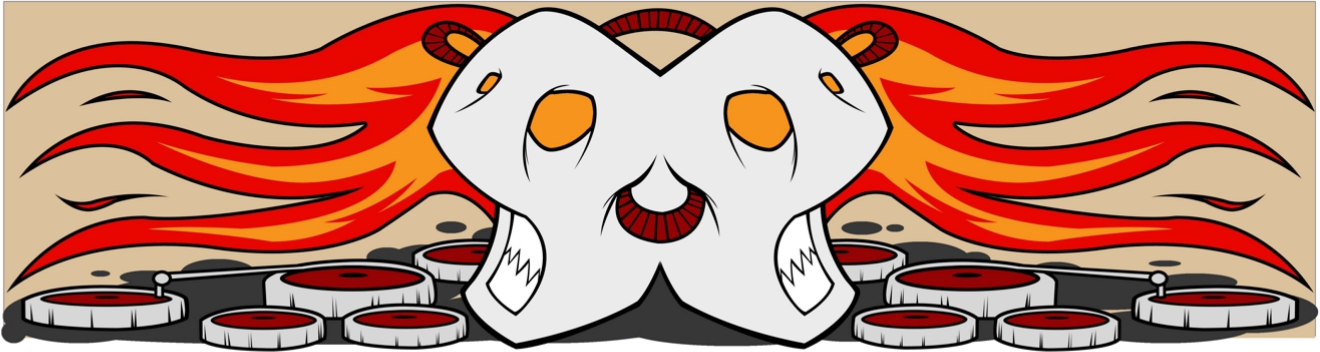


## Project Evaluation Report

# *Fully Sick !!! Youth Public Art Project*

Bundaberg, February – June 2006

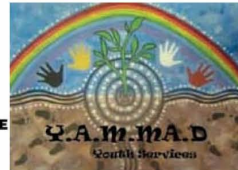


**A project managed by the Bundaberg Arts Centre  
An Arts and Cultural Initiative of the Bundaberg City Council**



*The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative delivered in partnership with the Bundaberg Arts Centre, an arts and cultural initiative of the Bundaberg City Council.*

A collaborative community project with the following partners:



Avenell Heights Progress Association  
Bundaberg Youth Committee



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### **Project Partners and Sponsors** **BUNDABERG CITY COUNCIL**

Although the Arts Centre is a part of the Bundaberg City Council, we feel it is important to acknowledge the partnerships that this project developed between departments. Staff who assisted with this project included painters, cleaners, electricians and parks and gardens workers. The positive end results of the project have helped facilitate more positive working relationships.

### **YACCA**

Youth and Community Combined Services (hereafter referred to as YACCA) are a program of YMCA Bundaberg. YACCA's goal is to reduce the incidence of young people aged between 10-16 years in Bundaberg from entering the Juvenile Justice System. YACCA works with young people considered at risk of offending - particularly those experiencing family breakdown, limited educational and employment opportunities, lack of skills and abilities to develop social resilience, lack of access to recreational activities, lack of self worth and involvement with anti-social peer groups.

YACCA was involved in the Skate Bowl project. Breeze Slattery was the Coordinator at the time of this project (now moved to a position at Community Solutions). Breeze assisted by encouraging youth participation, providing contacts within the youth services sector, advising Arts Centre staff on strategies on dealing with youth and providing hands on assistance at workshops and during production at the Skate Bowl.

Breeze also facilitate airbrushing workshops with local artist Chay Targett. This ended up being an addition to the project that was brought about the level of interest the Skate Bowl participants had in continuing workshops at the Arts Centre. Chay is still a youth himself and tutoring

was a completely new process for him. Although the technique itself proved to be difficult to tutor due to a lack of equipment, it was a great learning process for all involved.



*Breeze Slattery (former Coordinator of YACCA) was a fantastic support during this project*

### **YAMMAD**

Young and Murri Making a Difference (hereafter referred to as YAMMAD) is an Indigenous Youth program of the Bundaberg and Burnett Community Development Employment Program (hereafter referred to as CDEP). Their main goal is to facilitate youth access to community services.

