

RESIDENT ARTIST CASE STUDY

HAWTHORN HOUSE



**"There were
often memories
and stories
elicited, which
added to the
richness of
experience
within the
workshops"**

- Kate Campbell-Pope

Resident Artist Program

REDUCING ISOLATION

The City of Albany received funding from the Brandenburg Trust to deliver programs aimed at reducing social isolation in seniors. One of the projects the City of Albany has been working on is the Resident Artist program – pairing artists with Aged Care Facilities.

FINDING THE PERFECT PILOT FACILITY

Hawthorn House is a leading dementia specialist Enabling Household™ aimed at meeting the needs of people living with dementia in the Great Southern region. Based around the Eden Alternative, it seeks to eliminate loneliness, helplessness, and boredom.

These values really resonated with the goals of the Brandenburg Trust, making Hawthorn House the perfect choice. The search was on for a suitable artist.



MATCHING THE ARTIST TO THE FACILITY

Kate Campbell-Pope is a visual artist who has worked in community arts, public art, teaching curating, and mentoring. Kate also works as an Occupational Therapist in Albany.

With a background in Care and a strong artistic track record, Kate was a natural choice for the pilot project.

A meeting was held at Hawthorn House and Kate presented her ideas for the residency, a series of tasting workshops that would give seniors at Hawthorn House a chance to try their hand at a variety of artistic activities.

THE 'NO FAIL' WORKSHOPS

City of Albany staff were fortunate to attend and observe some of the tasting workshops.

Kate had devised a series of activities that took pressure off participants and encouraged them to try without fear of failure.

There were a few seniors who were reluctant to participate, but Kate's warmth and the help of Hawthorn House's support workers gave them confidence to try.

The results surprised and delighted them and often led to memories and stories being shared.

EVALUATING THE PILOT

10 workshops were held and all were very popular, with participants making a point to personally thank Kate for holding them.

In her reports, Kate highlighted the warm, welcoming atmosphere cultivated by Hawthorn House and their commitment to the Eden Principles as important factors in the success of the residency.

The reports provided were very helpful in shaping how the Resident Artist program could be introduced at other Aged Care Facilities – an important objective of the pilot project.

The Resident Artist program also gave Albany Public Library and the Vancouver Arts Centre a chance to build and strengthen a relationship with Hawthorn House, paving the way for future collaborations.

Find out how the Resident Artist program could be run at your facility, call Vancouver Arts Centre on 08 6820 3740.