**Transcript**

***Julie Millowick – Survival of the landscape – historical, emotional and cultural***

Okay, my research is about the survival of the landscape, particularly the post-goldrush landscape of central Victoria which of course the Bendigo campus is surrounded by. And, my research is, is multi-faceted. It’s quite complex and covers a lot of layers – historical right through to contemporary. The historical research is very much about the contextualising the reason, the emotional reason for the introduction of plants to Australia that have since become noxious and, you know, a huge problem for everybody. And of course we have very, very active groups up here with Landcare who are fantastic, who are eradicating these plants. And we have a very active heritage group who are trying to protect these plants because they say it’s a part of the colonial era etc. What my interest is, is the emotional reasons as to why these plants were introduced in the first place. So, I’m, I’m, I’m researching, essentially I’m researching our maternal forebears who came to this country, the New World, and faced incredible isolation and tragedy, and suffered from that illness for which there really is no cure and that’s homesickness. And a way that they could in some part alleviate that problem, that sadness, was to bring in plants from home. And, and so, of course now, 150 years later those plants from home have created huge problems but, if I go back, right back to the very, very beginnings to the people who lived in my, in my brick miner’s cottage in 1862, Mrs King with her 13 children, that’s what I’m interested in. In her life, and how the small decisions that she made, you know, to introduce briar rose, for example, have now impacted on contemporary society now, 150 years later.

In researching that and creating a visual response to that, because I’m a visual artist, I am trying to use both contemporary digital media in the form of stitched panoramas of the situation as it is now and I’m also using contemporary, well vintage techniques that were contemporary to the time, you know the 1860s, of the photogram to illustrate the plant. So, I celebrate the beauty of the plant with the vintage technique, and I use the contemporary digital media to show the devastation that the plant is now causing. So, that’s, and that’s just one facet of my research because this is very, very complicated and it’s continually evolving because the landscape is continually evolving. So, my outcome, I hope, will give people a greater understanding of the individual, of individual decisions because we are all individuals, and we all make decisions which are going, you know, to have the kind of flow on effect and I want to create a deeper understanding of, of, of women who came to the New World and suffered terribly and faced incredible challenges and you know they used plants as a form of solace. And, I want to create understanding, but most of all I want to create beautiful visual responses to that situation.