

Two years on, Arts Council Toowoomba remembers 2011 floods

Arts Council Toowoomba Inc. (ACT) created *Splashing back!* to acknowledge the resilience of our local businesses. After 23 months planning, developing mosaic and design skills, mosaics are being put together to tell flood stories of inundated businesses.

To take the mosaic to another level ACT is including QR codes in the mosaics. These use interactive on-line enhancements available with smart phones and ipads to link to video stories of the businesses and the artists' designs. Ten artists selected by an independent group are creating mosaics and some of the works are well underway. Jennifer Wright (Summers) showed us this image of her work for DRTV.

Tear off maps of the mosaic artworks will be printed and available soon.

Stories of the businesses' experience with recovery after the devastating floods are on the website at www.actmba.com/splashing-back/.

Lifeline CEO Derek Tuffield told *Splashing back!* artists that people may relive the experience at the two-year anniversary. Artists were given advice on supporting business owners with psychological first aid during the project.

ACT hopes the artworks will attract people to the businesses, help residents and visitors understand the scale of the 'inland tsunami' and become a talking point for those needing an opportunity to unburden and share their story of the traumatic time two years ago.

ACT applied for 10 grants to deliver the mosaics at no charge to the 10 selected businesses.

Local mosaic artist Denise Chard is supporting the artists and assisting them to frame the mosaics.

Acknowledgements

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The Regional Arts Development Fund, a Queensland Government and Toowoomba Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture provided funding for capacity building workshops and the QR codes.

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