



MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

The Creative Journey

Paul Perry
November 2020

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Paul Perry is an artist from Bargara, Queensland who came to the visual arts later in life. He gained his BVA at Adelaide Central School of Art in 2014 and works across a range of disciplines and produces 2D and 3D works in a variety of media.

With a strong emphasis on the material response and the processes used for creative production, his sculptural explorations utilise a variety of materials including clay, plaster, timber, wax, resin and salt, often in combination with other found objects. His working method is process based with the eventual form of the work only emerging through the activity of making, often looking quite different from what was initially envisaged when he began the exploration.

Over the last 3 years Paul has predominantly focussed on mosaics, having held a solo mosaic exhibition, participated in a number of group shows and been commissioned to create a number of public art works installed in Bundaberg and Maryborough. Over the past two years he has facilitated the design and creation of MilBi Magic, a major community mosaic project resulting in a 43 sq metre mosaic public art installation on the public toilets at Archie's Beach, Bargara.

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PROJECT PARTNERS



This project is supported by:

- The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland
- The Regional Arts Development Fund.. a partnership between the Queensland Government and Bundaberg Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland
- The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia
- Bargara Progress Association Inc.

We acknowledge the traditional Country of the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai (By-ee-lee) Peoples and recognise that this Country has always been and continues to be of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We recognise the thousands of generations of continuous culture that have shaped this Country and the people on it.

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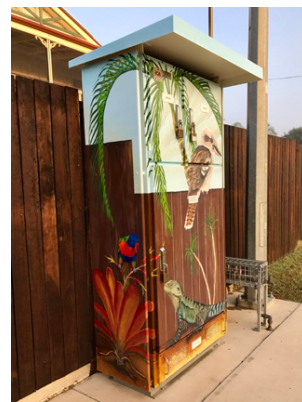
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Background

Bargara Art Trail

During 2016 and 2017, after moving to Bargara, I initiated and facilitated a local public art project painting 12 murals on sewer pump infrastructure along the Bargara foreshore area and entrance promenade. These were the initial steps in creating a Bargara Art Trail. While the project went well and was well received by local residents and Council, I was concerned that painted murals only last a few years before fading. These murals would likely become unserviceable or simply painted over within 5 to 10 years.

As a result I began looking for a longer lasting alternative for public art initiatives. I discovered mosaics, a material that lasts (50 years plus) and can be easily taught to allow community participation in creating public art for their area.



FLUSHED OUT exhibition

After spending 12 months attending mosaic workshops, pouring through all the video tutorials and mosaic books I could find, and making a couple of dozen mosaic pieces in a variety of styles, I decided to create a body of mosaic works based on the graffiti tags around Bundaberg. The result was 26 panels (60 cm x 45 cm) exploring different mosaic techniques. These were exhibited in the toilet block at Archie's Beach as part of the 2018 CRUSH Festival in October 2018. The exhibition was called *Flushed Out: Street Art Meets Mosaics*.

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I organised a number of community mosaic workshops during the exhibition and conversations with exhibition viewers identified a substantial interest from local residents in creating a permanent mosaic installation for the toilet block. More than 50 residents registered their interest in participating.

Sampler panels

The Oct 2018 community mosaic workshops created the beginnings of two sampler panels. These panels were inspired by and based to a large extent on 2 images found on the internet that demonstrated a wide variety of mosaicing techniques, styles and materials that would be helpful in exploring and learning for the Archie's Beach project. Later research and contacts identified the creators of the original works as

- Julie Aldridge of Joolzmosaics, and
- Mia Tavonatti

These sampler panels were installed by Council on the toilet block walls to generate interest in the mosaic project within the local community and through local media reports to:

- Increase the profile of and interest in the community mosaic project
- Create a tangible example of what might be possible
- Display accessible public art in a park setting to draw even more visitors to Crawford Park and Kelly's/Archie's Beaches.



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Early Proposal

The idea of a major mosaic installation on this toilet block was discussed with the local Councillor (Cr Greg Barnes), the Council's Arts and Culture Portfolio representative (Cr Judy Peters), Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery representatives, Bargara Progress Association Inc representatives and the GM Community Services at Council (Gavin Steele).

A formal written proposal document was developed and submitted to Council via Gavin Steele in November 2018. The proposal was for two mosaic murals to be developed covering three walls of each of the two buildings making up the toilet block at Archie's Beach, Bargara. Each panel was to be approximately 11meters long by 1.5 m high, making a total of 33 sq metres of mosaics.

Consideration of the proposal was delayed until after Council adopted its new Arts and Culture Strategy which happened in December 2018.

To progress the matter I sought to make a formal presentation/deputation to the next Council meeting and this was agreed to. I presented the proposal to Council on 30 January 2019.

After the deputation/presentation Council approved the project subject to me being able to source the necessary funding. Council's contribution to the project was letter of support and a commitment to install the final mosaics on the toilet block walls up to a total cost of \$6,000.

The concept was fully scoped and a formal project plan and budget prepared to enable multiple grant applications to be made in pursuit of funds. The Bargara Progress Association Inc also provided a letter of support for the project and indicated a willingness to consider a modest contribution towards the project.

To ensure the project met its objectives of an inclusive and connecting project, I engaged with a wide range of community groups about the project, seeking their support and commitment to get involved. These included:

- Bundaberg Regional Council
- Bargara Progress Association Inc
- Bundaberg Tourism
- Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery
- Local schools
- Gidarjil Development Corporation
- Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation
- South Sea Islander Action Group Inc
- Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre inc
- Trudie Leigo at RASN
- Creative Regions Inc

Initial applications were made for the following grants (both unsuccessful):

- Regional Arts Australia - RAF Community Projects grant
- Australia Council for the Arts grant.

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Concept Development

The proposal was to develop a new public art project, created through a series of community workshops and culminating in the installation of a large (33 sq m) mosaic mural on the toilet block at Archie's Beach, Bargara. The project was to be unveiled during the Council's Milbi Festival held in October. Consequently the project was given the title ***MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics***.



Theme

It's all about connection:

- Connecting people (local residents, schools, Indigenous and South Sea Islander peoples)
- Connecting to place... the environment
- Connecting to culture and country.

Building 1 – *Welcome Wall*

Spaces for schools, Indigenous groups, South Sea Islander group and a feature panel of loggerhead turtle, all interlinked with wave/ribbon weaving throughout connecting to First Nations people who have lived in the area for millennia.

Building 2 – *Fish Tales wall*

Fish (sea creatures) created by local residents, mosaic artists from around Qld, interstate and even overseas being embedded into an underwater reef scene.

Mosaic Skill Building and Fish Creating workshops

While waiting for grant applications to be processed and assessed we started weekly mosaic skill-building workshops in my garage. These began in February 2019 and were held each Wednesday and Saturday morning for local residents, neighbours etc. People who registered their interest at the *Flushed Out* exhibition and community mosaic workshop were invited to attend.

