



Supported by Bass Coast Shire Council

Across the Waters
Deep Listening Circle #2
Creative Ways of Knowing
Wonthaggi ArtSpace

Photostory Laura Brearley and Terry Melvin



Acknowledgement of Country

We honour the Boonwurrung/Bunurong people 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.

On 12th October 2024, community members were welcomed into an Across the Waters Deep Listening Circle hosted by Wonthaggi ArtSpace.



Participants explored creative ways of knowing Western Port, through shared stories, art-making, poetry-writing, music, song and dance.





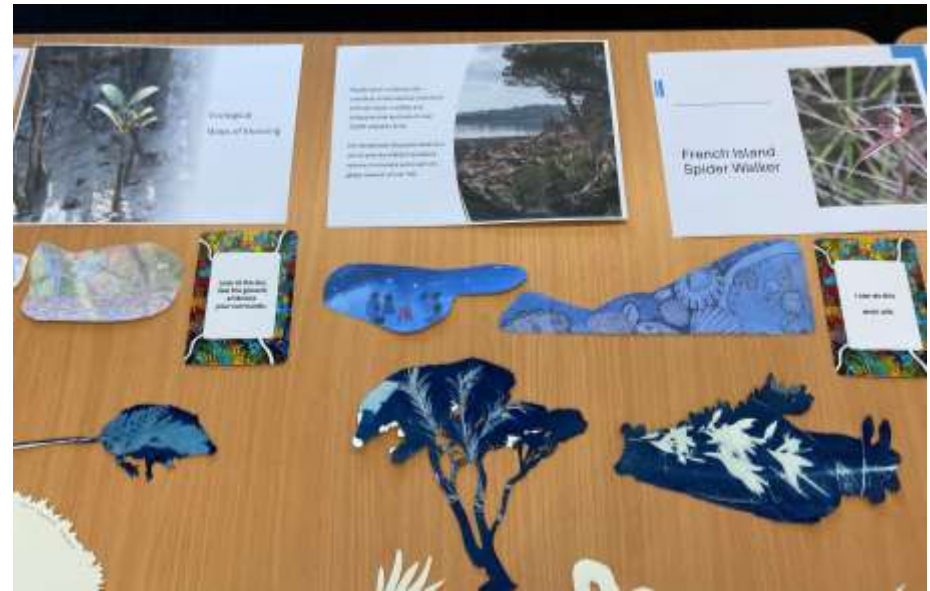
Guest Artists Susan Hall and Kate Gorringer-Smith

All the laser cut shapes that we're working with today are silhouettes of plants and animal species found around Western Port. Some are from the Ramsar site, some are listed as endangered, and some are endemic and only found around Western Port.



They reflect the variety of species and the richness of Western Port.

Kate Gorringer-Smith



Artworks and writing from children from the Mornington Peninsula side of Western Port, including St Mary's Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and Wallaroo Primary School, were part of the stimulus material used for the Deep Listening Circle's creative activities.





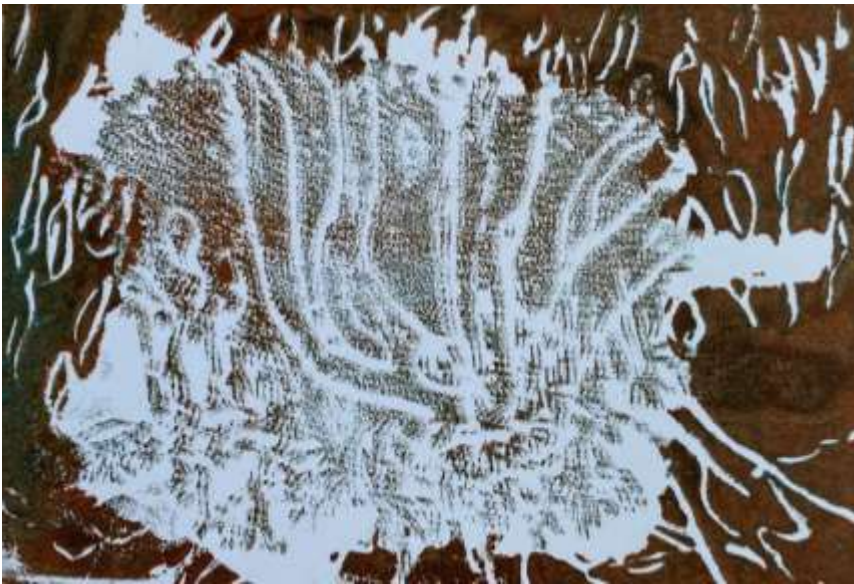
Uncle Steve Ulula Parker's painting of Western Port (Warn Marin)

The artworks that we're making are contributing to a visual way of showing the local and the global environments and the interconnectedness of it all.

Kate Gorringe-Smith









The wetlands are a life force.
The mangroves and the seagrass nurture
and feed what lives in and around it,
like the shorebirds and us humans as well.

