

Gay Chatfield: Whimsical Weaving

The project: The project created a woven shelter, within the Whittlesea Community Garden through is to orchestrate an inclusive community art installation in the form of

The artworks: *Whimsical Pod* was created as part of an installation for the Whittlesea Super Kids Festival during Oct. 2020. As the name suggests it is for the observer to imagine a 'whimsical' creature that may inhabit the woven structure.

The organic shape is highlighted by the painted pieces that frame the opening and the stones representing the presence of some kind of eggs that have been laid within it.

Lemur Pods (photographs) Serendipitously through another art project arose this amazing opportunity to reweave 4 pods and a supervisor shelter in the lemur enclosure at the Melbourne Zoo. I was able to construct the shelter in a window of time when there were no lockdowns in March 2021. However, as my work progressed to the pods and there was a lockdown in place, I was privileged to still be allowed to go and work on site at the zoo. A very surreal feeling to be totally alone in the enclosure with the lemurs roaming freely.... coming to check out what I was doing periodically. It was a very profound experience of recreating these pods for them in which to harbor, especially to escape the cold as they each had a heated pad inside.

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