

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 June, 2016

Forbes kids make healthy art

Primary school kids in Forbes will use their artistic skills to help the community think more about healthy food.

In workshops that begin this week, vibrant new artworks will be made for a local exhibition and to feature on the walls at the new Forbes Hospital.

Selected students from kindergarten to year six in Forbes have joined Orange-based artist Heather Pike in four weekly art workshops. The students will make a series of artworks linked to the Forbes Food Revolution program.

“Healthy food habits start young and art making is a great way for children to have conversations about the food they eat and like,” Arts OutWest arts and health coordinator Christine McMillan said. “The artworks by the children in the hospital will also be a constant, positive reminder to the community of healthy food habits.”

The student’s completed artworks will go into a two-week long exhibition at the Platypus Gallery in Forbes, opening June 30. Students will then donate one of their works to the Forbes Hospital where it will be part of the hospital’s new art collection.

Artist Heather Pike is helping the students to make artworks inspired by their own connections to food, including their likes and dislikes. Ms Pike is experienced in working with children and has exhibited widely, including her own solo show at the Orange Regional Art Gallery in 2015.

“We will use pencils and ink to create lines. We will cut out shapes and paint them with colours. We will look at animals and pets, home and place, food and drink, to explore our likes and dislikes and describe who we are,” Ms Pike said.

The students will be guests of honour at the opening of the Forbes’ Platypus Gallery exhibition where they will receive a card with an image of their work and will officially donate their work to the Forbes Hospital.

This is the latest activity as part of the culture and arts program at the Forbes and Parkes hospitals.

The Lachlan Health Services Project engaged regional arts development organisation Arts OutWest to integrate culture and arts into the Forbes and Parkes Hospital redevelopments. The Culture and Arts Working Group includes representation from the Lachlan Health Service Project team, Arts OutWest, the Lachlan Health Council, health staff and the Aboriginal community and is responsible for implementing a flexible and sustainable program that promotes well-being and creates a welcoming, vibrant place for the Forbes and Parkes communities.

The Lachlan Health Service Project redevelopment includes the \$72.8M new Parkes Hospital and the \$40.9M refurbishment of Forbes Hospital. Construction on the new Parkes Hospital and the new building at Forbes Hospital is now complete and work is currently focused on the refurbishment of Renal and Ambulatory Care units at Forbes Hospital.

Media enquires contact Arts OutWest Arts and Health Coordinator: Christine McMillan 0447 832 043.

- Workshops: Thursday 26 May, Thursday 2 June, Thursday 9 June, Thursday 16 June
- Exhibition: opens at Platypus Gallery, Cnr Lachlan & Templar Sts Forbes Thursday 30 June (runs 2 weeks)