

China Theme Mural: Auburn Primary School

China Theme Mural

The mural was made by students of Auburn Primary School with artist Max Darby in September, 2017

The theme of this mural was **China** as the school teaches Mandarin to its students. The project was determined as a 'Transition' Year 4 and Year 5 project. All students from those 2 levels were given the opportunity to be involved. Most were able to take it.

Wherever possible, students did all of the painting. This can be best observed, for example, with the pandas and the many birds in the cherry bushes. There are about 60 birds, taken from examples that students found online on their i-pads. The panda paintings were based on each student sketching their own from a panda soft toy, which was posed in different positions by different students. It was undertaken as students would approach life drawing from a model. The bamboo was also painted totally by students.

The other various objects were also painted by students although it was difficult for them to paint straight lines well on a vertical surface as it was textured and bricks didn't quite line up. Help was required on the edges, for example, of the kites with faces taken from Beijing Opera Masks.

There is now a replica of a 2 metre Terracotta Warrior standing to the left of the foot bridge. A photo of this is to be included. Further landscaping will occur to the extreme right of the main, overall photograph. Students may get the chance later this year to paint tall totems in that space.

There are other works in this progressive school that enhance the environment of students at play. These can be found under [Artist in Residences](#), located in the side margin of this website.

There are 2 galleries below.

Images may take a minute to download

Enlargements can be made by clicking onto any image

Arrows to left and right of the large gallery image allow you to proceed and return.

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:287]

CD Mural: Pakenham Springs Primary School

CD Mural: Pakenham Springs Primary School

These photographs were taken by Max Darby in June, 2017

This mural was undertaken by all students and some staff and parents of Pakenham Springs Primary School in Term 2, 2017. The patterns were individually designed and painted onto unwanted CDs. These were then glued onto a sky blue background using high strength Liquid Nails. There are 3 panels making up the full length of the mural.

The project has a 'Recycling/Sustainability/Care for the Environment' theme. Unwanted CDs were donated to the school by the school community and about 1400 have been included. CDs were painted in flat bright colours using cotton buds to form the various patterns. These consisted mainly of dots and lines. Vipond acrylic paints were used because they are waterproof and light fast. Using cotton buds made organization easier as they could be discarded and brushes were not required to be washed between each class.

The images may take a minute to fully download

Arrows to right and left can be used to progress and return

Enlargements can be made by clicking onto an image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:286]

CD Mural: Ainslie Parklands Primary School

CD Mural: Ainslie Parklands P.S.

These photographs were taken by Max Darby in June, 2017

This mural, undertaken by the students of Ainslie Parklands Primary School, was based on the theme of Cherry Blossoms. Students, some parents and staff were encouraged to paint unwanted CDs in various shades of pinks, burgundy, maroon and with hints of blue. This can be seen in the completed mural and in the detailed photographs.

The project centered around a Recycling/Sustainability/Care for the Environment theme. A call was made to the school community to donate unwanted CDs to the art department. Discs were painted in flat background colours and individual designs and patterns were created by those taking part. Instead of paint brushes cotton buds were used to make dots and lines. Vipond pants were used as these are waterproof and light fast.

The design patterns were painted using cotton buds rather than paint brushes as these could be discarded at the end of a session.

The images may take a minute to completely download

Arrows to left and right allow you to proceed and return

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:284]

CD Mural: Northside Christian College.

CD Mural: Northside Christian College

This mural was created at Northside Christian College in 2016 and photographed by Max Darby

The students of Northside Christian College (and interested parents and teachers) created the beautiful, colourful designs that were hand-painted onto re-cycled and re-used Compact Discs (CDs).

This school project was intended to improve the aesthetic environment of the playground, to make a positive contribution to the physical environment and to acknowledge the Christian values of the school. While ensuring that Aboriginal works were not copied the opportunity to relate individual designs to what Indigenous artists create was taken.

Since the mural is located outdoors, the paint used was Vipond which is waterproof and light-fast. The designs were painted using cotton buds and round acrylic filters rather than paint brushes, These were discarded after each lesson making brush washing unnecessary.

