Exploring themes of sustainability with the What's Left Over exhibition on display at Wagga CSU

Local and professional artists are exploring themes of sustainability in a new exhibition on at Wagga CSU.

The pieces in the What's Left Over exhibition at the HR Gallop Gallery are made from 90 per cent of up-cycled objects.

The exhibition speaks to both the nature of building life on experience and chance, and to the wider question of the sustainability of the planet and humanity.

Rachele Rendina is a former nurse and said the exhibition is a way for people to explore, reflect and “experiment” in making art in more sustainable ways.

“People have gone through life experiences and changes,” she said.

“A lot of the exhibition is about how we reconstruct our lives, how we do that and how it is seen in society as well.

“I like to see the value of art in this community and how it can help build and shape lives.”

Ms Rendina’s piece, the Artists Potter’s table explores concepts around self-care and the contemplation of individual and community environments.

She said her piece is is about “the power of those environments to heal and rebuild lives”.

“I used things in my art studio home and collected leaved in my walks after storms,” she said.
“I soaked the leaves in water and glycerin to help preserve them and I feel like I’ve reconnected with the land, and myself through this artwork.”

The display is the first recyclable exhibition that CSU has ever put on offer.

Sociology professor, Merrilyn Chrichtson submitted a piece about social justice and environmental issues, and said the exhibition’s concept is symbolic of change and growth.

“There are pieces here from people who have never worked in studios before,” she said

“Most of the works produced in the exhibition have been made by current and former volunteers of the organic demonstration gardens.

“Effectively, what recycling is is up-cycling life and that’s what people in the gardens end up doing; up-cycling from one stage of their live and building on that to the next.

“A lot of these pieces talk to that. We’re up cycling from whats gone before in order to produce something new.”