YAMMAD assisted with recruiting young people for both the Skate Bowl and Boreham Park projects. They also provided refreshments such as sausage sizzles and drinks at some of the workshops during the project. On the day of the launch, YAMMAD had a stall at the Skate Bowl, displaying products from the CDEP's gallery Indigart.





*Staff from YAMMAD at the launch of the Skate Bowl murals*

### **BUNDABERG YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Members of the Bundaberg Youth Committee participated in workshops to assist in designing for both the Skate Bowl and Norville Pool sites. They also assisted in promoting the project to their peers.

On the day of the launch, the Committee also organised a sausage sizzle and drinks stall as well as providing a DJ for the day.



*The Bundaberg Youth Committee organised a sausage sizzle stall.*

### **AVENELL HEIGHTS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

The Boreham Park site is in the suburb of Avenell Heights. The Avenell Heights Progress Association had long advocated that this site be utilised for a mural. The Association provided financial sponsorship of the paint costs for the mural.



*President of the Avenell Heights Progress Association Connie Bauer officially launching the Boreham Park murals*

### **NEWS-MAIL**

The Bundaberg News-mail provided a great deal of support for the project through sponsored advertising and promotion in the News-mail, the Guardian and their TV Guide. Copies of this are attached in the support materials.

### **SEA FM**

Sea FM also provided fantastic sponsored advertising and promotional support for the project. They aired numerous ads in the lead up to the launch, had live broadcasts from the Skate Bowl and distributed fliers from the Sea FM Cruiser. A letter from their Promotions Manager is attached in the support materials.

### **BUNNINGS**

Bunnings provided a \$300 gift voucher for the project which was spent on the purchase of an airbrushing set and compressor for the workshops held with Chay Targett in between the designing and production phases of the project to keep the momentum going for participants.

### **ARMOURDILLO**

Armourdillo were the company that recommended Scott Robinson for the project. He is one of their designers. They also provided 50 hats, 50 stickers and 10 t-shirts to give out as incentives for participants.



## **OTHER COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

### ***Local high schools***

Local high schools were an important link to young people. Lead artist Chris Johnstone is a secondary school art teacher and he utilised this network to distribute information about the project and recruit interested young people to participate. Indigenous Liaison Officers and Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness (hereafter referred to as ASSPA) were also vital contacts, particularly for the Boreham Park site.

### ***Youth forum***

Bundaberg Community Development Inc facilitates a network called the Youth Forum which brings together youth support organisations from the region. They have an email network and this was utilised on several occasions to promote the project.

## **Boreham Park Site**



*The Boreham Park Site before the Fully Sick Youth Public Art Project*

Boreham Park was a site long advocated for a painted mural by the Avenell Heights Progress Association. Set in a lovely, open environment in the middle of a residential area, the PAAG felt this was a great site to showcase Indigenous stories as told through our local youth.

Indigenous artist James Chapman of the Wakka Wakka tribe was employed as the Lead Artist for the Boreham Park element of the project. Not being from this country, James was mindful to always acknowledge and respect the traditional owners acknowledged as the Taribelang Bunda people.



*James Chapman working at the mural site*

James Chapman has produced many collaborative mural projects in this region. He is also employed by CDEP and

currently runs their Furniture Making Workshop. This workshop fitted out the Indigart Gallery that opened in April this year. James has recently been asked by CDEP to investigate options for establishing a workshop that will become the supplier of arts and crafts products for Indigart.

The Boreham Park mural workshops began with discussions about things that are important to Indigenous youth about Bundaberg, looking at landscapes and features, wildlife and acknowledging traditional owners Australia-wide. James also helped them to explore transferring their ideas from contemporary to traditional artwork. This was a learning tool for the youth to help them rediscover elements of their culture.

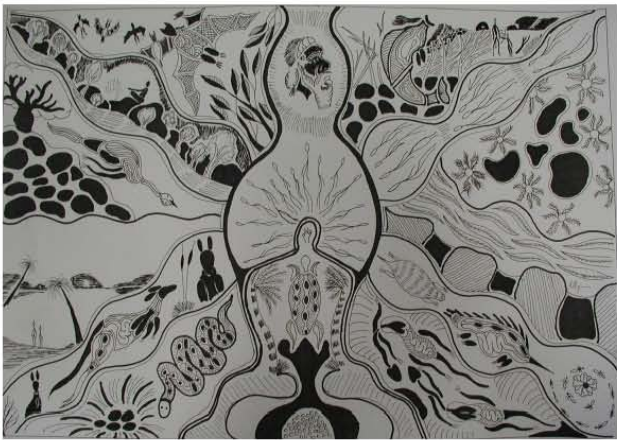
In all, there were 10 youth participants in the designing and production phases of the project. They were supported by James, YAMMAD workers who are mostly youth themselves, and parents. During the workshops, they produced paintings on canvas boards.



