

Nowra CBD Revitalisation Strategy Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 14 September, 2022

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Attachments (Under Separate Cover)

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collator.

PROPOSAL

MURAL PROJECT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NOWRA CBD

The core team at Collator have lead various council, school and community engagement projects over the past decade working with pre-school, primary and secondary students, community members and professionally practicing artists.

We work across a range of creative practices exploring expressive forms, ideas, and values through immersive experiences for communities, art making, poetry and creative writing workshops, graphic design and murals.

The work that gives us the biggest thrill are the projects centered around a passion for the environment and community building, holding hope for the future, and giving children the confidence and tools to express themselves and learning outcomes through art making - and positive place-based experiences.

PROGRAM

We would like to propose the installation of a mural on the wall of the Throughfare Laneway, adjacent to the Arts Centre in the Nowra CBD.

This laneway currently has murals that were created in response to its opening in 2015. It is time for a refresh. We would like to reinvigorate the walls with the involvement of pre-school aged children. Not only do we want to reinvigorate the walls of the laneway with the 'voices' of the young people – not just pre schoolers, but primary and youth as well – we would like to activate the space with an event.

We have connected with Beyond Empathy, Shoalhaven and would like to include in the event, a 'podformance' – this is a live podcast performance, by the youth that they work with in the Shoalhaven area.

While Collator works with the younger, pre school & primary aged children – our good friend & street artist, Bohie will work with the older youth to run empowering mural workshops.

Our friends at Hoorah Events would dress the space and help create a fun and vibrant event.

WHO WE HAVE WORKED WITH

Bomaderry High School, NSW
Bomaderry Primary School, NSW
Bundanon Trust, NSW
Canberra Grammar School, ACT
Cambewarra Public School, NSW
Cobargo Public School, NSW
Corrimal Public School, NSW
Corrimal High School, NSW
Dapto High School, NSW
Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, NSW
Figtree High School, NSW
Figtree Primary School, NSW
Jervis Bay Primary School, ACT
Micro Galleries
NSW Department of Education
North Nowra Primary School, NSW
Nowra High School, NSW
Nowra East Primary School, NSW

Northside Community Centre, ACT
Port Kembla Public School, NSW
Red Room Poetry
Reiby Detention Centre
St Columbkilles Catholic Primary, NSW
Shoalhaven High School, NSW
Shoalhaven City Council
Shoalhaven Community Pre School, NSW
Shoalhaven Regional Gallery
Terara Public School, NSW
Theatre Kantanka
The Art Shed Berry, NSW
The Arts Unit (NSW Department of Education)
The Song Company
Warilla North Public School, NSW
Wollongong City Council, NSW



Nicole Smede & Bonnie Porter Greene, at Bundanon near the Shoalhaven River

WHO WE ARE

Bonnie Porter Greene
(visual artist)

Bonnie is a multidisciplinary artist - born, residing and creating in the Shoalhaven.

She explores her love of the landscape - both built and natural, through reflective studio practise, en plein air excursions resulting in direct and honest painted memories of the landscape.

Bonnie works regularly with primary school aged children, running creative & fun after school art classes.

She is known for her bold use of colour, is not afraid of putting paint on anything, and is a firm believer that *it is about what happens during the making process rather than what is left behind.*

Bonnie is represented by Gallery Jennings Kerr in NSW and was the recipient of a 2022 Shoalhaven City Council Australia Day Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts & Culture.

bonniegreene.com

WHO WE ARE

Nicole Smede
(poet)

Nicole is a multi-disciplinary artist of Worimi and European descent, living and creating on Wodi Wodi Country.

Proud of her heritage, she works through language to reconnect to ancestry and culture. A classically trained Mezzo Soprano, she ran away from classical music early on to pursue wider artistic interests. Now, Nicole uses voice, song, sound and poetry to explore ideas around landscape and connectedness, making sense of her place in the world, reclaiming and reconnecting to ancestry.

In 2020, Nicole was the co-recipient of the 2020 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grant with Bonnie Porter Greene, a finalist in the Meroogal Women's Art Prize and shortlisted for the 2020 Red Room Poetry Fellowship. Her work is acquired and held in national collecting institutions.

nicolesmede.com

RECENT PROJECTS

20x20x12 *Sensing Place* BOOK & EXHIBITION

In 2021, Bonnie & Nicole published *20x20x12 Sensing Place*, (Manta Publishing). Over the course of a year, 12 sets of unique works were created from seasonal expeditions to regional sites. Through creative meditation and reflection, the artists connected to 'place', forming artistic responses to each site, revealing the essence of landscape. Through this creative lens, the viewer is invited into vast and deep experiences, linking cultural stories through the window of the 20cm x 20cm format.

Each month, over a year, the artists travelled together to a different location in the Shoalhaven region. Spending time connecting to 'place', they individually responded to the site through painting and poetry.

This project formed the basis for Bonnie & Nicole's working relationship, and attitude toward involving children in observing, reflecting and respecting nature. The published book was made possible as recipients of a 2020 *Shoalhaven Arts Board A Sense of Place Grant*.

