

### Abstract Submission Form and Speaker Profile

Complete your details by typing in the **green** sections of the digital form below. If there are multiple presenters, please include their details where applicable (name, organisation, personal bio)  
 Save your completed form in PDF format and submit via the [submission form on the website](#).

<b>Title</b>	Ms	<b>First Name</b>	Imogen Samantha Amy Colleen	<b>Family Name</b>	Ross Arnull Geddes Lux
<b>Position/Role</b>	Community Artists in School & Parents and members of school P&C				
<b>Organisation you will represent</b>	Coledale Public School				
<b>Personal Bio</b> Max. 100 words	<p>This project was initially developed by Coledale Public School's P&amp;C Grants coordinator, Colleen Lux and Environmental coordinator, Amy Geddes with the support of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Teachers and the Kitchen Garden coordinator. Both Colleen and Amy have professional backgrounds in health science and research.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary artists Imogen Ross and Samantha Arnull joined the school for two terms, working with students across Years 3- 6 to co-create sculptural installations, teach sewing, weaving and construction skills.</p> <p>Imogen and Samantha both work as teaching artists with young people of all ages across greater Sydney. Imogen is NIDA's Environmental Sustainability manager</p>				
<b>Title of Presentation</b>	Connecting Threads: transforming unwanted textiles from waste into weavings.				
<b>Format of Presentation</b> (please select)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation (20 minutes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 60 minutes (eg interactive indoor session) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 120 minutes (eg outdoor activity) Indicate your preferred presentation types (you may select more than one) NB: We may not be able to offer your preferred option				
<b>Which theme would you prefer to present under?</b> (please select)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theme 1: Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				
<b>Introduction</b>	Connecting Threads is an Illawarra-based school project that has inspired primary-aged students to use initiative and imagination to upcycle a range of textiles destined for landfill. Students have collaborated with artists, parents, community members and				

	<p>teachers to co-create woven sculptures for their school, as well as develop their sewing skills to create tactile sensory aids for dementia patients at a local hospital.</p> <p>The presentation will demonstrate what inspired our school community to take action to transform textile waste, discuss the learning outcomes for the students and their families, and showcase the creative work that has resulted so far.</p> <p>The workshop will give conference participants a chance to become a part of the Connecting Threads story.</p> <p>In the 1hr workshop participants will learn about different tactile dementia aids and design/make one using the materials provided. In the 2hr workshop, using reclaimed bike tyres, wheels and unwanted household textiles, we will demonstrate different knotting, tying and weaving techniques and participants will co-create practical rag rugs and circular looms to add to the project.</p> <p>Connecting Threads is a NSW Department of Education Sustainable Schools grant recipient</p>
<p><b>Presentation Abstract:</b> max. 300 words</p>	<p>The Connecting Threads project has connected students from Coledale Public School to their wider community by exploring the issue of textile waste in imaginative ways. As a school we wanted to challenge our local community to reconsider what they throw away and inspire creative solutions to combat excess waste.</p> <p>Worn Up estimated that schools on average discard about 100 - 200kg of non-wearable uniforms per year. The reality is that 99% of unwanted textiles end up in landfill, despite 95% of them being recyclable. A waste audit conducted by Wollongong City Council found the average residential landfill bin contains 0.427kg of textiles per week - this adds up to 1610 tonnes of textile waste per year from kerbside collection alone. Add this to the volume of textiles sent to landfill from shops and Australia has a big problem!</p> <p>Our school saw this as an opportunity for learning more about sustainable solutions and community engagement.</p> <p>Over the last six months, students from Year 3 – 6 have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Been inspired by the Reclaim the Void cross-cultural weaving project of the Ngalia people in Leonora, Western Australia that uses reclaimed textiles to create circular rugs that will help transform holes in the WA mining landscape.</li> <li>* Collected textiles and school uniforms too grubby to pass on and learnt to count, measure, weigh, graph and audit the materials before breaking them down into strands for weaving.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Used old bike wheels and tyres as weaving frames, to co-construct a sculptural 'book nook' for the school garden.</li> <li>* Learnt about waste streams in the broader community by visiting local waste facilities with sustainability educators.</li> <li>* Learnt basic hand sewing and machine techniques to design therapeutic sensory aids for patients living with dementia at our local hospital unit, using leftovers from the weaving project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Message:</b>          A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>Textile waste is a huge problem but with a little imagination and scaffolded skill-sharing, there are many creative upcycling ideas that can transform 'trash' into community treasure. Everyone has the capability to connect the threads and be part of the solution!</p>

All abstracts must be received by 5pm **Friday 26 May 2023** (AEST).  
 We expect to notify speakers by mid June

**Note:** confirmed presenters will be required to register for the conference and pay the relevant registration fees.