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We initially created small turtles and simple fish/starfish motifs using various mosaic techniques on a fibreglass mesh base. We soon moved on to creating larger, more interesting and more complex creatures in anticipation that funding would come through for the project.

Turtles and small fish started to appear along the Turtle Trail walking path in Bargara and on rocks along the Bargara foreshore, under seats etc. Social media and other media reports saw the 'blame' attributed to a group called '*Guerrilla Grams*'. Positive community response to the initiative resulted in the Council "allowing" these interventions to remain and deciding to not pursue or prosecute the "vandals" or "graffiti artists".

This initiative was also linked to and expressed as an extension of the Bargara Art Trail.

As a result more residents joined the mosaic workshops and 'fish' building became more interesting, sophisticated, and challenging. The 'fish' were all built on mesh and stored away waiting project funding.



Mosaic skill building and 'fish' making workshop

Milbi Festival 2019

Council called for expressions of interest (EOI's) for ideas and proposals for the inaugural Milbi Festival to be held in November 2019. I made 2 submissions:

- Funding for part of the *Welcome* wall featuring a loggerhead turtle design, materials and a series of community workshops to begin creation of the mosaic
- A proposal to run a series of community mosaic workshops in the park to create more mosaic turtles for installation along the Turtle Trail from Bargara to Mon Repos.

A modified version of the second community workshop proposal was endorsed and funded by Council. Implicit in this was the endorsement of the installation of the mosaic turtles along the Turtle Trail between Bargara and Mon Repos. The grant of \$1,500 funded workshops run by myself and Julie Hylands on Saturday 17 October 2019 in Crawford Park, Bargara. These workshops created 50 mosaic turtles and a mosaic panel of baby turtles scampering over rocks and along the sand to the sea which was to be installed at the Bargara State School. 48 of these mosaic turtles were installed along the Turtle Trail path in early 2020.

These workshops were also used to promote the MilBi Magic mosaics project and recruit more participants/volunteers for the project.

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Julie Hylands and I with the baby turtle panel Fun making mosaic turtles at the MilBi Festival

More Grant Applications

Multiple funding applications were made for the MilBi Magic community mosaics project, carefully following the grant application cycle. Initially these were all rejected, but each was a learning process. At various times applications were made to:

- Regional Arts Australia - RAF Community Projects grant
- Australia Post Community Grants
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Arts Queensland Showcase Program - Arts Impact
- Bundaberg Regional Council - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant
- Bargara Progress Association Inc
- Gambling Community Benefits Scheme (Auspiced by Bargara Progress Association Inc)
- Regional Arts Australia - RAF Quick Response grant (through Flying Arts alliance Inc)

Eventually I succeeded in securing a small grant (\$3,000) from Regional Arts Australia (RAF Quick Response Grant) to develop the initial design of the mosaic cartoon for the project based on the concept.

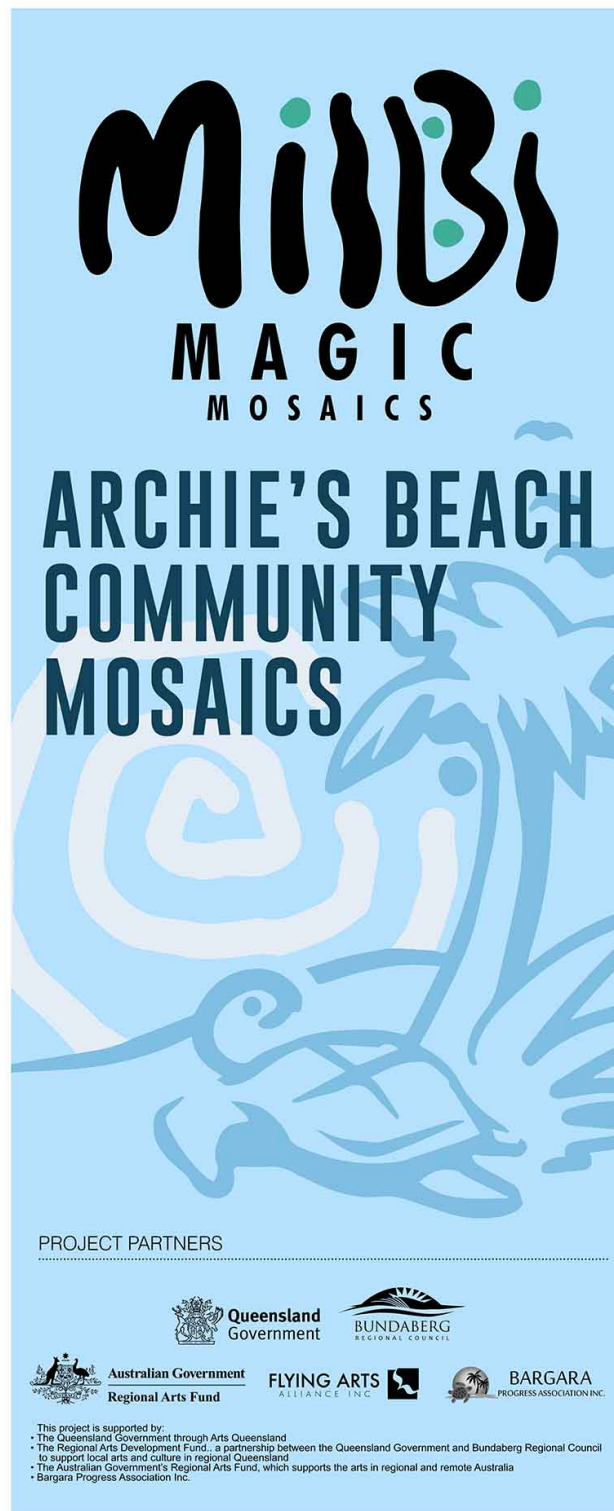
Over the next few months I was successful in obtaining funding from:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| • Arts Queensland (QASP) | \$11,500 |
| • Bargara Progress Association Inc | \$3,000 |
| • Bundaberg Regional Council (RADF) | \$6,000 |
| • Gambling Community Benefits Scheme | \$9,000 |
| • Private donation | \$2,500 |

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Project Commencement

With funding secured, the project could now officially start on 1 January 2020 for completion and launch during the Milbi Festival in November 2020.



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Design

The RAF Quick Response grant covered artist fees for the design phase of the project. This was to involve 5 local artists: Adrienne Williams, Nicole Wone, Julie Hylands, Jeremy Kiraly and me.

Nicole Wone created a series of contemporary Indigenous designs as elements for the *Welcome* wall.

Jeremy Kiraly digitised Nicole's designs, created a drawing of a loggerhead turtle and compiled an overall mosaic cartoon design for the *Welcome* wall based on the initial concept and allocating spaces for designs by 3 schools to be involved in the project, a panel to recognise the place of the South Sea Islander community in the history of the area, Gidarjil Development Corporation representing the Gooreng Gooreng and Gurang First Nations peoples, and the Taribelang Bunda peoples.