Other CD murals in other schools can be found in this menu location

The images may take a minute to download

Arrows to left and right allow you to proceed and return

Enlargements can be made by clicking onto the main image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:278]

CD Mural: St Margaret's Catholic Primary School;

St Margaret's CD Mural

This mural was undertaken by Max Darby and students of St. Margaret's Catholic P.S.

Additional photographs will be added soon.

[smooth=id:270]

CD Mural: Clairvaux Catholic Primary School:

Clairvaux Catholic Primary School:CD Mural

The photographs were taken by Max Darby in July 2015

This mural is being undertaken by students at all levels at Clairvaux Catholic Primary School in Belmont, Geelong. Art teacher, Mary McMahon, working with Artist in Residence, Max Darby, are guiding students in the painting of about 1200 unwanted CDs.

The wall in the gallery seen here will be painted sky blue and the CDs will be attached using Liquid Nails. Tree trunks and branches will be painted onto the blue background and the CDs will form the leaves and blossoms.

Additional photographs will be added as the mural progresses.

The images will appear when all have fully downloaded
Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Click onto the main image to enlarge

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:269]

CD Mural: Auburn Primary School Fence

Auburn Primary School CD Mural

This fence CD mural is being undertaken as an Artist in Residence project by Max Darby in April/May 2015.

This work is currently being undertaken by students of all levels attending Auburn Primary School in 2015. Teacher Emma McKenzie and artist Max Darby are guiding the students in this project.

Additional photographs will be included as the mural begins to take form on the painted fence.

The images will appear when all have fully downloaded

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Enlargements can be made by clicking onto the main image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:268]

CD Wall Mural ISN

CD Wall Mural: ISN

These photographs were taken by Max Darby in December 2014

The CD wall mural in this gallery was created in 2014 by a small number of selected Years 7, 8 and 9 students at International School Nadi. It is a similar project to other CD murals located on this site.

This mural was quite challenging because it needed to be designed to fit a long thin format . Photographs in the gallery can only show about 1/3 of the mural in any single frame. The mural was created during in an after-school art club activity and took about 9 months to complete (working just an hour a week after school).

Special thanks to Carey, Jessica T, Jessica R, Eden, Risahwani and Atlanta.

The images will appear when all have fully downloaded
Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return
Enlargements can be made by clicking onto the main image
Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:262]

CD Wall Mural: Holy Family Primary School

CD Wall Mural: Holy Family Primary School

These photographs were taken by Max Darby in August 2013

This very large wall mural was made mainly from recycled CDs (and a few vinyl records) and was created by the primary students of Holy Family Primary School in North Geelong under the guidance of art teacher Ingrid Reed and Artist in Residence Dr. Max Darby. The idea centered on the topic of *'Creating new from old'*. It is closely related to ideas of recycling, conservation and sustainability.

The photographs show the completed mural as well as those of the work in production in the art room. The mural can be seen from the outside road, Separation Street, Geelong North.

The CDs were painted with Vipond paints which are light-fast and waterproof. This was necessary because the mural is located outside and not under cover, and will be exposed to rain and strong, hot sunlight. 1500 CDs were painted by all students Prep – Year 6 for this project.

The images will appear once all have completely downloaded

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Enlargements can be made using the icon in the middle of the main image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:230]

CD Wall Mural: Reservoir West Primary School

CD Mural: Reservoir West P.S.

This project was undertaken by Max Darby in Term 1 2012.

Details of this project can be found below the gallery images.

The images will take a minute to fully download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress or return

Click on the icon in the middle to enlarge

Comments can be left below the gallery.

[smooth=id:142]

This project was inspired by work made by students of St. Clement of Rome Primary School, Bulleen, and used on the cover of the Zart Art 2012 Catalogue. That idea has been extended and broadened and has now been fully installed.

The project involved the development of a large painted mural of a forest of trees. The leaves, flowers and blossoms were painted by students onto 4 different sized circular discs. The discs recede in diameter from 260mm diameter down to 120mm (CD discs were used for the small size, while wooden discs used inside boxes that hold Cheese Cakes were used for the larger discs). About 1400 circular discs were painted from which the final selections were made. The colours used for the leaves in the forest were in the range of a prism. Simple designs were painted onto each disc, as can be seen in the gallery above.

