

Colouring our Habitat

Artist and community groups: Karen Atkins and Creating Wellbeing Group (North Sydney); Michele Morcos and Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College; Jessica Birk and North Sydney Demonstration School; Tina Fox and North Sydney Girls High School; Tim de Hann and Planet X Youth Centre; Ad Long and Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club; Rebecca Pierce and Neutral Bay Public School.

Karen Atkins and the Creating Wellbeing Group



Box 1. Fitzroy St cnr Broughton St, Kirribilli



Box 2. Broughton St cnr Burton St, Kirribilli



Box 3. Clark Rd cnr High St, North Sydney



Box 4. Pacific Hwy cnr Walker St, N Sydney

Boxes 1-4

Artist and local resident Karen Atkins painted four signal boxes in Kirribilli and the North Sydney CBD. The boxes were developed by the artist in collaboration with the North Sydney Council's Creating Wellbeing group and are based on the unique features of North Sydney, in particular its icons and proximity to the harbour. Karen presents a series of playful depictions of her surrounds by incorporating surrealist type imagery, which peacefully floats across the North Sydney landscape.

About the Artist

Karen Atkins resides in North Sydney and is a past winner of the NSC Art Prize. She was educated at Monash and Melbourne Universities and her work is held in private collections around the world. Karen has worked as a tutor in Council's Creating Wellbeing program for many years.

About the Group

[Creating Wellbeing](#) is a North Sydney Council Arts & Cultural Program which runs monthly at North Sydney Community Centre. The program was established in 2004 and is designed to promote and support social inclusion, community, creativity and happiness.

Michelle Morcos and Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College



Box 5. Walker St cnr Pacific Hwy, North Sydney



Box 7 & 8. Berry St cnr Miller St, North Sydney

Boxes 5-7

Artist and local resident Michele Morcos held a number of workshops with students from Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College to develop designs based on each site and the particular urban landscape found in North Sydney. In the box located in Walker Street, for example, Michele refers to the surrounding architectural shapes that fold and concertina the blue sky into tiny pockets of colour when gazing upwards

About the Artist

Michele Morcos is a visual artist with a studio practice in Sydney. She graduated from the College of Fine Arts (UNSW) in 1999 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting) and a BA Honours in Art Theory. After living overseas and travelling throughout Europe, Michele held her first solo exhibition in 2002 followed by over 20 group exhibitions throughout Australia. She has been a finalist in The Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship on two occasions and was a finalist for The Mosman Art Prize in 2009. In 2010 Michele completed a six month studio residency at The Primrose Studios in North Sydney, which concluded with a major exhibition in June. Michele has worked in Sydney galleries for 10 years and until recently worked for Object: Australian Design Centre in Sydney. In 2013 Michele helped to establish a new Pop Up Art Space in Crows Nest.

About the Group

Monte Sant Angelo College is an independent Catholic high school in North Sydney. <http://www.monte.nsw.edu.au>

Jessica Birk and North Sydney Demonstration School



Box 6. Berry St cnr Walker St, North Sydney



Box 9. Pacific Hwy cnr Miller St, North Sydney



Box 12. Miller St cnr McLaren St, North Sydney



Boxes 19 & 20 Falcon St & Military Rd, Neutral Bay

Boxes 8, 9, 10, 19 & 20

Northern Beaches artist Jessica Birk held a series of workshops at North Sydney Demonstration School engaging the students in a series of art making activities. Informed by her indigenous heritage and inspired by the student's response to the theme *Colouring our Habitat*, Jessica developed and painted designs on five traffic signal boxes. In these colourful boxes Jessica depicts the local flora and fauna and its role in both the built and natural environment.

About the Artist

Jessica Birk is a descendant of the Yaegl people from the Northern Rivers of NSW. Jessica graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from COFA, UNSW in 2007. She has participated in many group exhibitions and had several major solo exhibitions. Jessica was a finalist in the prestigious parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize and in 2009, the joint winner of the inaugural QANTAS Young Emerging Artist Award.

About the Group

North Sydney Demonstration School is fortunate to have an in-house Art Teacher and specialised art room. The children were excited to participate in this public art initiative.