[Note: Adrienne Williams was involved in initial meetings developing the concept but graciously allowed her artist fees to be put towards additional design work by Nicole Wone. This allowed Nicole to create a larger portfolio of contemporary Indigenous imagery for the project. Adrienne was later involved in the curation of the mosaic 'fish' onto the *Fish Tales* wall panels.]

The *Fish Tales* wall design of an underwater reef scene was created by Julie Hylands. This was also digitised by Jeremy Kiraly so the mosaic cartoon could be printed full size.

School Involvement

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant for \$6,000 received from the Bundaberg Regional Council was to be used to fund my involvement with the 3 schools selected for the project. An EOI document was prepared for local schools to apply to be involved in the project. This was to be distributed by BRAG through their school contacts. However word of mouth was sufficient to secure the three schools required for the project, which happened to be the three high schools closest to Bargara:

Kepnock State High School: Yr 12 Art in Practice class. Teacher: Jessica O'Neill

Bundaberg Christian College: Yr 10 Art class. Teacher: Telea Erkoceviq

St Luke's Anglican College: Yr 10 Art class. Teacher: Amy Fallon

The art curriculum for the year included a semester unit of Public Art. This project became the vehicle for this unit. I undertook to spend 1 lesson (1.5 hr) per week with the class for the semester as *artist in residence*. Term 1 included briefing, research, site visit, and a detailed design process for the space in the *Welcome* wall allocated to the school. A winning design was selected from the students' work in each class which formed the basis for the design for their mosaic panel. A full day mosaic skill building workshop was then held with the students, which included the creation of some small sample mosaic pieces. The final 10 weeks of lessons were allocated to creating the school's mosaic panel based on the winning design.

Unfortunately COVID-19 hit during the semester and I was not allowed back into the classroom for most of Term 2. Each school took a different approach to this issue, but with a lot of juggling,

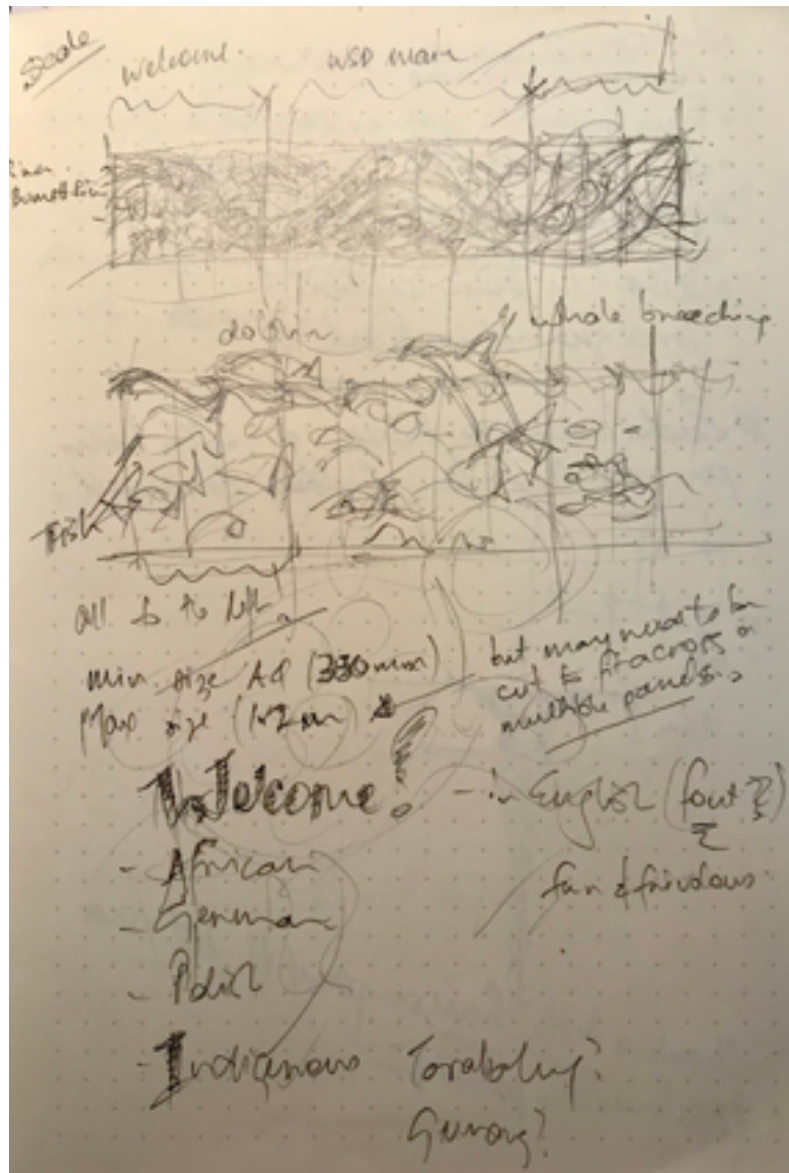
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rearranging programs, considerable additional work by me and some good luck, all 3 schools managed to have completed panels by the end of Term 3.

Welcome wall design stories

Concept

Developed by **Paul Perry**



Page from my notebook with initial concept development ideas

It's all about connection:

- Connecting people (local residents, schools, Indigenous and South Sea Islander peoples)
- Connecting to place... the environment

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- Connecting to culture and country.

[See above for more details]

Nicole Wone – Local Indigenous artist

Contemporary indigenous designs



Fish in the swirling sea



Generation of coastal people embracing sea life and its many elements



Dolphins frolicking



Jellyfish drifting by



Coastal people songlines – generations of stories of living by the sea

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Reef - minimal/child- friendly design



*Positive living communities (Sun symbols).
Intergenerational*



Turtle totem



Coastal pandanas – reflecting Islander memories

Jeremy Kiraly – Local artist and graphic designer

Jeremy's role was to create a drawing of the feature loggerhead turtle, digitise the designs created by Nicole, and then use these components to compile a detailed design for the mosaic cartoon for the *Welcome* wall based on the original concept. This mosaic cartoon would then be printed full size and used to build the mosaic panels.

Initially the project was daunting. We had amassed hundreds of sketches and pieces of reference material including photographs from Sunshine Coast based underwater photographer Justin Bruhn. The other artists and I had worked through several iterations and placements of the Loggerhead turtle before I sketched and rendered the final version. It was a sum of countless reference photos making it unique to the project while maintaining the local turtle's distinct and unique appearances. While much of the project concept had already

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been laid out by several of the talented artists behind this project, I was given a responsibility to digitise, compile and bring together all the source material in a way that would maintain the original vision and visual representation of community, culture and the region's vibrant coastal life. (Jeremy Kiraly)



Welcome wall layout showing spaces for panels designed/made by schools and Indigenous groups

Julie Hylands

Julie's role was to design the reef background for *Fish Tales* wall. Jeremy digitised this design to create the mosaic cartoon for the Fish Tales wall which was printed full size for transfer to the substrate panels.

