

The Deep Listening Circle



In the City

Photo-story Laura Brearley

Images Terry Melvin



By the Sea



In 2012, in the Design Workshop at Swinburne University, a large circle used as a pattern for heavy machinery was stripped back to its original wood and carefully prepared for its new role as a Deep Listening Circle in the community.



Deep Listening is an Indigenous concept which translates as ...



Deep and respectful listening which builds community

For Aboriginal people Deep Listening comes naturally

It's about walking on the land

Softly quietly

And listening to the stories around the campfire



We've got to listen to the wind in the trees

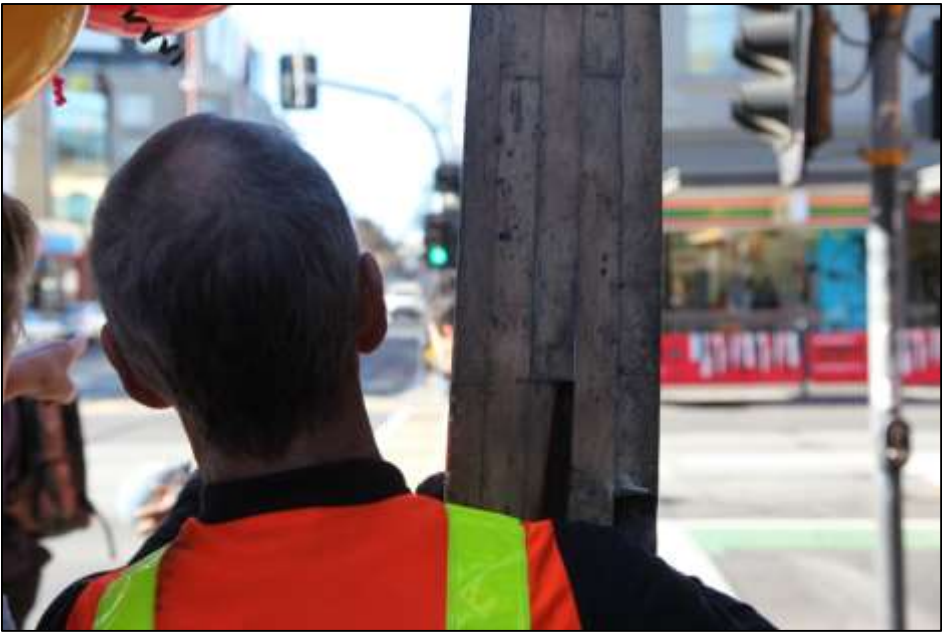
Listen to the birds

It's the feeling of a gift

A gift always comes back



The Deep Listening Circle is rolled from Swinburne University, through the streets of Prahran and South Yarra to a warehouse being converted to a Boon Wurrung Arts and Culture Centre.







