

Young Plant Carers

Artwork by Year 6 students from Blair Athol North B-6
School from workshops with Louise Flaherty

Presented in partnership with Adelaide Festival Centre's
Children's Artspace and centrED programs.



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

Arts in Health

Adelaide
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Supported by

Government of South Australia

Department for Education

At the beginning of 2024, artist Louise Flaherty facilitated a series of drawing workshops with children from three South Australian public schools. Together, they drew and documented acts of caring for local native plant life in and around school communities. This body of ink on paper works were produced by the young artists aged 11-13 years old, in Year 6 at Blair Athol North B-6 School. They represent each young person's hand or hands holding their chosen native plant – be it kangaroo grass, eucalyptus flowers or lemon beauty heads.

This work is in direct relationship to Louise's drawings produced for an exhibition called *Plant Carers* at Post Office Projects Gallery during the South Australian Living Artist Festival in 2023. We have included a number of these drawings of Louise's to sit alongside the students work.

The works capture the tenderness that exists between carer and plant, while also acknowledging the community of people – often volunteers – built around these acts of care.

The works celebrate the important work that dedicated people do to ensure the lasting legacy of native plants and habitats. The artworks are considerate individual and collaborative reflections on nature.

Young Plant Carers is an exhibition that calls the viewer to look closer at the exceptional beauty of the natural world around us, and to consider how we might all share the responsibility of its care.

"It was a privilege to be invited into schools and have the students show me their native gardens within the school, I was able to use the drawing workshops as a process for the students to get to know the plants better. Students were also able to explore a medium (ink & paper) that most of them had not used before."

Louise Flaherty is an artist and arts worker based on Kaurna land, Adelaide. She is a socially engaged artist with a strong connection to local communities. Her work is informed by quiet reflections on the natural environment, specifically focusing on research into native South Australian flora. Her art practice spans drawing, installation, and participatory work that invites collaboration and community driven outcomes.

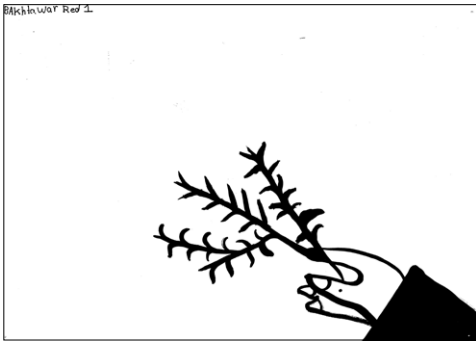
WCH Foundation have previously engaged Louise to run drawing workshops within the hospital in 2019, with an outcome of native plants drawings in a vinyl mural in the Hospital's Play deck.



Image top left: Sophia, Year 6 student at Blair Athol North, Ink on Paper 2024

Image top right: Louise Flaherty, Jenny - *Plant Carers*, Ink on Paper 2023

Image left: Bakhtawar, Year 6 student at Blair Athol North, Ink on Paper, 2024.



Young Plant Carers is an exhibition by Louise Flaherty in collaboration with Year 6 students from Blair Athol North B-6 School and presented in partnership with Adelaide Festival Centre's Children's Artspace and centrED programs. The exhibition was supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation and Department for Education, South Australia.

www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

www.louiseflaherty.com

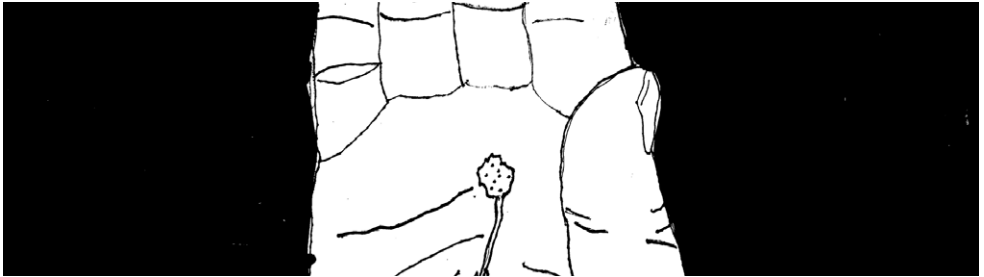
The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) improves the health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families under the care of the Women's and Children's Hospital and the broader Health Network.

The WCH Foundation Arts in Health program creates an interactive and vibrant hospital environment that improves the health and wellbeing of the hospital patients, their families, and staff. Through art, play and music, we encourage curiosity and creativity and reduce the stress of being in hospital.

The Arts in Health Exhibition program provides a space away from the stresses of treatment to distract, entertain and inspire by improving the hospital environment. The artworks displayed in the exhibition spaces come from a range of sources – internally from hospital staff, patients (women & children) and their families, through specific Arts in Health activities and externally from local artists and art collectives.

This exhibition was planned and exhibited on the lands of the Kaurna People, we pay our respects to the Kaurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.

Cover Image: Muiatata, Year 6 student at Blair Athol North (detail), Ink on Paper 2024



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