



‘Tree of life’ mural created at Coolah MPS

You might not expect a ‘Hospital’ to be a place of artistic creation, however this is exactly what has happened at the Coolah Multipurpose Service (MPS).

With the redevelopment project in full swing, some areas of the MPS are boarded up with timber structures known as ‘construction hoarding’ to ensure the safety of residents, patients, staff and visitors. This short-term measure has created a sense of excitement for the residents about what is happening outside and provided an opportunity to exercise their creativity.

Working with the Activities Coordinator, the residents came up with a unique idea to beautify the construction hoarding and their surroundings.

“One of the residents had joked about wanting to do some graffiti and the idea just went from there,” said Christine Riley, Activities Coordinator.

A group of residents from both the MPS and the Hostel

worked together to create a mural on the hoarding at the end of the existing Residential Aged Care wing.

“The theme of the mural is the ‘tree of life’ and it includes real paper bark, paintings of leaves, flowers and animals suited to what the residents liked such as a horse, butterflies, birds, chooks and chickens,” said Christine.

“We printed pictures of the animals and plants and each resident got to paint their picture in the colours of their choosing, either independently or with some assistance.”

Feedback from the residents involved was that it helped to get people talking and working together.

“It has been a great little project, and the residents do enjoy looking at the mural and are proud to show it off to their family and visitors,” Christine said.

“We’re all looking forward to the new facilities the project will deliver such as a dedicated games room, as we are currently sharing the dining room for our activities.”



From left to right, Coolah MPS residents Ethel Boyle, Nancy Tuckey, Ena Ghiggioli and Ken McGuinness, with Activities Coordinator Christine Riley (kneeling) around their ‘tree of life’ mural on the construction hoarding for the Coolah MPS redevelopment project.



Some of the residents involved in the 'tree of life' mural