Carmen Bush

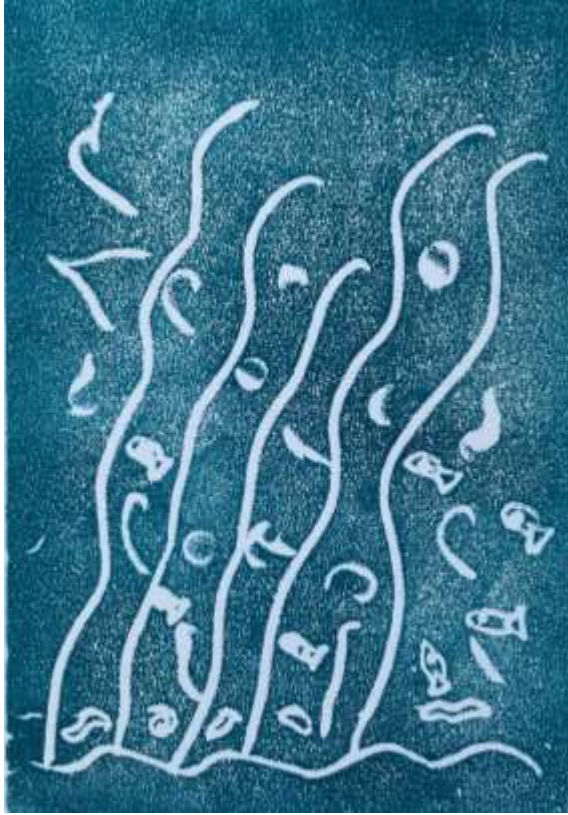


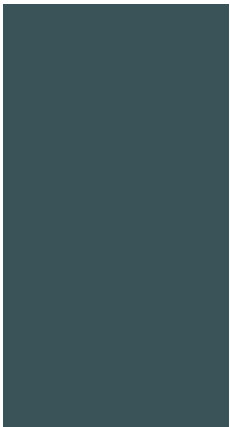




Community artist Camille Monet showed her strong understanding of the relationship between art and food.







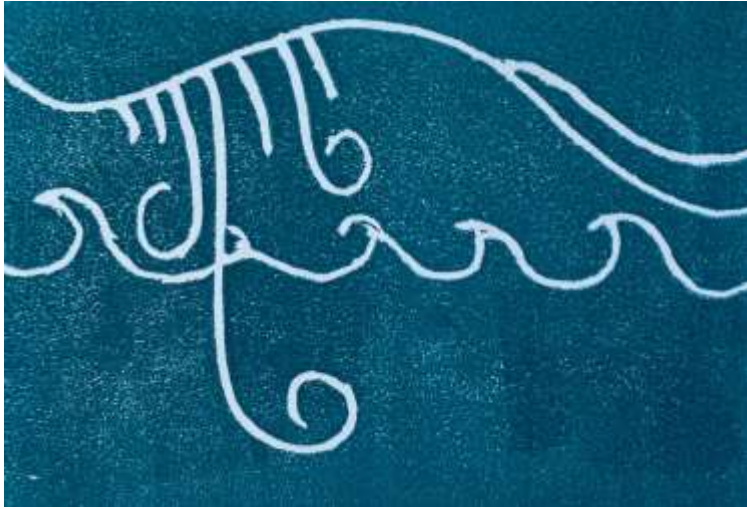




Artists unite to heal the world.
In a word, it's about connection.

Annette Marshall







Being here reminds me of how many wonderful people there are. When we're together like this, I realise how strong we can be.