Vipond paints were used because of they are light fast and waterproof.

The work was installed at the end of Term 1, 2012.

C.D. Mural: Greensborough P.S.

C.D. Mural: Greensborough P.S.

This mural was undertaken with the students of Janet Troy by Max Darby during November and December, 2012

This mural project is titled *The Tree of Life* and was constructed of many re-cycled computer discs. The works were installed on an exterior wall in the playground of Greensborough Primary School on 7th December, 2012. The student designs were painted onto the CDs on the school's special `Arts Day` (29th November, 2012).

All of the CDs were painted by students Prep – Grade 6 prior to the day in warm background tones that are reminiscent of Australian Indigenous Art or the colours of Autumn- browns, yellows, oranges, reds and ochres. Onto these students painted their own rhythmic patterns many of which have been included in the two galleries below.

Vipond paints were used because they are both light-fast and waterproof.

The dots were carefully added using cotton buds and filter tips.

This gallery can be related to the murals completed at **Reservoir West Primary School** and **Auburn Primary School** which can found under **Artist in Residences**.

The images will appear when all are fully downloaded

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress or return

Enlarge by clicking onto the main image

Comments can be left below

[smooth=id:185]

**Rainforests: Caulfield
Grammar School. Grade 3.**

Rainforests: Caulfield Grammar School Grade 3

This work was produced in 2012 by Grade 3 students of the Wheelers Hill Campus under the guidance of Max Darby

Details of this Rainforest project can be found beneath the galleries below.

Another excellent and very different primary school project titled **Rainforest Flora Paintings** can be found on this website under **Art by Students**.

The images will take a minute to fully download

Progress or return using the arrows to left and right

Enlarge using the icon in the middle of the main image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:160]

The Grade 3 students of art teacher Anna Malin of Caulfield Grammar School, Wheelers Hill Campus were introduced to the idea of Rainforests, focusing on their structure, the kind of plants that would reside there and the nature of varying qualities of light. They were shown how to use coloured inks and fabric dyes on paper to create leaves and flowers based on rainforest vegetation.

Each student produced a number of leaves/flowers and these were cut out and attached to a 3 metre tall backboard. The backboard had been covered with fabric which was painted with inks and dyes onto a wet surface areas. This encouraged and allowed the bleeding and blending of the various shades of yellow, green and blues inks.

The students' work was cut out and attached to form the tall, colourful, vertical rainforest.

Alice in Wonderland: Caulfield Grammar school

Alice in Wonderland

This Artist in Residence project is currently being undertaken at the Wheelers Hill Primary School campus of Caulfield Grammar School.

This project involves Years 4 and 6 of the school working on the *Alice in Wonderland* theme (Year 3 students are working on a 'Rainforest Wall' project).

Progressive works from the project will be posted here regularly and an exhibition of completed works will eventually be included.

The completed works will be on display at the school production of the *Alice in Wonderland* play to be presented mid year 2012. They will also feature on this website in a separate gallery of completed artworks.

The Grade 4 student are making highly imaginative individual variations of a tea cups which will be decorated with colourful topics from the *Alice in Wonderland* story. The cups are being constructed using 'paper clay' and these will be painted using bright, imaginative and strong Acrylic paints. Characters and scenes from the story have been well-researched and will be included as painted motifs on the cup surface. One girl, at least, plans to make her cup like the hole through which Alice fell and tiny 3D animals will be added at the bottom inside her cup.

The Grade 6 students are working in pairs to make a large 3D wall plaque that will also address the *Alice in Wonderland* story.

The images will take a minute to fully download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress or return

Enlarge using the icon in the centre of the main image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:156]

Gallipoli: Caulfield Grammar School (Completed Paintings).

Gallipoli: Completed Paintings

These paintings were completed by Year 6 students at Caulfield Grammar School.

This file should be seen along with the other files on this website about the Caulfield Grammar School Artist in Residence project.

