

The Partnership

Westall Primary School

The Table of Knowledge was conceived through a partnership between the City of Greater Dandenong, Vic Health and RMIT University. Community groups in Springvale played a valuable role in this project. The Table of Knowledge is a reflection of ideas and concepts offered through discussions and the sharing of knowledge and information.

 © 55 Youth Services - Springvale Community Health Service Merle Mitchell
Multicultural Prime Timers
Springvale Adult Migrant Education Service-AMES
Springvale Asian Business Association
Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau
Springvale Community Health Service
Springvale Drug Action Committee
Springvale Indo Chinese Elderly Association
Springvale Neighbourhood House Adult Literacy Centre

Springvale Traders Association and Communities

The Artistic Team

The artist Geoff Hogg was commissioned to create a public artwork, which would provide a catalyst for future activity, interest and dialogue focusing on art, health and wellbeing. The artwork was created using a collaborative process including Geoff Hogg, Greg Box, Rosemarie Iera, Craig Haire, Mario Petri, Aslam Akram, Ruth Lyon and Mark Apperly.

Further Information

Launch: 12 March 2003

Location: The Table of Knowledge

298 Springvale Road

Springvale

Interdisciplinary Team: Cultural Planning

Urban Design Health Planning

Community Development Economic Development

Community Safety

Capital Improvement and Maintenance

For further information about this project please contact Cultural Planner, Jenny Pemberton-Webb, on 9239 5131 email culture@cgd.vic.gov.au or Urban Designer, Matt Slavin, on 9239 5282 email: mslavi@cgd.vic.gov.au

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Health and Public Space

Public spaces mirror the community. They publicly reflect the values, beliefs, diversity, ideas, aspirations and identity of the people who live there. Public spaces have the power to uplift, challenge, inspire, celebrate and unite. The Table of Knowledge creates such a space.

The Table of Knowledge has been undertaken as part of a much larger urban Public spaces have design initiative (spaning five years) to create a distinctive retail environment the power to uplift, in Springvale. challenge, inspire,

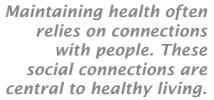
celebrate and unite.

The Table of Knowledge is a unique public art installation, conceived following a series of discussions with local community groups. The final artwork is symbolic of community ideas on the important factors that help to sustain health and wellbeing. These include family, culture, faith and food.

The Project Site

The Table of Knowledge is located in the retail heart of Springvale on a small stand of land occupied by the Springvale Community Health Centre. Prior to the project the space was a gap or void that was drab and unattractive. Despite this the site was well used and the through access provided excellent exposure to both pedestrians and vehicles travelling along Springvale Road. The project aimed

to find a creative solution that would animate the site, provide a notable point of interest and successfully link the Health Centre into the streetscape





entire community.

The Design

design, artist Geoff Hogg brought connectedness between people. together disparate elements and materials to activate the site both visually and physically.

The site is filled with three major structures that represent table. The words cannot be read.

of difficulties, solutions and negotiate and celebrate important interpretations. When working in moments in people's lives. It the public domain these issues is a central point of contact are amplified. In developing the and communication promoting

> The tables are covered with angular tablecloths, featuring enlarged relief patterns resembling ancient calligraphy.

The design process for any work forms. The 'table' is symbolic Rather, they are an artistic of art is a complex undertaking. in most cultures as a place to interpretation of text, to Each work poses its own set sit and eat, converse, meet, symbolise the importance of communication.

> On top of the tables are a series of smaller bronze sculptures. The sculptures, including spheres, bowls and beads, represent a selection of the ideas presented by the community. Together these objects symbolise universal connections between food, faith, culture, health and migration.



Community Ideas

of the project provided an opportunity for community involvement with a broad cross-section of the Springvale community. People were asked to tell a story and offer an object to the project that symbolised individual views on how to keep healthy and happy. Most people referred to their health as being about their spiritual health, mental health and general happiness and wellbeing. Personal responses focussed on connections made with

ideas-gathering phase family, culture, faith and country of birth.

> Simple gatherings with friends and family that involved sharing food and joining in cultural celebrations were discribed as ways that people stayed happy and healthy.

"Traditional Cambodian music and dancing is important to my happiness. I love to sing and dance, especially at special family events." Leak Mom.

"My mother bought me this pendant from Vietnam, it makes me feel safe and lucky." Huynh Bao.



