

THE ADELAIDE RIVER SLOW STITCH COMMUNITY QUILT

By

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ABSTRACT



Territory Wildlife Park creates innovative interpretive displays using recycled, repurposed materials and mustering the collective skills and time of the community to help tell the stories about the landscape, flora and fauna of our region through artistic installations. This transformative process of engaging the community to contribute to the development of interpretive displays such as the Adelaide River Slow Stitch community quilt results in our volunteers becoming ambassadors who will go on to talk about the project, what they have learnt and their experience in being part of the creative process. The quilt project is the most recently completed example of many community arts projects that the Park has developed to engage the community with the Park in a meaningful way that keeps participants connected to the Park for many years to come.

This artistic installation involved 90 community members slow stitching images of plants, animals and stories of the Adelaide River catchment onto small quilt blocks. It also involved 50 recycled calico mealworm bags retrieved from Territory Wildlife Park's Live Food Centre that underwent a process of Shibori stitching and Indigo dyeing. This community art project also involved assistance from fisheries scientists, plant specialists, Artists-in-the-Park, textile artists and sculptors. The result was the creation of an impressive 120 slow stitched blocks that were combined to tell a visual story of the Adelaide River and its' catchment in a 3 metre long quilt which is now displayed in the Aquarium at the Territory Wildlife Park. A 58 page full coloured publication was produced on the making of the Adelaide River Slow Stitch project with this book almost selling out on the day that the quilt installation was unveiled. This project has become a template for future community art/conservation education projects that are done on a very restricted budget and involve members of the community with all ranges of experience in art making.

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Artistic interpretive displays engage visitors more readily than just signs, community engagement in the creation of these displays also ensures that we create something that is a lot more personal, unique and specific to our region. The Park has completed several community art installations that cover themes such as coral bleaching (Crocheted Coral Reef project), threatened species (Atlas Moth and Black-footed Tree Rat projects) and biodiversity (Ooloo Sandbar, Nocturnal House and Prehistoric Playground Mosaics)

BIOGRAPHY

Jasmine Jan has worked as a zookeeper, interpreter, communications and education officer at the Territory Wildlife Park. She also does freelance work as a scientific/wildlife illustrator and artist working in diverse mediums from watercolours to glass, clay and recycled materials. She is a recipient of two Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Trust Awards travelling to the USA to study scientific illustration techniques with leading wildlife illustrators. In 2018 Jasmine was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to travel overseas to study sculpture and mould making techniques in Italy.

Jasmine's focus over the last 12 years has been in designing and facilitating community engagement programs that bring together art and community in the name of conservation education. Jasmine developed and manages the award winning Artists-in-the-Park program at the Park.