My brief was pretty simple: draw an underwater reef scene that we could place the mosaic fish and other sea creatures onto. I enjoyed including a variety of reef forms, shapes and spaces for the different sea creatures to feature. The lovely giant clam was a feature drawing on memories of snorkelling on the GBR up north. We are so lucky here in Bundaberg to be the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef. (Julie Hylands)



Fish Tales wall layout. Note the repetition of the linking 'ribbon' through the design.

Kepnock High School

Year 12 Visual Arts in Practice Class

The chosen design was created by Sapphire Hafemeister in our Year 12 Visual Arts in Practice class. She worked on a design that explored walking down to Kelly's Beach from memory. Sapphire could clearly remember the feel of the rock and the sand under her feet, the ocean breeze through her hair and the beautiful sunsets and sunrises that occur over the ocean. From this Sapphire drew up a very organic design that incorporated the beauty of our local beaches and was inspired by the movement, colour and texture of nature. (Jessica O'Neill, Teacher)

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Kepnock State High School's design by Sapphire Hafemeister

St Luke's Anglican College

Year 10 Visual Art Class

Students involved in the design for St Luke's Anglican College MilBi Magic mosaic panel were: Isabella Gill, Ava Ryan, Ella Jenkins, Jessica Hickey and Kalana Fraser (*The Dream Team*)

The heart of Bundabergian beach culture meets the intricacies of mosaic in this piece titled 'From Above' (2020).

Designed to mirror the direction of the Milbi Magic project and artist in residence Paul Perry, this piece outlines an unseen perspective of the iconic Kelly's Beach whilst also portraying a message that stretches far beyond colourful tesserae and well thought out patterns that lay before the eyes of the public. Spanning 1.25 x 2.4 metres at its largest, 'From Above' is a mosaic piece situated on the Woongarra Scenic Drive side of the Archie's Beach amenities block. The varying tones of the Coral Sea fade into the depths of Moneys Creek where turquoise accents are enclosed by the heavy, black volcanic rocks, adding a stark contrast to the otherwise vibrant mosaic. Located above Moneys Creek are the golden yellow sand dunes, bearing a number of vibrantly coloured umbrella shades representing the engagement of the community. Intricate floral designs hug both sides of the Miller Street as it winds its way around this magnificent coastline. Tropical pink flowers protrude from the patterned greenery on the land side of the road to create interest among the viewers and highlight the flowering plants bordering the Bargara Golf Course. Whilst on the sea side, rooftops break up the extensive greenery. A prominent element of the mosaic is the three white seagulls that are flying towards the shoreline. Whilst the white of these creatures adds an element of contrast against the dark blue of the ocean, the seagulls guide the viewer's eyes towards the main feature of the panel - Kelly's Beach itself. ...'From Above' utilises a unique aerial perspective of the landscape as one of its features in displaying to the audience the importance Kelly's Beach holds in the connection to community. [Amy Fallon, Teacher]

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St Luke's Anglican College design by The Dream Team

Bundaberg Christian College

Year 10 Visual Art Class

The design chosen for the mosaic was developed by Chelsea Morgan. The purpose of this design is to communicate the effects of coral bleaching on the environment and other environmental issues; the concept of life and death. This design expresses that despite the mortality we face in our lives there is hope. Isaiah 40:8 says that though the grass may wither and the flowers fade, God and His Word will stand constant through it all. His grace and love are never-ending. [Mrs Telea Erkoceviq, Teacher]



Bundaberg Christian College's design by Chelsea Morgan

South Sea Islanders

This design is a collaborative work incorporating elements by Nicole Wone, Jeremy Kiraly and Paul Perry.

The imagery acknowledges the South Sea Islander history of our region.

South Sea Islander people were brought to coastal Queensland to act as 'indentured labour' (as it was called) to the sugar industry. This practice is what we know today as Blackbirding. The dominant coastal pandanus palm shades the sea shore, beach and lagoon waters. Baby turtle hatchlings scamper across the sand towards the water. In the sky, almost dreamlike, are a few frangipani flowers reminding us of these workers' distant island homes from which they were removed as part of the practice of trading in people (an unacknowledged form of slavery). Not too far away are the sugarcane fields surrounded by rock walls which have also been referred to as 'Kanakas Walls' based on the word historically used to refer to South Sea Islander workers. Small white crosses acknowledge the people who were taken from their homes and who died and who are buried in this country. These crosses reflect the price that was paid by South Sea Islander workers and reflects the strong connection to this place that South Sea Islander people have had and continue to have today. The community continues to be a very strong and proud presence in the Bundaberg Region.

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Gidarjil

This panel is based on a painting by Stacie Saltner.



Night Sky Dreaming – Stacie Saltner

This is her story of the painting.

Night Sky Dreaming

The painting depicts the journey of the Whale and the Manta Ray through the dreaming. The whale is the keeper of all Earth's sacred secrets and the Manta Ray is the armour of two faces - one public and one personal.

It is my journey of research into my Indigenous Culture, Indigenous Astrology and the record keeping of my research. It is a painting of reflection of how dreaming is the spirit of our ancestors and their making of the night sky – universe first and then how they ascended to form our country in which we live. This story depicts the making of the sea.

The mosaic cartoon was created by Zara Johnson re-interpreting the painting to fit the shape and size of the allocated panel.

The words in the panel are **Belbendimin wulgun djau** meaning **Caring for our Sea Country** in the Taribelang language.

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Saltwater Learning

This panel is based on a painting by Dylan Sarra and used with his permission. Dylan is a Taribelang/Gooreng Gooreng man from the Bundaberg region and is currently living and studying in Brisbane in the field of contemporary Indigenous art.



Saltwater Learning – Dylan Sarra

This was Dylan's first painting when he decided to make art a full time occupation. It includes imagery of the Moneys Creek lagoon at sunset where Dylan spent his time swimming as a child, within a hand print identified as a signature and surrounded by dot circles representing the water and generations of people who have occupied this country for millennia.

Here is Dylan's story of the painting:

SALTWATER LEARNING

In traditional Indigenous Australia, children were taught in the same way as we are today... by example. They studied patterns and cycles within the environment and followed the lore and traditions handed down to them by the older ones.

The knowledge they possessed was crucial to their survival. I think in today's world we streamline our education and condition our children to benefit others and not themselves. But in my eyes not all children are the same. They all learn in their own way and grasp concepts when they are ready. As adults if we are patient and kind and teach children the fundamentals of caring for themselves and others, by setting an example we are reaching their hearts and training children to leave their unique mark in the world.

This mark is represented by the hand you see in the picture. Traditionally this meant signature. So what makes your signature unique that you have shared with the little eyes watching you?

