
Flight Recorder

2012 Journal Entries

A selection of journal articles from Flying Arts Alliance artists, facilitators and organisers working in the front line of artist creative development and arts management in regional and remote areas in 2012

CHINCHILLA

18-19 February 2012

Helen Dennis -Workshop Organiser

Artists working co-operatively in a rural community

Local artists and arts administrators attended a weekend workshop on *Artists working co-operatively in a rural community*. The workshop was supported by Arrow Energy as a part of their Brighter Futures program, and by Chinchilla White Gums Art Gallery.

The workshop facilitator, Stephen Clark (CEO Flying Arts) took participants through what makes an artists' co-operative, how it looks, its benefits to artists and their community, and how to set up an effective co-operative.

A highlight of the workshop was guest presenter Elysha Gould, co-owner of the *Made: Creative Space* artist-run-initiative in Toowoomba. Elysha provided an insight into the exciting world of how the arts can be incorporated within the culture and everyday life of the local community.

All participants agreed the workshop was very informative and gave positive direction towards establishing a Chinchilla-based artists' co-operative, which would provide collaborative support to local visual artists, individual studio space and a gallery to exhibit works from local artists and craft workers.

Any interested artists or arts supporters in the Chinchilla region can contact Helen on dennisjl@activ8.net.au for further information about the workshop and its outcomes



Image: Elysha Gould, Helen Dennis, Flying Arts CEO Stephen Clark.

TOOWOOMBA

24-25 March 2012

Scott Maxwell - Flying Arts Artist

Mosaic Master Class

I was quite reticent about attending the workshop, not because I had arranged other things for the weekend and was asked at the eleventh hour, it was really about my mosaic experience only constituting about 5% of what I do in the wonderful world of arts. After a few emails and gentle coercion by Natasha (Flying Arts' Program Coordinator) and persuasion by the organiser, Jennifer, I drove up the range to Toowoomba the next day.

As it turned out, Jennifer and her pro active, self motivated bunch of stalwart mosaic enthusiasts, made me feel at ease straight away by stating the fact that they have had an initial class last year and this is their long awaited 'masterclass' *OHH - THAT IS JUST GREAT - HEELLP!* I thought to myself. After a couple of power point presentations, public safety issues, insurance implications and format design considerations we got stuck into the tesserae.

The weekend flowed well - really well. The participants were most productive. This motivated group under the influence of their inspirational organiser Jennifer, have devised a concept to symbolise stories through mosaic floodmarkers for businesses in the CBD. These installations will celebrate the community's resilience in the aftermath of the tragic 2011 flood. They are not repeating the horrors of what happened - they are giving affirmation to the locals and helping businesses bounce back by valuing their heritage and giving them a sense of place.

Jennifer is persistent in keeping this project on track and is applying for grants and working with business venues to make it a reality in 2012. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this extremely worthy project and will look forward to being invited back for the official opening ceremony and seeing their stories embedded in history.



REDLANDS: REDLANDS ART GALLERY

2 April 2012

Joachim Froese - Flying Arts Artist

The Open Door: photographic workshop for children

It was the first Monday of the Easter School holidays and I was on my way to Redland Art Gallery to give a photography workshop for kids aged 8 to 12 years. The Redland Art Gallery was showing 'The Open Door', an exhibition of photographs from the Derryl Hewson Collection and this was the perfect backdrop for our workshop, as all participants could look at a wide range of approaches how to take pictures.

First I took the kids around and we looked at the exhibition and talked about some of the works in it. Then it was time for the budding photographers to get into action themselves. We had organised a little treasure hunt in which the kids had to walk around the gallery to find and photograph objects we had 'hidden' in various places. Minutes later the place was buzzing with children looking for the toys and arranging them for their photos.

As always, I was amazed by the ability of children to create their own fantasy world while playing – as an artist it is a real inspiration. At the end we loaded some of the images up on a big monitor and it was a proud moment for all of the young 'exhibitors' to see their work up on the screen. At the end of the day children as well as parents went home inspired to continue on with their various photography projects at home.



BEAUDESERT: Arts in the Olives Festival
13 May 2012
Casselle Mountford - Flying Arts Artist

Environmental Sculpture

On a beautiful Sunday morning I travelled past misty fields out to the Lost World Valley in Beaudesert to the *Arts in the Olives Festival*. I was given a lovely grove of three trees near to the river to create a sculptural installation where children could make nests and birds to hang in the branches. I wrapped the tree trunks in colourful coloured paper, long plastic strips, woven birds and nests in the tree branches. This created a colourful background for the growing Installation.

Lots of children and their families dropped in throughout the day to contribute to the installation and create their own nests from branches, leaves, coconut fibre and wool. We also used some of the long grasses and olive tree branches from the site to create the installation.

