

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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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	Northside Community Centre, ACT
Bomaderry Primary School, NSW	Port Kembla Public School, NSW
Bundanon Trust, NSW	Red Room Poetry
Canberra Grammar School, ACT	Reiby Detention Centre
Cambewarra Public School, NSW	St Columbkilles Catholic Primary, NSW
Cobargo Public School, NSW	Shoalhaven High School, NSW
Corrimal Public School, NSW	Shoalhaven City Council
Corrimal High School, NSW	Shoalhaven Community Pre School, NSW
Dapto High School, NSW	Shoalhaven Regional Gallery
Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, NSW	Terara Public School, NSW
Figtree High School, NSW	Theatre Kantanka
Figtree Primary School, NSW	The Art Shed Berry, NSW
Jervis Bay Primary School, ACT	The Arts Unit (NSW Department of Education)
Micro Galleries	The Song Company
NSW Department of Education	Warilla North Public School, NSW
North Nowra Primary School, NSW	Wollongong City Council, NSW
Nowra High School, NSW	
Nowra East Primary School, 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

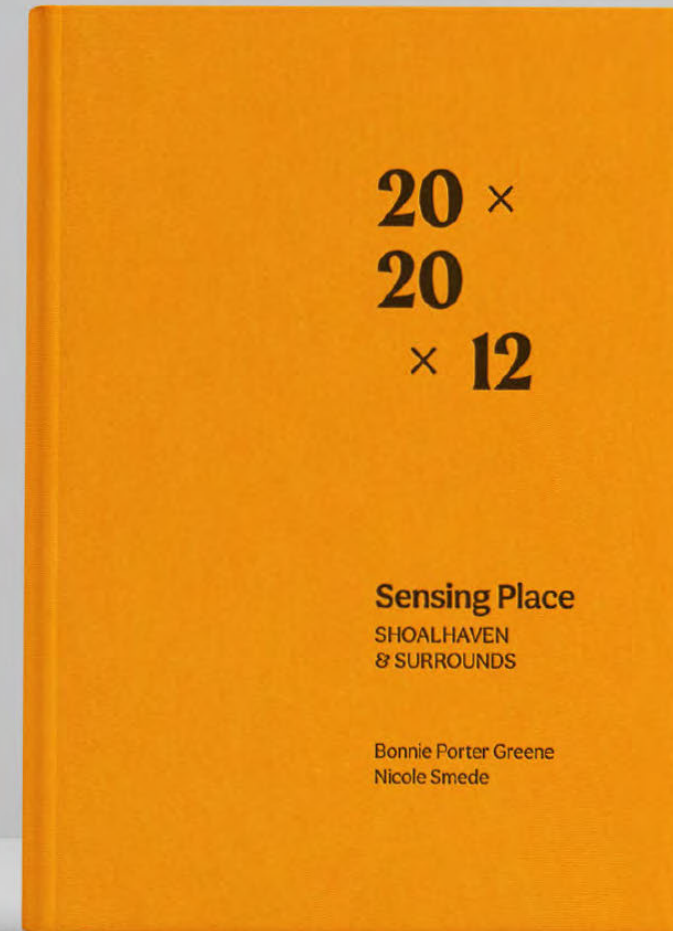
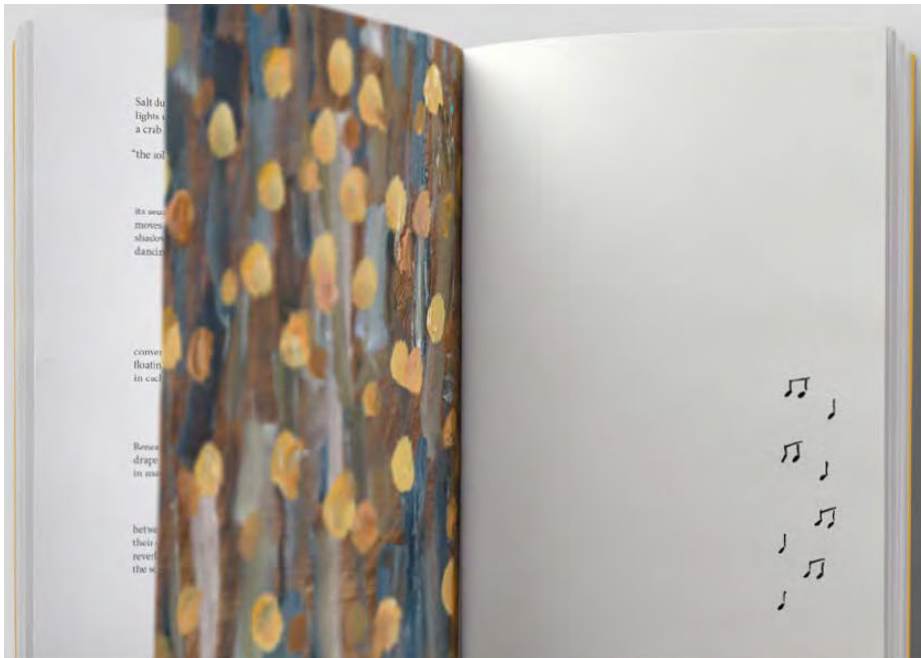
RECENT PROJECTS

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*.



RECENT PROJECTS

Poetry Is Story

Wollongong City Council

POETRY WORKSHOPS, BOOK
& PUBLIC LIGHT BOXES

In 2020 we were commissioned by Wollongong City Council to contribute to the Corrimal Public Art Project by running poetry workshops with Corrimal primary and secondary schools for a publication and community exhibition space at St Luke's Place Playground, Corrimal.

Over two weeks, we spent time with students and traditional custodians writing poetry in response to landscape and First Nations stories. We curated and edited the publication *Poetry is Story* published by Wollongong City Council, to include poems written by the students and sections of a collaborative mural design that formed part of the overall public art project.

Fragments of the poems were also included and woven into the artwork on a series of solar powered pillar lightboxes installed in public playground St Luke's Place. These continue to be a source of inspiration and pride for the community, celebrating shared connection, history and stories of place.



Recent poetry workshop output, and workshop on Country with Nicole Smede



Poetry Is Story, with Corrimal Public School students & Wollongong City Council

The mountain is a warrior
its rocks - its people
the ocean was cold
now it's old
her sisters - its islands.