Fish Tales wall design story

Background - Julie Hylands

Julie's role was to design the reef background for *Fish Tales* wall. Jeremy digitised this design to create the mosaic cartoon for the Fish Tales wall which was printed full size for transfer to the substrate panels.

My brief was pretty simple: draw an underwater reef scene that we could place the mosaic fish and other sea creatures onto. I enjoyed including a variety of reef forms, shapes and spaces for the different sea creatures to feature. The lovely giant clam was a feature drawing on memories of snorkelling on the GBR up north. We are so lucky here in Bundaberg to be the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef. (Julie Hylands)



Fish Tales wall layout. Note the repetition of the linking 'ribbon' through the design.

Making the Mosaics

Without a doubt this project has been a labour of love. The statistics tell the story without any other explanation.

Hours

Stage 1

Volunteers/ students/community groups	2231
Workshop Facilitation (Paul Perry)	265
Feature mosaic work (Paul Perry)	902
Fish contributors	1917
Sub-total	5315

Stage 2

Volunteers	256
Workshop Facilitation (Paul Perry)	36
Feature mosaic work (Paul Perry)	144
Fish Contributors	609
Sub-total	1045

TOTAL HOURS 6360

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Volunteers Involved

Stage 1

Residents	142
Fish Contributors	43
	185

Stage 2

Residents	48
Fish Contributors	37
	85

Total combined participants 233

Welcome wall

Feature panels

The main *Welcome* wall panel featuring a large loggerhead turtle, frolicking dolphins and fish based on designs by Jeremy Kiraly and Nicole Wone was created by Paul Perry in his studio as a COVID-19 lockdown activity during March and April 2020.

In a sense the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and a cancelled Tahitian cruise gave me the opportunity, momentum and uninterrupted time to focus on this creative mosaic work. [Paul Perry]



Welcome wall feature panel

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South Sea Islander panel

This mosaic panel was created by Paul Perry, with some assistance by volunteer mosaicists.



South Sea Islander panel

Kepnock State High School panel

This mosaic panel was created by the following Year 12 students and teachers, under the guidance of Paul Perry.

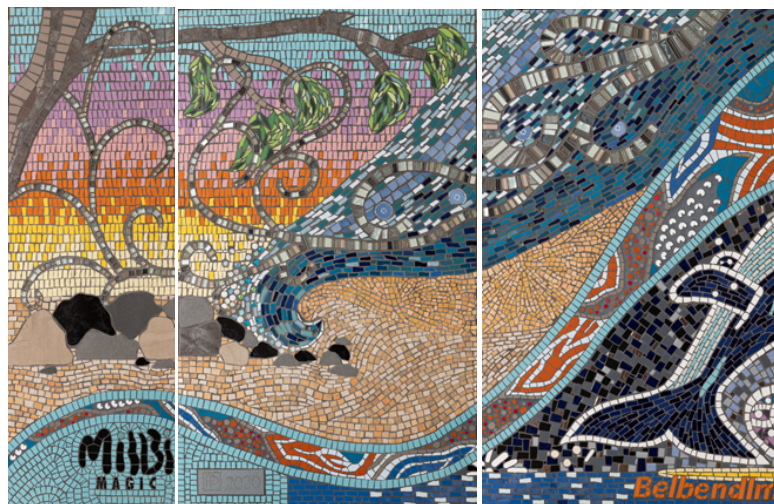
Teacher: Jess O'Neill with help from Nita Rosher

Students:

Ashlee Whitley
Emily Lines
Erica Wilkinson

Kaci Cauchi
Kyle Skerke
Maddison Rogers

Sapphire
Hafemeister
Zoh Ashley-Ross



Kepnock State High School panel

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St Luke's Anglican College panel

This mosaic panel was created by the following Year 10 students and teacher, under the guidance of Paul Perry. The onset of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions on access to school meant that students were unable to complete their panel within the scheduled timetable. This was done by Paul Perry.

Teacher: Amy Fallon

Students:

Ava Ryan
Brooke Mahoney
Cyarah Delamare
Darcy Tanzer
Ella Jenkins

Fatima Baghdadi
Gayle Bulado
Imogen Kirk
Isabella Gil
Jessica Hickey

Kalana Fraser
Keira Bosch
Lara Kirk
Lily Olse



St Luke's Anglican College panel

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Bundaberg Christian College panel

This mosaic panel was created by the following Year 10 students and teacher, under the guidance of Paul Perry.

Teacher: Mrs Telea Erkoceviq

Students:

Abby Jones
Chelsea Morgan
Dana Downey
Ebony Perry
Elizabeth Edwards
Elke Swadling

Georgie Mellross
Indianna Woolley
Jesse Raffin
Keeley Dunn
Laura Schmeide
Logan Urquhart

Mackenna Otto
Melanie Wills
Trinity Beasley
Tristan Ashley
Tyra Bing



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Gidarjil panel

This mosaic panel was created at the Gidarjil Art Centre through a series of 3 hour workshops over 8 weeks facilitated by Paul Perry. The following Gidarjil staff and community volunteers were involved in the mosaic creation:

Beckey Spruce
Branyan Apel
Chris Morphet
Cristel
Simmonds
Dorothy
Eldridge

Felix Apel
Irene Dide
Jan Cooper
Kathryn Apel
Kerry Bettios
Kristina
Delahunty

Nicole Bonney
Patricia Martin
Paul Perry
Tom Holden
Zara Johnson



Saltwater Learning panel

The main feature on this panel was created by Paul Perry. The surrounding 'dots' were made by our loyal mosaicing volunteers.



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Finishing off the panels for the *Welcome* wall

The design of the *Welcome* wall includes a linking 'ribbon' incorporating a series of turtles and imagery representing the songlines of coastal communities living in the area for millennia. These sections were the focus of much of the volunteer time while working on panels for this wall. The names of these volunteers are listed in a section below.

I also facilitated 6 weekly 1.5 hour workshops with 14 students from the Bundaberg High School Girls Academy working on the turtle and jellyfish designs by Nicole Wone. The following girls were involved in that mosaic work:

Tahlia @ Girls Academy
Tilly @ Girls Academy
Jamie @ Girls Academy
Nellie @ Girls Academy
Charlie @ Girls Academy

Caitlin @ Girls Academy
Zahlee @ Girls Academy
Sam @ Girls Academy
Ijavia @ Girls Academy
Chloe @ Girls Academy

Laylani @ Girls Academy
Kyeisha @ Girls Academy
Lily @ Girls Academy
Tanaya @ Girls Academy

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Fish Tales wall

We started making 'fish' for the Fish Tales wall in February 2019 through weekly mosaic skill building workshops. As each fish was completed, it was put into storage in anticipation of grant funding being secured to enable the project to commence in mid 2019 or at the latest at beginning of 2020.