*One of the paintings produced in the workshops by a youth participant*

The end result of these workshops was two designs. These designs were then drawn together by James Chapman in a final design that was presented to the Bundaberg City Council for approval.





*The draft designs that were presented to Council. You can see where the painting above fits into the first design.*

The presentation that James Chapman made to the Council at an official meeting was gratefully acknowledged and respected. In turn James thanked the Council for the opportunity this project had given the Indigenous community in highlighting their culture.

Each section of the designs represented a different concept thought up by the group or by individual youth participants.

“Colours of Culture” is the mural that faces Dunn Road and celebrates the youth’s stories. Starting from the centre and working your way clockwise from the top right are the elements of the stories:

1. Aboriginal Elder created by the group
2. Tribe created by Kaiya Walker
3. Elder’s Hand created by the group
4. Turtle Hatchings and the Mon Repos Rookery created by Pereiha Johnson
5. Aboriginal Hand-Made Fish Trap with a Barramundi in the Trap created by the group

6. Multicultural Society created by Nikita Grant
- 7 & 8. Views of the Mystery Craters created by Jeremy Ambrum
9. Echidna Feeding on Ants created by the group
10. Goannas Fighting for Territory created by the group
11. A Python Circling a Scrub Turkey’s Eggs created by the group
12. A Kangaroo created by the group
13. Bundaberg Beaches created by Ashley Parsons
14. Fig Tree on the Hummock and the Scrub Turkey Rushing Down from the Hummock to Save the Eggs from the Python created by Georgia Reardon, Kaiya Walker and the group
15. Aboriginal Man Camps Along Steep Banks of the Burnett River in a Small Cave created by the group
16. Flying Foxes on the Move created by the Group



*“Colours of Culture”*

These elements are described in detail on the interpretive signage designed for the site.



*One of the interpretive signs for Boreham Park*

“Hidden Culture”, featured on the Avenell Street side of the mural, tells a story about losing the values that are really important to the Indigenous community. There has been much destruction of the land through industry and development which wipes out

sacred sites. Talking about these issues was a great learning process for the Indigenous youth involved in the project.



*"Hidden Culture"*

The bottom layer of the design is a Bora-ring which is a traditional celebration ground for corroborees and events. Records of celebrations were kept here. The figures in this design are dancing. The middle layer of the design is a sugar cane field burn off. The top layer depicts the smoke rising to the air from the burn off, containing images of ancestors.

This is the first time a story that refers to the effects of development on Indigenous culture has been told publicly in this manner.



*Boreham Park Project Participants*



*The other interpretive sign for Boreham Park (actual size 60 x 120 cms)*



## Norville Pool Site



*The Norville Pool front walls prior to the project*

Chris Johnstone was employed as the lead artist for the Norville Pool site. He works full time as a teacher at Shalom College which is approximately 1 kilometre from the pool itself. He also has a great depth of experience from his teaching career, extracurricular school-based activities and from his professional career as an artist.

After recruiting youth interested in potentially pursuing a creative career through local high schools, Chris Johnstone held his first workshop at the Bundaberg Arts Centre. Each participant was given a journal to document their ideas throughout the project and to paste in information and handouts (you can tell this artist has a teaching background!). The workshops explored techniques of painting on glazed tiles and themes relevant to “water”.



