

Connecting to your creative spirit

Joanne Chapman spoke recently at the Woman of Substance Mentor breakfast. Joanne Chapman is a Principal Policy Officer in the Strategic Planning Branch, Department of Education and the Arts. Outside of her principal job she has a radio program on Sundays on Community Radio and is passionate about the arts and music. She encouraged the audience to pursue and honour their creative talents.

She spoke about how the willingness to take risks and go into uncharted territory is terrifying. Sometimes it is hard to find the courage to touch that part of our creative spirit and to set it free.

I have always loved to paint, when I was little I loved to draw shapes and then colour them in with bright vibrant colour. I was always feeling the texture of things, touching the shapes and form. My mother would take me to the art shop, the smell of art supplies was the most magical, mystical smell for me - it was Heaven. At school the art studio in B block was my spiritual home. I always felt creative and energetic when I painted.

Then I got caught up in my career and the needs of my family. I forgot how much I loved to paint. But in my heart I always knew.

Everyone can express their creative talent whether it is in singing out loud, painting a picture that only you understand, writing a story, a song, or poem. It could be dancing, learning a musical instrument, playing or just having fun.

About 10 years ago I had lunch with a friend and was saying good-bye on the footpath when I saw a discarded canvas in really good condition, on a pile of rubbish. I saw it as an omen and, more I saw it as an invitation. I didn't hesitate; I picked it up and popped it in the boot of my car, and smiled. I haven't sopped painting since. My outrageous goal, my dream is coming true.

Decide today to pursue your outrageous goal and make it come true for you.

Written for Brilliant Facets Newsletter 29 November 2004.