With initial funding secured and the project officially commencing, we issued invitations to a wide range of people to participate in the project. This included:

- Bundaberg Potters
- Bundaberg Art Society
- Bundaberg Art Network
- Childers Art Group
- Childers Potters
- Local mosaicists, potters, glass workers and ceramic artists

Invitations to participate were also extended to local residents through local media, Bargara Buzz, and on social media. A Facebook page was established for the MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics project which was used to post progress photos and information, and invite people to various events etc.

An invitation to participate in the project by making a mosaic 'fish' was also issued through a single posting on the Facebook group pages for Mosaic Mentoring (an international group) and Mosaics Australia.

MilBi MAGIC MOSAICS

ARCHIE'S BEACH COMMUNITY MOSAICS

**Have you visited Bundaberg? Holidayed at Bargara?
Been on a Turtle Tour at Mon Repos?**

We are creating a large (33 sq m) community mosaic on the walls of a public toilet at Archie's Beach, Bargara to celebrate and honour our turtles and sea creatures and would love your contribution to the 'Fish Tales' wall. If you are a mosaicist, ceramic artist, potter, glass worker or just love to get together with a few friends to break some crockery and create a fun piece, you are invited to make a fish (or two or three) for our wall.

All sizes, styles and characters welcome. We'll supply the mesh for you to build it on and make arrangements to pick up your creation when it's finished.

We'd also like to hear and record the story behind your creation... why you made it, where the materials come from and your connections with Bundaberg etc.

You've got until the **end of May 2020** to make your contribution... so get cracking!

As the community mosaic will be outside in the elements the materials you use will need to be strong and safe, and stand up to the harsh marine environment.

Contact **Paul Perry** on M: 0419 810 099 or
E: paulandfaye@ozemail.com.au to register your interest and find out more.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Queensland Government | BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Australian Government Regional Arts Fund | FLYING ARTS ALLIANCE INC | BARGARA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

This project is supported by:

- The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland
- The Regional Arts Development Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and Bundaberg Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland
- The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia
- Bargara Progress Association Inc.

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Initially some 30 mosaicists responded to the posting and promised 'fish' for the project before the deadline of 31 May 2020. COVID-19 upset this plan for many people as they were no longer able to attend mosaic classes or workshops and had trouble getting materials delivered. A number of people from US and UK advised that the lockdown restriction meant they couldn't get to the post office to send their completed fish. As a consequence only 2 of the promised mosaic pieces from overseas actually arrived before the deadline.

In total 229 'fish' were created for the project. Most of these were locally made, although 2 were sent from overseas (UK and USA), 19 were sent from interstate (Tasmania, SA and NSW) and 54 were sent from other locations in Qld (incl Rockhampton, Childers, Hervey Bay and Brisbane). Each participant was asked to record a 'tale' for their fish as part of the project.

85 people created 'fish' for the *Fish Tales* wall. They are:

Alex Baigrie	Heather Johnston	Nadeen Kelly
Alexandra Grove	Helen Burgemiester	Necia Rosenver
Alyssa Devlin	Ian Glenwright	Paul Perry
Ben Turnbull	Ilona Bryan	Peter Smith
Brie at Peirsons	Jacquelyn O'Brien	Rachael Wilson
Carmel Percy	Jacqui Read	Robyn Abbotts
Carmen Maybanks	Janene Kondrats	Robyn Martin
Carol Laskey	Janine Waters	Rory O'Brien
Carol Smith	Jenni Hinch	Rosemary
Catherine Conaty	Jill Lyle	Sally Martin
Christine Scott	Julia Carr	Sam Ephraims
Clare Swanton	Julie Fauser	Shakira-Rose
Colleen Fitzpatrick	Julie Hylands	Sharon Hohenhaus
Cressida Toorenburg	Kate Gricks	Sheryce
Deb Colbourne	Kelly Kids	Simon O'Brien
Deb West	Lisa Cook	Simon Cuthbert
Debbie Bennett	Lyn Barton	Sophie MacGregor
Denise Bardon	Lynne Hetherington	Stella
Diane Ephraims	Lyn Sloan	Sue Hibbard
Donnis Markin	Margaret Lye	Surf Church Craft Circle (6 people)
Ellie Kronk	Marie Baigrie	Susan Strachan
Emily Kresew	Marilyn Batty	Sylvia Golan
Emma Reid	Marriane Cohn	Wendy Fisher
Faye Perry	Marsha Johnson	Wendy Zunker
Gail Stever	Mary Anne Harris	Xavier O'Brien
Geraldine Neal	Maureen	Zeb O'Brien
Glen Burfitt	Megan Kelly	Zenta Toerien
Grace Lyons	Meryl Cull	
Hadie Macleod	Mick Brennan	

Curation of fish onto *Fish Tales* wall panels

Adrienne Williams and Julie Hylands worked with me to curate the fish onto the 11m of substrate panels making up this wall. Only 164 'fish' fitted on this wall. This left the project open to a Stage 2 to complete the project and use up the donated fish.

Mosaicing the *Fish Tales* panels

Panels were worked on in sequence with background reef structure and sea being mosaiced in after the 'fish' were attached. Much of this work was done by our loyal band of mosaicing volunteers.

Our loyal band of 61 volunteers includes:

Alex Baigrie**
Alexandra Grove*
Alyssa Devlin*
Bruce McCarthy
Carin Sandker
Carman Maybanks
Carmel Percy**
Clare Swanston**
Collette Jakobi
Cristel Simmonds
Cynthia Hoogstraten
Deb West
Deb Colbourne
Debbie Bennett
Deseley Tucker
Di Kearney*
Diana Ephraims
Gary Bird
Esther Hain
Emily Kresew*
Wendy Zunker
Zenta Toerien**

Glen Burfitt*
Helen Skippen
Helena Chandler
Jacqueline Read
Jacquelyn O'Brien
Janine Waters**
Jenny Ralph**
Jenny Greffield
Jill Lyle
Joanne
Julia Carr**
Julie Fauser***
Julie Hylands
Kate Frawley
Kate Gricks
Lauren Caught*
Lisa Cooke
Lyn Barton*
Lyn Lyle
Lyn McCarthy*

Lyn Sloan
Margaret Lye*
Maria Baigrie**
Mary Anne Harris
Mick Brennan
Nev Swann
Nicole Wone
Noelene Mackay
Oliver Carr
Rachael Wilson
Ranjan Morris
Rebecca Dodds
Robyn Martin***
Sam Ephraims
Simon Cuthbert
Sherilyn Strube*
Sue Hibbard*
Susan Smart
Todd Fauser
Veronica Smith*

*** over 100 hours each

** over 40 hours each

* over 20 hours each

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics



Fish Tales wall panels

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Fish Tales Wall Stage 2

The initial *Fish Tales* wall was 'oversubscribed' with mosaic fish created by local resident mosaic volunteers and mosaic artists from around Australia.