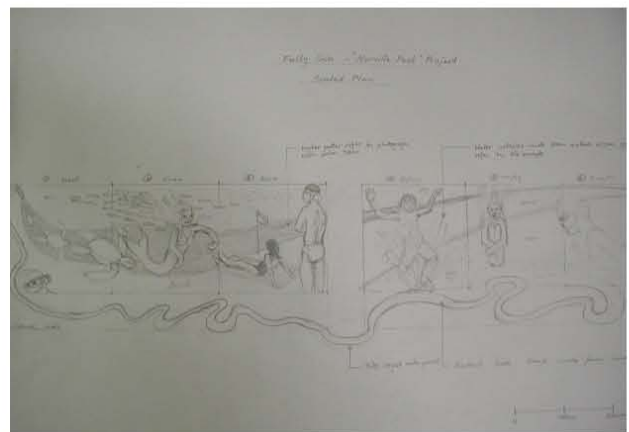
*First workshop at the Bundaberg Arts Centre*

The remaining workshops were held at Shalom College, where participants produced paintings on paper and further explored the materials they could use to create effects on tiles.



*Design by Brigitte Daniel*

Chris Johnstone worked with the youth participants to draw their designs together for the mural. This design was then presented to Council.



*Sketch for Norville Pool Mural*

Through a series of production workshops, the participants painted up their parts of the mural.





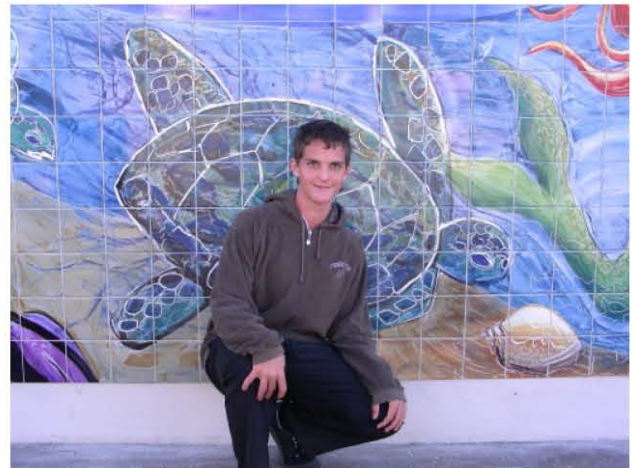
*Part of the design following kiln firing at Shalom College*

The end result was the mural in two parts  
 "Fascination with Water". As described  
 on the interpretive signage,

"Childhood memories or fascination with water is the theme of the collaborative mural by six young people of Bundaberg. Trent, Fran, Caterina, Hayley, Jasmine and Brigitte celebrate fun with water. The shimmering and reflective qualities of water are paralleled on the surface of the tiles. The effect of water is transferred onto the tiled surface with free flowing painting in bright colours. "



*Caterina and Fran Nicolo with their designs representing our beach culture*



*Trent Schulze with his design reflecting the local environment and the importance of turtles in our community*



*The finished murals*



*Brigitte Daniel with her painting of her sister swimming*





*Hayley Forman and her design appropriate for a pool – bomb diving!*



*The interpretive sign for the site (actual size 60 x 120 cms)*

## Central Park Skate Bowl Site



*The Skate Bowl and its toilet block prior to the project*

Scott Robinson is a graphic artist, designer and skate shop owner. He was recommended to us by our sponsor Armourdillo as one of their skate deck designers. Scott also skates. These characteristics made him the perfect choice for appealing to the youth we wanted to attract to the skate bowl project. It worked a charm. Scott was able to get through to some of the youth participants who did not even want to put pen to paper.

The first workshop for this project was held on site with a sausage sizzle provided by YAMMAD. We utilised our networks and partnerships, as well as posters at the site to encourage participation. Including several kids who stayed in the background and observed from a distance, there were approximately 40 participants.



*Scouting out the site*

Everyone was encouraged to brainstorm their ideas for the murals, their favourite things and stories they wanted to tell onto large pieces of butcher's paper. Every idea was written down (even the obscene ones) which then gave the kids there the idea that what they said was noticed. They then started coming up with more relevant ideas.



*Brainstorming theme ideas*

Out of the 30 or so active participants at the skate bowl, 21 continued on to the designing workshops. These were held over a concentrated weekend. The ideas from the skatebowl were sorted into themes and groups began drawing up concepts based on these themes.





