



WORKSHOP 1: ANIMATING HERITAGE

Panellists: Christine Burton, Malcolm McKinnon, Jared Thomas, Dr Elaine Lally, Tiffany Lee-Shoy

Summary by facilitator Sarah Edwards

This workshop featured three very different projects that addressed ways in which heritage can be brought to life.

1. A research project being conducted by the Arts Management Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney, focused on measuring culture and the relevance of museums in community. It identified that core networks, trust and reciprocity were important aspects of the success of the work. The presenter concluded that museums contribute to and are not the cause of social capital.

Presenter: Christine Burton

2. A film project focusing on the community of Melrose, South Australia. This project worked with the local museum and the living community and was not just about the story, but the way the story is told. The benefits extended beyond the production of the film and assisted in bonding the community in a positive way. The film highlighted the existence and connection of the Melrose community to the land, the importance of language to express ideas and the Nukunu indigenous interpretation of community stories.

Presenters: Malcom McKinnon and Jared Thomas

3. An on-line database pilot project that was born out of a collaboration between the University of Western Sydney, 13 local councils (WESROC- Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils), and community based organizations, initiated by the needs of urban and land use planners, to capture the tangible stories about how communities live.

Presenters; Elaine Lally, Tiffany Lee-Shoy

Conclusion: Animating Heritage presented the pivotal role museums play in facilitating research and delivery of community stories in three very different ways.

Local government plays an important role in valuing museum services to deliver outputs that relate to their communities' sense of place and cultural identity.

As Malcolm McKinnon summarized, there are three key themes in animating heritage:

- connection of community to their environment
- use of language to express ideas
- opportunity for indigenous interpretation of community stories

Christine Burton has worked in cultural planning for the past 15 years both in Australia and Great Britain. From 1994 to 1998 Christine worked in the UK as lead consultant with 'Positive Solutions' and 'Art & Society' as well as undertaking research into social impact and cultural strategic planning with Comedia. She is currently the Director of the Postgraduate program in Arts Management in the Faculty of Business, School of Leisure Sport and Tourism, University of Technology, Sydney.

Malcolm McKinnon is an artist and planner with bases in Melbourne and in the southern Flinders Ranges region of South Australia. His work encompasses research and planning assignments, community development initiatives and public and community art projects. He has particular interest working in a regional and rural context, including numerous projects with farmers and aboriginal communities.

Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person from the southern Flinders Ranges in South Australia. Currently employed as an indigenous Arts Development Officer for Arts SA, Jared is also a writer. His first major work, a play called 'Flash Red Ford' toured Uganda and Kenya in 1999 and his first novel, 'Sweet Guy' was short listed for the 2002 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. Jared is also involved in film writing and editing and was Assistant Director on the film 'One Night the Moon,' directed by Rachel Perkins.

Dr Elaine Lally is Assistant Director of the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney. Dr Lally conducts research into contemporary cultural change in western Sydney. She is chief investigator for the 'Greater Western Sydney Electronic Cultural Atlas' project, developing information support tools for cultural planning in the western Sydney region. Dr Lally is author of 'At Home with Computers' (Berg, 2002).

Tiffany Lee-Shoy is Regional Cultural Planning Coordinator at the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, an association of eleven local government bodies in Western Sydney. Her project seeks to expand resources and collaboration between councils to promote the cultural life, arts and creativity of the region.

Facilitator: Sarah Edwards is Coordinator of the Outreach Program at Museum Victoria. Sarah has worked for Museum Victoria for five years, although her career spans twenty years in the museum and education sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Education and a Grad Dip in Museum Management. Her interest in aboriginal art has taken her to Australia's Central Desert, and she has organised exhibitions from there to the Australian Embassy in Washington DC and the United Nations in New York.



WORKSHOP 2: THE CULTURE OF PLACES

Panellists: Monir Rowshan, Susan Conroy, Craig Christie, Gay Bilson

Summary by facilitator Martin Mulligan

Projects discussed included musical theatre works with rural Victorian communities, the Eating the City project in Melbourne, a creative approach to community consultation on the use of public space in Cabramatta and the Living Streets Project in Liverpool.

Interesting points:

- cultural projects can give voice and create a common language of place
- outside arts practitioners can collect and feed back stories that may have been hidden (eg. women in farming),
- a strong artistic vision is needed to create momentum and make a project sustainable and memorable for a long time
- cultural projects can help people reclaim the commons, eg CBD in Melbourne
- different communities can contribute to a joint project in their own ways and then see what other communities have achieved, building mutual respect
- social needs can be determined by bringing local communities into a creative gathering in public space
- new places are established in a shared, creative space (eg. the tables used for Eating the City)
- working together on creative projects can establish new relationships between the people involved

Is local government the best place?