A Stage 2 of the project was proposed to use these additional 'fish' to complete the 2 remaining walls on the toilet block complex. The unused 'fish' include various turtle forms, jelly fish, seahorses, octopus and a mermaid, as well as a wide variety of fish. The remaining walls are low walls (0.9m high) on the front of each building.

Wall 1 – facing Woongarra Scenic Drive

5.6m x 0.9m. Made up of 5 panels 1.2m, 1.2m, 0.9m, 1.2m and 1.1m. All 0.9m high.

Wall 2 – facing Archie's Beach (Rubbish bin at end)

4.7m x 0.9m. Made up of 4 panels 1.2m, 1.2m, 1.2m and 1.1m. All 0.9m high.

Council approved the extension of the project to include Stage 2 as detailed above, subject to me securing additional funding.

Applications were made to:

- Australia Council for the Arts - unsuccessful
- Arts Queensland (stART Grant through Crossroad Arts Inc) - successful
- Bundaberg Regional Council (COVID Relief RADF Grant) - successful
- Regional Arts Australia (RAF Quick Response grant through Flying Arts Inc) - unsuccessful

The remaining 'fish', which are predominately glass mosaic creations, are proposed to be used on a panel 1.0m x 1.4m to be installed in the Bundaberg Tourism Visitor Centre in Bundaberg, as an installation directing visitor to the project at Bargara.

After gaining grant funding from Arts Qld and RADF we decided to go ahead with Stage 2. Julie Hyland worked with me to curate the fish into the 10.3m of panels making up this stage, as well as the panel for the Visitor Centre.

The mosaicing of these panels included the running of 3 well attended and successful *Snip and Sip* sessions targeted at Bundaberg artists who had not had the opportunity to be involved in the project before. This included two evening sessions.

The grant funding received for Stage 2 was insufficient to complete the panel for the Visitor Centre. This panel will not be completed until further funding is secured.

34 people created 'fish' used in Stage 2 of the project. They are:

Alex Baigrie
Caroline Sell
Cate Verney
Daphne Myles
Deb Colbourne

Deb Richard
Di Kearney
Diana Ephraims
Dianne Buckley
Emily Kresew

Gail Stever
George DePenning
Geraldine Neal
Heather Johnston
Helen Skippen

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Helena Chandler
Jenny Ralph
Julie Fauser
Kate Gricks*
Lauren Caught
Lesley Perk

Lisa Cook
Lyn McCarthy
Mandy Foster
Margaret Lye
Maria Baigrie
Marilyn Batty

Marilyn Murray
Meryl Cull
Paul Perry
Sue Hibbard
Surf Church Craft Circle
Terrie-Anne Trebbin

The 48 volunteers who worked with me mosaicing Stage 2 are:

Alex Baigrie*
Angela Dick
Angela Walker
Bruce McCarthy
Carmel Percy
Carol Steele
Cheryl Cullen
Corralan Sherd
Debbie Bennett
Di Kearney
Emma Reid
Gabby McDonald
Genene Braysher
Gillan McCracken
Helen Heathwood
Helen Richards

Janine Waters
Jenny Ralph
Jessica Cullinan
Jeremy Kiraly
Jo Wills
John Learmonth (Cr)
Judy Atkins
Julia Carr*
Julie Fauser*
Julie Hylands*
Kate Frawley
Karen Pitt-Adams
Kerry Richardson
Leonie Joseph
Lyn Barton
Maria Baigrie*

Melita McDonnell
Michelle Smith
Nev Swann
Nicole Wone
Peter Waters
Ranjan Morris
Rachael Wilson
Rebecca Richardson
Robyn Martin
Sherilyn Strube*
Sue Hibbard*
Tracey Regan
Trudie Leigo
Veronica Smith
Wendy Zunker
Zenta Toerien

* more than 10 hours each



Installation

The completed panels are to be installed on the toilet block walls by Council staff in late November 2020. They will be installed using marine grade 316 stainless steel frames (channel, angle and z-sections) that will locate them securely, but allow them to be removed without damage for repair or subsequent relocation. The panel edges will be sealed with a grey Sikaflex sealer to stop dust and moisture penetration.

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Sponsors/Funding

In addition to the generous donations of time and materials for the mosaic sea creatures, and the amazing volunteers who offered their time to helping with mosaicing the panels, this project has been generously supported by a number of grants and donations. These include:

- Arts Queensland - QASP Arts Impact grant
- Gambling Community Benefits Scheme grant (auspiced by Bargara Progress Association Inc)
- Bargara Progress Association Inc - donation
- Regional Arts Australia – RAF Quick Response grant (through Flying Arts Alliance Inc)
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant. A joint grant program by Bundaberg Regional Council and Arts Qld.
- Arts Queensland - stART Fund grant (through Crossroads Arts Inc)
- Bundaberg Regional Council – installation
- Bundaberg Tourism – website development and content creation
- C and L Flemming - donation
- Supplier donations – Glenn's Tile Flair

We thank all contributors for their funding and generous support for this project.

PROJECT PARTNERS



This project is supported by:

- The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland
- The Regional Arts Development Fund.. a partnership between the Queensland Government and Bundaberg Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland
- The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia
- Bargara Progress Association Inc.

The Milbi Festival logo was designed by Rachael Sarra and is used with her permission.

Professional photographs were taken by Sabrina Lauriston Photography. Other photographs were by permission of Paul Perry, Project Facilitator and Lead Artist.

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Participants in the project

Here is a list of the 235 people who participated in the project in one way or another:

Abby Jones	Dana Downey	Heather Johnston
Adrienne Williams	Daphne Myles	Helen Burgemiester
Alan Baxter	Darcey Tanzer	Helen Heathwood
Alex Baigrie	Deb Colbourne	Helen Richards
Alexandra Grove	Deb Richard	Helen Skippen
Alyssa Devlin	Deb West	Helena Chandler
Amy Fallon	Debbie Bennett	Ian Glenwright
Angela Dick	Denise Bardon	Ijavia @ Girls Academy
Angela Walker	Deseley Tucker	Ilona Bryan
Anne Druitt	Di Kearney	Imogen KJirk
Ashlee Whitley	Diana Ephraims	Indianna Woolley
Ava Ryan	Dianne Buckley	Irene Duda
Beckey Spruce	Donnis Markin	Isabella Gil
Ben Turnbull	Dorothy Eldridge	Jacquelyn O'Brien
Branyan Apel	Dylan Sarra	Jacqui Read
Brie @ Peirsons	Ebony Perry	Jamie @ Girls Academy
Brooke Mahoney	Ed Pozzan	Jan Cooper
Bruce McCarthy	Elizabeth Edwards	Janene Kondrats
Caitlin @ Girls Academy	Elke Swadling	Janine Waters
Carin Sandker	Ella Jenkins	Jenni Hinch
Carmel Percy	Ellie Kronk	Jennifer Lynn
Carmen Maybanks	Emily Kresew	Jenny Greffield
Carol Laskey	Emily Lines	Jenny Ralph
Carol Smith	Emma Reid	Jeremy Kiraly
Carol Steele	Emma Tambo	Jesse Raffin
Caroline Sell	Erica Wilkinson	Jessica Cullinan
Cate Verney	Esther Hain	Jessica Hickey
Catherine Conaty	Fatima Baghdadi	Jessica O'Neill
Charlie @ Girls Academy	Faye Perry	Jill Lyle
Chelsea Morgan	Felix Apel	Jo Wills
Cheryl Cullen	Gabby McDonald	Joanne
Chloe @ Girls Academy	Gail Stever	John Learmonth (Cr)
Chris Morphet	Gary Bird	Judy Atkins
Christine Scott	Gayle Bulado	Judy Gra
Clare Swanton	Genene Braysher	Julia Carr
Colleen Fitzpatrick	George DePenning	Julie Fauser
Collette Jakobi	Georgie Mellross	Julie Greinke
Corralan Sherd	Geraldine Neal	Julie Hylands
Cressida Toorenburg	Gillan McCracken	Kaci Cauchi
Cristel Simmonds	Glen Burfitt	Kalana Fraser
Cyarah Delamare	Grace Lyons	Karen Pitt-Adams
Cynthia Hoogstraten	Hadie Macleod	Kate Frawley