*Kate and Tiani working on the environment theme*



*Scott watching Rachel and Ashley working on their science fiction themes including the "space lady" and alien*

*The following pictures tell a thousand words as project participant Chris who initially would not draw, learns that he can and ends up designing a whole mural*



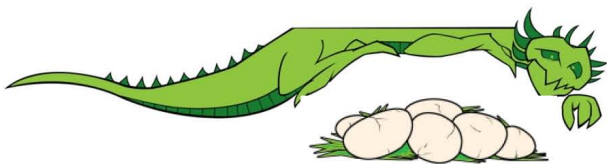


*This is Chris' design as drawn up by Scott Robinson*

These workshops made it clear that the youth did not want to create designs that were deep and meaningful. They wanted to reinforce the fact that this was a "Place to Escape" for them and that was the way they wanted it to stay. Some designs were also produced on canvas boards.



Scott took the designs back to Brisbane and drew them all together as concepts to present to the Council. This was the great result.



*Dragon and Eggs – a typical example of a youth popular culture influenced theme. Computer games, movies, music, streetwear as well as skating/surfing/BMX culture were strong influences on most of the designs*



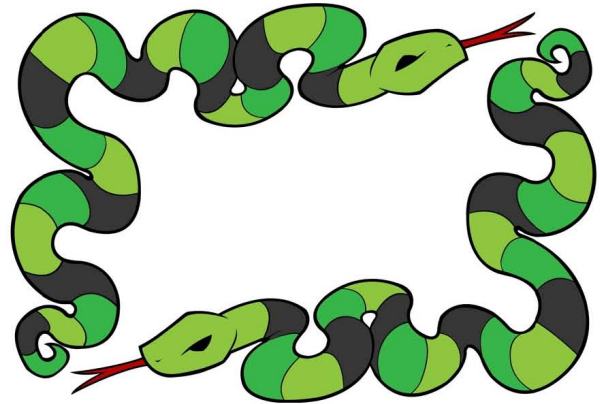
*Good and Evil Mushrooms – the mushroom character was based on a tag at the skate bowl, used with the permission of the tagger*



*Under the sea – this was the only reality based piece where the kids were commenting on what they like about their environment*



*The Flying Skull*



*The Snakes*



*The Robot, the Space Lady and the Alien*

The Council approved all the designs except the dagger behind the main mushroom as it was seen as promoting violent. This was removed from the design and production began. Painting of walls was conducted systematically so that parts of the bowl would always be open for use.





*Casey and David working on the Flying Skull*



*Local artist Helen Francis who volunteered to help out*



*Photos taken on the last day of painting on site*



*Scott working on the Under the Sea section of the bowl*



Photos taken on the last day of painting on site



The interpretive sign for the site (actual size 60 x 120 cms)



## **Other Promotional Activities**

### **Youth Week**

The original launch date for the project was to be during Youth Week. However due to unavoidable delays with funding, the project was put back. During Youth Week, the Arts Centre instead put up a display of the designs of the murals which had been mostly finalised by this time. The display was held in the foyer of the Shalom College Performance Complex where the Youth Week "Flicker Fest" was held – a competitive film festival for youth. This gave people an opportunity to view the designs and give feedback to Youth Forum members that were present. The feedback was very positive about the project.

### **Launch**

The launch of the Fully Sick Youth Public Art Project as completed murals was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. A free bus tour was organised by the Arts Centre which took 25 members of the community and project participants to each site. The tour started at Boreham Park where morning tea was provided beside the mural.



*Morning tea at Boreham Park*

A welcome to country was performed by Taribelang Bunda Elder Violet Smith and the mural was officially launched by Connie Bauer, President of the Avenell Heights Progress Association and the signs for the site unveiled.



*Aunt Violet Smith and Connie Bauer speaking at the launch.*

Jayson Kokles who coordinates YAMMAD spoke about the project and its significance and James Chapman praised the youth involved in the project. Some of the project participants were invited to speak but had an attack of stage fright as over 60 people gathered for the launch of this mural. Many of these people were neighbours of the park, members of the Avenell Heights Progress Association, family members of participants, Elders and the arts community.

After some initial delays, there was also a performance including a Wakka Wakka didgeridoo player and from the Woungra Dance group. These performances enhanced the spiritual significance of the murals for all who were present.



