

GALLERY SUNSHINE EVERYWHERE

2018 REPORT

Another busy year with fifteen exhibitions.

We started in February with Opening to Art, an exhibition of work by a group from Footscray Community Art Centre, led by Filomena Coppola and featuring among others Emilia McSherry who had opened the 2017 exhibition schedule with a solo exhibition.

Next was a wonderful Neighbour Day event, attended by the Mayor and several City of Brimbank councillors, where the young artists from Inspiring Kids to Create, coordinated by Carmen Borg, shared both their drawings and their interviews with the neighbours they had drawn and interviewed. They were all there again later in the year when the Neighbour Day book that drew together this material was launched. At that launch in July we were delighted to host several international delegates who were in Melbourne for the World Federation of Teacher Education conference. They responded most enthusiastically to the work of Gallery Sunshine Everywhere and Inspiring Kids to Create. One visitor subsequently commented on his blog, The Humanist Nerd, "The professional treatment given to these works validates the children's creativity and helps them see themselves as confident, expressive and creative individuals. The solidarity we witnessed between these children and their parents and neighbours was quite special."

Into April and May we had exhibitions by Richard McLean and by the CoHealth Art Therapy group and then Fairbairn Road Kindergarten (who have exhibited with us every year since we started in 2007). All artists and their families and teachers came to a busy and ever exciting opening.

Next it was Sunshine College and the Granary was absolutely packed. At the opening of the exhibition of visual art work facilitated by teachers Mira Vuk-Nikic, Jasna Kuprys and Allison Orton, six of the school bands performed and it was certainly the biggest crowd we've ever had especially at a secondary school exhibition opening: lots and lots of students, teachers, parents, friends. This was coordinated by Theresa Haddon and other music teachers at the school and we look forward to their involvement in 2019 Neighbour Day at the Granary with performances in the courtyard.

Dorothy Carlton Kindergarten was next with everything from tiny puppets on toothpicks to bark painting and lots more. Later in the year, the children at Dorothy Carlton decided to donate the profits of their worm juice sales to Gallery Sunshine Everywhere. We very much appreciate this generosity and will purchase a new frame which will have a plaque attached noting the donation and will be used in each exhibition to house the work featured on the exhibition postcard.

Sunshine North Primary School (one of the very first to exhibit with us when we started) were back with an exhibition of work associated with the school garden (and cooking) project. Our Lady's Primary School followed up with an exhibition of wonderfully quirky animals and more And then it was Sydenham/Hillside Primary School and just before that exhibition hanger extraordinaire Trevor Donoghue had acquired for us two large box

display frames. They housed the steam punk robots and the science inspired intricate drawings of insects perfectly.

These special frames were in use again later in the year with a jewellery display as part of the Teachers' exhibition and the display of several 3D sculptural pieces during the Diversity and Disability exhibition. Thanks to Charlotte Clemens and Tanya Arman who respectively curated these two final exhibitions for 2018.

But before we reached the end of the year, Rhiannon Thomas facilitated the Story Swap project and exhibition. The project involved prospective artists and story tellers sitting across a table from each other with the artist drawing as the story was told. This project drew participants from all age groups, accomplished artists and those at the very beginning and led to an exhibition which featured the stories and the drawings.

This was followed by an exhibition featuring art work from children at Furlong Park School for Deaf Children in Sunshine and from Hearing and Beyond in Vietnam. Marelyn McDonald who with a colleague does considerable support work in Vietnam brought the art work and with Andria Mavrikakis and the children from Furlong Park an inspiring international joint project came together which will we are hopeful will form the basis for the next Gallery Sunshine Everywhere book.

... The year's schedule is always so much more than a set of dates with school/organization name recorded beside them

Onward to 2019.

