

## CREATIVE THERAPY AND INTERACTIVE PLAY SPACES ARTS PROGRAM AT MACLEAY ISLAND EARLY LEARNING



A clever artist collaboration with young early learning and kindergarten students is happening on Macleay Island.

It is about creating interactive play spaces and making such things as handmade instruments and has all come about with the help of a successful Arts Queensland Artist in Residence Grant Project at Bay Island Early Learning and Care.

And it is to become a case study publication by Arts Queensland.

The project is allowing Macleay Island's Bay Island Early Learning and Care early childhood educator, Miss Lisa Mooney, to collaborate with local artist Darren Goleby to create an installation of interactive play spaces and creative art projects.

Children are engaged at every step along the way, from the project's concept, to the planning and problem-solving stages, through to implementation.

Workshops with local musicians showed the children how to make lagerphones of wooden poles and bottle tops, and thong drum instruments.

The project embraced the concept of "reduce, reuse and recycle".

Families, along with the wider island community, donated used items for the interactive play spaces.

The efforts of the children were celebrated at the kindergarten open day, which showcased their creative play spaces and included a performance with the handmade instruments.

The funded program has involved 56 student activities with artists, 34 students participating and 80 attendees.

The amount of \$12,910 was provided via the Artists in Residents (AIR) program. The \$200 000 Artist in Residence program is supported through AQ and Education Queensland and is aimed to increase engagement with arts and culture through partnerships with artists, arts organisations and arts facilities.

The program started at Bay Island Early Learning and Care, Macleay Island, in February and has been funded to run until November.

All the multi-use interactive play spaces produced through the project will be enjoyed by future kindergarten children and educators.