*James Chapman speaking at the launch*





*Performers at Boreham Park*

The bus then took everyone to Norville Pool. I (Shelley Pisani) officially launched this mural on behalf of Kevin Hides (QAC) who apologised for not being able to be present. This was utilised as an opportunity to promote the Regional Arts Fund and Queensland Arts Council. Chris Johnstone then spoke about the project, followed by the youth participants. Fran Nicolo and Trent Schulze spoke about their designs and what they learned from the project. Approximately 40 people attended this part of the day.



*Chris Johnstone speaking at the launch*



*Trent, Brigett, Hayley, Fran and Nina who designed the mural for Norville Pool with the assistance of lead artist Chris Johnstone. They are speaking at the launch of the murals on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.*

The bus then travelled to its final destination at the Central Park Skate Bowl. In total an estimated 60 – 80 people visited the skate bowl that day. As we have discovered throughout the project, the users of the skate park don't tend to respond well to organised events and prefer to have the place to themselves. This day was no exception. Many of those who visited did not actively participate in the launch event, but the fact that there has only been one minor incident of vandalism in the month since these murals were painted is testament to their accepting of the project.





*Cr Dave Amos sizzling up a storm*



*YAMMAD had a display of artworks and products from the Indigart Gallery and information about their organisation*



*The Bundaberg Youth Committee also organised and paid for a DJ for the day which was enjoyed by bowl users*



*Mayor of Bundaberg, Cr Kay McDuff officially launched the murals at the Skate Bowl*

### ***Exhibition at the Arts Centre***

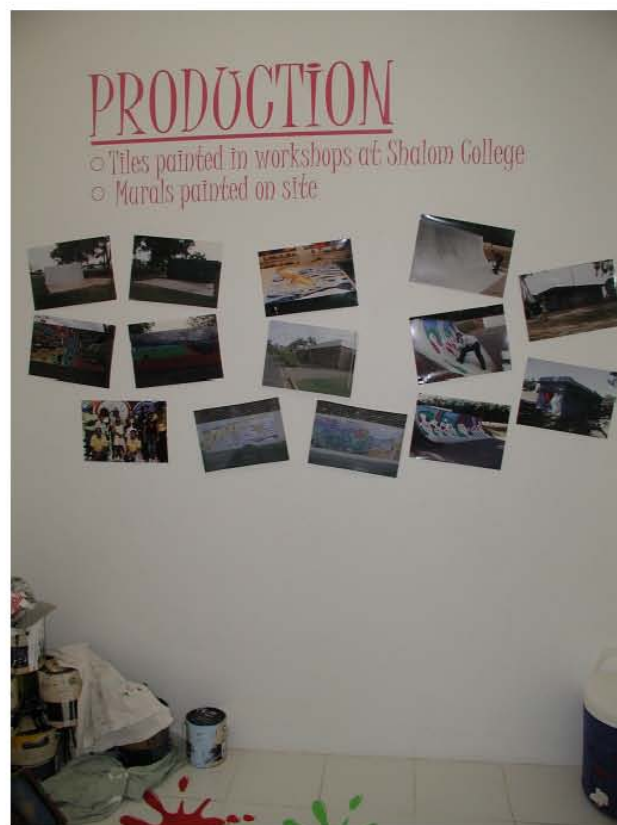
A late cancellation in the Vault Contemporary Art Space meant that we had an opportunity to put up an exhibition about the Fully Sick Youth Public Art Project. A total of 772 visited this exhibition series in its first two weeks.



*The entry to the Vault Contemporary Art Space*



*The exhibition takes visitors through the processes of the project*



*A PowerPoint display shows photographic evidence of the processes involved in the project*



## HOW THE PROJECT WAS RECEIVED BY ITS AUDIENCE

The youth who participated seemed to really enjoy and engage in the process. I did not survey them in the end (see Paperwork Hurdle at the end of this report). The fact that we had continuing participation throughout the project and requests for more workshops from a number of the youth involved, demonstrate their willingness to be involved. Many of the younger participants have indicated that they are keen to come along to our School Holiday Program at the BAC. We are looking into commencing workshops targeting the 13-17 year old age bracket starting in September this year.

Witnessing several kids in particular just blossom with the support of workers on the project and the newly acquired ability to express themselves creatively was real evidence that our objectives had been achieved with youth.