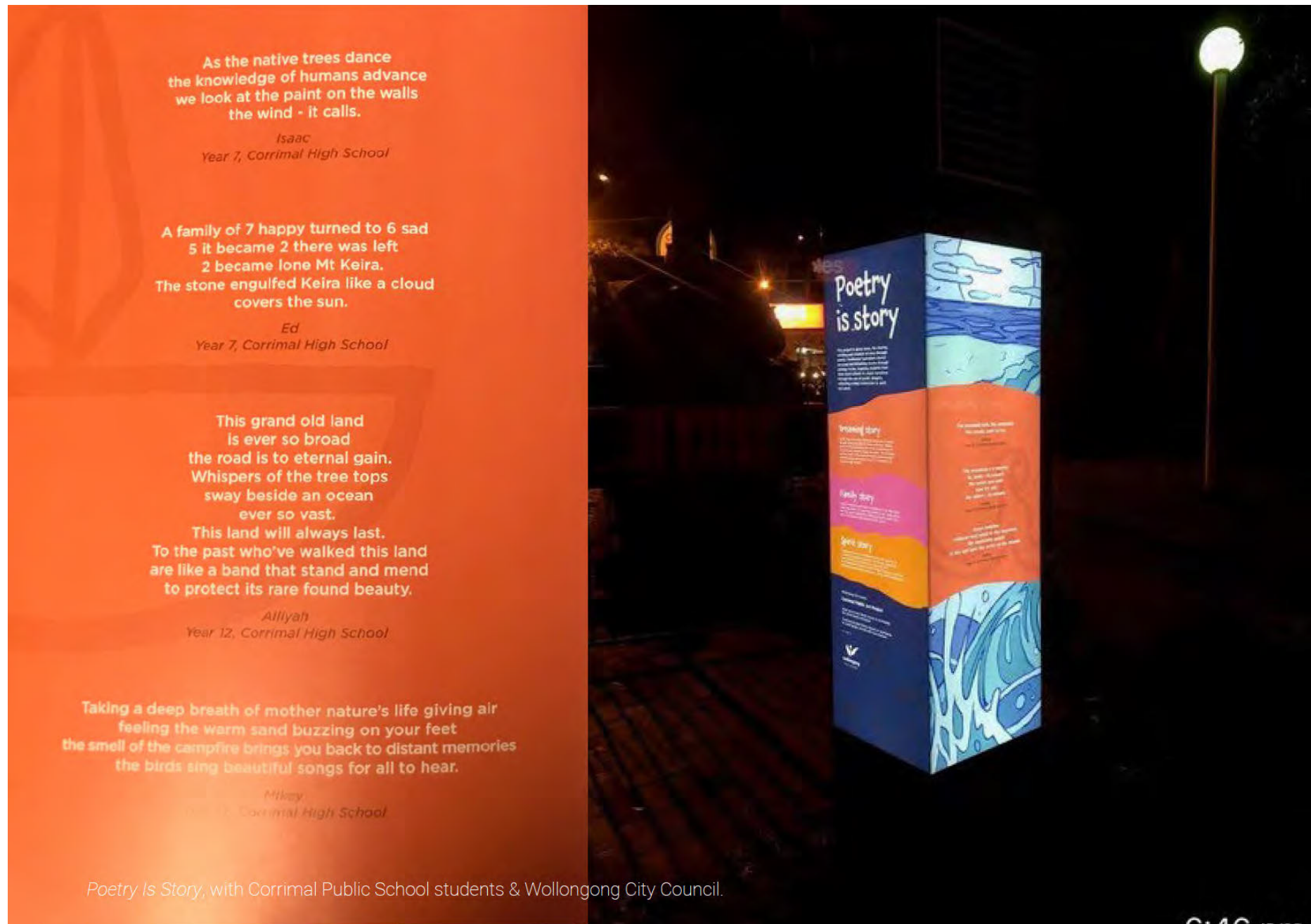
*Byron
Year 7, Corrimal High School*

Geera watches
without west wind on the mountain
the mermaids splash
in the surf near the rocks on the islands.

*Ashley
Year 7, Corrimal High School*

The sea hits me with a salty breeze
I feel a scaly feeling
from limb to limb
my body grows a tail
the feeling makes me freeze
I dive down
under
and go for a swim.

*Lara
Year 7, Corrimal High School*



RECENT PROJECTS

Drought

Shoalhaven Community Pre School

ART WORKSHOPS &
COLLABORATIVE MURAL



Art workshop & mural with Nowra pre school children around the theme of drought

RECENT PROJECTS

The Day She Stole The Sun.

Cobargo Public School

BOOK DESIGN IN
COLLABORATION WITH
STUDENTS

In 2020 we were invited to design a book for Cobargo Public School. The publication '*The Day She Stole The Sun*', was created by Year 5 & 6 students from Cobargo PS, telling their story of the summer of 2019/20 bushfires, and their experiences of trauma, resilience and hope with words and images.

We created the design for the book in order for it to be published, paying respect to the students artwork and words. By incorporating their words into the artwork, we were able to make their work come to life.

