

Case Study : *The Hole Big Yarn*



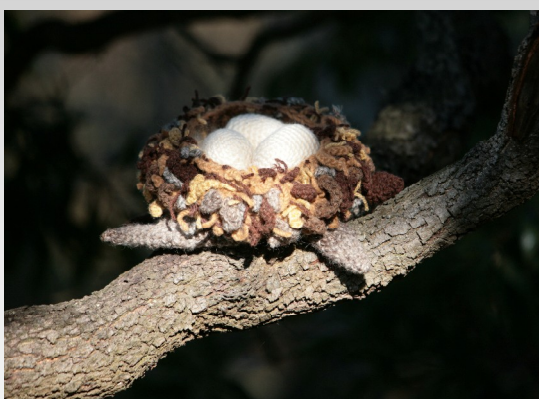
A project initiated and facilitated by south west RADO Jo Grant in 2009 for the small community of Panmure.



Arts projects help build confident, active and inclusive communities

Arts projects engage hard to reach communities and reduce the impact of disadvantage

Arts projects stimulate community participation and support the development of creative industries



“The Hole Big Yarn was a great project for the Panmure community and with results beyond our expectations. This project resonated throughout the region and touched people from diverse parts of the community. A great example of how the arts can create a depth of engagement and development in a community”.

Steven Dawkins, Director Community and Corporate Support, Moyne Shire

The Hole Big Yarn was a knitting and crochet project based on the art phenomena of placing knitted pieces in unexpected landscapes. A small group of Panmure participants came together to knit, crochet and weave site-specific pieces to be placed at the iconic town swimming hole locally named, ‘the big hole’.

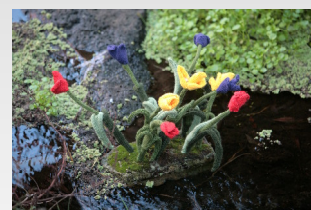
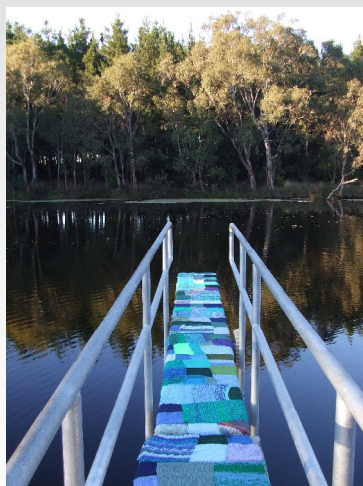
The project was coordinated by South West RADO Jo Grant, on behalf of Moyne Shire, sole funders of the project. Jo’s goal for this project was to promote community strengthening outcomes inherent in these kinds of projects. The aims of the project were to produce a contemporary art project in a small town that:

- Was low in cost and didn’t rely on major funding sources
- Engaged diverse groups and people
- Gave regional artists the opportunity to be involved in a creative project outside their geographical area
- Brought a new creative experience to the community
- Expanded skills and experience

All of these goals were achieved in *The Hole Big Yarn*, as well as producing a blog and project story on-line on the RAV website—provided for the community as a way of connecting their achievements with other communities, and potentially taking the results of the project world-wide:

www.rav.net.au/projects/current-projects

Over 120 people viewed the installation of the work on May 31st and enjoyed a generous afternoon tea provided by the CWA, many of whom were participants in the project. As a way of thanking the shire for supporting this project, the community will take the project to another Moyne Shire town to re-install as an ‘encore’ event in November 2009.



The Hole Big Yarn engaged diverse areas of the community and created an opportunity for development of new skills and networks across the region

Building Partnerships:

The Hole Big Yarn connected individual artists from across the south west region by involving them in an opportunity to make work for this project. This created a sense of connection to a wider networks and opportunities for them to work in ways they had not considered before. Artists from Portland, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Port Fairy all made pieces for the project. The project also worked closely with groups and organisations across the region creating real networking and links for future relationships.

Supporting Indigenous Communities:

The Hole Big Yarn invited several different and targeted groups to contribute to the project as a way of networking people from diverse groups and communities. As a result the project touched many and varied groups with different skills bases and those communities now have a new ideas and networks to work from for other projects into the future. Participating groups included: Western Plains Spinners & Weavers, Framlingham Aboriginal community, Moyneyana House elderly citizens and Port Fairy Craft Group. Panmure and Cudgee Primary schools also contributed works.

Social inclusion:

An aim of the project was to promote contemporary art in a way that included many people with different skills and knowledge. Using a craft medium with historical 'usefulness and practicality', promoted participation from those who could share their knowledge and skilfully create unusual items for unusual settings. The medium of knitting and crochet also opened up participation for those wanting to learn or those not skilled but willing to try. The concept of the project made it possible for many people to create, even if they professed a lack of skill in the area.

'The Hole Big Yarn linked me with other artists in the region and gave me a unique experience of a community project. I was challenged to push my skills to a new level and working with the community of Panmure created a dialogue of knowledge and skills exchange. This project has been powerful in its impact, right across the community.'
Trevor Smith, artist Portland



*'The Aboriginal women and children from Framlingham were inspired and intrigued by the project's concept. The usual barriers to access were not applicable and diversity in relation to the age, experience, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic status of participants enhanced the richness of the outcomes for the community. Projects like *The Hole Big Yarn* are important for building social connection and skills development between women from diverse population groups.'*
Rochelle Hine, Women's Health Resource Worker, South West Health



The Hole Big Yarn gave our residents the opportunity to use common and practical skills acquired over a lifetime and therefore the creative confidence to broaden their community involvement in a diverse project such as this. Age was not a barrier; in fact their years of knowledge were a definite advantage in this project.
Oriel Glennen, Moyneyana House, Port Fairy



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