All finished works are made on sections of Pianola roll paper using acrylic paint.

Full details can be found below the images.

The images will take a minute to download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress or return

Enlargements can be made by clicking onto the icon in the middle of the
'landscape format' images

Comments can be added at the bottom of this gallery.

[smooth=id:147]

This Artist in Residence project was undertaken with the two Grade 6 classes of Caulfield Grammar School, Glen Iris Campus, during Term 1 in 2012.

The theme is Gallipoli, a major World War 1 site for Australian and New Zealand troops. The works are student interpretations of the Turkish beaches, cliffs and landforms that formed the battle fields for the ANZACS who landed there in 1915. Each student undertook research into the Gallipoli campaign which they brought to class each day on their i-pads. The work will be presented as part of the school's formal ANZAC Day memorial service.

The paintings have been completed using acrylic paint on sections of Pianola Rolls that were current songs and/or music from that era. The music video-taped from the rolls will be played during the display/exhibition of the works. Approximately 50 students will take part in the exhibition. Students will be provided with their own CD of the music and take away their own painting after the event.

This file shows the completed paintings while another file on this website shows the development of the works in progress. Many of the works were painted quite expressively showing confidence in the application of paint and the use of texture, line and variations of colour.

Pianola rolls formed, perhaps, the first major 'computerized' music available. A video of the rolls being fitted to the Pianola and being played will demonstrate the use of this musical instrument.

Gallipoli: Caulfield Grammar School (Work in progress)

Gallipoli: Caulfield Grammar School

This project was designed and developed by Max Darby in February/March, 2012. It is an in-progress file of the development of the project.

Other files accompanying this one will show the completed students paintings

A description of this project in process can be found beneath the images

The images will take a minute to download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Enlarge by clicking on icon in centre

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:144]

The theme of this project is Gallipoli, a major World War 1 site for Australian and New Zealand troops. The works will be student interpretations of the beaches, cliffs and landforms of the main battle fields for the ANZACS who landed there. It will be presented as part of the school's formal ANZAC Day memorial service. Landscape interpretations of the Turkish seaside coast where the military landing took place in 1915 will be made.

The paintings will be completed on sections of Pianola Rolls that were current songs and/or music from that era. The music taped from the rolls will be played during the display/exhibition of the works. Approximately 50 students will take part in the exhibition. Student will be provided with their own CD of the music and take away their own painting after the event.

This file shows the development of the works in progress including exploratory sketches, transferring sketches to the Pianola paper and the beginnings of the paintings.

Pianola rolls formed, perhaps, the first major 'computerized' music available. A video of the rolls being fitted to the Pianola and being played will demonstrate the use of this musical instrument.

Gallipoli: Caulfield Grammar School (Drawings)

Gallipoli: Preliminary Drawings

These drawing were made as preliminary investigations before the paintings were undertaken

The drawings below should be viewed in association to the other 2 files on Gallipoli (*Completed Paintings* and *Work in Progress*)

Each student made a drawing on paper of their preferred Gallipoli idea after investigating the photographs of the area.

These drawings were transferred to sheets of paper cut from a Pianola Roll. The drawings were then painted using acrylic paints.

The images will take a minute to fully download

Arrows to left and right of the main image allow you to progress or return

Enlarge by clicking on the icon in the middle

Comments can be left below.

[smooth =id: 154]

Auburn Primary School

Auburn P.S.

This project was completed in July 2011

The project at Auburn Primary School involved creating a huge outdoors wall mural. Each student (and some teachers) in the school (from Prep to Year 6) painted a topic that depicted something from their own life onto small waterproof boards.

The small paintings were combined to make a larger scene based on the environment.

The mural is located on the walls of a new centre and has been designed to make what could be considered to be a drab and boring location into a bright, colourful and interactive environment.

The images may take a minute to fully download. The arrows to left and right allow you to progress or return

Click on the icon in the middle to enlarge each image.

[smooth=id:109]

9" X 5" Paintings: Year 9: Wanganui Park S.C.

Wanganui Park S.C. 9" x 5" paintings.