THE DAY
SHE STOLE
THE SUN



Sample pages from *The Day She Stole The Sun*, Cobargo Public School



Sample pages from *The Day She Stole The Sun*, Cobargo Public School

RECENT PROJECTS

Art workshops

Shoalhaven River College

RESPONDING TO THE
LANDSCAPE ART WORKSHOP

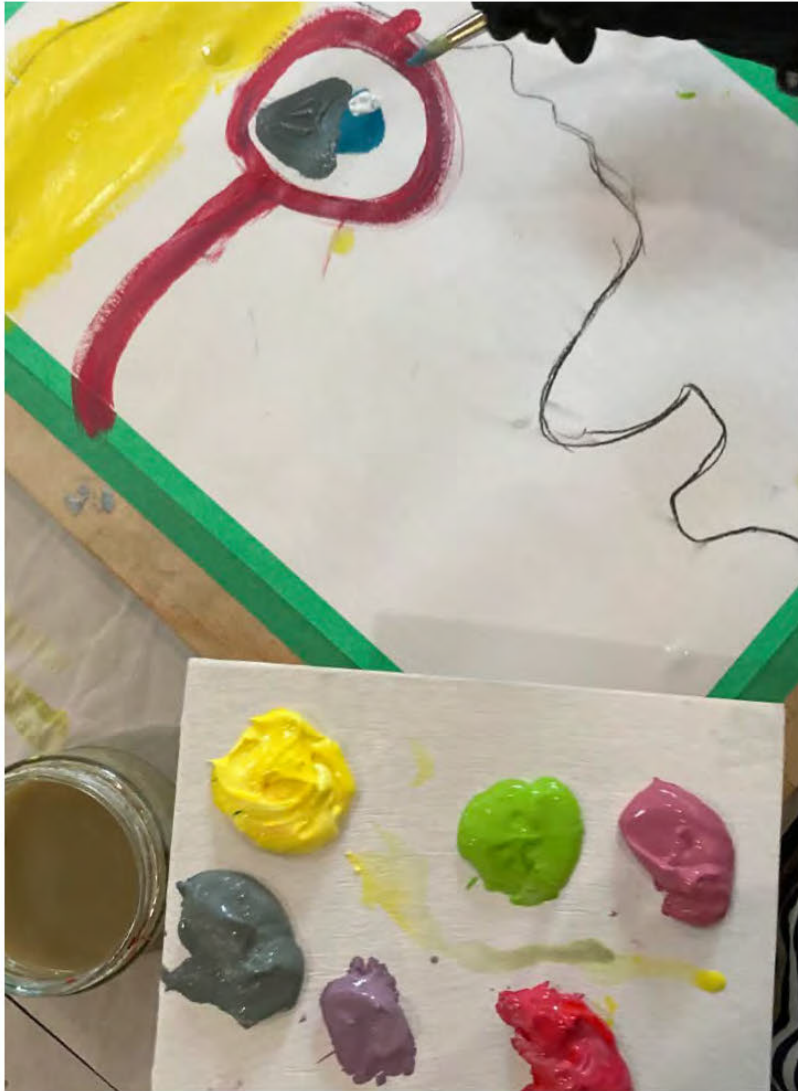
The Art Shed Berry

ART EXPLORATION



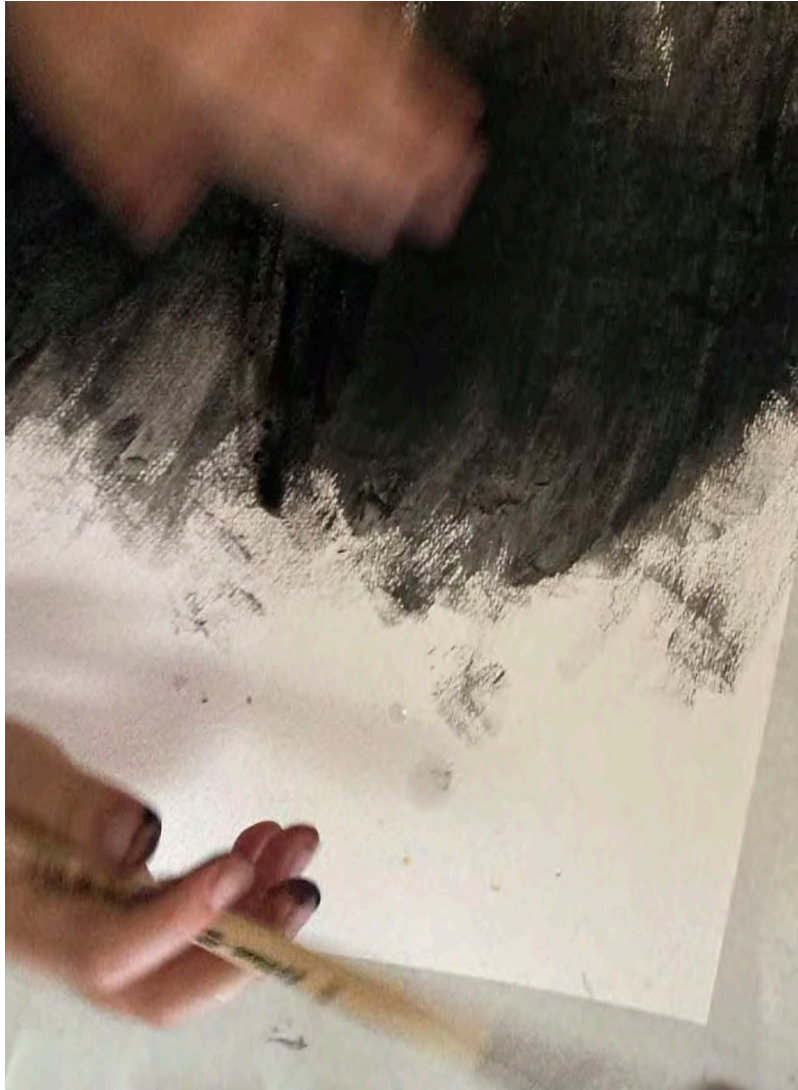
Recent workshop output from youth from a local community college.





Recent workshop output, from primary school after school art classes.





