

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

RIGHT: Ruby Fitzhugh, Cindy Wright, Bridie Murnane and Ella Cathcart experiment with pastels during an RT Kids workshop at Mandurah Library.

CREATIVE CHILDREN ENGAGING SPACES

On any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon during school terms at the City of Mandurah libraries children can be found painting, drawing, collaging and creating in fine art workshops. Facilitated by trained exhibiting artists, the art schools cater for students from four to 16 years.

A Brush with Art at Falcon eLibrary and Community Centre, taught by Carmel Sayer-Wise, has 80 students enrolled for each term and RT (Really Talented) Kids at Mandurah Library, taught by Cindy Wright, has 30 students enrolled for each term.

In addition to learning theory and artistic techniques, the art students display their work throughout the libraries. This enhances the children's confidence, fosters creativity and stimulates robust discussions amongst the wider community. Each library holds an annual exhibition where family, friends and stakeholders have the opportunity to view selected works.



Students also exhibit externally. Artworks have featured at Headspace in Fremantle and Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah, won awards in the Shaun Tan competition at Subiaco, and travelled the state in the Propel Youth Arts WA Travelling Sketchbook Exhibition. The art schools participate in community festivals, creating sculptures and installations for Mandurah's Stretch Festival, Children's Festival, Christmas Pageant and the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

Opening up space in the libraries for the art schools opens up community engagement, provides alternative recreational options for families, encourages creativity and adds vibrancy to Mandurah Libraries.

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