Are you noticing this?

It’s half a ship...
And it’s sinking...
And it’s called The Humanity.

This ship was built over ten days by artists and anyone else who wanted to help...
And it’s made completely of weeds!

This is environmental art. Why?
Because its aim is to make you think and talk about the environment.

It worked?
It may yet ;)

This is a great example of environmental art – it was presented in the outdoors, made of natural materials, and included audience participation; all aspects synonymous with modern day environmental art. My research looked at whether environmental art did actually make people change their environmental behaviours, and also whether it gave the audience a sense of place. It was based on two case studies - Noosaville street sculptures Banksias and Feathers, and Floating Land 2011, an environmental art festival that presented this artwork - Ship of Fools by James Muller and Kris Martin (Photo by Raoul Slater).

I surveyed and interviewed the audience, local residents, artists and workshop participants, and performed document and media analyses to conclude that while environmental art does not directly change people’s behaviours, it makes them feel proud of living in a community that values nature and consequently they are more likely to act for the environment. If you’d like to know more, see Marks, M, Chandler, L, & Baldwin, C 2014, ‘Re-imagining the environment: using an environmental art festival to encourage pro-environmental behaviour and a sense of place’, Local Environment: The International Journal of Sustainability and Justice, vol. 19, no. 8, pp. 1-20.

Local Research Global Impact: I am now working with a team of seven at the Norwegian University of Technology, exploring the impacts of climate change art on its audience. The project is funded by the Norwegian Government and has looked at major art installations at the ArtCOP21 in Paris and various locations around the world.

Dr Megan Marks, with former PhD supervisors Associate Professor Claudia Baldwin and Dr Lisa Chandler.