The Installation grew with more and more nests of varying sizes hanging from the branches. Most participants left their nests in the trees until later in the afternoon when they came back to collect them on their way home.

It was a wonderfully creative day and the Installation in the grove of trees was enjoyed by everyone who came to see it.



NORMANTON: Normanton Rodeo Photography Workshop

7-10 June 2012

Irene Fitzsimmons - Flying Arts Organiser

A 'Roving' Photography Workshop

Joachim Froese returned to Normanton for a 'roving' photography workshop, a project organised by QCWA Normanton Branch with funding provided by RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund).

Flying Arts provided the Tutor, Joachim Froese of Brisbane who had previously run a photography workshop in April this year. Joachim was very pleased to be asked to return to run a 'roving' workshop on the Normanton Rodeo & Show weekend. At the Show on Friday, Joachim was kept busy with people asking for his advice on the photos they'd entered in the Show. Saturday morning at the show pavilion, a dozen or so turned up for the mini workshop, and then over the weekend Joachim was on hand around the arena to answer questions, provide assistance, advice, etc, to anyone and everyone who came along, to help with camera settings, and with getting that 'great' rodeo shot. As this was Joachim's first rodeo, he was enthralled with the whole event and, in particular, how friendly everyone was he met.

He's off to Germany in the next couple of weeks until January next year but hoping to get invited back for the 2013 rodeo & show. From feedback I've had, his expertise was greatly appreciated.



MARYBOROUGH

14-16 July 2012

Julie McEnery - Flying Arts Tutor

Botanical Drawing with watercolour colour pencils

Third Time Lucky on Friday 13th?

The Maryborough organisers have had some practise in rehearsing for this Botanical Drawing weekend, which has been in the pipeline for a few years. Both 2010 and 2011 workshops were cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but we looked forward to third time lucky; that is, unless Friday 13th was about to negate our good fortune.....

The weather was not looking good, there was already a two-hour delay, but by the time our Dash 8 Captain had completed the ninth holding pattern over Fraser Island I was beginning to think 'workshop strike three' was looming. Then, we turned back to Brisbane. And Coralie, who had been waiting to greet me, turned back to Maryborough.

As they say in Marigold Hotel "everything is alright in the end and if it's not alright, it is not yet the end!" And so it was, that the second flight to Hervey Bay was able to land later that evening, and our workshop went ahead without a hitch.

One of the best parts of botanical drawing workshops is when everyone arrives, bearing luxuriant armfuls of myriad plants, willfully disregarding my requests to limit the number of varieties. I have come to terms with the fact that, thankfully, my instruction will be forever ignored! As I recall the riotous colour of trestle tables covered in swathes of vivid orange trumpet vine, huge bunches of scarlet bottlebrush and a variety of pink and purple orchids and geraniums, bromeliads, bird of paradise, pandanus, kumquats and vibrant chillies, I am glad to yield to my recalcitrant enthusiasts and thank them for a colourful weekend after a very dull Black Friday!



NORMANTON

18-19 August 2012

Judy Parrott - Flying Arts Tutor

'Gulf Country' Photography Workshop

It is my second trip to the Gulf Country. The small plane touches down on the dusty airstrip and the door is opened to that same searing heat. Walking across red soil I am met by the smiling face of Irene whose tireless enthusiasm and energy brings so many artists to this region.

Our first workshop on Saturday and Sunday is an hour's drive north to the Gulf coast, and the small community of Karumba. We are a group of all women and have been accommodated in the fresh, cool library area of the school, with its friendly circular tables and bright blue and yellow and red cushions. Irene has bought us homemade cakes from the local bakery for morning tea and they sit waiting in the kitchenette for thirst and hunger to overtake our focus on capturing the shapes and colours and patterns that surround us. Sharing the images and looking at how we might push our skills even further is always one of the highlights.

On Monday and Tuesday I am welcomed warmly by the school in Normanton, to work with the years 6 to 10. The cooperation of so many in the school makes this a smooth operation. The children are excited and engaged, proudly stretching up to me with their cameras and their photographs to show what they can do. The class so quickly over, the cameras are whisked off to Nola in the office to upload and delete ready for the next crowd of eager young faces coming through.

Back on the plane we fly over the wide flat grasslands and the settlement disappears to a small speck of colour, far in so many ways from the city.



CLONCURRY

22-24 September 2012

Dan Cox - Flying Arts Tutor

Smoking Landscape

I arrived in Mt Isa at midday, greeted by 38-degree heat. A bit of a shock to the system given the temperature in Brisbane of late has been rather mild! Cloncurry itself is a small town located 1.5hrs drive outside of Mt Isa. I was there to teach a 2-day adult workshop and a 1-day children's workshop. The first day of the adult workshop went well. Five absolute beginners who started off making rings, but after playing with flame for most of the day and temperatures close to 40-degrees, people were dropping like flies!

