



Threads of Community

**A project by Lisa McArthur-Edwards, Supported by Central Coast Council and
Auspiced by Gosford Regional Community Services**



Proudly
Supported by



Lisa McArthur-Edwards

Art Therapy, Holistic Counselling and Visual Artist

Lisa McArthur-Edwards received a 2023/24 grant for a textiles and weaving project, supported by Central Coast Council and auspiced by Gosford Regional Community Services. It ran from February to September 2024 at various venues across the Central Coast, the project was free for women 18+ and was aimed at promoting creativity, skill building, mental wellbeing and community connection.

We learnt a variety of techniques from image transfer to dyeing, painting and stamping fabrics, stitch, weaving and sculptural fibre work, collaging fabrics and coiling.

The project culminated in an exhibition at Gosford Regional Gallery in the Community Gallery in October 2024. The exhibition showcased our learnings along the way and some final projects produced by each group and other personal works from participants and facilitators..

There is also a Facebook page running that has been documenting the project and will soon have some videos of how to do some of the projects we learnt and links to textile events happening on the Central Coast.

Threads of Community Facebook page link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id+61556533933885>



The project was for women 18+ to join one of the weaving and textiles groups for 7 months. Learn new techniques, come together and then create a final collaborative work with that groups theme. All final works were collaborative joint project, made up of many womens individual pieces.

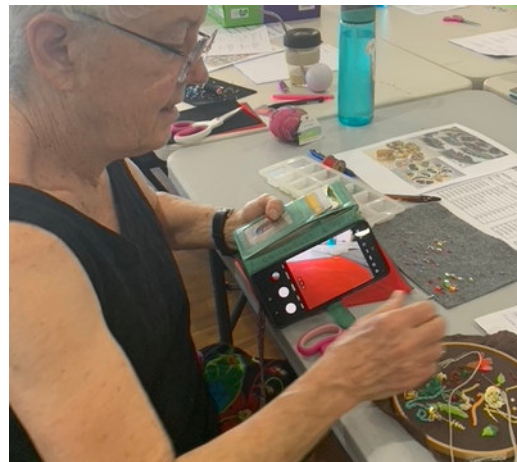
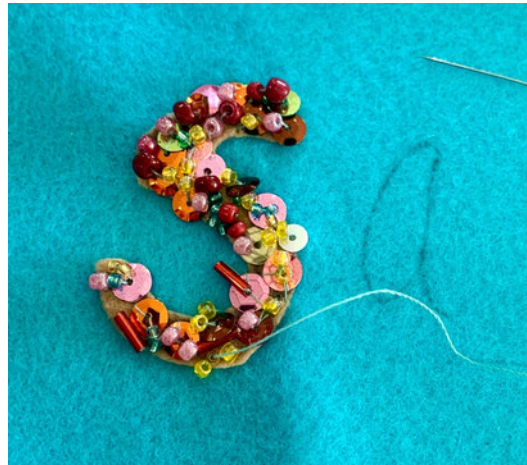
Woy Woy - The Body, **Kariong** - Emotions, **Wyoming** - Ancestry, **Wyong** - Place

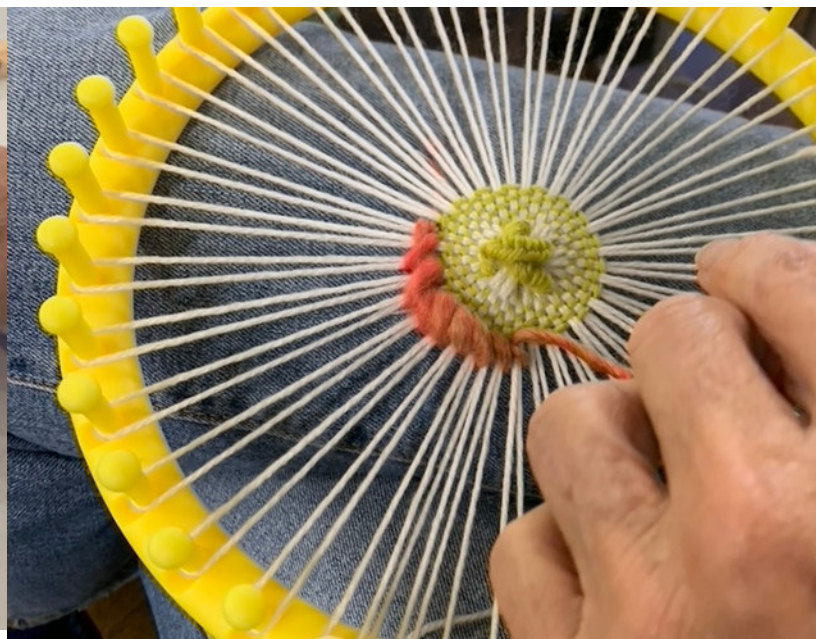


The projects purpose was connection, well-being, community, capacity and skill building.