Some reactions of the community have also lead us to believe that this project was well received:

- A newspaper photographer coming running out of her car in between appointments. She had been driving by the skate bowl when she noticed the new “splash of colour”. “Why didn’t I now about this?” she exclaimed. She later returned to take some fantastic photos that were later printed in the News-mail in full colour.
- The number of people that came over to speak to James Chapman at the Boreham Park site during production of the murals really pleased him. He has commented on several occasions that this project was a real step forward in breaking down the barriers between the Indigenous community and the general population in Bundaberg.

Please see attached letters and emails from project participants and partners.

## EXTENT OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The following table breaks down the participation levels of the project, including local participation.

Date 2006	Activity	Site			Participation Levels		
		Boreham Park	Norville Pool	Skate Bowl	Youth	Workers	Other Volunteers/ Community Members
10 Feb	Ideas Workshop & Sausage Sizzle			35	23	12	
12 Feb	Ideas Workshop		7		5	2	
17 Feb	Ideas Workshop	8				8	
17-18 Feb	Design Workshop			14	11	3	
19 Feb	Design Workshop		6		5	1	
26 Feb	Design Workshop		6		5	1	
3 Mar	Design Workshop	4			1	3	
5 Mar	Design Workshop		6		5	1	
17 Mar	Airbrushing Workshop			9	6	3	
20 Mar	Design Workshop	18			10	6	2
21 Mar	Design Workshop	20			10	6	4
23 Mar	Design Workshop	18			10	6	2
24 Mar	Airbrushing Workshop			12	10	2	
25 Mar	Design Workshop	19			11	6	2
29 Mar	Design Workshop	18			10	6	2
31 Mar	Airbrushing Workshop			4	2	2	
7 April	Youth Week Flicker Fest Film Festival – Display of mural designs in Foyer						200 (no breakdown available – few direct project participants)
26 April	Design Presentation to Council					14	
28 April	Site Safety Inspections					2	
2 May – 3 Jun	Onsite Production of Murals	14			10	4	
2-30 May	Offsite Production of Murals and Onsite Installation		7		5	2	
15-19 May	Onsite Production of Murals			38	28	6	4
3 Jun	Bus tour and official launch of murals including stalls at the Skate Bowl	60	40	60	60	11	89
31 May – 16 Jul	Fully Sick Youth Public Art Project Exhibition (latter dates forecast by average)						2401 (no breakdown available – few direct project participants)
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	179	72	172	227	107	2706
	<b>%</b>	42%	17%	41%	7%	4%	89%
	<b>TOTAL NO.</b>						<b>3040</b>

NB – This table includes repeat participation by individuals. Estimates on the cover sheet attempt to eliminate this.



## **BENEFITS**

### **Benefits for Project Participants**

- The building of networks between the BAC and CDEP with an offer from the BAC to run ceramic workshops with them to help in the establishment of their studios to supply the Indigart Gallery
- For the Boreham Park participants, learning more about their traditional culture (it was surprising and saddening how few of them knew their language groups/ tribes)
- Youth being able to tell their stories and be creative about that process
- Youth given a sense of ownership of the public spaces where their work is on show
- Active engagement in the arts leading to the development of creative skills
- For some, experience in public speaking
- Given Certificates of Participation that they can use in their resumes
- Positive promotion of youth and their capabilities

### **Benefits for the Artists**

- Learning how to negotiate through government processes, particularly in relation to local government lead public art projects
- Experience in working with youth
- Experience in leading workshops where the participants are given more control of the designing process
- Experience in public speaking

### **Benefits for the Bundaberg Arts Centre**

- Promotion of our facilities and programs to participants, particularly those who attended workshops held at the BAC

- Development of networks in the youth and Indigenous sectors of the community
- Learning about youth and cultural needs and protocols

### **Benefits for Project Partners**

- Broadening of networks and community contacts
- Promotion of business/ organisation to youth, other partners and participating community members
- For hands-on partners, experience in creative processes

### **Benefits for the Bundaberg Community**

- Better appreciation of the abilities of our youth
- Civic enhancement and engagement of the community in revitalising community assets
- Learning about the arts and community services available in Bundaberg