The second day was much better, with the workshop being moved inside with some air-conditioning, allowing creativity to flow! There were some fantastic results and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

The final day of workshops was the children's workshop. Originally with 3 children booked, I ended up with 7 craving creativity. They ate up materials like a plague of locusts, leaving nothing behind but scraps of wood, glitter and feathers in a whirlwind of giggles and glue! The glue was non-toxic!

For R&R I headed out to one of the dams only to be adopted by a random dog that persisted on getting me to throw a stick for him while his master went for a swim! Back and forth, back and forth, I threw the stick until all the bark had fallen off and it sank to the bottom of the dam, only to have the dog swim around in circles trying to locate it. The call of his master broke off the search.

Heading home, I traversed toward an ominous cloud on the horizon. As I headed closer to Mt Isa I came across roaring grass fires that made the earth look like a Lord of the Rings extravaganza. Large plumes of black and brown smoke billowing from the earth. It was amazing! Yes, the landscape certainly changes in an instant out in the bush!



TOWNSVILLE

20-21 October 2012

Gerwyn Davies - Flying Arts Tutor

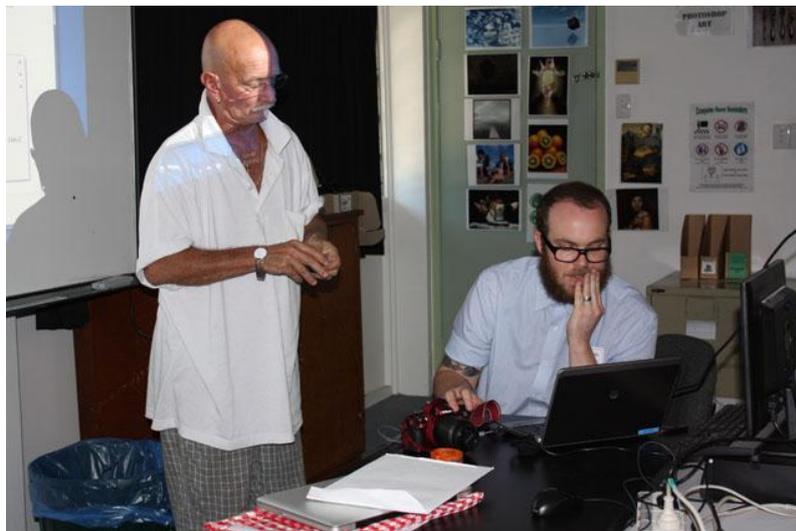
Photography & Digital Imaging on The Strand

It couldn't have been better weather for this workshop and I was lucky enough to escape the heat of Brisbane for the cool breeze of Townsville – odd.

St Patrick's College is a beautiful school right on The Strand looking out across the water to Magnetic Island. Naturally, we were spoilt for choice during our photography workshop. I had hoped for crocodiles – no avail.

On the first day I whisked the 12 St Pat's students from various grades and a few teachers through an incredibly succinct history of photography before exploring the technical details of their cameras. After I'm sure what felt like a never-ending slideshow, the students were straight outside and in to shooting with the ease of professionals. Assigned 5 briefs, they captured some really adventurous shots with a lot of laughter and even a tooth casualty to a particularly stern Mintie on the way. Students undertook a critical analysis of their work as well as the work of others and took turns to present their outcomes from the day. There were some pretty stern art critics by days end.

Day two was all about digital imaging. After a morning introduction to the workings of Photoshop, the students began creating their own collages from their photographs. Despite the breadth of information thrown at them, the students were remarkable as they quickly took it in their stride and began applying it to develop stories through image. We had a diverse range of final works with all students embracing the illustrative, experimental and bold. We wrapped up with a review of our budding artists work. It was definitely a well-spent and creative weekend for all.



COLLINSVILLE

28-30 November 2012

Nancy Brown - Flying Arts Tutor

The Place of Coal

I stayed at the Collinsville town and country hotel with that old song ringing in my head, and in the spirit Slim describes, it is a town where people say g'day to the workers in orange shirts passing through. Collinsville is a town with a visible history. The coal has been mined there since 1912 and the trade unions and Labor have been a large part of the history of the town. It's original name was "Moongunya" place of coal. The old Queensland timber architecture, houses on stilts, backyard orchards and the occasional backyard dunny speak of another era. The drive there was through forests and ranges, on gently curving roads with peregrins circling overhead..

I had dragged in my suitcase of art materials and as the children gathered around peering at what I had brought one of the children asked "are you going to play all the parts?"

Here are a few photos from the trip and workshops at St Johns Bosco school and Collinsville Primary School.

The children have created vegetable gardens at both schools, and learning about Australian history Ned Kelly was a popular choice of image for their t shirts.

I stopped in Bowen on the way back for a quick paddle before catching the plane from Proserpine.