CASE STUDY

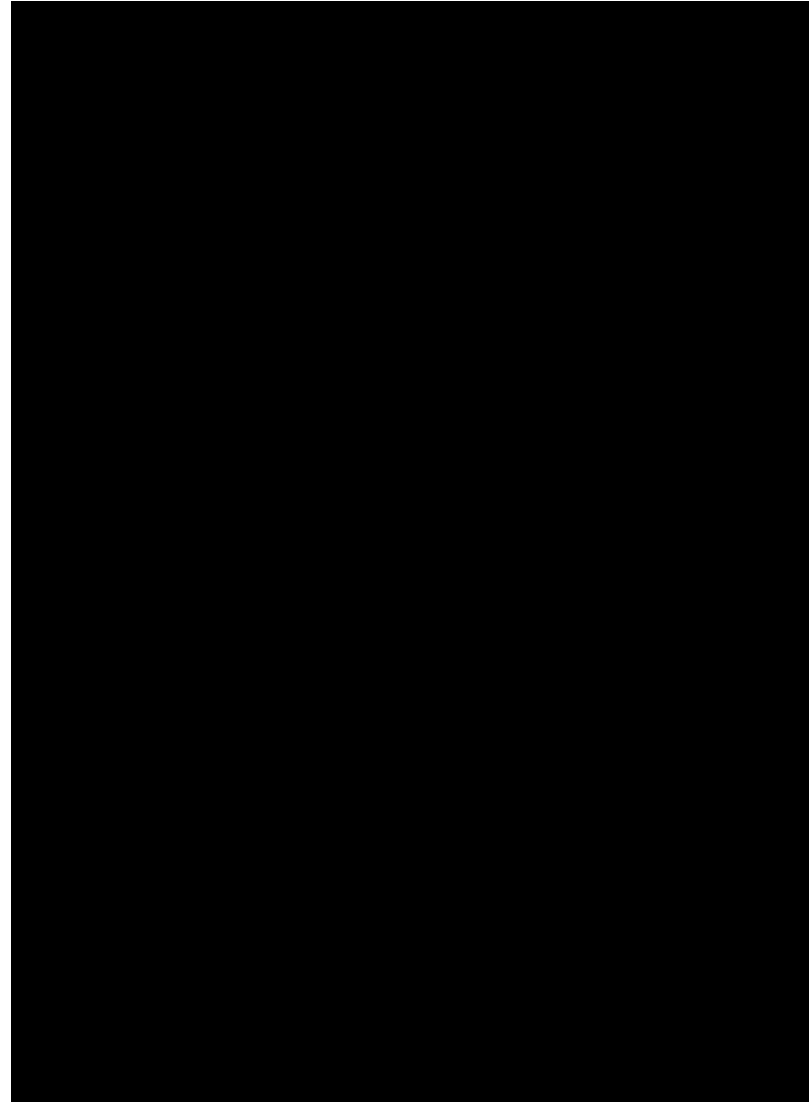
Resilience

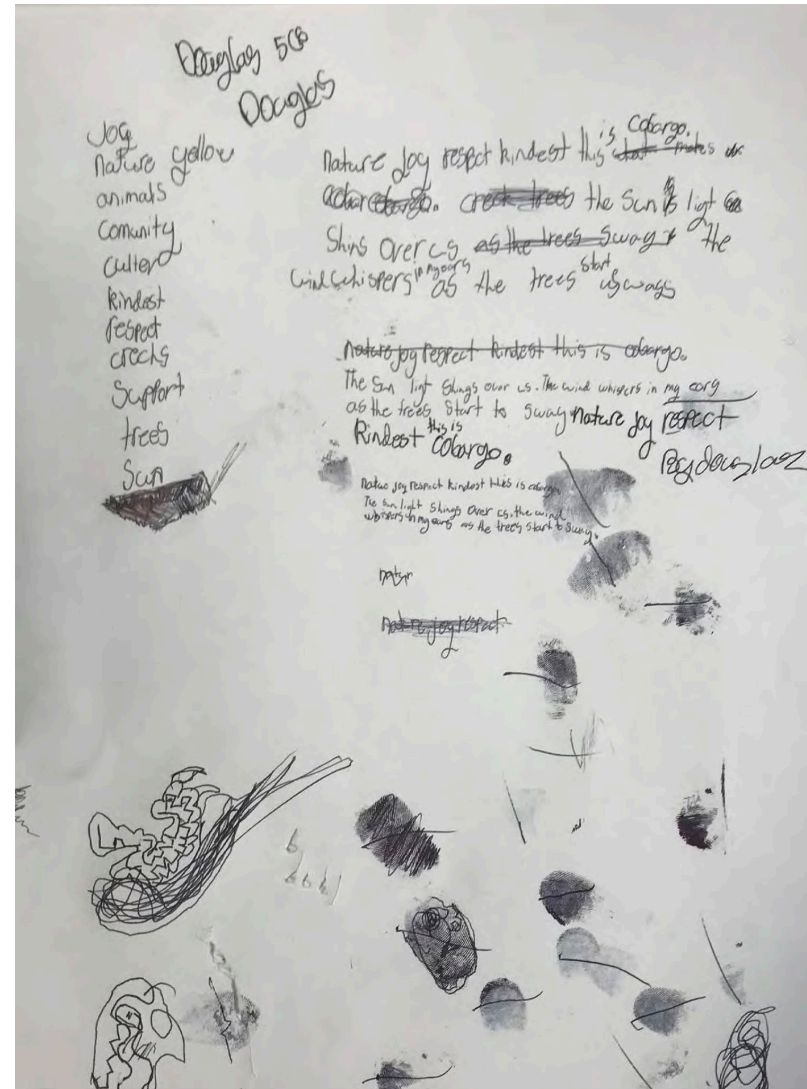
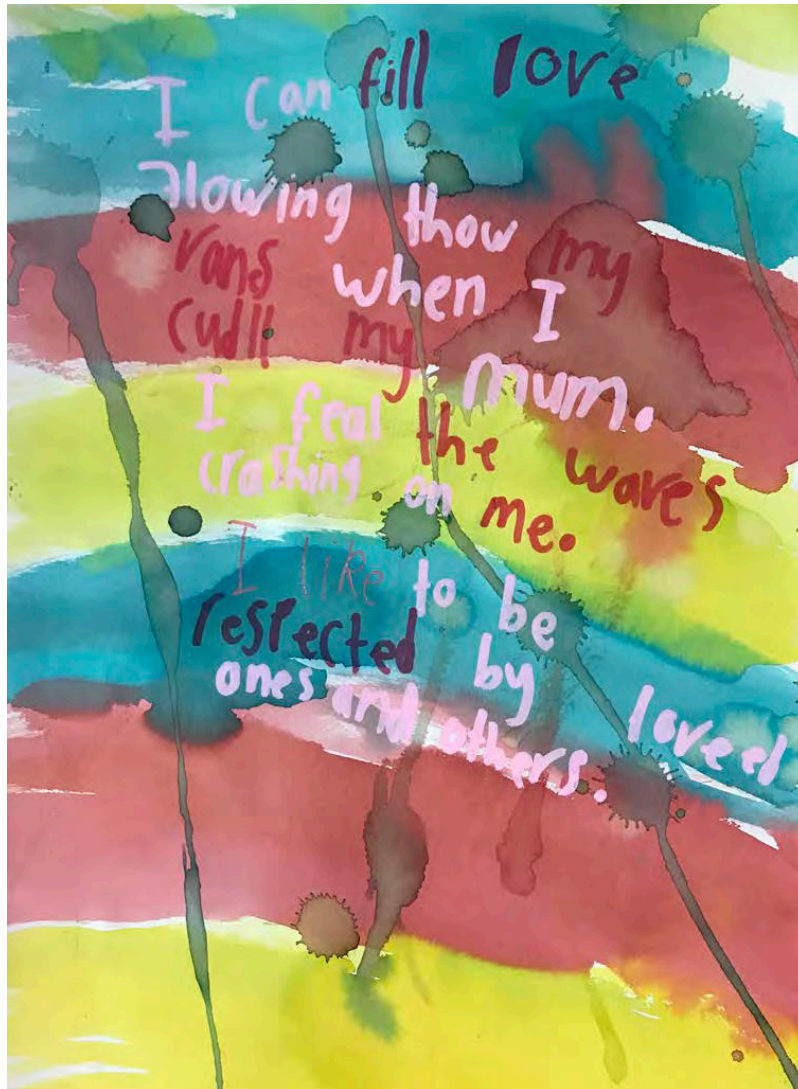
Cobargo Public School (K-6)