Jo Lane











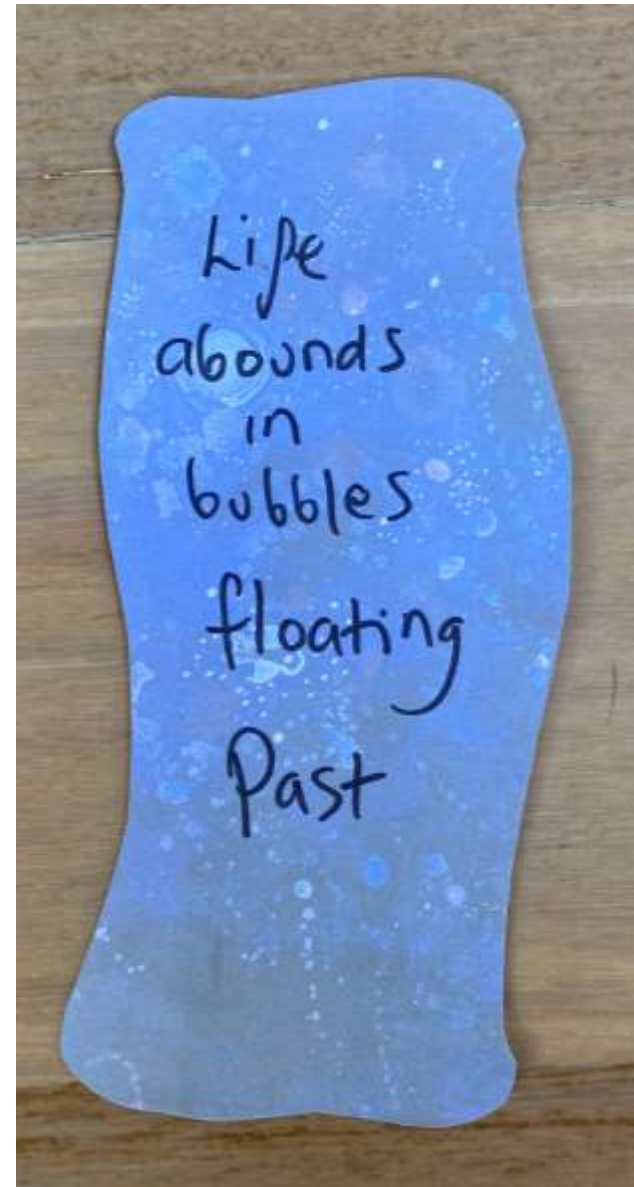


Templates used for six-word sentences came from Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway artist Lisa Kennedy, from her illustrations in books including 'Sea Country', 'Welcome to Country', 'Wilam: A Birrarung Story' and 'Sky Country'. They have been used with her permission.



Life abound in bubbles floating past
Stories held within rocks sing lifetimes
Magic above
Splendour below
Nature embraced

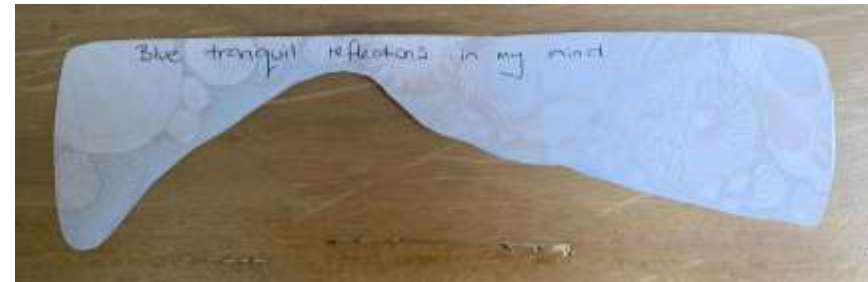
Penny Walder





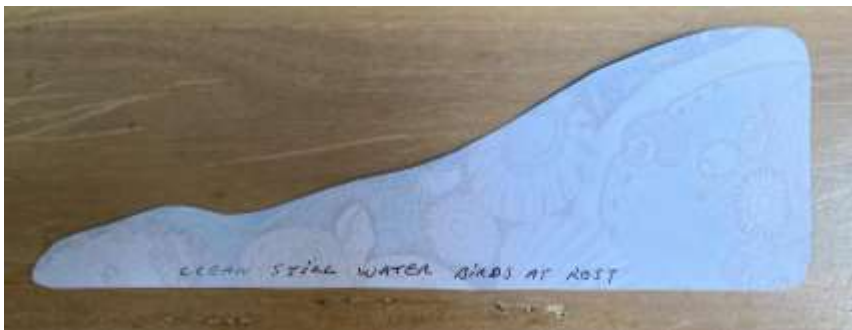
Waves in and out. New life.

Lisa Churchward



Blue tranquil reflections in my mind

Gail Franks



Clean still water birds at rest

Lisa Musilli



A life force for all Beings

Carmen Bush





Lino cuts of migratory shorebirds were added to Boonwurrung artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker's progressive painting of Western Port (Warn Marin).





When I look at Western Port,
I can't help but think of the damage
Europeans have done to it over the years.
It's got to start healing.
It's time.

Greg Johnson



I'm constantly moved by people's generosity and willingness to undertake something that they might not normally feel comfortable doing.



They do it with a beautiful, warm, open heart and it all comes together as one lovely, rich community.

Kate Gorringe-Smith



For Love of Westernport – A Collective Poem

Light from the sun gives life

A life force for all beings

Clean still water

Birds at rest

Blue tranquil reflections in my mind

Shore birds feed on its shores

Fish find shelter in its mangroves

Life abounds in bubbles floating past

Stories held within rocks sing lifetimes

Family heart place

Water sky life

Joy tree and sea revealed

Waves in and out

New life

One precious egg

It has hatched

Beaks cracking the cones for seeds

Natures' treasures in the littoral zone

Birds call evening flight swift

Flying home on warmth and inspiration

Stars float like birds of the universe

Magic above

Splendour below

Nature embraced

Artists unite to heal the Earth



Across the waters that we share
We're all connected
Here, there and everywhere



<https://soundcloud.com/laura-brearley/across-the-waters>



Thanks to ...

All the Deep Listening Circle participants for sharing their love of place and revealing their understanding of creativity, community and connection ...

Heather Hassett, Lesley Whillas, Margaret Byrne, Fiona Anastasi, Jo Lane, Lisa Musilli, Gail Franks, Kerry Golding, Greg Johnson, Christine Charles, Grant van Cuylenburg, Annette Marshall, Lisa Churchward, Carmen Bush and Penny Walder.



With Special Thanks to ...

Ursula Theinert
Kate Gorringer-Smith
Susan Hall
Camille Monet
Terry Melvin





More information about Phillip Island Conservation Society's Eco Arts project

Across the Waters is available at <https://picsvictoria.org.au/events/>

and from the Project Coordinator Dr Laura Brearley laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au



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