

PAINTING

SENDING THE RIGHT SIG

ARTWORKS BRIGHTEN UP OUR STREETS

Kate Crawford

THERE'S a new signal coming from the traffic boxes around North Sydney – stop and look at the colourful art.

Many of the area's traffic signal boxes have been turned into works of art in a project called Colour Our Habitat.

Seven artists, with input from local students and community groups, have transformed 30 signal boxes into eye-catching art from wild abstract patterns to colourful flowers and quirky faces.

Two of the signal boxes have been painted to look like huge cameras while others have romantic harbour scenes.

North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson says the signal boxes have already attracted a lot of positive feedback from the community and the project was one of the ways council was revitalising North Sydney.

Rebecca Pierce was one of the artists who took part and it was a fitting project for her as she owns Traffic Jam Galleries at Neutral Bay.

Pierce says that as she was painting, she received lots of encouragement from passers-by, although she had to reassure one man that she was not a graffiti artist and would not be arrested for



Rebecca Pierce with her artwork on a traffic signal box across from the Shell service station at the corner of Ben Boyd Rd and Ernest St.

painting signal boxes in broad daylight.

Pierce spent several days painting each of six boxes with vibrant patterns of flowers.

"All the boxes are bright and colourful and create a positive relief from the urban hustle and bustle," she said.

Another artist who took part in the project was Karen Atkins of Crows Nest, who painted whimsical harbour scenes. She worked in

collaboration with members of the Creating Wellbeing group.

Another local resident, Michele Morcos, held workshops with students from Monte Sant' Angelo to come up with abstract designs inspired by the boxes' locations.

The other artists and groups were Tina Fox and students from North Sydney Girls High School; Jessica Birk and students of North Sydney Demonstration

School; Tim de Hann and Planet X youth group; and Ad Long and members of the Neutral Bay Senior Citizens Club.

The boxes are located in North Sydney, Kirribilli, Neutral Bay, Cremorne and Crows Nest and their locations can be found on the council's website, northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Take a selfie at a box and tag mosmandaily on Instagram



Artist Ad Long and Ne the above and below



Artist Jessica Birk an stration School came

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