

Tapestry of thinking



Inner West REAIE Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 13th of September 2018

Betty Spears CCC

1A Gannon Street, Tempe

Present: *Explore and Develop Annandale: Su Garret, Melanie Alexander; Abbotsford LDC: Alicia Roberts and Emma Cullen via face time from Norfolk Island; Inner West Council Miho Kobayashi; Newington ELC: Malina Puna; Metamorphosis: Deb Garret; Betty Spears CCC: Karen Dresser, Ruth Mules; Camdenville Public School: Hollie Van Ravenstein and Pip; Rowena Robinson: Manly vale ELC; Annabel's Educare: Kate Quick.*

Apologies: *Helen Smith, Marione Barriere and Paula West.*

We began with a tour of the Betty Spears CCC, including the wonderful outdoor bush garden and sand pit areas. Members commented on the beautiful environments, which include an arts studio where our meeting was held.

Deb welcomed new and returning members. It was great to welcome two new members and to see Hollie and Pip from Camdenville Public school back in the group.

We acknowledged the Gadigal Wangal people of the Eora nation, past present and future.

Deb led a heartfelt exchange, honouring the memory of Ursula Kolby. Each person in the group was touched by Ursula's work in some way. Some were students or colleagues; all of us have read her books. Her legacy lives on the work that we all do promoting the arts and the rights of children.

We began the next part of the meeting by sharing some centre based experiences from Paula and Ruth.



Following on from our conversations about identity, Ruth shared an art experience where children expressed their identity through drawing and painting a collaborate piece. Common themes to the children's shared identity were: family; all sorts of animals - cats, dogs and horses; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture; nature and the environment; and friends. As well, many of the images portrayed feelings. Feelings were considered part of identity. For example, as described by Asha, 5 years old, *a bird that was crying was sad and her tears were collected by a unicorn who was happy.*

After drawing the images, Ruth invited children to pick out an image and describe what it means for them. When exploring identity, we asked *who am I* and *who are we?* What does identity mean? Asha replied "It's my life".



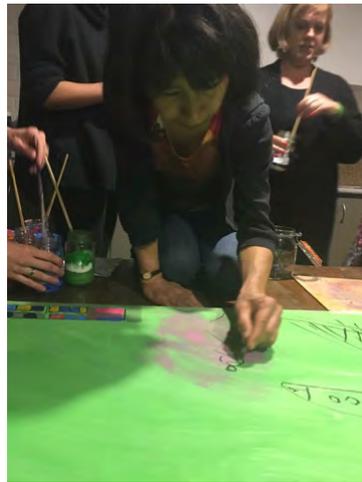
Paula shared her experience, where parents were engaged in creating their own art works through drawing or clay, depicting a still life. Ten parents got involved and created unique and wonderful work. As they worked, Paula demonstrated her clay skills. The parents all brought their own levels of understanding, skill and intrigue to the experience. As they worked together, they learnt from each other and got to know each other, creating relationships through art.

These experiences inspired us to set up an art provocation for our inner west group to further express all we had discussed over the year about our identity.

Our members were invited to create a canvas reflecting our identity as group.



Emma joins in via face time



Miho draws the statue of Marrickville library



Coming together



Standing back and discussing identity through art



After the creation of the art work, we reflected on these questions:

- How do relationships impact identity?
- Can you have an identity without relationships?
- How do we see art and relationships? Is art a vehicle for developing relationships?
- Does art bring us together through the process? Do relationships form and identity does identity emerge? Is this, in itself transformation?
- Deb shared our identity cards that members wrote at one of our first meetings. Compare and contrast to the images of identity in the artwork. We will explore these further at our next meeting.