Considerations: Gulf between local government staff and the community

Importance of: Partnerships and flexibility (in all things really!)

The flexibility within local government to balance the need for arts and cultural planning with making things happen and being responsive. The flexibility for local government to enable cultural development by working in partnerships with others
The flexibility to understand that not all cultural development happens through local government and that it is not always or necessarily the best place for it to happen.

Key ideas:

- a strong artistic vision for collective celebrations of a sense of place is needed to create interest
- sustainment of the project to completion
- making the project memorable and ensuring that it is widely discussed and analysed, even replicated
- creative spaces in local places can create a language that also builds respect for diversity

Monir Rowshan is a visual artist with extensive experience in ceramics and mosaics. She has worked in the field of community cultural development, multicultural art and public art in the last 14 years. Based at Liverpool City Council, she is currently coordinating the 'Living Streets Project', which deals with complex issues of community partnerships, community building and creativity within the context of place making.

Susan Conroy has been working professionally in community cultural development and cultural planning since the late 1980s. Susan has extensive experience in designing and managing integrated planning projects linking environmental, social, cultural and economic factors in urban design and developing projects. She has also successfully integrated cultural development initiatives into strategic planning and policy development in local government.

*Craig Christie is a creative and prolific producer of works in the fields of education, music theatre and community theatre, Craig has an international profile providing energetic, exciting and diverse productions for a variety of audiences. For the past twelve years he has worked as an independent producer in the area of theatre for schools. Craig has developed, written and produced a number of exciting community performance projects both in Australia and overseas including the acclaimed musical *Right Where We Are* for Cultural Development Network's Small Town Big Picture project 2002*

*Gay Bilson was a cook and restaurateur in Sydney for 25 years and ran Berowra Waters Inn until 1995, a restaurant cited as one of the most significant in Australia. She is a widely published essayist and author, and has just published her book *Plenty: digressions on food*. She sees food as being central to social cohesion. Gay has created theatrical food-based events around Australia and was an Associate Director of the 2002 Adelaide Festival. She returned from an Asialink residency in Sri Lanka in 2003 where she worked on a project about traditional food practices. Gay was one of the lead artists on the City of Melbourne commissioned project *Eating the City* in 2003 and is currently working with Kate Reeves and the City of Melbourne on *Stage Two* of this project.*

*Facilitator: Dr Martin Mulligan is a senior research fellow at the Globalism Institute at RMIT University where he is working on community sustainability in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He recently completed a report for VicHealth on sense of place and community wellbeing in Daylesford and Broadmeadows. He was joint author (with Stuart Hill) of *Ecological Pioneers: A Social History of Australian Ecological Thought and Action* (Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2001) and co-editor of *Decolonizing Australia: Strategies for Conservation in a Post-Colonial World* (Earthscan, London, 2003).*



WORKSHOP 3: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Panellists: Clare Meyers, Dr Susan Thompson, Linda Corkery, Deborah Miles, Glenda Masson

Summary by facilitator Deborah Mills

Presentation by Clare Meyers - Social Policy Officer, City of Wanneroo

Clare described how the City of Wanneroo was coming to terms with a rapidly growing area and attempting to balance the demands for housing and infrastructure with environmental management.

She gave several examples of how arts and culture has been integrated into the City's SMART GROWTH strategy:

- Community involvement in the renovation and revitalisation of a community centre
- Cultural mapping of an old beachside area which is the site of new housing development
- The development of a bush care group manual – to encourage the growth of independent bush care groups
- The redevelopment of a reserve to make it more people friendly
- Training programs for young people
- The establishment of a community information data base – again with the view of encouraging self sufficiency and streamlining peoples' access to information on resources and community development/organisational strategies.

Clare Meyers is the Social Policy Officer at the City of Wanneroo, W.A.

Presentation by Dr Susan Thompson – Associate Professor, Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW

Susan spoke about her work with community gardens and in particular the evaluation studies she has conducted which demonstrate the health and wellness outcomes of these initiatives.

