

YHA's brush with mural fame

Internationally recognised artist Kim Polomka well and truly left his mark at the Pittwater YHA recently.

Visiting family with his 8-year-old son Max last month, Kim created a series of murals to help celebrate the hostel's 50th year on the Morning Bay Hillside.

"This is such a special place and the best digital detox in the world," he told Pittwater Life.

Kim is probably best known for his large-scale murals of colour and whimsy adorning rooftops, walls and alleyways in Colorado Springs where he has been based for 18 years.

The Australian-born fine arts trained artist turned his hand to large-scale mural painting shortly after settling in the city, embarking on a mission to "break



up the mundane".

Widely credited with softening the city's streetscape, he has inspired a growing band of artists to create (sometimes controversial) public art, with downtown Colorado Springs experiencing a "mini-Renaissance".

As the photos show, Kim had no

worries embracing and showcasing the beautiful surroundings in our neck of the woods, with colourful depictions in the bathroom.

"I wanted to do something that celebrated this wonderful environment and pay homage to the Australian bush," he said.

"What a joy it is to come here and recharge the batteries."

See Kim's work for yourself at Pittwater YHA – and if you volunteer for two mornings' bush regeneration on August 25-27, you'll get two nights' accommodation with all meals for only \$20.

Bookings are essential – there's a \$50 non-refundable booking fee, with a \$30 refund on arrival. More info 9999 5748 or email Pittwater@yha.com.au