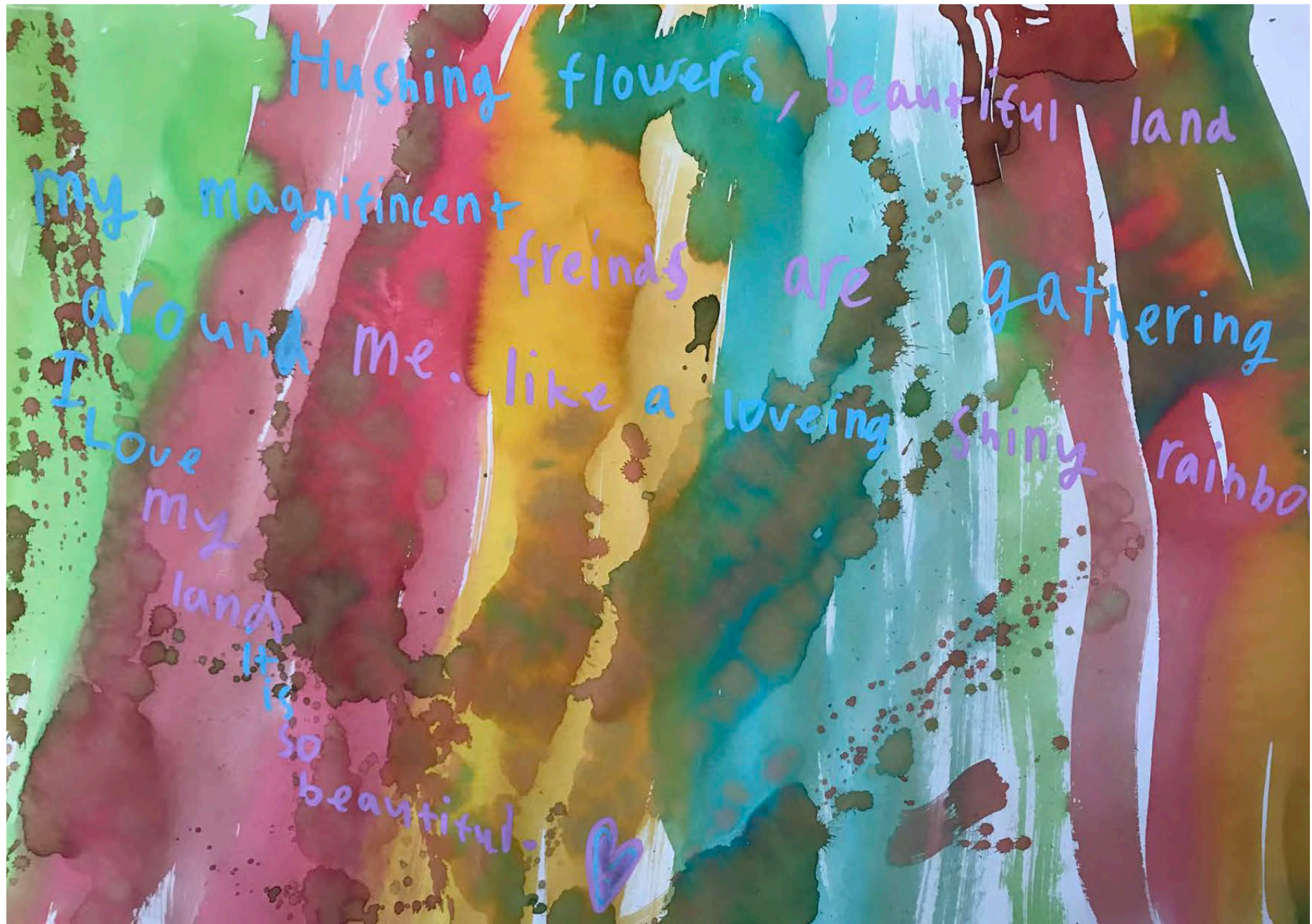
**ART & POETRY WORKSHOPS &
COLLABORATIVE MURAL PANELS**