All groups began with creating their own name badges. We explored stitch, embroidery and beading. Using felts, threads, beads, pins and wadding.





Kariong explored basketry techniques and fully embraced coiling



As did Woy Woy, and Wyong



Woy Woy and Kariong groups enjoyed learning Mixed Media techniques with Jill Rumble as Facilitator. Using acrylic paint, found objects, threads, wools and beads.





Kariong and Wyong were so inspired by our guest Glenice Ware who shared her incredible project with us and inspired us to collage with fabrics and stitch





Wyoming and Wyong groups learnt image transfer onto fabric using modge podge with facilitator Julie-Anne Rodgers



Lots of fun and mess created when Kariong and Woy Woy learnt shibori/Indigo dyeing



**Wyoming and Wyong got wet, and tired arms learning how to wet felt
with Karen Jane Williams**



Other weaving techniques were explored with Lisa McArthur-Edwards, using a range of materials from cane, wires, threads and wools



Group works began to take shape Kariong explored Emotions which led to some interesting discussions



Woy Woy explored how we could interpret the theme of The Body and opted for a sculptural approach



Wyoming knew straight away that they had enjoyed the weaving and would each create their own journey using weaving



Wyong went all out on place, with the project growing by the minute, each session coming back in with additions and ideas, and they met up in-between sessions to continue working on it



Kariong - Emotions



Wyoming - Ancestry



Coiling and Wrapping



Coiling, weave and stitch



Wet Felting examples



Collage and stitch



Wyong - Place, Hanging



Wyong - Place, Book



Mixed Media



Woy Woy - Body



Shibori/Indigo dyeing - Map of Central
Coast Coastline







**We took the project out into community and joined in public events
and festivals**



**We also had an arts trail/open day series for public to join in at Woy
Woy and Kariong**



The set up crew at the exhibition



A huge THANK YOU to Central Coast Council, Gosford Regional Community Services (especially Kathy Sock, Maria Turner, Kate Bright), the facilitators Lisa McArthur-Edwards, Jill Rumble, Julie-Ann Rodgers, Ruza Santos, Glenice Ware, Karen Jane Williams, the venues - Northern Womens Health Centre at Wyong, 1st Sea Scouts at Woy Woy, Kariong Arts Barn, Wyoming Community Centre.

Everyone who participated, help, baked goodies, made chai, shared their stories with open hearts and vulnerability.

In memory of a wonderful lady who sadly lost her life to cancer Helen Sullivan halfway into our project.

Participants:

Joyce Abbott, Jorie Benson, Shakeh Bezberian, Sandy Black, Tara Bolton, Jane Bowtell, Jay Brown, Christine Burge, Atlanta Camilleri, Donna Carey, Stella Ceronio, Catherine Chinnery-Doyle, Susan Clarsen, Sally Conn, Catherine Cooper, Vicki Dedeigbo, Alice De Gruchy, Sarita Degruchy, Anne Dore, Sona Dsouza, Catherine Dyball, Oomera Edwards, Jodie Esau, Judi Fabiszewski, Karyn Galbrath, Wendy Gale, Sue Hamling, Aleena Hines, Hazel Hopping, Vivian Hu, Kate Jagger, Leanne Jarret, Judi Jones, Kiara L'Herpinier, Leanne Lawrence, Rose Leijten, Elisabeth Leslie, Hanna Lofgren, Jan Lund, Lyn Maher, Anna Masella, Jill Meredith, Eileen Miller, Jill Nelson, Kerrie Newell, Sarah Newton, Jane Parker, Simoni Pilavakis, Janine Prosser, Anna Rochka, Irene Rudan, Glynn Ryall, Carol Sahey, Catherine Stanley, Helen Sullivan, Courtney Sutcliff, Colleen Squires, Sue Thomson, Fiona Thornycroft, Diane Van Der Vywer, Bronwyn White, Therese Gabriel Wilkins, Karen J Williams, Lisa Wriley

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McArthur-Edwards**

**Supported by Central Coast Council
Auspiced by Gosford Regional
Community Services**

**A community project that brought
together women of the Central Coast to
weave, stitch, create and learn together.**

This is a record of our journey

Image on front cover by Catherine Stanley