Tina Fox and North Sydney Girls High School



**Box 10. Pacific Hwy cnr Miller St,
North Sydney**



**Box 11. McLaren St cnr Pacific Hwy,
North Sydney**



**Box 18. North Sydney Girls High School,
Pacific Hwy, Crows Nest**

Boxes 11,12 & 17

Artist and local resident Tina Fox held a series of workshops with students from North Sydney Girls High School to develop ideas based on site, camouflage, street art and the urban landscape. As an architect and artist the idea of the site was critical to Tina in the development of the box designs. It was important that each box responded directly to their unique environment and to create what Tina refers to as a type of urban camouflage. According to Tina "Each final design is site specific and draws direct inspiration from the pavement patterns, tree shadows, road markings and fence boundaries. The colours were also matched to the local environment. These elements were abstracted into graphic designs that both melt into the immediate landscape and trick the eye with playful patterns".

About the Artist

Tina Fox is an artist and designer from the UK. She trained and worked as an architect in London before moving to Sydney in 2011. She now lives in Neutral Bay and continues her art practice which treads the line between craft and architecture.

About the Group

North Sydney Girls High School is a fully selective school in Crows Nest. <http://web2.northsydgi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/public>

Tim de Haan and Planet X Youth Centre



Boxes 13 & 14. North Sydney Oval Miller St, North Sydney



Box 15. Falcon St cnr Miller St, North Sydney



Box 16. Falcon St cnr Miller St, North Sydney



Box 17. West St cnr Falcon St, Crows Nest

Boxes 13, 14, 15, 16 & 18

Local artist Tim de Haan worked with a range of students from local high schools who visit North Sydney Council's Planet X Youth Centre. Together they developed colourful and expressive designs based on the urban landscape and his own visual language, exploring familiar and strange motifs found in nature.

About the Artist

Sydney based artist, Tim de Haan has worked in public spaces around Australia and beyond. He has a strong background in graffiti and small and large scale mural artworks. Tim is very active in community programs, inspiring the artistic potential of this now popular art movement. Largely inspired by nature, his works reflect his own unique realms of symbolism, multiculturalism and mythology.

About the Group

Planet X is the Council youth centre for 12-18 year olds living, working or studying in the North Sydney area.

Rebecca Pierce and Neutral Bay Public School



Box 22. Ben Boyd Rd cnr Yeo St, Neutral Bay



Boxes 25 & 26. Ben Boyd Rd cnr Ernest St, Neutral Bay



Box 27. Belgrave St cnr Waters Rd, Neutral Bay



Box 28. Wycombe Rd cnr Military Rd, Neutral Bay

Boxes 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

Local artist Rebecca Pierce worked with Neutral Bay Public School students in a series of workshops where the children were encouraged to explore their own creative potential to produce a variety of vibrant designs. The completed boxes relate to her unique artistic process and the way in which she plays with both design and stylistic elements to construct a richly patterned surface. The boxes refer to the landscape and create a colourful contrast amidst the greenery of Neutral Bay.






About the Artist

Rebecca Pierce OAM is a self-taught Australian artist, exhibiting throughout Australia and internationally. Rebecca developed and created traffic jam galleries in Neutral Bay. The contemporary gallery is located at 41 Military Road. For information visit www.tjg.com.au

About the Group

Neutral Bay Public School is a primary school on Ben Boyd Road in Neutral Bay <http://www.neutralbay-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Ad Long and Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club

		
<p>Box 21. Watson St cnr Military Rd, Neutral Bay</p>	<p>Box 23. Ben Boyd Rd, cnr Military Rd, Neutral Bay</p>	<p>Box 24. Ben Boyd Rd cnr Military Rd, Neutral Bay</p>
		
<p>Box 29. Winnie St cnr Military Rd, Cremorne</p>	<p>Box 30. Winnie St cnr Military Rd, Cremorne</p>	

Boxes 7-11

Artist Ad Long worked with members of the Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club to develop eye catching designs based on two key personalities in the organisation as well as the Club's range of programs. His quirky and humorous designs animate the environs while drawing attention to the range of activities offered at the Centre.

About the Artist

Ad Long studied Architecture before becoming a cartoonist and illustrator. He has a great interest in the built environment and likes to use public art as a fun way to engage and celebrate local communities.

About the Group

Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club is located in the Neutral Bay Community Centre, 190-192 Military Road, Neutral Bay. The Club offers a range of resources and activities to the community, from computer lessons, dancing, games, outings and photography and more. The centre also has a library and visiting justice of the peace, providing advice on a broad range of issues. For information on Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club phone 9953 6447 or visit www.nbaycommunity.com.au

For more information, contact Alison Clark, Arts & Culture Coordinator on 9936 8187 or alison.clark@northsydney.nsw.gov.au