

Contemporary Art Socially Engaged Incubator (CASE Incubator) Year Two Overview



The Cad Factory
1906 Strontian Rd
Sandigo NSW 2700 Australia
P: +61 409 543 952
E: vic@cadfactory.com.au
W: cadfactory.com.au

Supported by the Create NSW
Service Needs Strategic Fund



The Cad Factory lives on the ancient, unceded Wiradjuri lands of the Narrangderah people who have taken care of this country for over 60,000 years. This place and its deep history contributes to how we understand the world.



OUR PURPOSE

Reimagining the world through contemporary art practices.



OUR MISSION

The Cad Factory is an artist-led organisation collaborating ethically with people and place to create a local, national and international program of experimental work.



OUR VISION

To be a leader in contemporary ethically engaged art practices, celebrated at home and recognised internationally.



OUR VALUES

- ↳ co-devising
- ↳ authentic partnering
- ↳ building connections
- ↳ sharing opportunities
- ↳ embracing the unknown
- ↳ enthusiastically adventurous
- ↳ high quality artistic outcomes



Year two CASE Incubator artists Melanie Muddle, Karenza Ebejer, Tom Isaacs, Rhae Kendrigan, Hannah Robinson. Photo: Vic McEwan

CASE Incubator

The Contemporary Art Socially Engaged (CASE) Incubator is a professional development, knowledge-sharing and mentorship program aimed at socially engaged artists who are seeking to develop their practice, engage with their peers, create networking opportunities with diverse partners, and contribute back to the sector through the creation of resources.

The CASE Incubator will run between 2021-2023, with four NSW based artists employed in the first 12 months, and another four in the second year.

The program, supported by the Create NSW Service Needs Strategic Fund, will allow the artists to undertake collaborative problem solving, knowledge sharing forums and professional upskilling activities.

VIC MCEWAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THE CAD FACTORY

The Cad Factory CASE Incubator program offers a unique professional development opportunity for experienced artists working in socially engaged practice to help build a community of practitioners while contributing to the development of this field. This diverse field of artists acknowledges that socially engaged practice isn't restricted to any specific artform, instead we see it as art making that is in relationship to the ethical consideration of people and place. The Cad Factory is excited to work with these exceptional artists and to present a range of outcomes to the broader sector.



Year two CASE Incubator artists with the Pinnaroo Museum Craft Group. Photo: Vic McEwan

Partner Profiles

The CASE Incubator program invites in local, national and international partners to share case studies, experiences and approaches to engage in conversations that aim to assist in expanding our community of practice.