Her studies have found that community gardens have a number of positive impacts on individual and community health and wellbeing, environmental awareness and education, social and cultural expression, community identity, cross cultural awareness, a sense of belonging, improved feelings of personal safety and community strengthening. In addition, the community gardens have a restorative effect on people, helping them to regain and maintain their physical health, providing food for survival and thereby reduce the costs of food and contributing towards social and environmental sustainability.

Susan spoke of two projects:

- Her publication: *A Bountiful Harvest*, documents the work done by a team of UNSW academics from the disciplines of social work, landscape architecture, architecture and urban planning and is based on a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups with people from the three Community Gardens on Sydney's Waterloo Public Housing Estate. This Garden Program was established in 1996 as an initiative of the NSW Department of Housing, South Sydney Councils and the UNSW.
- Maitland City Council: Susan described a carefully managed consultative and development process geared towards the establishment of a community garden in a key cultural precinct of Maitland – a provincial town of NSW north of Sydney.

More information can be obtained from:

- Australian Community Gardens Network www.magna.com.au/~pacedge/garden
- City Farmer's Urban Agriculture Organisation www.cityfarmer.org
- National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners www.nsalg.demon.co.uk
- Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW www.fbe.unsw.edu.au

Dr Susan Thompson is an urban planner whose work bridges academia and practice. She is Associate Professor in the Planning and Urban Development Program, Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of NSW. Her teaching and research encompass social and cultural planning, local and neighbourhood planning, and the application of qualitative methods in urban planning.

Linda Corkery is a landscape architect and Head of the School of the Built Environment at the University of NSW. She teaches design studies, environmental planning, environmental sociology and professional practice subjects. Her research work is focused on ecological design/landscape design for sustainability and people-place relationships.

Deborah Miles is a Principal Policy Officer with Arts Queensland. Deborah has a background in social policy and community development in local government.

Glenda Masson is a Senior Planning Officer with Community Renewal, Queensland Department of Housing. Glenda has a background in social planning both in government and non-government sectors.

*Facilitator: Deborah Mills has thirty years experience in community and cultural development. She has worked for local, state and federal governments and in the not-for-profit sector. She has extensive experience in social and cultural policy and is the co-author (with Paul Brown) of a recent book *Art and Well-Being*. This book explores the policy connections between community arts, sustainability and wellbeing. In particular, the book highlights ways in which community arts can resolve some of the challenges in achieving sustainability.*



WORKSHOP 4: ARTS /CULTURE: NEXUS AND SEPARATION

Panellists: Marla Guppy, Matthew Ives, Suzy Stiles, Pat Zuber,

Facilitator: June Moorhouse

(This paper is not yet available.)

Marla Guppy is the principal of Guppy and Associates, a cultural planning consultancy with a twenty year track record in planning and rejuvenating cultural environments. Marla is a qualified urban planner with a particular interest in creative community involvement in the planning process.

Matthew Ives is the Team Leader and Community Arts Officer of the Park Arts and Functions Office at Port Adelaide Enfield Council. He has extensive experience working with diverse urban and regional communities both in England and in South Australia. He is also convenor of the Creative Communities Network of South Australia which produced a guide for councils' work in Arts and Cultural Development.

Suzy Stiles is Team Leader, Arts and Cultural Development, City of Marion, SA

Pat Zuber is Senior Advisor Cultural Services at Redland Shire Council in South East Queensland. Pat is responsible for strategic planning and policy development in relation to the provision of Council's cultural services and facilities. Recently this has included the planning and development of a new regional gallery and performing arts centre. She previously held the position of Council's Cultural Development Officer. Prior to her work in Redland Shire Council, Pat worked in the field of community cultural development for many years for a number of organisations including Queensland Community Arts Network.

Facilitator: June Moorhouse has lived and worked in Fremantle on and off since the mid-1970s. She has over 25 years experience working in the arts, much of that in senior management positions and as a consultant. The values of community cultural development are at the heart of her work and she has recently completed a two-year Fellowship from the Community Cultural Development Board.



WORKSHOP 5: ARTPLAY VISIT

Simon Spain and Morris Bellamy

Simon Spain is a visual artist who trained as a printmaker in England. Simon has been involved in creating socially engaged projects and artworks in the UK, Sweden, USA and Ireland. In 1996 he became artist in residence at The Ark in Dublin, the world's first Arts and Cultural Centre for children. In 2002, Simon came to Melbourne as founding Creative Producer of ArtPlay for the City of Melbourne. ArtPlay is Australia's first Creative Arts Centre for children and has been open since February 2004.

Morris Bellamy is Manager, Arts and Culture at the City of Melbourne