Happy Days

Maureen Ryan



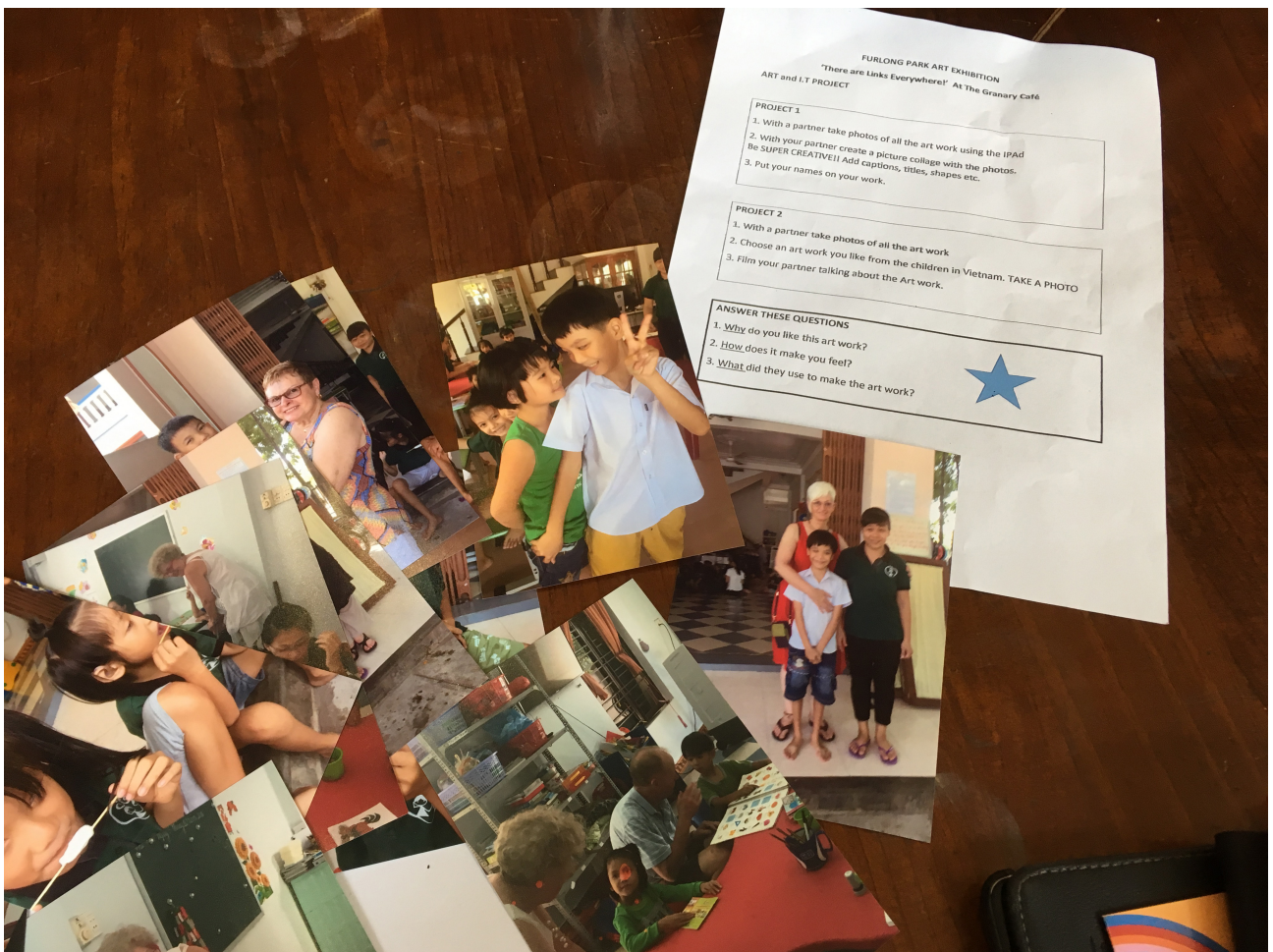
Top left: Higher Education students helping hang exhibitions.

Top right: Contribution by Mirjana Vuk-Nikic, art teacher at Sunshine College to Teachers' exhibition.



Left: Diversity and Disability exhibition.

Right: Steam Punk Robots from SydenhamHillside Primary School.



Above: Furlong Park School for Deaf Children linking with Hearing and Beyond in Vietnam.