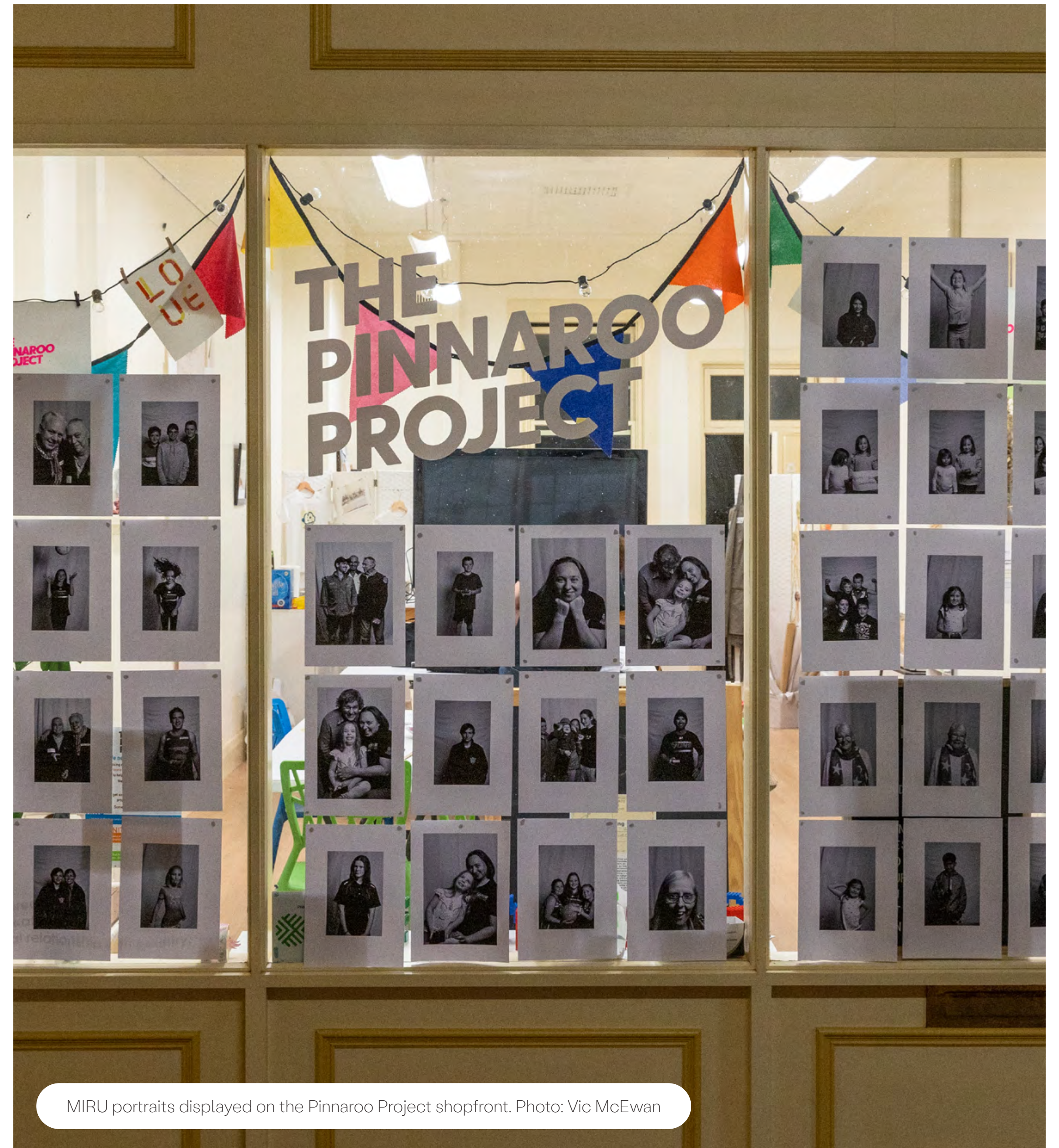
These partners include:

1. Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Dr Susan Coulson, Sydney Facial Nerve Clinic
- Shoalhaven Health and the Arts
- The Pinnaroo Project

2. Practice

- Dr Lindy Hume, 10 Days on the Island



MIRU portraits displayed on the Pinnaroo Project shopfront. Photo: Vic McEwan

Artists



And Then

“We’ve been watching the CASE Incubator unfold over the past year and we’re excited that we are now able to take part and contribute in some way. Connecting with a community of like-minded, socially-engaged artists will be deeply transformative. We are looking forward to this residency - a year to collaborate, share ideas, listen, grow, network, contribute and birth new things together.”

Hannah Robinson and Melanie Muddle are the founders of And Then, a social-arts agency. They engage in photography as a social-practice, inviting participation and connection with communities to support them tell their own stories. Hannah and Melanie collaborate and create with a community rather than for an audience, in doing so they aim to shift power dynamics, open dialogue, foster social change and make space for new forms of a collective voice. And then...

Artists



Karenza Ebejer

“I am so grateful to be selected for this residency with the CASE Incubator team. It will give me the opportunity to deepen my arts practice and develop new ideas for enhancing my community engagement. I look forward to bringing some creative new approaches to collaborative storytelling into my region.”

Karenza Ebejer is a socially engaged documentary filmmaker, producer, educator and community storyteller based in the Northern Rivers of NSW. She collaborates with a range of creatives in producing content for Indigenous, arts, youth and disability communities. Her work explores themes of art practice, community, connection to place and social justice. In 2017 and 2018 she produced and directed two short films profiling artists for the Createability series on ABC iView. These both had international festival screenings, won awards and led to further opportunities for the participants. Other film work has been shown on various platforms including television, social media, film festivals and galleries.

Artists



Tom Isaacs

“I am honoured to be participating in the second year of the CASE Incubator and I am looking forward to challenging my artistic practice and deepening my understanding of socially engaged artmaking through conversations, workshops, and practical experiments.”

Tom Isaacs is a Sydney-based contemporary artist working primarily in the fields of textiles and performance art. His practice engages with ideas of mental health, suffering, and the human condition, and explores the potential efficacy of art. He draws inspiration from philosophy, psychoanalysis, religious writings and practices, art history and theory. Tom recently completed a PhD at the University of Sydney researching the relationship between ritual, psychoanalysis and body art, and how these different streams of thought address the problem of alienation.