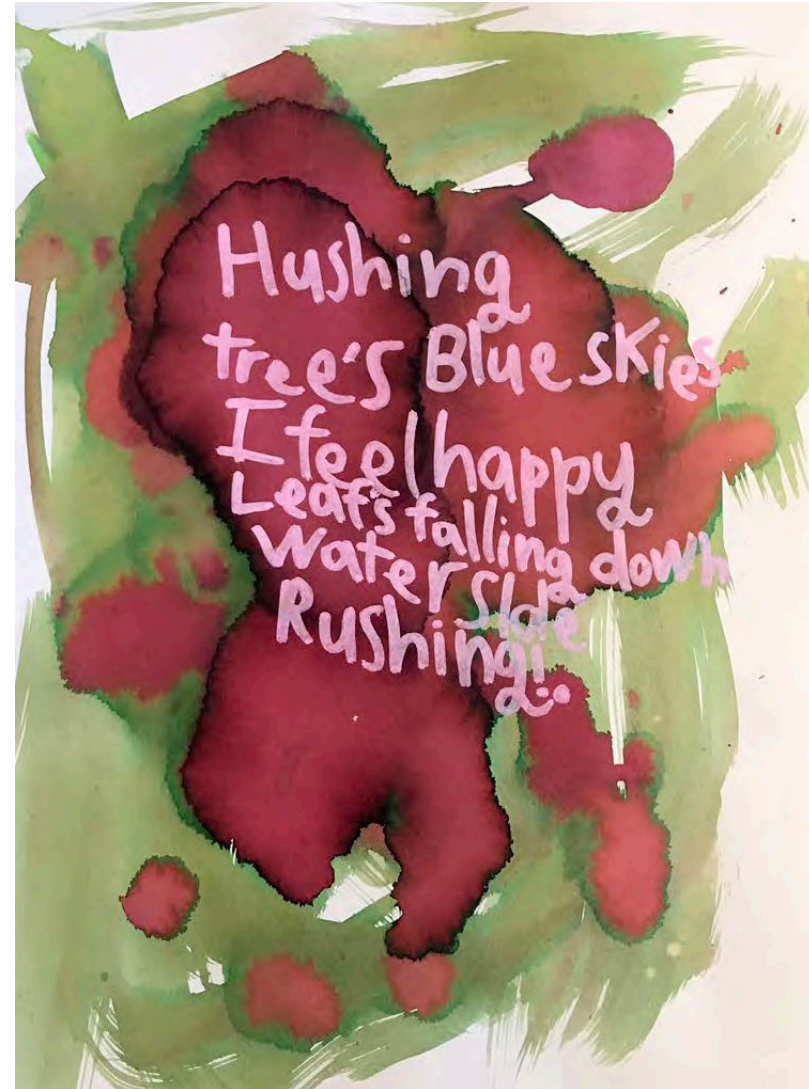
June 2022, we spent two days with the entire school of Cobargo Public School. We invited Uncle Rodney for our first day on site, to yarn with the children about the significance of Cobargo, and share cultural stories. From Kindergarten through to Year 6, every student was a participant in both the poetry writing workshops and a painter on the 6 large mural panels for the school.

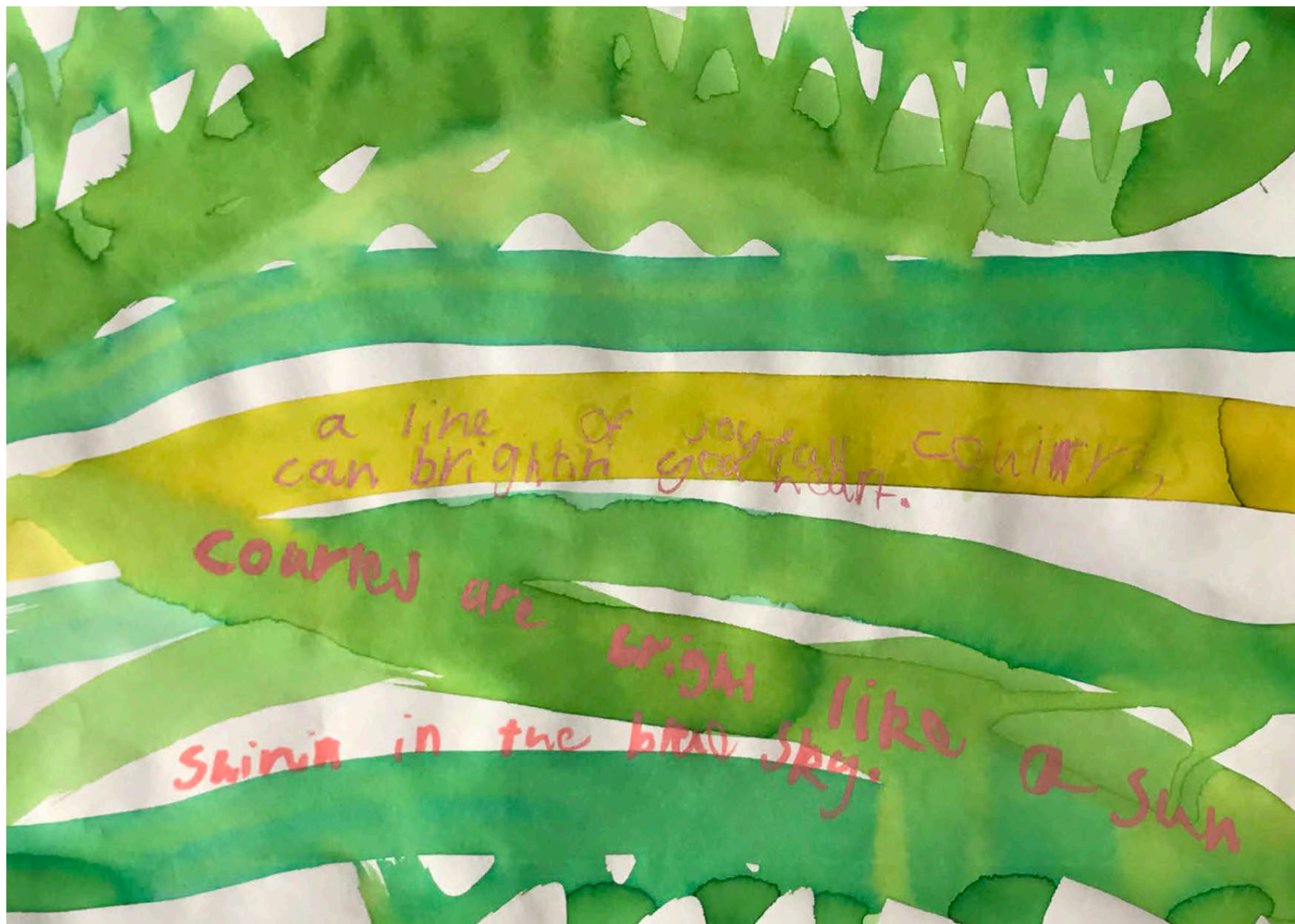
The following pages show the process and the outcome of those two days. The mural panels are soon to be installed at the school.