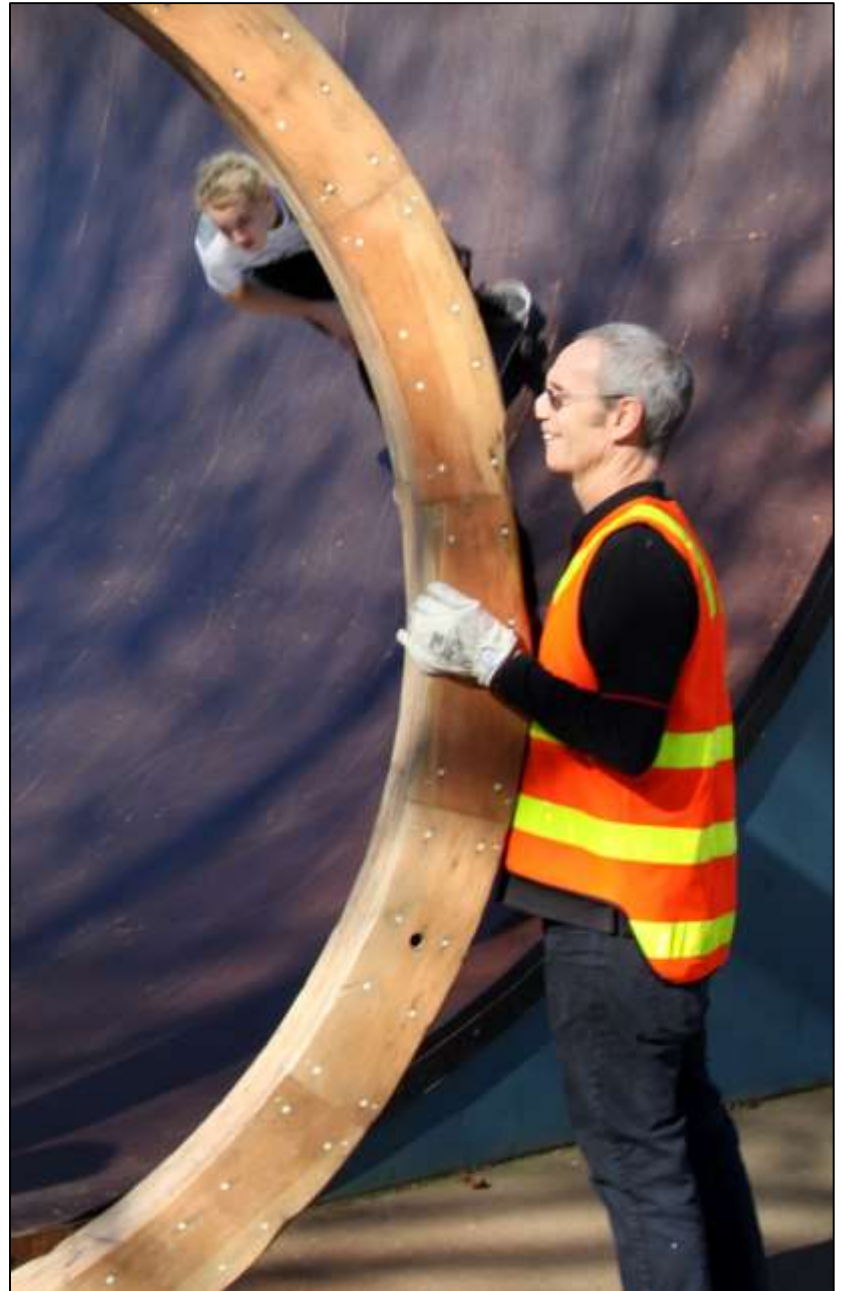






(L – R) Siegi Edward, Michael Hall, Ching Tan, Laura Brearley





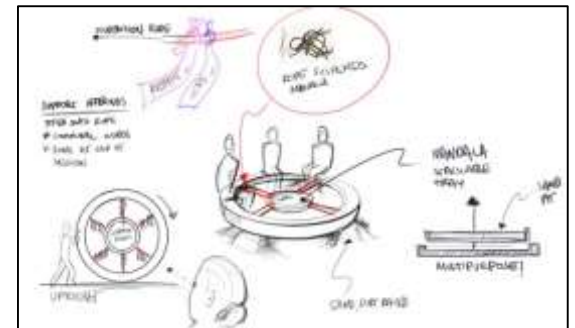
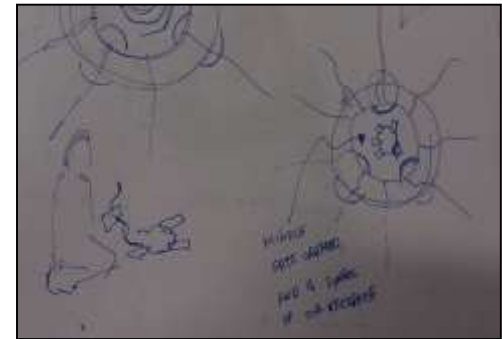








The next day, a Deep Listening Circle ritual is held in the City of Stonnington, hosted by the Aboriginal community.



Students from Swinburne University's Masters of Design Anthropology designed the ritual as part of their course.



Welcome to Country with Aunty Carolyn Briggs, Senior Boon Wurrung Elder



Coordinator, Design Anthropology, Swinburne University, Assoc Prof Dori Tunstall



As part of the ritual, participants in the Deep Listening Circle are invited to write messages about what community means to them.





Community is ... belonging



Community is ... coming to know ourselves through each other

Community is ... breathing together, singing together

Community is ... a place to share our thoughts

Community is ... neighbourhood, identity and trust

Community is ... about generosity







Three years later when the lease is over, the life of the Deep Listening Circle at Phillip Island begins.

Graeme Burgan, Senior Education Ranger from the Phillip Island Nature Park, measures up and then sets off with The Circle for Phillip Island.





On a fine winter's day, the Circle is taken out for some fresh air around the coast of Phillip Island.



... with Patrice Muthaymiles Mahoney, her son Jardham,
Laura Brearley, Graeme Burgan, Terry Melvin and Jim Lawson.

































The Deep Listening Circle
will play a role in the
Shearwater Festival 2015,
being held on Phillip Island
on the 21st and 22nd November.

The Shearwater Festival is a cultural, creative and environmental event which brings communities together to celebrate the return of the shearwaters from their 15,000 kilometre migration.



The two-day Festival includes a Street Parade, workshops, performances, guided walks and talks to the shearwater rookeries.



The Shearwater Festival involves environmentalists, creative artists, musicians, Indigenous Elders, community members and school children.



For further information

Dr Laura Brearley
laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au
0434 596800

