

# Regional Arts Fund

## Community Grant

### Case study:

### Nature devours art



Kaye, Elizabeth, Margret, and Jodie with community made artworks.  
Photograph by Joy Durston

### Project Summary

This project explored the relationship of art to its environment, and created ecological awareness by fusing human creativity and natural surroundings. Artist-in-residence Jodie Goldring, and environmental education consultant Nicole Howie led the community in identifying and gathering indigenous and exotic plants growing alongside the Loddon River. Under their guidance, the community worked together to create impermanent eco-sculptures and structures using natural and found objects. The works were intended to be gradually absorbed back into the landscape by the elements.



Nature devours art nest artwork.  
Photograph by Joy Durston

### Public Outcome

Sixty six people aged from three years to 70+ participated in this project. They learned to make string, and weave plants to create eco-sculptures from plants and objects found along the Loddon River. Young and old learned to design and create little boats which were then floated along the river. Nests and birds and random sculptures were made by many people, and placed in situ along the Biolink walking track.

Photographs were taken of works in progress and their final resting places. These photographs were printed and hung around the Glenlyon Hall for a month after the project concluded. They were viewed by several hundred people over that time, reinforcing the value and beauty of the local natural landscape.

A permanent artwork "Reverie" was created by Jodi and is now housed at Glenlyon Hall.



Reverie Boats by Jodie Goldring.  
Photograph by Joy Durston

### Community Benefits

The benefits delivered were largely cultural and social. There was a bringing together of differing age groups, all learning at their own pace and sharing their skills. Glenlyon Playgroup children and their parents worked together to create "nests" and install them on a large log. Visitors to the Glenlyon Reserve were invited to join locals working on weaving boats and birds.

Locals walked along the riverside, collecting grasses before starting their eco-sculptures. Some people who participated had never walked along the Loddon River. They were amazed at the discoveries made when exploring the river. They learnt about plants they weren't aware of, discarded objects littering the landscape, and changes to the land wrought by early (white) farming and industry along the river. A sense of responsibility and respect arose with these new discoveries.



Artwork by the Loddon River.  
Photograph by Joy Durston



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund

REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA

<b>Project Start Date</b>	01/11/2018
<b>Project End Date</b>	28/02/2019
<b>Project Location</b>	Glenlyon
<b>Federal Electorate</b>	Ballarat
<b>No. Audience</b>	40
<b>No. Participants</b>	66
<b>Project Beneficiary</b>	General Community
<b>Main Art Form</b>	Visual Arts
<b>No. Artists Paid</b>	1
<b>No. Artists Unpaid</b>	0
<b>No. Arts Worker Paid</b>	0
<b>No. Arts Worker Unpaid</b>	0