

Connecting Lines

NEW FILM CELEBRATES CREATIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN GENERATIONS IN FRANKSTON

This Thursday 17th March, a new short film will be launched which celebrates Connecting Lines – a highly creative intergenerational exchange between Project O Frankston and senior women from the Frankston North community.

Connecting Lines began in 2021 in Frankston North in response to the 2020 lockdown, and was focused on building community connection through art and story. Participants young and old worked on music creations (graphic scores), spoken word, mark-making, percussion, filmmaking and created multi-room murals to transform traditional school spaces. A great amount of connection and mutual learning took place, with the different generations sharing their unique stories but also finding much commonality exploring what life means to them, and the importance of visibility, equality, freedom and joy. This delightful and heartwarming new film shares these moments.

“Making this film has been a multifaceted process of showcasing young people’s and senior women’s art as well as their voices and individual talents”, said Film Director Nicky Akehurst. “They’ve been given the opportunity to express themselves both in front and behind the camera lens which has resulted in a growth of self-confidence and pride in what we’ve created together. This has been such an epic collaboration of so many different artists and I have come away from the experience with a great sense of team spirit and some new skills to add to my tool belt.”

One of the unique elements of Connecting Lines included the development of a graphic score, which is presented in the final section of the film. Participants learnt how to approach composition from a graphic perspective, which allowed them to explore emotions, and acknowledge and describe their feelings through graphics, drawing, sound and music. Now being shared with a broad audience, the graphic score elevates the art and voices of young people from Frankston North.

Leading artists and producers who have worked with participants on the project include Visual Artist Aida Azin, Sound Engineer Charlie Farmer, Spoken Word/Movement Practitioner & Community Producer Bella Waru, Percussionist, Composer & Community Producer Maggie Abraham, Mau Rakau Practitioner and Community Producer Fallon Te Paa. Digital Animator Jordan East, Lighting Designer Steve Hawker, Artist Monica Higgins and Filmmaker Nicky Akehurst.

Project O began in Frankston in 2018 and is an initiative for young women, non-binary and gender diverse young people. Beginning with Year 9 and 10 students from Monterey Secondary College and Year 6 students from Mahogany Rise Primary, the project has grown greatly and is a proven success, picking up a VicHealth Award along the way, with 70 participants in 2021, ranging from 10-18 years of age. A new initiative in Frankston North will be announced soon which builds on the work of Project O.

Project O is a primary prevention initiative which has run for over seven years in five states and territories, enabling young women to lead change in remote and disadvantaged communities affected by gender inequality and family violence. Professional mentors support participants who develop new skills and contribute to their community, building confidence, resilience, leadership and agency as well as essential digital skills. Since 2015 close to 1,000 young women have participated in Project O, hailing from Canberra ACT, Cooma NSW, Wynyard & Smithton TAS, Frankston VIC and Roebourne WA. Project O is an initiative of Big hART, Australia’s leading arts and social change organisation. In 2022 Big hART celebrates 30 years of making art, building community and driving change, having worked with over 52 communities across Australia, winning 45 awards.

Connecting Lines is supported by the State Government of Victoria through the ‘Let’s Stay Connected Fund’, an initiative of the Office for Suburban Development, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Project O Frankston is proudly supported by Monterey Secondary College, Mahogany Rise Primary School, the Victorian State Government, Crown Resorts Foundation, the Packer Family Foundation, the Angior Family Foundation and the Australian Government’s RISE Fund.

Connecting Lines Film Launch: Thursday 17th March at 7pm at Monterey Secondary College, Frankston North.



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