*We travel by bus
A bird represents our values of
peace, equality and sustainability
A record represents the importance
of music
The Aboriginal flag*



*The planes fly over
the inner west.
We hear and see
them. They take us
places.
The Anzac bridge
with apartments
and urban skyline –
this is where people
live*



*The spider web represents all the
ideas of children and the way
knowledge and understandings
weave together*

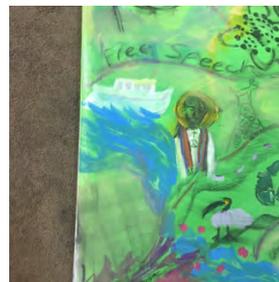
*The Pelican, totem of the Cooks
River.*



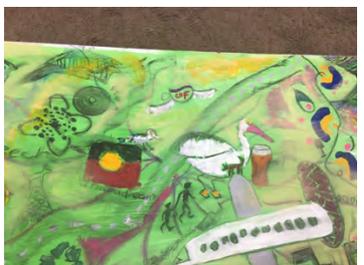
The fig tree



*The Ibis who eats up all scraps
from our bins
The terrace houses all linked
together where people live*



*The George Michael
mural representing
freedom of sexuality
and diversity and
activism for a better
and more equitable
world*

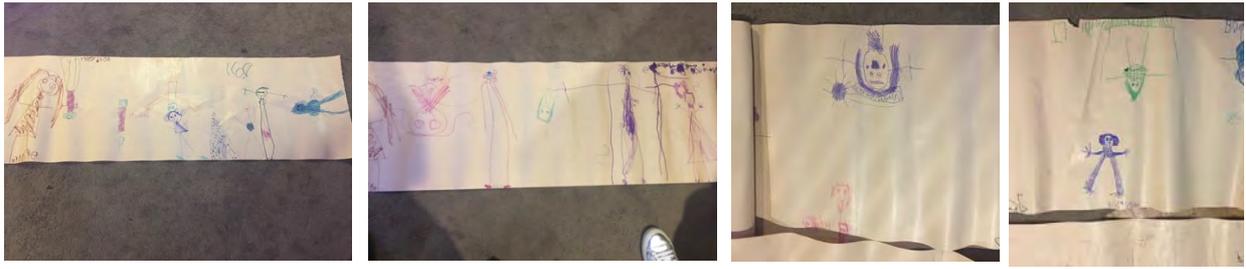


*The flying coffee cup
People meet together in cafes over
coffee*

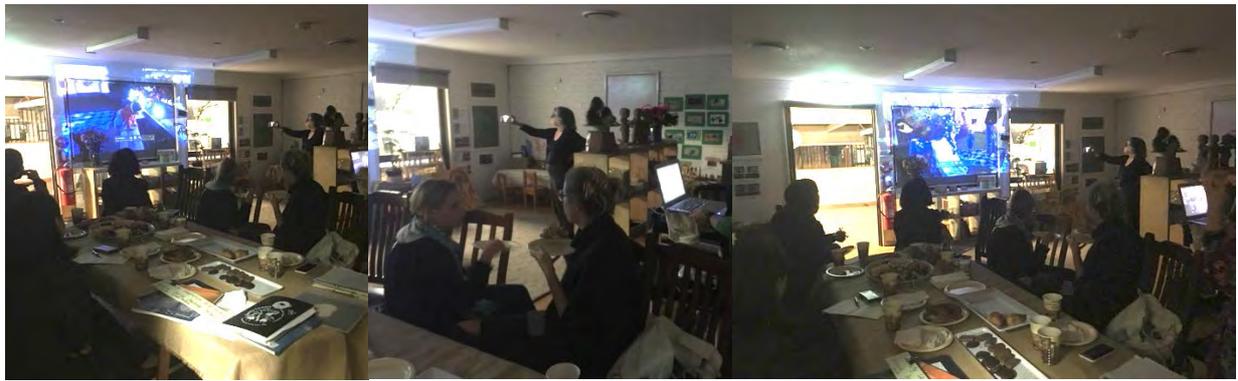


*The statue of
Marrickville library*





Children express their understandings of Identity, past, present and future - see attachment by Rowena Robinson



The video detailed the children's exploration light at a centre gathering with families - Please see attachment

Upcoming events and meetings

An Introduction to Reggio Emilia to be held in Sydney

Presenter: Jan Millikan

Date: Saturday 1 December 2018

Venue: UTS Broadway

Time: 9am-12.30pm

Our next meeting will be held at:

Camdenville Public School

Thursday 15th November

6pm

Minutes by Ruth, with input from Mel and Rowena