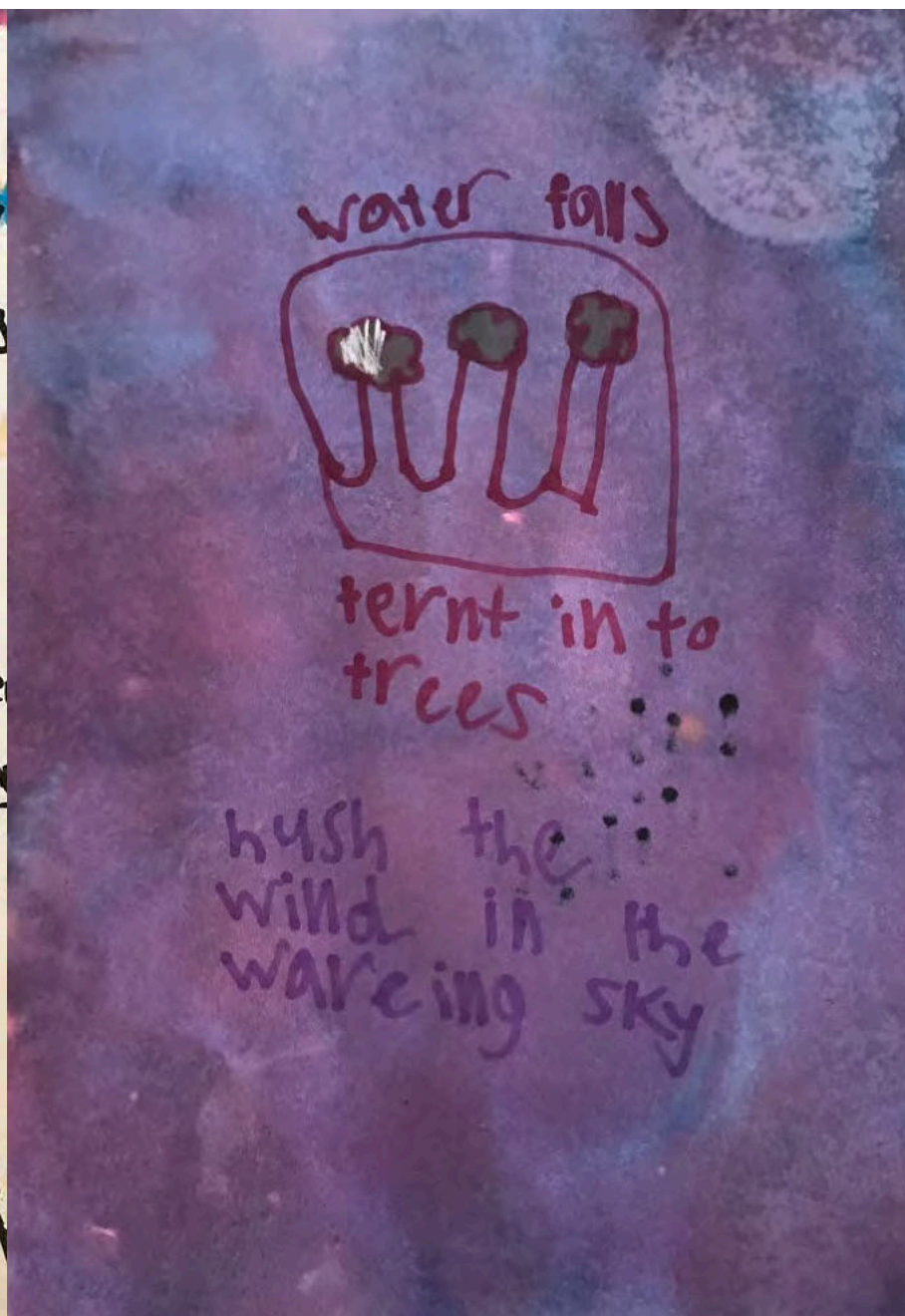
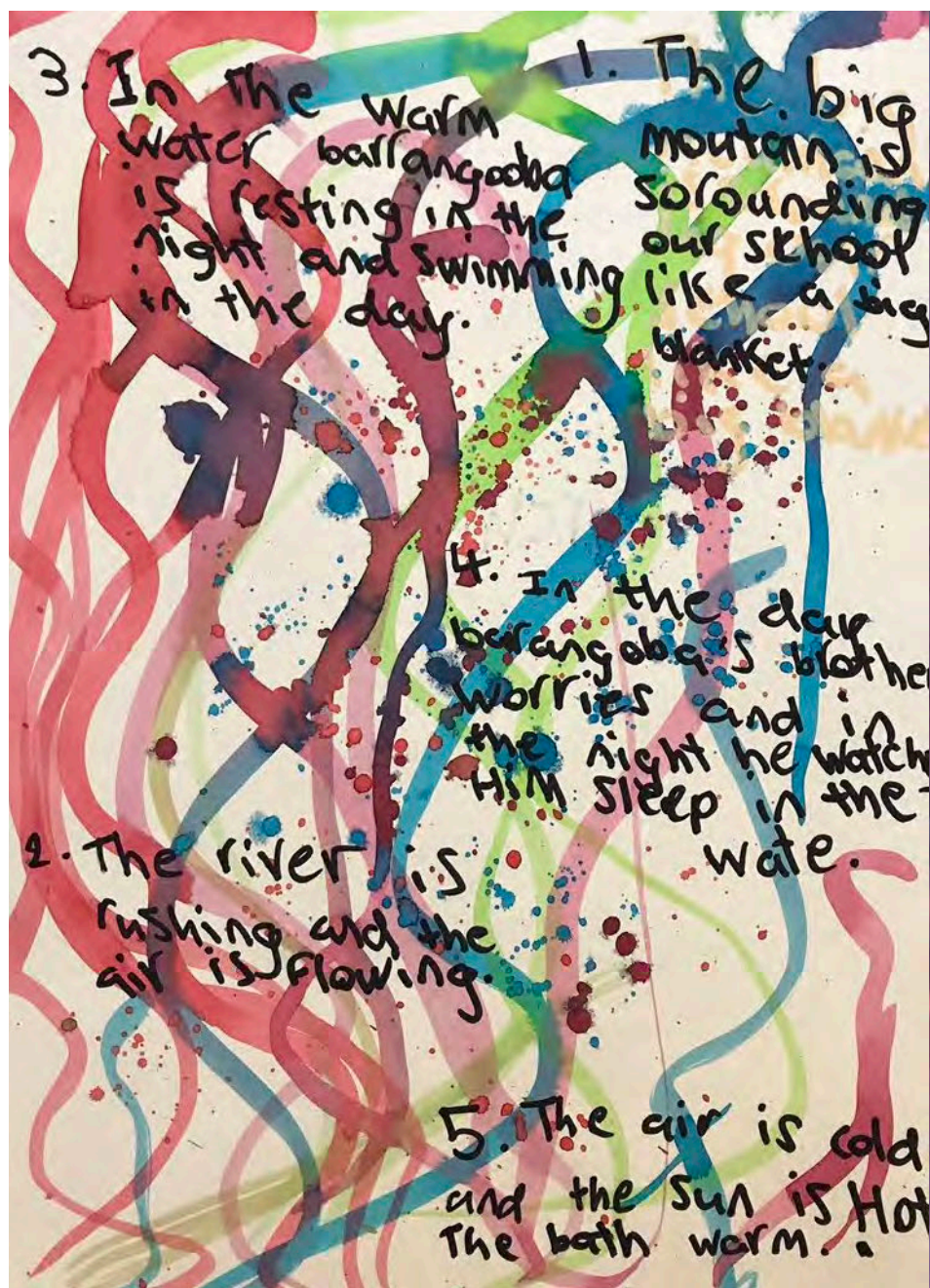