The following paintings in the 9" x 5" format were influenced by the works of the Australian Impressionist artists around the 1880' and the dots and line paintings of Aboriginal artists. Both of these styles were referred to in class. Examples of work were made available for students to view, integrating studio practice with an appreciation of the work of other artists. The emphasis in the student works was on pattern, colour, repetition and variation. Certainly all of these qualities are evident in the resulting outcomes.

The 9" x 5" format was derived from some Australian Impressionist artists painting on the cedar lids of cigar boxes which were that size. This was a good, light and convenient size for quick Impressionist studies made outdoors. By 'flipping' the lid closed on the boxes, the wet oil paint was protected inside while they were carried from the bush locations where they were painted. Exhibitions of the 9" x 5" works were held in Melbourne in the 1880's. Many of these have

survived and can be seen in the collections of major Australian Art Galleries.

The paintings below were part of an Artist in Residence Project that challenged teacher Tina Gartlan's Year 9 students to make three very large (4 x 2 meters) aerial painted interpretations of their Australian Rural City of Shepparton. In addition to these works (which can be seen on this website under **Artist in Residences**), each student made a 9" x 5" aerial interpretation of their own home and it's general location. Students used Google Earth to research the Geographical features depicted in the 3 large paintings and for their own individual works. Style and format was left to students to decide and while some opted for a more natural look, others preferred a more abstract, patterned appearance.

All of the works were originally exhibited at the school's Speech and Presentation night in December 2009.

The images may take a minute to download.

Click on the arrows to left and right of the large images below to progress or return to earlier works. A facility to enlarge images to full page will be provided soon.

[smooth=id:66]

Wanganui Park Secondary College

Wanganui Park Secondary College

A description of this project can be found below the images

The images will take a minute to download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Comments can be left below

[smooth=id:10]

This project involved making 3 very large, painted interpretations of aerial views of the whole Shepparton area. These were made on separate canvases of 4 X 2 meters. Two classes of Year 9's, each of about 24 students, worked on the project. The interpretations of Shepparton were intended to be 'Impressionist paintings' of the character of the area rather than be absolutely accurate (if that was wanted a photograph or map could be used).

In addition to the 3 canvases, the students were introduced to the works of the Heidelberg School artists, especially their 9" X 5" works on wooden panels. This provided an opportunity to introduce an integrated Studio and History component to the program. Each student made their

individual colourful interpretation of the area around their own homes in a 9" X 5" format. These were placed behind matt boards cut by a professional picture framer. While some students made highly realistic interpretations, others made strongly patterned interpretations. Both were interesting and imaginative and of an extremely high quality, and together they provided an exciting interpretation of Shepparton. The works produced for the 9" X 5" task can be viewed in the other Wanganui Park Secondary College file found on the [Artist in Residences](#) site.

With the 'big paintings' one class made an interpretation of the city and countryside in Summertime (yellows, oranges, yellow ochre and warm reds and pinks) while the other class made an interpretation of the city and countryside in Wintertime (greens, blues, turquoise and purple). We decided from the start not to use black in any of the big paintings so that the colours would remain clean and bright. This was successful and turned out to be a wise decision. These two paintings were intentionally not identical in size or details shown. The third canvas (painted by myself) showed a night view of Shepparton with hundreds of tiny yellow, orange and red dots representing night lights against a dark blue/purple background. A night flight was taken to record images of the Shepparton and Mooroopna area and many photographs were recorded by Year 12 student Simon Bingham and myself.

The project was launched and formally displayed on stage at the school's Speech and Awards Night (16th December) with the 3 large canvases hung on stage as a backdrop to the evening's proceedings. The 9" X 5" works were displayed in the foyer outside the auditorium. The 'big paintings' will be located on the walls of the Visy Centre (the school auditorium) with the series of 9" X 5" interpretations mounted below.

The project had the support of Cavalier Art Supplies (which donated the canvas and some of the paints), the Local Council (which provided survey maps of the municipal area), and was covered on WIN Television News and in the local newspaper. Zart included it in its first edition of *Zart Extra* in 2010.