Artists



Rhae Kendrigan

“At this point in my career, my focus is on understanding how my community development skills can provide a base for me to expand my artist practice beyond the studio into the social realm. In a way that is regenerative—building capacity within myself, my collaborators, and the communities in which I work. I am very excited about the opportunity to work with a small peer group with similar focuses, to develop together, to support each other, to elevate our thinking and watch as those impacts ripple out into our communities.”

Rhae Kendrigan is a practicing artist, community development worker and regenerative practitioner from the Mallee. They have worked for grassroots community activists, not for profit organisations and local government on a wide variety of projects including community development, event and project management, curation and creative production. Their work as a practicing artist and creative producer explores the intersections between body and place, serving as a process for understanding systems awareness. Rhae is passionate about building strong rural and regional communities through manifesting a strong sense of place.



Year two CASE Incubator artists in residence at the Cad Factory Studio, Rosebery. Photo: Vic McEwan

What Happened

Residency Dates

4-6 November, Sydney NSW

21-23 January, Narrandera NSW

10-14 May, Pinnaroo SA

1-22 October, Sydney NSW

CASE Incubator Public Programs

Self portrait with MIRU

Self image making explorations with And Then

11 and 12 May 2023

Pinnaroo, SA

Postcards from Pinnaroo

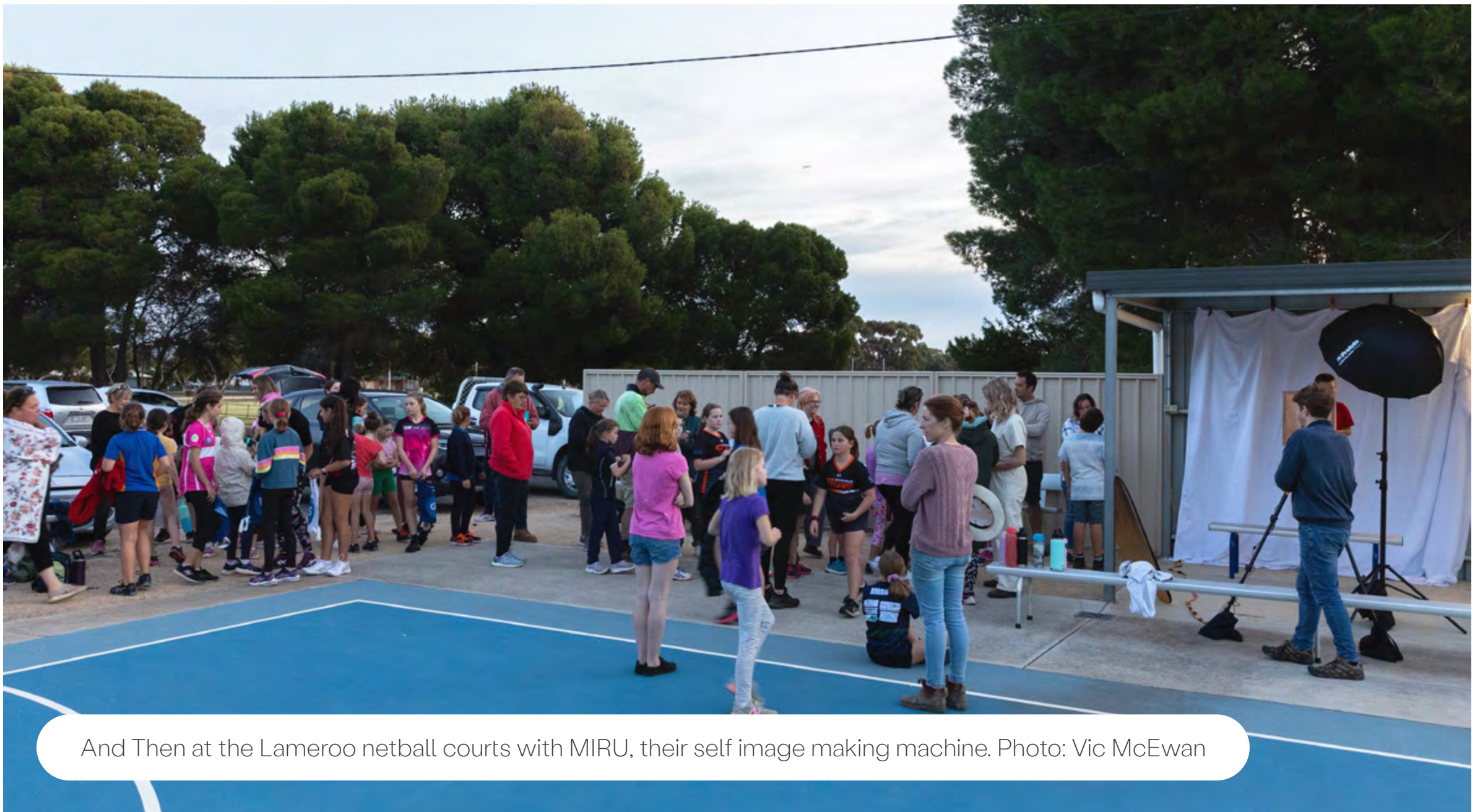
Video workshop with Karenza Ebejer

13 May 2023

Pinnaroo, SA



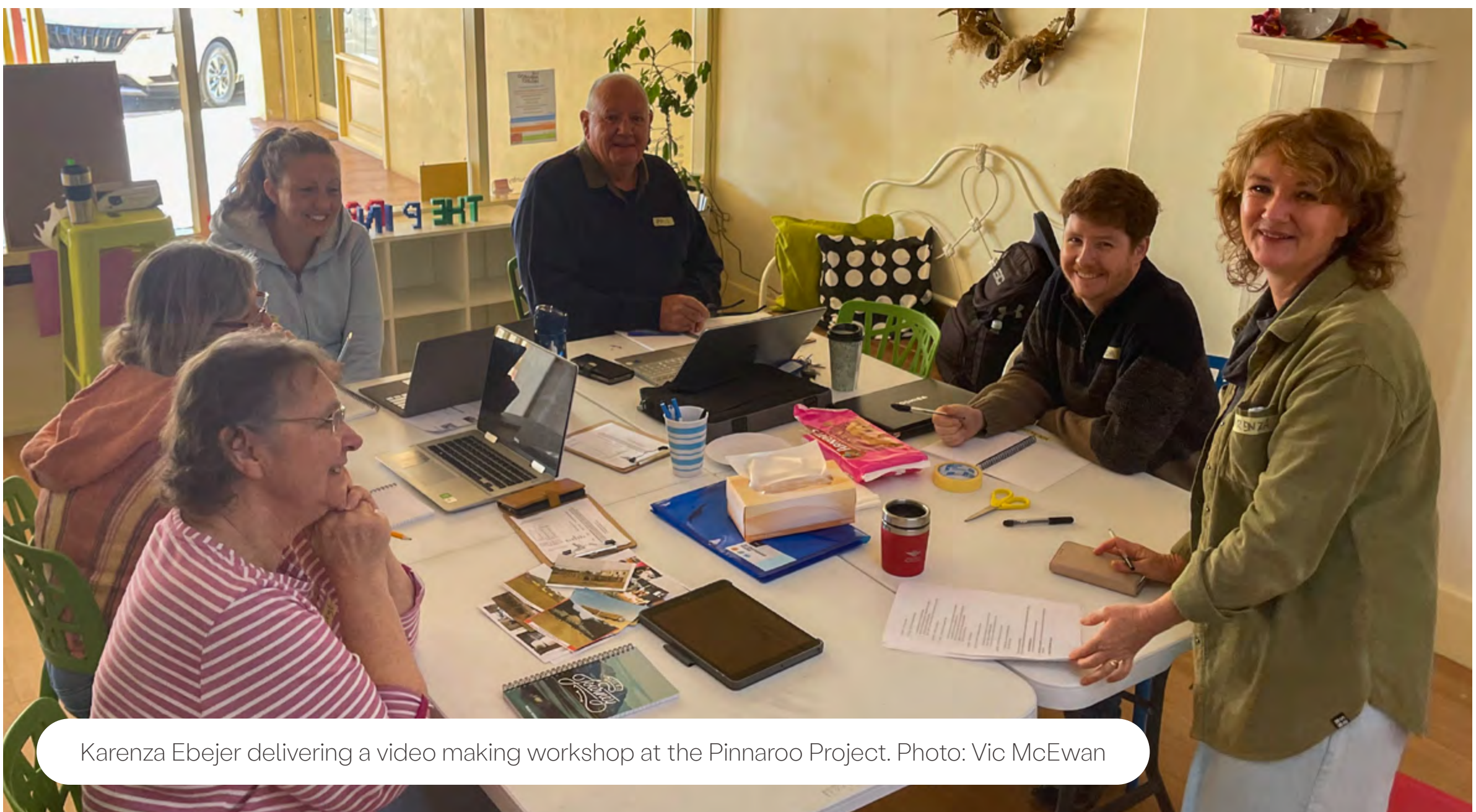
Year two CASE Incubator artists in residence at the Cad Factory Studio, Sandigo. Photo: Vic McEwan