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Kate Gricks	Mary Anne Harris	Sharon Hohenhaus
Kathryn Apel	Maureen	Shelley McDonald
Keeley Dunn	Megan Kelly	Sherilyn Strube
Keira Bosch	Melanie Wills	Sheryce @ Piersons
Kelly Kids	Melita McDonnell	Simon Cuthbert
Kerry Bettios	Meryl Cull	Simon O'Brien
Kerry Richardson	Michelle Smith	Sophie MacGregor
Kristina Delahunty	Mick Brennan	Stacie Saltner
Kyeisha @ Girls Academy	Nadeen Kelly	Stella @ Piersons
Kyle Skerke	Necia Rosenver	Sue Hibbard
Lara Kirk	Nellie @ Girls Academy	Susan Smart
Laura Schmeide	Nev Swann	Susan Strachan
Lauren Caught	Nicole Bonney	Sylvia Golan
Laylani @ Girls Academy	Nicole Wone	Tahlia @ Girls Academy
Leonie Joseph	Nita Rosher	Tanaya @ Girls Academy
Lesley Baxter	Noelene Mackay	Telea Erkoceviq
Lesley Perk	Oliver Carr	Terrie-Anne Trebbin
Lily @ Girls Academy	Pam McCloskey	Tilly @ Girls Academy
Lily Olse	Patricia Martin	Todd Fauser
Lisa Cook	Paul Perry	Tom Holden
Logan Urquhart	Peter Smith	Tracey Regan
Lyn Barton	Peter Waters	Trinity Beasley
Lynne Hetherington	Rachael Wilson	Tristan Ashley
Lyn Lyle	Ranjan Morris	Trudie Leigo
Lyn McCarthy	Rebecca Dodds	Tyra Bing
Lyn Sloan	Rebecca Richardson	Veronica Smith
Lyn Steenhuis	Rebekah McLaughlin	Wendy Fisher
Mackenna Otto	Robyn Abbotts	Wendy Zunker
Maddison Rogers	Robyn Martin	Xavier O'Brien
Mandy Foster	Rory O'Brien	Yvette deGit
Marg Watson	Rosemary @ Piersons	Zahlee @ Girls Academy
Margaret Lye	Sabrina Lauriston	Zara Johnson
Maria Baigrie	Sally Martin	Zeb O'Brien
Marilyn Batty	Sam @ Girls Academy	Zenta Toerien
Marilyn Murray	Sam Ephraims	Zoh Ashley-Ross
Marrienne Cohn	Sapphire Hafemeister	
Marsha Johnson	Shakira-Rose @ Piersons	

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

Technical Details

Site

Building 1 (North)

Available walls: 3.2m + 5.6m + 3.2m, all 2.1m high

Using compressed cement sheet panels 1.2m and 0.9m wide x 1.5m high x 15mm thick

Section 1: 3 panels. Section 2: 5 panels. Section 3: 3 panels. Total 11 panels (approx 16.5 square metres)



Building 1: Stage 1 wall



Building 1: Stage 2 wall



Building 1: Stage 3 wall

Building 2 (South)

Available walls: 3.2m + 5.6m + 2.2m, all 2.1m high

Using compressed cement sheet panels 1.2m and 0.9m wide x 1.5m high x 15mm thick

Section 1: 3 panels. Section 2: 5 panels. Section 3: 2 panels. Total 10 panels (approx 16.5 square metres)



Building 2: Stage 1 wall



Building 2: Stage 2 wall



Building 2: Stage 3 wall

Mosaic Creation

The creation of the mosaic components will occur through a wide variety of community workshops, made on alkaline resistant fibreglass mosaic mesh. I will also undertake some of the key aspects of the detailed mosaic work to ensure an acceptable artistic standard is achieved and maintained throughout the project.

MilBi Magic: Archie's Beach Community Mosaics

The mosaic creations will be mounted on cement sheet panels (15mm compressed cement sheet) for easy fixing to the walls of the toilet block, and the ability for the entire mosaic to be removed and relocated should it ever be necessary.

The mosaics will be made from materials, including substrate panels, adhesives and tesserae, that will withstand exposure to the external marine environment and prevailing weather conditions. The mosaics will be fully grouted and sealed to ensure a minimum maintenance outcome. Before grouting, each mosaic will be carefully assessed for unreasonably sharp edges that might be a risk to public safety. Any such edges will be ground smooth.

Installation

Council staff will install the panels making up the project the toilet block walls.

Panels will be attached to the wall using marine grade stainless steel channels and z-section frames fixed to the wall, Panel edges will be fully sealed with Sikaflex sealer or similar. The method of installing the panels will see them permanently fixed to the walls of the toilet block, sealed around the edges to eliminate any moisture penetration and unable to be easily prised off the cement block wall.

If and when site work is required, standard workplace health and safety practices will be deployed to ensure the safety of all involved in the project. This will address the usual requirements for work in public areas, such as relevant induction and workplace safety briefings, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and protecting the work site with bunting etc.

Ongoing Maintenance

As only quality substrate, adhesive and tesserae materials will be used and the mosaic panels will be properly sealed before installation, there is no reason for these mosaic panels to require any regular ongoing maintenance. Ceramic tiles, glazed and fired pottery, crockery and glass tesserae can withstand the extremes of the marine environment associated with this site. A well constructed mosaic panel should have a design life of at least 25 years and should last much longer. The natural washing of the surface by rain would keep the mosaic panels relatively clean and free of dust and road grime.

The ultimate maintenance program would involve a wash with water and detergent every 3 to 5 years or so and a reapplication of the tile and grout sealer.