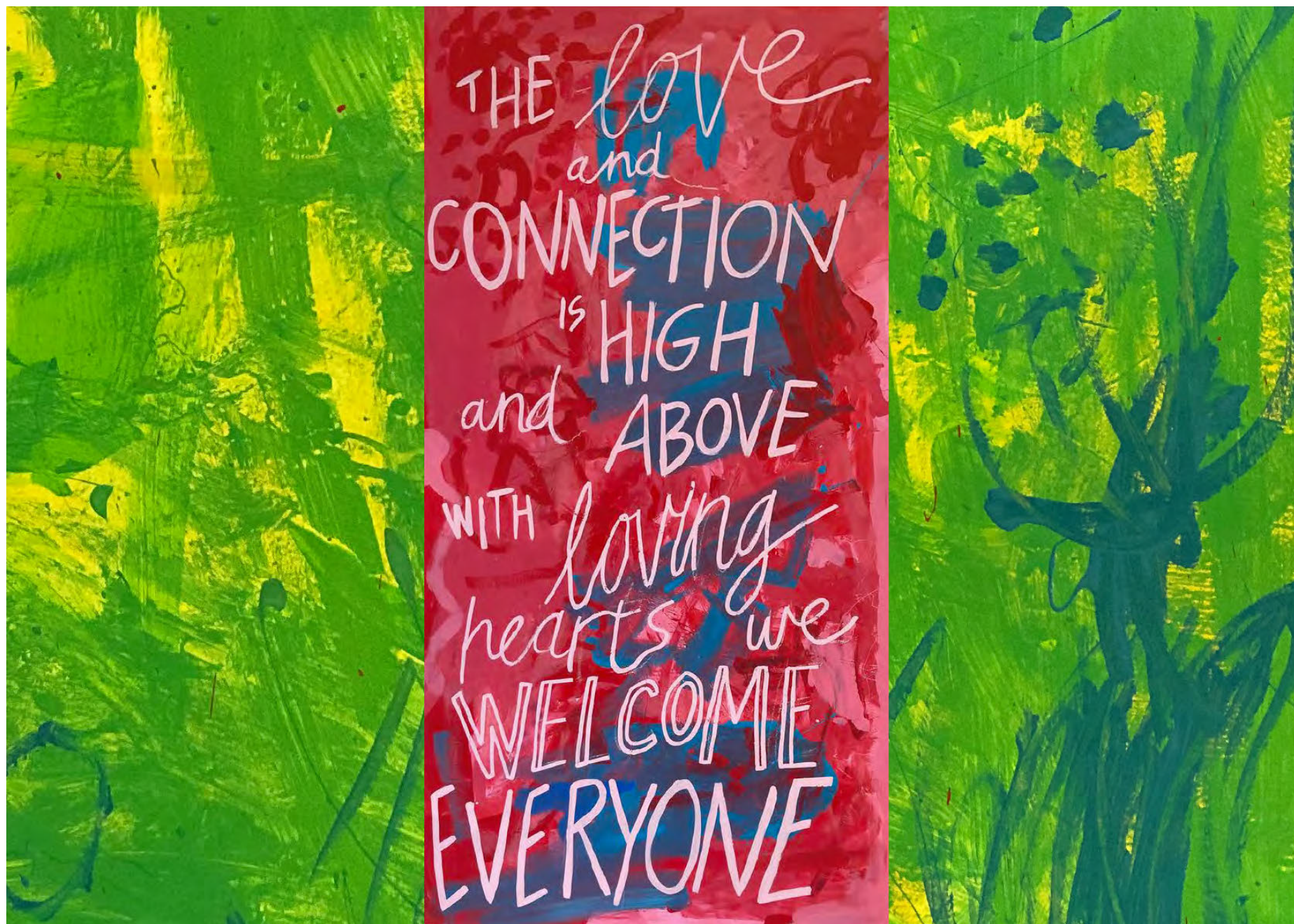


RECENT PROJECTS

Resilience

Cobargo Public School (K-6)

ART & POETRY WORKSHOPS &
COLLABORATIVE MURAL PANELS













TESTIMONIALS

"I want to do a million more hours of art class!"

STUDENT

"My child comes home from art class absolutely high with joy"

PARENT

"This was an amazing opportunity and I would love to come back and learn more"

POETRY STUDENT

"I feel more spiritually connected to Country and want to do this again"

STUDENT

"I was happy we got to learn about the environment and culture and got to write poems"

STUDENT

"The students were 10 feet tall this week and self-directed to tell their peers about what they learned and share their poetry. We have discussed the value of this program in our executive staff meeting this week. Well done!"

TEACHER



To discuss this project further, please contact;

Bonnie Porter Greene

Director

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art+design. murals. workshops.

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