



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20 February 2017

New Art Festival brings community together for the love of art

Now in its fourth year, the Textures of One Art Exhibition is expanding to encompass a weekend Art Festival from Friday evening, 17 March to Sunday 19 March held throughout Blayney and surrounding historic villages to attract visitors and connect the community with the power of art.

Drawing on the theme of *one motif, many mediums* which has been the ongoing feature of the Textures of One Art exhibition, organisers have now expanded this concept to a weekend Art Festival with workshops, artisan markets, musical performances and a gallery art trail to cater to all art lovers across the Central West.

Curator, Penny May said the Art Festival in Blayney is the first of its kind in the Central West with a vision to bring all artists of all genres together in one big creative weekend.

"The new Art Festival is a celebration of art in many shapes, sizes, textures and mediums. This is what makes this event so appealing and unique," Ms May said.

"We are inviting everyone to come along to connect, collaborate, celebrate and indulge in all art forms from oil paintings to water colours, tapestry to embroidery, montage to collage, mosaic to pottery, video animation and sculptures and everything in between."

Newcrest Mining Limited (Cadia Valley Operations) is the major sponsor of the inaugural Art Festival contributing \$10,000 towards the event.

Cadia Valley Operations, General Manager Peter Sharpe said: "Cadia is proud to donate \$10,000 towards the new Art Festival and hopes to see it develop into one of the region's most prominent art events.

"The event aligns well with Cadia's Community Partnership Program, which aims to support long term programs in the region, with particular focus on the tourism, agricultural and health sectors.

"Cadia's Community Partnership Program supports events such as the art festival, which will attract artists and visitors from near and far, helping to boost tourism in the Blayney Shire and benefiting many local businesses," Mr Sharpe said.

The Textures of One Exhibition is also proudly supported by Blayney Shire Council and local artist, Dean Mobbs, who have contributed towards the \$5,000 prize pool to encourage all artists, emerging artists and art lovers to get involved in the power of art.

The event also coincides with the Blayney Show on Saturday 18 March and the Blayney Farmers Markets on Sunday 19 March, making Blayney the place to be for a road trip to the Central West.

Highlights of the new Art Festival include the Textures of One exhibition at the Blayney Shire Community Centre, artisan markets on Sunday 19 March, creative workshops, high tea and musical entertainment in one big weekend.

“If you want to learn how to do it, come talk to the experts or have a go yourself at one of the many creative workshops in a one-stop shop art lovers weekend,” Ms May continued.

The full Arts Festival program can be found at texturesofone.com.au Here’s a glimpse of what to expect:

- A writing workshop with Bathurst artist, Dean Mobbs and local author, Kim Kelly.
- Blayney Baptist Community Church Quilt hanging.
- Drawing classes with Ruth Stone from Carcoar.
- Sydney artist, Peter Griffen will be running his annual Carcoar painting weekend at the School of Arts building.
- Follow the map and take a drive on the Blayney Arts Trail to view local galleries and meet artists at open studios from 10am-4pm. Visit Wiradjuri artist, Nyree Reynolds at her studio in Blayney, David Lake and Jan Dickie in Newbridge, Tracey Mackie in Lyndhurst.
- Pop-up gallery at the Carcoar Court House with Felter, Denise Lithgow and Louise Purcell, Carcoar Pottery.
- The Blayney Show and the Textures of One Committee are sponsoring the Schools Poster Competition for the ‘best use of a four leaf clover’ in a drawing to encourage budding young artists.
- Blayney Family & History Group display in the Presbyterian Church Hall, *A touch of Shamrock* featuring the Blayney district and the Irish connection.

The inaugural Art Festival kicks off with the opening night launch of the annual Textures of One Art Exhibition at the Blayney Shire Community Centre on St Patrick’s Day, Friday, 17 March featuring artworks depicting this year’s motif, the ‘4 leaf clover’.

Well known artists from across the NSW, Joe Penn and Lesley O’Shea from Portland, Andrew Whitehead from Urana, Dean and Helen Mobbs of Bathurst and President of the Hand weavers and Spinners Association, Margaret Hobba are expected to be challenged judging the many entries from a wide variety of categories. The overall winner will receive \$2,000. Everyone is encouraged to vote for their favourite in a People’s Choice Award.

Tickets for the opening night Art Festival launch and Textures of One exhibition are \$5.00 per person and \$3.00 for concessions with a portion of funds being donated to the Blayney Rotary Club for their sponsorship of Sailability to encourage people with disabilities to experience the joy of sailing.

Textures of One Art Exhibition entries close on 26 February 2017. Full details on how to enter and What’s On throughout the Art Festival, can be found on the website www.texturesofone.com.au

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For further information and media enquiries, please contact Penny May on 0412 768 030.

Editor’s note: Interviews and photo opportunities available with local artists participating in the Art Festival and entering the Textures of One Art Exhibition.