And Then at the Lameroo netball courts with MIRU, their self image making machine. Photo: Vic McEwan



Tom Isaac's participating in football training at Lameroo, SA. Photo: Vic McEwan



Karenza Ebejer delivering a video making workshop at the Pinnaroo Project. Photo: Vic McEwan

Artist Feedback

Hannah and Melanie

Being a part of the CASE Inc program has been wonderful. We've particularly valued the exploration of the fundamental principles of socially-engaged practice which had been woven throughout our experience. The dynamic exchanges between artists have illuminated the complex facets of socially-engaged practice and have continued to shape our ideas and dreams for the future. This greater understanding means that we can move forward with confidence, knowing who we are and how we'd like to engage with and care for communities.

On a practical level, the benefits of our expanded understanding flows into the development of our arts practice and the way in which we operate our agency. We've been able to confidently apply for funding and negotiate project terms ethically aligned with our values.

The relationships established through the CASE Incubator are precious. The inter-group mentoring has been a wonderful outworking of these connections. We've both benefited from the guidance and support offered by Vic, Sarah, Tom, Karenza and Rhae. It feels like we're part of something bigger, a growing community that will continue to make a positive difference in the world.

Karenza

My time on the CASE Inc residency over the past year has been highly enriching for my own socially engaged art practice as a digital storyteller. Over the four face to face residencies we explored a variety of questions that we had all brought to our first meeting. The overarching theme was around the notion of care – both for self and in relation to others. In the past couple of years, this topic has taken on great significance for me and my close community as we faced a huge natural disaster in our region and the role of art in our collective recovery has been huge.

It's been such a gift to be able to replenish and honour my creative work and explore socially engaged art practice amongst such supportive and generous people. Vic and Sarah led us all with compassion and care, making sure that we were all safe to open into a space of deep listening and connecting. The other artists who made up our group, all varied in their modes of practice, all brought an openness and willingness to dive into group discussions and creative workshop delivery.

I've come away with a confidence to express the value of my practice and a community to share with and lean on in the future.

Tom

I am supremely grateful to have been included in the second year of the CASE Incubator program. Through this program, I have had the opportunity to connect with amazing artists working in the field of socially engaged practice.

Over the course of four residencies, we have explored a number of important questions around socially engaged practice, including the ethics of social engagement, the practicalities of care and self-care, the challenges of working with institutions, and the importance of self-reflection. This exploration took place through group discussions, meeting with guest speakers, facilitating and participating in workshops, and direct engagement with the community in Pinnaroo.

The warm and supportive environment of these residencies promoted deep interrogation of our arts practices, and the group was an invaluable source of feedback, encouragement, wisdom, and support. It was such a pleasure to connect with beautiful human beings who are making exciting and inspiring work. I am thrilled to be part of a community of artists who care deeply and think deeply about what they do.

Rhae

Over the last year I have built beautiful connections with my fellow socially engaged artists in the CASE Incubator program. To be in an environment of care, critical conversation and honest self-reflection has been truly meaningful to me. I couldn't have imagined going through this with a more considerate and open group of artists.

I came into this program feeling overwhelmed and inundated with difficult questions about my practice. Within the very first meeting of the CASE Incubator I felt a sense of relief. The questions I had been holding were questions shared by others. Although our practices are diverse, we are all living the same questions and having similar experiences across our communities and projects. Now I can move forward knowing that they are not mine to hold alone.

I have developed a more optimistic sense of my future as a creative practitioner, and have an energised curiosity for the potential of socially and environmentally engaged practice as a way of working towards a regenerative future.



And Then at the Lameroo Football oval with MIRU, their self image making machine. Photo: Vic McEwan