

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Condobolin fibre weavers at Kew-Y-Ahn Aboriginal Art Gallery

Condobolin based Wiradjuri nature fibre artist Bev Coe and the Wiradjuri Fibre Artists have opened a new exhibition of his work, called 'Sistas', at the Kew-Y-Ahn Aboriginal Gallery at Hartley Historic Site, east of Lithgow. The exhibition includes woven baskets, bags and art pieces, mostly using fibres collected locally.

Bev Coe began weaving eight years ago after she was introduced to the practice in a class with local women. She works with raffia and sedge collected from the Lachlan River along with other natural materials. A major exhibition of Bec Coe's work was held at the Penrith Regional Gallery in 2014.

"I've developed my practice and technique using the Lachlan River as inspiration. This river is very important; it forms a very deep spiritual connection to the country. My children swim here, the men fish here, and my family meet here," Ms Coe said.

"Whether it's painting or weaving, art has always been very personal to me. It's all I've ever known; it gives me purpose, direction and a creative outlet that cannot be matched," Bev Coe said of her art making.

"I weave everyday now. My hands are always going. I've taught my daughters, my two sisters and my nieces. I'd like to think that there's a weaver in all of us, and this is the skill I try to bring out in everyone," Ms Coe said.

Wiradjuri Fibre Artists are a group of Condobolin based Aboriginal weavers who meet regularly under the name 'SistaShed'. Led by Bev Coe, they meet and work from the Wiradjuri Study Centre in Condobolin.

The Kew-Y-Ahn Aboriginal Gallery is a partnership between regional arts development organisation Arts OutWest, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and the NSW Department of Environment & Heritage. The gallery is open Tuesday-Sunday.

The exhibition runs to the end of November 2016 in the gallery. All works are for sale.

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Image attached: Bev Coe's 'Goanna' weaving. Media enquires: Arts OutWest 02 6338 4657 / [artsoutwest@csu.edu.au](mailto:artsoutwest@csu.edu.au)



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