival 2023
6. Ocean Messages, Wonthaggi ArtsSpace led by children from Bass Coast Children's Centre

39 x Photostories

41. For Our Future: The Launch
42. Bass Coast College Coastal Landscapes Field Trip
43. Daniel Church Exhibition at Wonthaggi ArtSpace 'This is My Story'
44. Island Whale Festival 2023
45. Sustainability Festival 2023
46. Artspace Ocean Messages Workshop with Susan Hall
47. Susan Hall's Studio Printing Workshop
48. Library Exhibition and Deep Listening Circle
49. Gidja Walker - Ecologist, Educator, Artist
50. Bass Coast College Deep Listening Circle
51. BCAL Exploring Art #1

52. BCAL Exploring Art #2
53. BCAL Exploring Art #3
54. BCAL Exploring Art #4
55. BCAL Exploring Art #5
56. BCAL Exploring Art #6
57. BCAL Exploring Art #7
58. BCAL Exploring Art #8
59. BCAL Exploring Art #9
60. BCAL Exploring Art Exhibition Opening
61. BCAL Migrant English Class in the Woodlands
62. Creative Message Exchange Introduction and Invitation
63. Creative Message Exchange - Visual Conversation between Melanie Yazzie and Susan Hall
64. Ed Thexton, Yarra River and Yellingbo Creek
65. For Our Future - Eco Arts in Community Overview
66. Ceremony and Song - Project Launch
67. Children and First Nation Elders Message Exchange
68. Environmental Arts - Wonthaggi ArtSpace Community
69. Collaborative Art-Making - Whale Journey Songline with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
70. Art and Poetry of Place - People of all Abilities at Bass Coast Adult Learning
71. Cultural Connections - Deep Listening to Country at Bass Coast Adult Learning
72. Coastal Landscapes - Our Special Places with Bass Coast College Students
73. Conservation and Creativity - Bush Regeneration with Gidja Walker
74. In the Flow - Freshwater Saltwater Connections with Daniel Church
75. Living Waterways - Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival
76. Love of the Living World in Action - Working Together with the Western Port Woodlands
77. National Tree Day with Inverloch Childcare
78. Tree Planting with Inverloch and District Preschool
79. Ocean Messages Exhibition and Eco Arts Celebration

7 x Films

- For Our Future: The Launch
- Daniel Church – Artist-in-Profile
- Uncle Steve Ulula Parker: Artist-in-Profile
- Aunty Sonia Weston: Artist-in-Profile
- Susan Hall: Artist-In-Profile
- Ed Thexton: Conservationist-in-Profile

38 x Project Reports and Articles

- 1 x Mid Project Report
- 10 x Monthly PICS Meeting Arts Working Group Reports
- 8 x 'For Our Future' Working Group Meeting Reports
- 4 x PICS General Meetings
- 3 x PICS Newsletter Articles
- 8 x Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group
- 4 x Takso Reports – Cultural Development Network
- 3 x Bass Coast Post Articles

Creative Conversations from Afar

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/creative-conversations-from-afar>

Opening Arts and Minds

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/opening-arts-and-minds>

Moments of Inspiration

<https://www.basscoastpost.com/laura-brearley/moments-of-inspiration>

- 1 x Final Project Report

8 Thanks to 'For Our Future' Working Group

General Business

Project patron, Kay Setches expressed enormous appreciation of the marvellous contribution made by Dr Laura Brearley and Terry Melvin, in particular, for all their voluntary hours provided, as well as the vision required for the conception and delivery of this evolutionary project.

Seconded by the group.

Laura explained how the project activities and deliverables evolved across the year and that this was an important element of the project. An example was meeting Daniel Church early in the project, connecting with the BCAL group and international artists.

Thanks to Artspace for all their support throughout the project. Thanks also to the project sponsors, Phillip Island Conservation Society and Bass Coast Shire Council.



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council