

MOSAIC ROUND-A-BOUT

June - December 2007



Project Description

A project involving young people. Using ceramic tiles, they worked with community arts workers to create a mosaic for a prominent round a bout in Huonville. As most of the participants were approaching driving age, a road safety element was incorporated.

Host Organisation

Huonville Chamber of Commerce

Funding sources

Tasmanian Community Fund

Outcomes

Mosaic Roundabout (12 panels) Community and relationship building. Road safety awareness Another similar project is being implemented 2008/9 in Geeveston.

Highlights

Seeing participants engaging in something they enjoy. Seeing the joy amongst everyone as they gathered at the beginning of the day. Young people gaining self-respect and recognising their importance as part of the community.

Project workers

Fiona Richardson, Cath Leith & Sally Davis

Keywords

Public Art, Hobart, Youth

Project Contact

Huonvalley Council
Fiona Richardson T: 6264 0375
frichardson@huonvalley.tas.gov.au
www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/

Six young people and 2 of the artists worked over 4 weeks designing the mosaic. The construction of the panels took 4 months with 16 young people and a few local community volunteers. Most of the young people had been identified as either having a keen interest in the arts or in need of some creative project input away from the education system. Some participants were additionally, completing community service hours.

The design process involved consulting with the Huonville Chamber of Commerce on the overall design, and DIER, to meet road regulations. Finally, a design with the correct number of white arrows was set to proceed. The highly reflective white glass tiles quickly became known as Huonville 'bling bling'.

For the rest, they chose strong, bold coloured tiles, cut in random shapes. These were used to create 12 panels. Placing the tiles, while leaving room for grouting, required considerable concentration. Fiona believes a project like this can't fail, that you will always learn something.

"Sitting around talking while you work, or while concentrating with the hands and eyes, the mind is mulling over other things ... and such beautiful colours to be working with too".

The process that brought the mosaic into being also provided the participants with a welcoming and supportive environment, one that they would not otherwise have had, yet perhaps desperately needed. The type of work involved enabled them to see they could concentrate, engage and be still. So too, they had many discussions about general road safety, how their parents and friends drove, how it's not cool to drink and drive and speed, and responsibility to fellow citizens. Fiona reported that they really took on an understanding of consequences – in terms of the law, accidents and self-respect.

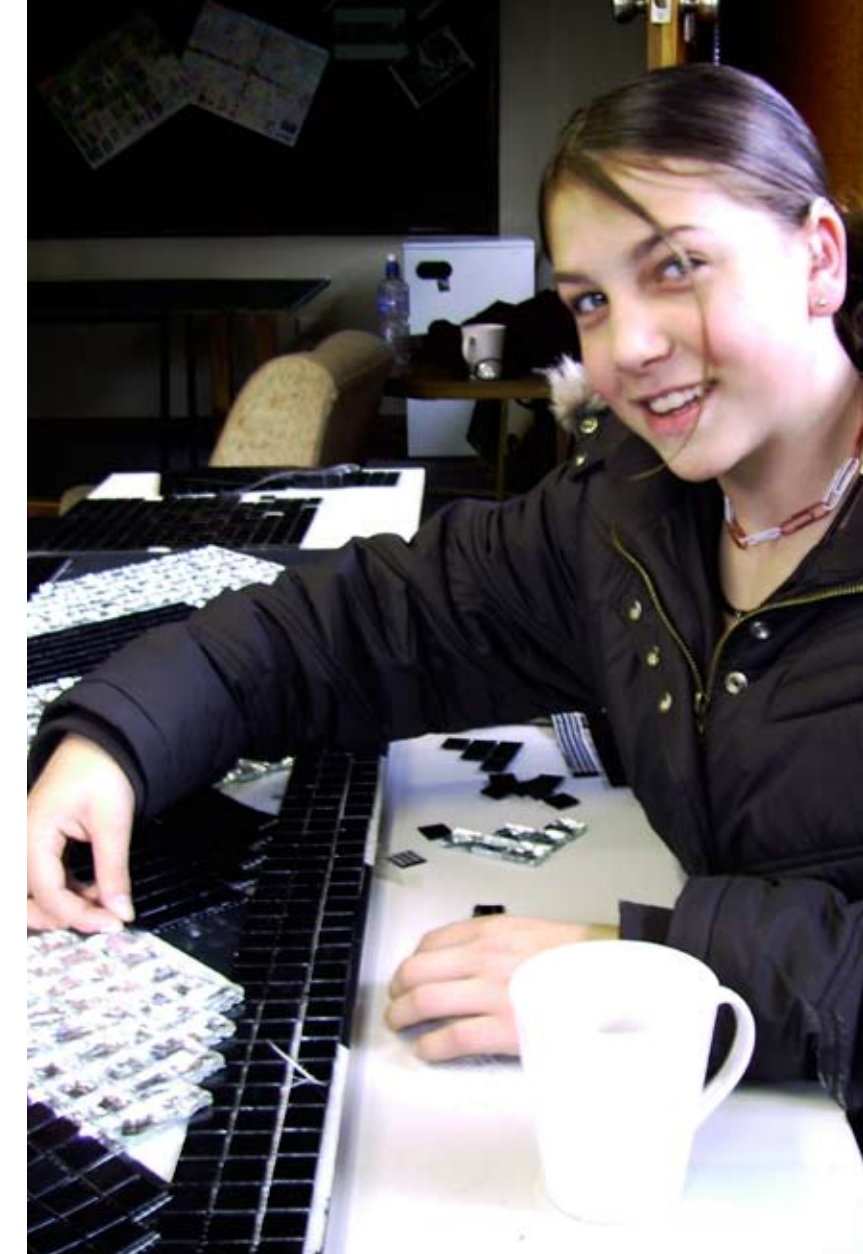
In addition, Fiona always provided an array of good food, choosing things not readily available in the Huon. In different ways, she sought to introduce the participants to new ways of being. In the case of one young woman, this project became a calling, she now intends to pursue mosaic making professionally.

During Rural Health Week the panels were placed in the Town Hall and community members were invited to place a few tiles. This extended the sense of ownership, while also providing very positive feedback. Bringing art to rural communities helps to dispel the, often entrenched, idea of art being a waste of time. This project is a brilliant example, as the mural, while being bold and 'out there', is also highly functional and a unique statement. The round a bout commands a 360 degree view of the town and skyline.

RADIO RECONNECT was another project that was implemented in Geeveston from February to July 2007.

Arts and Health workers worked with teenagers at risk of homelessness, as well as families from the wider Huon Valley community to produce a Radio Play. The process involved workshops designed to build trust, communication and cooperation; activities included improvisational exercises, voice work, creative writing and theatre games. Radio Reconnect was funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and hosted by Colony 47.

A radio play was produced and new relationships developed between young people and service providers and between service providers themselves. Project workers were Finegan Kruckemeyer (Playwright, theatre maker), Ben Nahmani, (Family Worker), Fiona Richardson (HV Youth Arts Officer), Shane Bone (HV Youth Worker and Huon FM) For more information: www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au and go to Youth Services and Youth Arts OR contact Fiona.



Images

Top: Participant Megan Garth working on a mosaic panel.

Bottom: Mosaic panels in progress
Photographer: Fiona Richardson