It is hoped the project can become an on-going yearly event for Year 9 students at the school. Art teachers Tina Gartlan (who allowed me to work with her students) and Narelle Baker (who made it possible within the school) ensured the successful undertaking and completion of this enormous project.

The idea of aerial views of various places, both rural and urban, could be used for students of any age group. *Close up and far away* is an interesting theme for a class to explore. The works of artists such as Dacre Smythe, Tim Storrier and John Olsen, for example, could be used for inspiration and to link the studio works to culture and the processes of research and investigation. Large works also provide opportunities for students to work together on common projects with all of the educational outcomes that such experiences provide.

If you'd like to do a joint venture on such a theme with another school, here or overseas, I can put you in touch with one and a joint online exchange of work or exhibition and could be managed.

[Mentone Girls' Grammar](#)

Details and a description of this exciting project can be found below the images on this page which may take half a minute to upload.

[smooth=id:14]

Mentone Girls' Grammar School

This project involved working with 210 Primary-aged students.

The project aim was to create an outdoor mural on the topic of Worldwide Sustainability.

Following a short talk and introduction to the project and to the topic, each of the students made her own drawing to sort out initial ideas. From these explorations one large drawing was created using ideas that reflected the original ideas of the girls.

The location for the mural was the end wall of the Year 4 Centre which was a plain beige colour. The mural was to overlook an outdoor playing area and lunch area to which all girls had access. It was rather drab and uninteresting in appearance.

The process for making the mural involved each girl making her own A3 sized painting on prepared cement sheet using Vipond paints. These are acrylic, long lasting and weatherproof. Each

class had two lessons of about 1 hour to complete their panels.

Girls who sat near each other in the class worked on connecting panels but once the links from one panel to the next were established, each student was free to address the sustainability theme in her own way within her own panel. This resulted in the over-all design being united but each of the small parts being unique and individual. A bright, sparkly effect was achieved in colour selection and in the use of lines, spaces and textures.

Everyone was delighted with what the girls' achieved in such a short time.

Large works, such as this mural, can provide your own students with exciting opportunities to work co-operatively together on common projects with all of the educational outcomes that such experiences provide. They require levels of organisation and work practices that students and teachers can negotiate to gain the most benefits from working together.

Macedon Grammar School

Macedon Grammar School

Details of this project can be found below

The images will take a minute to fully download

Arrows to left and right allow you to progress and return

Images can be enlarged by using the icon in the middle of each image

Comments can be left below.

[smooth=id:148]

This project involved working with Senior Art students from Macedon Grammar School, a Victorian rural school located in a natural bush setting. It should be cross-referenced to the exhibitions titled Stone Sculptures in Nature and the exhibition on the tragic bushfires in the hills around Melbourne in early 2009 titled Bushfire: Out of the Dark (both found under the Exhibition file – see side menu).

Two major tasks were set

1. Each student was to construct an installation made entirely from natural items found in the surrounding bush location. The found objects were to be arranged in an order that still suggested the natural setting (that is they were to appear as though they might be found that way). Nothing from the bush setting was to be broken or destroyed.
2. Students were to combine with one or more students to undertake the same task in a cooperative venture. Students chose with whom to work and most groups were 3 in number. While the task was similar to the first one, there were various levels of negotiation and decision-making employed. Photographs of these works are still be uploaded.

The decision-making was observed and this included selecting working partners, deciding what to do and how to work, and making on-going evaluations about the works in progress. This made the project more than an art education activity although that was its major focus.

The installations were to be left as arranged. As a result the importance of each of the ideas explored was critical and needed to reflect what was already natural and observable in the area rather than appear as though they had been constructed.

There was an important and intended tension established for students so that they were confronted by what might be considered 'natural aesthetic appeal' and 'constructed aesthetic appeal'... and the relationships they were building between those two things.

References were made to the works of Australian artists including John Davis and John Wolseley.

The site of the student works, located in the bush at the back of the school. Students were free to wander and work in locations they selected.

The relationship between the bush and art is one worth pursuing whenever the opportunity arises.